

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 24, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Reported By:

Peter Petty

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

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Anthony Pane, Chief Counsel
Marian Johnston, CRC Staff Counsel
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach
Sulma Hernandez, Outreach Coordinator
Kimberly Briggs, Field Lead, S. California, LA

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Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator
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Jaime Clarke, Q2 Data & Research, LLC

INTERPRETERS

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Captioner

PUBLIC PRESENT

Alejandra Ponce De Leon, Advancement Project, California
Helen Hutchison, LOWV
Sandra Barreiro, CSEA
Toni Trigueiro, CTA
Sky Allen, IE United
Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund
Renee Westa-Lusk
Lori Shellenberger, Common Cause

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5 **P R O C E E D I N G S**

6 9:30 a.m.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome, everyone, to today's meeting
8 of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. The
9 date is Monday, May 24th, 2021.

10 Can we please have roll call?

11 MR. SINGH: Yes, Chair.

12 Commissioner Ahmad.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Here.

14 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

15 Commissioner Andersen.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

17 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

19 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

21 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

23 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

25 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

4 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

6 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

7 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

8 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Turner.

9 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

10 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez.

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

12 Commissioner Yee.

13 VICE CHAIR YEE: Here.

14 MR. SINGH: Chair, you have a quorum.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. And while we get ready to
16 call for public comment, I just wanted to briefly give an
17 overview of the agenda for today and tomorrow. So we
18 have our general report-outs from our team, so Executive
19 Director will give his report out, our Outreach Director,
20 as well as Chief Counsel, and Communications Director.

21 Then we'll move forward with our Subcommittee
22 report-outs. I would like to highlight that we will
23 start our Subcommittee report-outs with item 9-J, so that
24 we have folks present for that conversation.

25 Item 9-K has a time-certain presentation from the

1 Statewide Database, so that will be occurring today at
2 2:00 p.m. when we return from lunch. And then we'll
3 continue to go through our subcommittee report-outs.

4 Tomorrow, we start at 1:00 p.m., and at 1:30 we will
5 have our dry run for the COI -- the communities of
6 interests, public input meetings, along with, hopefully,
7 a robust discussion of all of the different moving parts
8 related to the first session of that COI Input Meeting to
9 be held on June 10th.

10 We will be going into Closed Session tomorrow
11 briefly to discuss some data and cybersecurity issues.
12 And once we jump back out of Closed Session, we will
13 close off the day with our usual discussion of future
14 meeting dates and agenda items.

15 Does that sound okay for everyone? Am I missing
16 anything, Commissioner Yee? No? Okay, great.

17 VICE CHAIR YEE: Sounds good. All good.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Awesome. And I should also mention
19 that Commissioner Yee and I are taking lead on these
20 series of meetings; so throwing that out there.

21 Are we ready for public comment?

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We are, Chair.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize
25 transparency and public participation in our process, the

1 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To
2 call in, dial the telephone number provided on the live
3 stream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter
4 the meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed,
5 it is 92638886526 for this meeting. When prompted to
6 enter a participant ID simply press the pound key.

7 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
8 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press
9 star 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.
10 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message
11 that says: The host would like you to talk, and to press
12 star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,
13 please state and spell it for the record. You are not
14 required to provide your name to give public comment.

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

20 And we do have several callers in the queue with
21 their hands raised. And we will be doing a two-minute
22 time clock. Thank you. Go ahead. The floor is yours.

23 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Hi. Good morning,
24 Commissioners. My name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon,
25 spelled A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-A P-O-N-C-E D-E L-E-O-N, with

1 Advancement Project, California; and also calling on
2 behalf of the IVE Redistricting Alliance. Just wanted to
3 call in, and one appreciate, again, all the work that you
4 continue to do in trying to figure out as best as
5 possible, and even trying to figure out, you know, as the
6 Commission, you know, what time it is that you need, or
7 how much time you need to carry forward the redistricting
8 process in a transparent and a very public way.

9 You know, I'm calling because we want to make sure
10 that, you know -- that you are received our letter that
11 was sent -- submitted yesterday evening to you, just
12 uplifting, you know, first and foremost, that you, as a
13 Commission, you have the authority to set a time line
14 that lives into the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, in
15 order to ensure that the public has the time necessary to
16 fully participate in the redistricting process.

17 In our letter, you know, we definitely want to
18 encourage all of you who feel that you have -- you have
19 the authority based on the decision from the Supreme
20 Court, where they made two things very clear in granting
21 the extension for the redistricting deadline, given the
22 delays and the further delays for the release of census
23 status, is that the Voters FIRST Act --

24 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

25 MS. PONCE DE LEON: -- must be priority for the

1 Commission, and therefore you have the right to ensure
2 enough time for the public to fully participate.

3 And the other thing is that we want to just uplift
4 that, you know, the Commission, you know, even though you
5 have the right to go all the way --

6 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

7 MS. PONCE DE LEON: -- through February 14th, to
8 consider, you know, having a planned outline for January
9 28th. This balances the interest of a meaningful, and
10 robust, and engaged, public participation process against
11 the need to finalize maps --

12 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

13 MS. PONCE DE LEON: -- to facilitate a timely
14 primary process. So thank you for your time. We hope
15 the letter is helpful to you. And let us know if
16 anything -- any additional information that we can help
17 with and provide. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And to
19 our next caller. And I would like to remind those in the
20 queue to press star 9 to raise their hand, indicating
21 they wish to comment. And go ahead. The floor is yours.

22 MS. HUTCHISON: Good morning, Commissioners. This
23 is Helen Hutchison with the League of Women Voters of
24 California. The last name is Hutchison,
25 H-U-T-C-H-I-S-O-N. Thank you for the opportunity to

1 comment.

2 We have -- there are two comments on your web page
3 for this meeting. The first is a slightly delayed
4 posting and reflects some previous comments that we made.
5 The second letter, which is listed as the League of Women
6 Voters of California Letter, is about attempts to
7 influence your work. You've already received a lot of
8 advice and you're going to receive a huge amount more.
9 We urge you to use your good sense, your Spidey senses,
10 if you will, as you decide how to respond to all of this
11 input.

12 Most of what you will hear will be straightforward
13 input about your process and California communities, and
14 will come with the best intentions as attached; however,
15 some will come from those with ulterior motives. Those
16 who want to influence your work for some reason other
17 than ensuring good district maps that fairly represent
18 California communities.

19 These people aren't going to explicitly tell you
20 their motives, or their ultimate goal. But you were
21 given a big responsibility, and we trust you to use all
22 of your resources, especially your good sense in making
23 all of these important decisions for California over the
24 coming months.

25 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

1 MS. HUTCHISON: Thank you very much.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And on to
3 our next caller. And thank you, everyone, for raising
4 your hands. Go ahead. The floor is yours.

5 MS. BARREIRO: Sandra Barreiro with the California
6 School Employees Association. My name is spelled
7 S-A-N-D-R-A B-A-R-R-E-I-R-O. First, I'd like to thank
8 the Government Affairs Committee for including a
9 potential January 7th deadline among options for
10 discussion.

11 As I said during previous public comment, there are
12 options to provide some relief from the holidays while
13 still preserving the traditional primary date. However,
14 there appears to be a false narrative being offered to
15 the committee. This narrative assumes that a year to
16 prepare for the release of census data is not enough
17 time, and that productive work cannot be done over the
18 holiday. It also falsely assumes the election calendar
19 can be squeezed and changed without consequence. And it
20 seems that within this narrative, any nonconforming
21 voices are ignored or considered suspect.

22 In reality, balance between preserving the
23 redistricting process and the election calendar to
24 maximize voter participation can be achieved.

25 So I'd like to again thank the committee for

1 challenging this narrative by considering a potential
2 January 7th deadline. Thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you.

4 On to our next caller; go ahead. The floor is
5 yours.

6 MS. TRIGUEIRO: -- Commissioners. My name is Toni
7 Trigueiro with the California Teachers Association,
8 T-O-N-I T-R-I-G-U-E-I-R-O. I called last month to
9 provide statistics on turnout among, historically,
10 underrepresented communities. For example, three out of
11 four registered Latinos did not vote in the last
12 gubernatorial primary.

13 However, when talking about turnout, it's easy to
14 lose track of the scale of the problem. According to the
15 Statewide Database, in the last gubernatorial primary,
16 3,693,701 registered Latinos did not vote, 1,158,486
17 registered Asians did not vote, and 4,395,045 voters
18 under the age of 35 did not vote.

19 This Commission and your redistricting focused
20 community partners obviously face significant challenges,
21 reaching the goal of engaging less than 1 percent of the
22 population, or 39,500 Californians. I don't want to
23 minimize that. But it's also important to weigh that
24 against the scale of the challenge, and also maximizing
25 the number of people who will take advantage of your hard

1 work when they vote, especially when even, seemingly,
2 minuscule changes can impact hundreds of thousands of
3 voters.

4 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

5 MS. TRIGUEIRO: I hope this continues to be a factor
6 you consider in your deliberations. And thank you very
7 much for your hard work.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you.

9 We will go on to our last caller at this time.
10 Thank you. Go ahead. The floor is yours.

11 MS. ALLEN: Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners.
12 This is Sky Allen, of IE United. My comments are going
13 to be a little bit different today. Please bear with me.

14 Over the past few weeks, I've been noticing a
15 growing narrative that positions community groups like
16 mine as a quote/unquote, "special interests" with some
17 scary, hidden agenda. And therefore, we can't be
18 trusted.

19 Certainly, we can't really be speaking on behalf of
20 communities if we're so organized, that you all should be
21 wary of us. And that's really been bothering me. It's
22 not only a disingenuous argument, but it's a dangerous
23 one. And I urge you all not to fall into that trap. If
24 we had power, our groups wouldn't exist. My organization
25 would not need to exist if the Black and Brown folks in

1 my community had an equitable voice.

2 If the warehouse workers, and the farmworkers, and
3 the people impacted by the warehouses and by the criminal
4 justice system were considered by our policymakers, I
5 wouldn't need to be in this job. But I'm here because
6 too often democracy doesn't work for all of us unless we
7 make it. That's why all of our community groups are
8 here.

9 The people we're here to represent can't attend
10 these meetings. They have jobs to work. They have kids
11 to feed. They have to keep a roof over their heads.
12 They don't have the mental capacity to follow along this
13 technical, esoteric process. We're all here to offer
14 their perspective to you and to translate these processes
15 for them. We're organizers. Our job is to educate each
16 other, and to mobilize around the issues that impact our
17 community. And redistricting is absolutely an issue that
18 impacts us all.

19 Please don't allow bad-faith skeptics to turn their
20 nose up to us, because we're organizers.

21 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

22 MS. ALLEN: I've been sitting here the past few
23 weeks trying to figure out how I can mobilize the people
24 in my own community to engage with you all in a way that
25 isn't, quote/unquote, "too organized", in the fear that

1 all of our work might be thrown back in our face because
2 of this narrative that we are -- if we're too organized,
3 we're untrustworthy.

4 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

5 MS. ALLEN: That can't be the answer here. I don't
6 expect, and I'm not asking for you to do everything that
7 we ask for. You know, we voted for an independent
8 commission, we advocate for this Commission, we show up
9 to engage with this Commission, because we believe in
10 your model, and your purpose --

11 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

12 MS. ALLEN: And all fourteen of you. All I'm asking
13 is that you don't hold our organizing against us, and
14 that you defend your own process as one that welcomes the
15 input of grassroots groups and coalitions like mine.
16 Thank you so much for listening.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And
18 that is all of our callers at this time.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Katy. And thank you,
20 everyone, who called in. And we will be taking public
21 comment once again before we recess for the day.

22 So moving right along, are there any general
23 announcements from Commissioners at this time?

24 All right; seeing none, the next is the Chair
25 Report. I don't have anything new to report that won't

1 be reported in subcommittee report-outs. I would just
2 like to highlight that our first Community of Interest
3 Input Meeting will be held on June 10th, and this is a
4 statewide input meeting that will be held virtually.

5 If you are so excited to submit your input, you can
6 do so now at DrawMyCACommunity.org.

7 And now I'll hand it over to the Executive Director
8 for his report out.

9 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair; and good
10 morning, Commissioners. Regarding staff and personnel
11 issues, I want to let you know that we will be submitting
12 a candidate to the subcommittee for the outreach manager;
13 more to come on that.

14 Data manager, I also want to let you know that we
15 haven't had a lot of applicants yet. I believe there's
16 been one application received so far. So again, please
17 let folks know that it's out there, and we're looking for
18 folks.

19 Moving on to the contracts; we do have a new
20 contract with our ASL, and we'll be talking about
21 contract issues later on through the subcommittee
22 reports.

23 Regarding the budget, we've been informed by the
24 Department of Finance that we will hear this week on the
25 release of funds that we submitted, the request of the

1 1.13 million.

2 Our Fiscal Director; Chief Counsel and I met with
3 members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to
4 discuss the proposed budget language as it relates to our
5 requested augmentation. And that's from the budget that
6 was posted on March 29th. We're providing additional and
7 supporting information to them.

8 Our augmentation was approved by Department of
9 Finance, and now it has to go through the Legislative
10 Budget process to put things in the appropriate context.

11 That's the extent of my report this week. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Are there any questions from my
14 colleagues?

15 Yes, Commissioner Sinay.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry. Which staffing position
17 are we having trouble -- I mean, we're not receiving a
18 lot of applications for?

19 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Data manager.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions at this time?

21 All right; if you think of something in the
22 meantime, feel free to just jump in the queue. But for
23 the sake of time, we'll just continue moving along. Next
24 is the Outreach (sic) Director's report.

25 And I'll pass it to you, Fredy.

1 DIRECTOR CEJA: Thank you so much. I will keep this
2 short. So just wanted to announce that -- and thank you,
3 Chair, for announcing that Twitter is now opening their
4 process for verification. So we will be seeking that
5 over the next few days. I talked to Cecilia this
6 morning, so I thank you for the heads up. We're going to
7 be getting verified for our Twitter account. We already
8 did that for other accounts on social media.

9 We're still putting together our Ad-Buy Program, so
10 we'll get that plan to you all. I know that we do have a
11 budget for that. So we're identifying the areas of
12 greater need around California, and then we'll share that
13 with you as soon as possible.

14 Look out for an invitation to the PSA Brainstorm.
15 We're still planning on having that, and I'll send
16 details shortly on that.

17 This Thursday, we have a Latino media briefing.
18 We're partnering with the Latino Community Foundation to
19 work with our Latino media partners around the state to
20 let them know what redistricting is and how they can help
21 us get the word out.

22 Commissioner Sinay will be presenting to them in
23 Spanglish. So we'll be adjusting the presentation to be
24 both English and Spanish, so that we can educate them on
25 how to say "(In Spanish, not translated)", and other

1 words that are very popular in our field.

2 And lastly, I just wanted to announce that we've
3 made updates to the website, and have updated some of our
4 documents. And don't want to steal their thunder, but
5 I'm sure our subcommittees will report on that.

6 And lastly, just wanted to uplift that many of us
7 have been working on that June 10th Public Input Meeting,
8 but no one has been working harder than Marcy Kaplan. So
9 I just wanted to uplift her and thank her for all her
10 work during the past week.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Fredy. And I said,
12 "Outreach Director", and I passed it to you. So thank
13 you, Fredy, for that update, from the Communications
14 Director.

15 Just one more question for you, Fredy. In regards
16 to that documentary, do we have any updates on that item?

17 DIRECTOR CEJA: Yes. So I did ask the documentarian
18 to provide me an updated proposal for his work. If you
19 all recall at the last meeting, I posted a proposal.
20 There's a documentarian that wants to put out a
21 documentary on the Commission's work, wants to mostly
22 cover when we do line drawing with the community, but
23 also wants to do one-on-ones with each Commissioner.

24 I do have an updated proposal. I was going to
25 funnel it through the committee process. But he did

1 indicate that he has no ties to any political group. I
2 actually did a search on the Federal and the State
3 donations pages for the Secretary of State and the FPPC,
4 and I did not find anything. So that correlates with his
5 announcement that he has no political affiliations. And
6 he indicated that in his proposal.

7 So we hope to ease those concerns for Commissioners,
8 among others. But we will take it through the committee
9 process to vet it a little more.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Fredy. And just to be
11 clear, which committee does the documentary land in?

12 DIRECTOR CEJA: That's a good question. I was going
13 to take it through -- it's either Outreach or the
14 Materials Subcommittee.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Do we have volunteers from either of
16 those two subcommittees?

17 Yes, Commissioners Sinay and then Fernandez.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just to say we can take it, as
19 we started the review process, but I think both
20 committees actually started the review process. So I'm
21 not sure.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Ditto.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: All right.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Can I?

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, go ahead, Commissioner Sinay.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Can I make a recommendation;
2 maybe just Alicia and I; so it's one from each committee?
3 Or is that not allowed?

4 CHAIR AHMAD: It certainly can be allowed. I would
5 just establish a new subcommittee so that you all have
6 the authority to work together outside of open meetings.
7 And is that a route that we want to take as a group?

8 Maybe, yes. Yes, Commissioner Kennedy.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It would just say, you know,
10 materials development is for materials that we produce,
11 not for materials that somebody else is producing. So I
12 mean, I would support the Outreach Subcommittee taking it
13 on.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Great. Commissioner
15 Fernandez, are you good with the Outreach Subcommittee
16 taking this item on?

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sure.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay, great. So the Outreach
19 Subcommittee, whose is Commissioners Sinay and Fornaciari
20 will be responsible for communicating with you, Fredy,
21 regarding that documentary. All right.

22 And now I will pass it back to the Outreach
23 Director, Marcy Kaplan, for her report out.

24 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Great. Thank you so much,
25 everyone. Good morning, Commissioners. And thank you,

1 Fredy, for your -- I know we've definitely been working
2 as a team a lot lately, so thank you, everyone.

3 I just want to also acknowledge all the work that
4 Commissioners have been doing presenting across the
5 state. We've been doing a ton of presentations. Today
6 we've completed 116 presentations, and there's 42
7 upcoming scheduled, and about 15 more that we're
8 processing.

9 I have noted in the past that we're now scheduling
10 into the summer, a few trickling into July, and I will
11 defer to the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee who
12 will discuss the educational presentations more later.

13 I'm really excited to share that our Outreach
14 Coordinator has joined last week, and our field leads.
15 Two of them have started today. I'm so thrilled to be
16 building our team and really the expertise and knowledge
17 that each of our new staff brings. And even, we have a
18 little bit of time to meet in person some of the staff
19 last week. And really get together and think more
20 strategically around planning.

21 So I really enjoyed how thoughtful and collaborative
22 our team has been, and working with the Communications
23 Team and others on Staff as well, as well as with the
24 Commissioners.

25 So I wanted to introduce Sulma Hernandez, who is our

1 new Outreach Coordinator. She started last week, and she
2 really jumped right into the work. She will play a
3 pivotal role in the Outreach Team, working with our field
4 leads to engage Californians in the redistricting
5 process. Sulma most recently managed her own community
6 relations firm for nonprofit businesses, and developed
7 communication programs, outreach, and strategic planning
8 for community projects. And I've also just seen, in the
9 short time that she's been with us, the wealth of
10 knowledge and expertise that she will bring to this role.

11 So I will go ahead and let Sulma introduce yourself
12 and say a few words.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hello. Good morning. Thank you,
14 Commissioners, for allowing me some space and time to
15 speak and share my story.

16 My name is Sulma Hernandez. My gender pronouns are
17 she, her, hers, ella. I am a first-generation
18 professional. I am from the Los Angeles area, formerly
19 TongvaLand. And so I just want to take a few minutes
20 just to acknowledge indigenous people in the State of
21 California.

22 I grew up in Boyle Heights. I was inspired by my
23 parents, who did a lot of community organizing with
24 Father Greg Boyle, of Homeboy Industries, really involved
25 in juvenile justice reform. And so that really pivoted

1 the way I carried myself, and why I wanted to contribute
2 to my community.

3 So over the past decade, I've dedicated my time to
4 public service, working in the local municipality of Los
5 Angeles to try to foster public and private
6 relationships.

7 I'm most excited about helping to promote
8 transparency, inclusivity, and participatory governance
9 here in the Commission. And so I just want to thank you
10 again for the time of allowing me to be able to organize
11 at a statewide level.

12 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you so much, Sulma.

13 Next, I want to introduce Kimberly Briggs, our Field
14 Lead for the LA and OC regions. She has started today as
15 well. Kimberly is based in Los Angeles, and comes to us
16 after working with Mayor Garcetti's Census 2020 effort.
17 I'm just thrilled by her enthusiasm, and her expertise,
18 and so really excited to introduce her to all of you now.

19 Kimberly, go ahead.

20 MS. BRIGGS: Hi. Good morning, Commissioners. It's
21 a pleasure to meet you all, virtually. My name is
22 Kimberly Briggs. Yes, most recently, I worked for Mayor
23 Garcetti's Office, spearheading public-facing materials
24 for the census. It was the most challenging and
25 rewarding job in my career. So I'm really proud of the

1 work I did.

2 I signed on to this opportunity because I want to
3 continue the work. Representation and equity is really
4 important for me. So I'm ready to put the fight in and
5 get what's ours.

6 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you so much, Kimberly. And
7 I just want to acknowledge also her expertise of the LA
8 area and OC, as well as communities and local governments
9 that she worked with.

10 And next, I want to introduce Jose Eduardo Chavez
11 Garcia, who is our Central California Field Lead,
12 covering Zones E, F, G, and Z. Most recently, Jose was a
13 district representative with the California State
14 Assembly, and really also want to emphasize his expertise
15 with local communities, including indigenous populations,
16 and other diverse communities across the Central Valley
17 and other parts of Central California.

18 So go ahead, Jose.

19 MR. CHAVEZ GARCIA: Good morning, Commissioners.
20 It's a pleasure to be here, and I am excited to be part
21 of this amazing team. And just salute you for all the
22 work that you've already been doing.

23 I appreciate the space of sharing my story as well.
24 I am not even a first generation I immigrated to this to
25 this country at the age of ten. And so it's just an

1 honor to be forming what California now looks like, a
2 state that welcomes everybody, and a state that is
3 diverse such as this. And I'm just fascinated to be a
4 part of this amazing team.

5 And the reason why I signed up on this position is I
6 am passionate about equity, and the work that I've been
7 doing in the past seven years of my professional career,
8 is trying to forge that sense of belonging through a
9 sense of belonging with, when it comes to representation.
10 And so I believe that this is a pivotal role that you are
11 all playing, and I wanted to be part of this amazing
12 team. Thank you.

13 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you so much. I'm not sure
14 if you guys had questions for them or -- I'm really
15 excited for everyone to be on board.

16 And then I will just continue. I have been working
17 closely with the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee who
18 I mentioned, will be talking more as well about the
19 public education sessions. The Public Input Design
20 Subcommittee who will be discussing the agenda and
21 logistics for the June 10th meeting.

22 And thank you, Fredy, we all -- it was a big staff
23 effort working together to help the subcommittee prepare
24 for this discussion.

25 And I am thrilled that we were able to post the

1 Draft RFP for the Commission and the public to review,
2 that the Grants Subcommittee will be going over. This
3 has been a long process that I've been working on since
4 day one, and so I'm really excited for this discussion
5 today. Thank you.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Marcy, how would you like us
7 to field questions? Do you want my assistance in that,
8 or would you like to take the lead on that?

9 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Sure.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. Okay. I see Commissioner
11 Sinay, and then Fernandez.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Director Kaplan, I just wanted
13 to know how -- you know, how we're going to transition in
14 the team, the Outreach Team, and how you would like --
15 how you would like Commissioners to share the data that
16 they have already collected, you know, the relationships
17 they've made, all those. You know, will we have a plan
18 and you'll present it later? Or you know, what's the
19 scoop? Kind of what is everybody's roles here?

20 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yeah, I know many of you have
21 shared different organizations that you've been in touch
22 with in your zone. So if you haven't already, please go
23 ahead and share that with me.

24 Sulma and I are working together, and we'll be
25 diving a little bit more deeply into how we'll ensure the

1 field team is reaching diverse communities across their
2 zone, incorporating the strategies and demographics that
3 are documented in the Outreach Strategic Plan, as well as
4 identifying reporting, and ensuring that we're monitoring
5 and identifying gaps across the state of communities that
6 have not been engaged as well. So I will follow up with
7 more information as well on that.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez. And then I
9 saw your hand earlier, Commissioner Taylor, if you still
10 want to jump in the queue.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Director
12 Kaplan, just a few questions. I mean, first of all, I do
13 want to welcome, Sulma, Kimberly, and Jose. I'm very
14 excited to have you on board. And I just love the
15 energy. So I'm really looking forward to working with
16 all of you.

17 I'm going to lead into my other question of how's
18 the recruitment for the northern part of California
19 working (indiscernible, simultaneous speech)?

20 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you. I'm so glad that you
21 brought that up, because we would also encourage you all
22 to help spread the word. It is a very large region. And
23 so I will make sure that we -- you all have the posting
24 that's still on our website, but we are still looking for
25 a Northern California field lead.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then just my
2 other quick question; the one document I had forwarded to
3 you, and the prior coordinator for Zone D, do you want me
4 just to forward that to Sulma also? Or how would you
5 want me to handle that?

6 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I have it. Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much.

8 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you for providing that.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Taylor.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you. Good morning,
12 everyone. I can't say I don't smile whenever I hear
13 resources are in the -- in LA County.

14 So I know Kimberly you -- Marcy said specifically,
15 Kimberly was going to be an LA County lead, and I heard
16 Sulma had some roots in LA County. Is she in LA County
17 as well? Or is she taking out other regions? I just
18 didn't catch that.

19 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: So Sulma is based in LA, but as
20 the outreach coordinator, she'll be working with the
21 field leads statewide. And so she'll also be focusing on
22 statewide, but because she's from LA, and has
23 relationships, I will definitely be working with her on
24 how to leverage that. And just her, you know, experience
25 and background in certain communities as well. So

1 definitely, even though she's not focused on LA, she will
2 have some additional, you know, suggestions and
3 recommendations of communities to engage with as well.

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Got it. Thank you. I know.
5 So it doesn't matter, so.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee.

7 VICE CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Chair. And thank you,
8 Director Kaplan. And welcome to our new staff.

9 I had a question about the input meetings, and so I
10 assume June 10th is going to be virtual, wondering what
11 your current thinking is going forward from there, how
12 aggressively to try to start having in-person input
13 meetings.

14 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes. And Alvaro and I were
15 talking last week about connecting this week to start
16 that research and planning. I think he could discuss
17 more on the time line. But that is definitely a big role
18 that the Field Staff and Outreach Coordinator will help
19 to ensure identifying locations and logistics. Go ahead.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Go ahead, Alvaro.

21 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. I just
22 wanted to mention that as we move forward, and we're
23 still waiting for word from the Governor's Office as to
24 when and how. And as I mentioned before, each county may
25 be a little bit different, but the goal would be to start

1 looking at sites and locations, and prepping for that
2 transition to the in-person input meeting. So that's
3 kind of what we're doing right now.

4 But the fact that Kimberly, and Jose, and Sulma have
5 contacts in those particular areas, we're going to
6 leverage what they bring to the Commission, and use that
7 to start. At least looking at sites, and understanding
8 where we might go within those specific areas or regions.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: On that note, it might be
11 helpful if you all can create kind of a one pager on what
12 the requirements are for those regions, since also
13 Commissioners know the regions really well and can maybe
14 help identify sites, and contacts, and things like that.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay, just clarifying.
16 Is that a direct request of Staff to take action on the
17 item at this point? Or is that to have further
18 discussion on that item?

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: It's up to the Chair. That's
20 the Chair's prerogative. But I would encourage action
21 just so that we can help out.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. I think we can bring that
23 forward. If you don't mind, can you please bring that up
24 again during the Public Input Design report out? I
25 believe we're going to have a lengthy conversation about

1 that first meeting in every meeting following. But I
2 think that's an important point to raise, moving forward.

3 Commissioner Fernandez.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I'm hoping I know the
5 answer to this, Director Kaplan. But seeing that there
6 currently is not a lead for Northern California, and
7 there are going to be COI input meetings in Northern
8 California, would I have a correct assumption that the
9 leads you have now, plus the coordinator, will assist
10 with that northern -- the northern site-specific COI
11 Input Meetings?

12 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

14 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions for Marcy at this
16 time?

17 All right. I know, we're going to have a great
18 conversation once we get to item 11, with that dry run,
19 and all of the items that the team has put together for
20 us to review. So we'll have a more in-depth conversation
21 at that time.

22 So moving right along to our Chief Counsel's report.

23 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Thank you. I can --

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Marcy?

25 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Oh.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Sorry. I just saw Marcy's hand up.

2 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Go ahead. Go ahead, Marcy.

3 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: (No verbal response).

4 CHAIR AHMAD: No. Okay.

5 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Good morning, everyone. Just
6 two items I wanted to inform and brief you all on.
7 Please be on the lookout on June 9th, as part of the
8 Chief Counsel's report, I plan on providing a Bagley-
9 Keene Open Meetings Act refresher for everyone. Again,
10 it'll be part of the Chief Counsel's report.

11 And second, I just want to let you know that Marian
12 and I are working very collaboratively, and we are
13 working to sort of iron out division of labor for the
14 Legal Affairs Division. And so I plan on getting you
15 more information as we sort of iron out those details.
16 But we are looking at that right now.

17 And with that, if anyone has any questions?

18 Commissioner Kennedy.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just to inquire if the Legal
20 Team has anything to update us on, as far as litigation
21 surrounding the census and other states, specifically, I
22 guess, the Ohio case, and what's happening with the
23 Alabama case. Thank you.

24 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Sure. So I don't have anything
25 at this moment, but I'm happy to report back to you for

1 that.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Any other questions for our Chief
3 Counsel and our Legal Team?

4 Great. Great, moving along. Thank you, Anthony,
5 for that.

6 Moving along to Subcommittee Updates. So I had a
7 request come in to start with item 9-J. So if it's okay,
8 I would like to honor that request, and start with 9-J,
9 and then we can jump back to 9-A, and continue through
10 that list. Aside from that time-certain report out that
11 we have on the agenda.

12 So with that, Commissioners Akutagawa and Le Mons.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. Thank you. And I'm
14 going to go ahead, and I'm going to start this off. And
15 then just to let you all know. I've also asked Director
16 Hernandez to also give -- to give an update, and then
17 that will be followed by Commissioner Le Mons, who is
18 going to walk us through the meat of the RFP.

19 So I do want to just acknowledge the conversation
20 that we had at the last meeting. We did have a lot of
21 input from everybody, and definitely point taken. I also
22 want to just say that at that time we were just waiting
23 for the final approval from the Office of Legal Services.
24 And so shortly after that we did get the okay to move
25 forward.

1 As I had mentioned, that there were some specific
2 kinds of things that we needed to ensure that the way in
3 which we would move forward with this funding mechanism,
4 would be done using the RFP, and that it would be also
5 open to any entity, or any qualified bidder in the State
6 of California.

7 So what you have seen -- and I just want to just say
8 thank you and kudos to both Director Hernandez and
9 Director Kaplan. We have been working; and they,
10 specifically, have been working tirelessly since we
11 started talking about all of the different options.

12 I know that last week we talked about, again, the
13 what-ifs. I do want to just say that the committee,
14 working together with Director Hernandez and Director
15 Kaplan, looked at every single possible iteration, or
16 possibility that we can consider in anticipation of the
17 kind of questions that came up last week.

18 But ultimately, again, within the confines of what
19 is allowable within the statute, of what the Commission
20 can do, this is the route that we can best follow.

21 I just want to also acknowledge that Director
22 Kaplan, with the help of Director Hernandez, really
23 turned this revision to the RFP to reflect the changes
24 that the Office of Legal Services was requiring. They
25 turned it around quickly, and we're pleased that we were

1 able to then have something that we could submit to the
2 public, and also to the entire Commission for everyone to
3 review prior to today's meeting.

4 And so I do want to just acknowledge them. I know
5 that there were some what-if questions that came up last
6 week, specific to personal services contract, and also
7 about being able to, perhaps, utilize some of the funds
8 to then share with some state agencies, specifically
9 libraries, so that they can also help us with outreach.

10 I want to turn to Director Hernandez to speak to
11 those particular points, because there are some answers
12 that he was able to use to get. So Director Hernandez?

13 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you. In regard to
14 the personal service contracts, those are very limited in
15 the in what they can do. And for the purposes that we're
16 looking at, they don't apply in this particular instance
17 to do the personal service contracts for the work that
18 we're outlining.

19 As far as the interagency agreements, if the goal is
20 to speed up the process, that is not going to speed up
21 the process, one. Secondly, the interagency agreements,
22 although you don't have to do a bidding process, they
23 still have to follow contracting protocols and state
24 guidelines. So that, again, doesn't speed up the process
25 either.

1 So the interagency agreements, although, you know,
2 are a good idea, and you avoid the RFP posting, and all
3 that part of it, you still are required to follow the
4 contracting guidelines.

5 So you know, working with another state agency, if
6 you're giving away -- or trying to distance yourself from
7 having to make a decision on awarding, that doesn't work
8 because the Commission, ultimately, has to approve and
9 decide on who the award goes to. So it doesn't remove
10 that, or distance you as we had originally thought, from
11 that part of it. You know, as far as making a decision,
12 it still is required.

13 And ultimately, I think the Commission would want to
14 have responsibility and oversight of how those funds are
15 being used, and directing how they should be used. So in
16 that sense, we're limited on what we can do, and
17 definitely within the time frames in which we can do
18 them.

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much,
20 Director Hernandez. And I also want to just note that in
21 terms of distancing ourselves from awarding, I think -- I
22 believe that we're all capable of being as impartial and
23 as objective as we can. It would be no different than
24 what we did in terms of any of the other contracts that
25 we've awarded; for example, to the line drawers, or also

1 to our counsels. And so I have no doubt in the fourteen
2 of us bringing in all of our different lenses to ensure
3 equal balance.

4 So with that said, I'm so happy and really proud to
5 be able to say that we have something to submit to all of
6 you.

7 I'm going to turn to Commissioner Le Mons to speak
8 about, really, the scope of work, and the RFP, and what
9 we're proposing for the RFP.

10 Commissioner Le Mons.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Akutagawa.

13 And I, too, want to echo gratitude to Directors
14 Kaplan and Hernandez, and all of the support staff behind
15 the scenes that have been working tirelessly on this
16 process.

17 My hope is that most of the questions and brainstorm
18 from the last meeting which, unfortunately, an emergency
19 prevented me from attending, that we were at a place
20 where we believe that we turned the stones that needed to
21 be turned, and really look for every possible pathway to
22 try to meet the original vision that was outlined very,
23 very early in this process.

24 I know I'm very excited that we have a viable path.
25 And I hope every Commissioner at this point has had an

1 opportunity to review the document, which I also want to
2 say, is pretty clear and concise, which I think is
3 fantastic. There's not a lot of ambiguity. There's not
4 a lot of gray areas here. And that was one of the things
5 that was really important as well.

6 So I think that that supports us in being able to
7 feel very confident in our outcomes as we select
8 contractors to represent the outreach work that we are
9 looking to have done, that we've laid this out in a way
10 that gives us a path to those outcomes that we can feel
11 very comfortable with.

12 So we talked about how to approach this. I don't
13 know if everyone -- I'm not one who likes to read stuff
14 to people, in general, especially not adults, but -- so
15 my question becomes, if there's a way to tackle this, we
16 really wanted to focus on the activities and make sure
17 that the things that we are asking from the proposers
18 have been captured here.

19 So we might want to start with the objectives and
20 feel -- so that we feel comfortable that these are indeed
21 the objectives. We also want to, I'd say, make sure that
22 there's not a lot of room for a lot of substantive change
23 in the structure of this, et cetera.

24 So I just want to caution that we keep our
25 discussion focused because, we have gone back and forth

1 with OLS for quite a few weeks now, and this has been
2 looked at by any number of eyes, and making sure that
3 within the statutory authority, if we lacked, or you
4 know, who can do what. This is the framework.

5 So I think at this point it's a question of: Are
6 there outliers here, in that we feel there's a gap in
7 what it is that we wanted to accomplish? Or that there
8 are things that are an overreach that might need to be
9 dialed back? So I think if we can look at it through
10 that lens, and that's not the exclusive lens to look at
11 it, but if we could look at it through that lens, I think
12 we'll be able to have a pretty focused discussion about
13 it.

14 So if that's okay with the group, and I'm open to
15 suggestions on how to approach it as well, so that's just
16 my thought.

17 Chair, I don't know if you have any specific
18 direction on how you'd like us to go about it.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: No, I believe you all have the floor.
20 So however you want to frame that conversation, you can
21 just jump in.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. So why don't we start
23 with item B, the statement of work, which outlines the
24 objectives of what this RFP is all about. And just ask,
25 I guess, if there're any questions from any of the

1 Commissioners? The contracts of each of the regions will
2 collaborate and work with community-based organizations,
3 local government agencies, like county city schools, and
4 local businesses, to inform the general public of the
5 importance of participating in the redistricting process,
6 and activating them to participate in redistricting
7 through the Commission's Community of Interest tool, and
8 other avenues the Commission has made available to the
9 public.

10 The goal is to avoid duplication of efforts within a
11 region, identify outreach gaps and build them
12 accordingly, and implement outreach to encourage full
13 participation by the public.

14 Is the Commission comfortable with that objective?
15 Commissioner Sinay.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, everybody, for the
17 amazing work that was done on this. There is a lot of
18 work, and I'm sure we'll be getting calls from the
19 community when we have open -- you know, public comments.
20 And having created a lot of RFPs in my lifetime, you
21 know, no process is ever going to be perfect. And I
22 think we need to just trust -- we need to trust the work
23 that was done. And I want to thank you all.

24 Just on point just on this. My understanding is
25 that this is a tool that -- you know, it says the purpose

1 and the outcomes are twofold. But then there're four
2 bullets underneath that, A, B, C, and D. And what I'm
3 hearing is that it's twofold about education and
4 activating. And I think -- and with a lot of emphasis on
5 the activating.

6 And then the C and D ones are types of activities
7 that can take place. And so we just might want to make
8 that -- you know, just make that match, what's twofold,
9 and what are the bullets underneath it. And I would go
10 back to saying we really want proposals that are going to
11 get us communities of interest submissions, or however
12 way -- whichever way -- so whatever we can do to really
13 emphasize that part.

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Thank you. Does
15 anyone else have any feedback on the objective?

16 Commissioner Toledo.

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I think I'd be
18 more comfortable if there was a focus on nonpartisan; if
19 we use -- if the proposers were nonpartisan in nature, so
20 if they weren't -- if we highlight that we are seeking
21 organizations that don't lobby. And this might be in the
22 in the publication statement of the scope of work, but
23 potentially there could be a statement that we don't --
24 because that we're an impartial organization that
25 seeks -- that's seeking nonpartisan groups to help in

1 this effort, that way that we can highlight the
2 impartiality aspect of the work. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Any other
4 comments on the objective? Commissioner Fernandez.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I just want to echo
6 the thanks. I was reading this last night. I was: Oh,
7 my goodness. There's so much information in here, which
8 is really good information. So thank you for capturing
9 everything that we need. Just on that one -- I know this
10 is a little bit of minutia -- but 1-C, when it says to --
11 towards the end it says, "And when possible to their
12 counties and cities." I would like to also add "and
13 communities", because sometimes, you know, the community
14 doesn't encompass the full city, obviously it will
15 encompass just a community. So that was my only comment
16 in that area. Thank you so much for capturing
17 everything. So great job.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You're welcome. And I see,
19 Director Kaplan, you're taking notes, right?

20 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: (No verbal response).

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. I noticed you keep
22 moving each time I comment. So I just want to make sure
23 someone was capturing it. And we're recording this.
24 Thank you for that.

25 Any other questions or feedback on the objectives?

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair, I had my hand raised.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay, I'm sorry. I hear
3 Commissioner Turner, I recognize that voice. But why
4 don't I see you? Anyway, Commissioner Turner.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. Just a point of
6 clarification, under the objectives, and thank you for
7 this work, you all have had quite the ride on this. The
8 objectives, statement of work starts out, "The
9 contractors for each region will", and then it ends with
10 the goal, "To avoid duplication of efforts within a
11 region, to identify outreach gaps and fill them."

12 I just wanted a point of clarification. Are we
13 looking for those that we ultimately select to identify
14 those gaps, or is that something that's internally going
15 to be done? Are they expected to identify gaps and do
16 the work?

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think that's a really good
18 question, Commissioner Turner. I would imagine that it
19 would be both, actually. So any information that -- of
20 course we've been doing work in the Commission, and I
21 think that our Outreach Team, whatever, could be provided
22 that identifies -- and we can see what mechanism we could
23 actually use for that, where we know of gaps already, and
24 where we might incorporate that information.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Mm-hmm.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Because I think that would
2 drive potential bidders -- I mean, excuse me, proposers'
3 scope of work. So that's just sort of the my thought,
4 off the top of my head. But again, it's just a thought
5 off the top of my head. I think that's a really
6 important question, as to who has the responsibility to
7 identify those gaps.

8 I think it sounds -- it looks like Commissioner
9 Sinay might have a response to that. Go ahead,
10 Commissioner Sinay.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, what I like about how
12 this is written and I know it's further along, but it
13 is -- we are making a contract, but part of the contract
14 is working directly with our field staff.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And so the field staff will
17 have that information, and you know, as we're receiving
18 COIs and we have the map, we will be able to identify
19 those spaces, and the field staff will be able to go
20 back, you know, and work with the different contractors.
21 So it's not a blind partnership, but it's really working
22 hand-in-hand.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Great point, Commissioner
24 Sinay.

25 Does that answer your question, Commissioner Turner?

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: It does. And the way I
2 understood the response is that basically the field staff
3 will be, predominantly, watching out for gaps. It was
4 only a flag for me, and a point of clarification, because
5 receiving a grant for an area that, you know, that you're
6 able to work in, is different than lifting your head and
7 looking out to see what's missing.

8 And so I think to have the field staff be
9 predominantly responsible for that, will ensure that it
10 happens and everyone -- and we are covering areas that we
11 expect to. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You're welcome. Commissioner
13 Andersen -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Akutagawa, were you
14 going to speak to that point?

15 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I just also wanted
16 to just point out, Commissioner Turner, and to everybody
17 else, if you look later in the RFP, it does specifically
18 state that each of the successful bidders will be working
19 directly with an assigned field staff person as well too.
20 Yeah, we're not going to let them out on their own.

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Andersen.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I also agree with. Thank
23 you very much for a great, detailed document. And I also
24 like the approach of going through certain chunks of the
25 sections at a time. I think that's very organized. I

1 have a very small comment on this section, and it's under
2 2-B, "To activate Californians how to provide public
3 input." I would prefer if you switch the bullets using
4 the Draw My Community tool, should be first, and send the
5 emails, writing -- in a sense, we are trying to emphasize
6 since that -- by using the My Community, it's already
7 processed directly into our line-drawing, and our whole
8 system. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you for that,
10 Commissioner Andersen. Any other questions or comments
11 on the objectives?

12 Okay. Seeing none, let's move on to the next
13 you know, as we talked about objectives, and I know we
14 focused on the broader bullets. And then of course,
15 there's section C and D, We didn't get any feedback on
16 that. So I'm assuming people are comfortable with that
17 at this point. And if that's accurate, then I'd like to
18 just move to section 3, which are the contractor
19 responsibilities. Okay.

20 Commissioner Fernandez.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Did you want comments on
22 that now?

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Sure. Yes. Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Just a quick thing
25 on -- let's see, task 3 on page 7.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: The third bullet, and it
3 was a few times throughout the RFP language, it has
4 "State", because it says, "May be provided to the
5 contractor by the State." I think it's supposed to be
6 "by the Commission", correct? And there's a few times
7 throughout the RFP that it mentions "State" versus "the
8 Commission".

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think that we should ask
10 Executive Director Hernandez on that, for clarification.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then the only
12 other question I had was, when we're asking for like
13 feed -- not feedback, for the reporting, I'm hoping -- I
14 think it's in here. But I'm hoping that part of the
15 reporting will note like, like how many Californians they
16 actually reached, and if they actually have information
17 on how many actually submitted communities of interest
18 input. That would be great information for us to have as
19 well, so that --

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So when you -- to that point,
21 Commissioner Fernandez, when you look at -- because the
22 reporting is broken out, there's the monthly reporting,
23 there's the initial status report, and then final report.
24 Do you feel like the point that you just made is
25 reflected in the bullets there?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I wasn't sure if that was.
2 I wasn't sure if it's something that once you start
3 working out the details, and once our Outreach area
4 starts working with the contractor, maybe that will be
5 like the -- that would be additional information that's
6 given to them. But I didn't feel that it was
7 specifically spelled out, but I didn't know if it needed
8 to be spelled out. I didn't know if it was something
9 that Director Kaplan would then, you know, work out with
10 the contractor. But for me, I just think that would be
11 good information for us to see the touch points, like how
12 many? Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Director Kaplan, do you have
14 any feedback to Commissioner Fernandez's question?

15 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yeah. I think that's helpful to
16 clarify. It's in there clearly in the reporting,
17 particularly around final reporting, and it may not be
18 so -- I think for -- depending on the type of activity
19 that's done, they may be able to track, you know, if
20 they're hosting a workshop that has the component that
21 then gets people to submit a COI there, that's easier to
22 track.

23 Sometimes it's also looking at perhaps total
24 impressions. There's other ways to do that measurement,
25 so depending on the types of activities. But I think

1 looking at some of that wording to make sure that's in
2 there as well. Thank you for providing that.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So I think monthly -- yeah,
5 this is going to be, you get the money and you run.
6 Groups aren't going to really have, you know, the time
7 that we would really like, you know, groups let's say you
8 get money, and you'd like to be able to have a lot of
9 time to plan, and do all that. And so it is going to be
10 adjusting as you go.

11 And I was looking at task number 2. The monthly
12 reports seemed a little cumbersome, especially for the --
13 you know, the amount of work that we're doing, and who's
14 going to review budgets every month, and all that. I
15 would encourage, unless that we have to do that, that we
16 really look at, at a sit down meeting with the Regional
17 Directors, and you know, and they talk about what the
18 gaps are, what's happening. So that was one.

19 Two, on what COIs are actually being submitted with
20 the community of interest tool. The Statewide Database
21 did tell some of the groups that they could have like a
22 tagline, or something. I can't remember what it was, but
23 it was some type of tag that people could submit and they
24 would know, you know, their outreach resulted in this
25 number, or this tag.

1 And so what I would recommend is that we just figure
2 out if that can be done, that we just do that for each
3 contractor, and we pull up that. You know, whatever we
4 can take on -- you know, take on in the big picture, just
5 because this is going to be a really tough contract to
6 manage with such a short time line.

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. We do need to
8 have those. So I think rather than an "either/or", it
9 could be an "and", and that might be a mechanism by which
10 to help the contractor gather the data. But they do need
11 to be able to provide that data to support the billing.

12 Commissioner Sinay.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And this may be minutia, so I
14 apologize. Maybe we can just create a Google form that
15 they fill out every month. And they just have to put a
16 few details in that, how we get the monthly report. But
17 however we can simplify it, the better.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Absolutely. Director Kaplan.

19 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes. We've discussed the
20 streamlining on the reporting, but I think the key thing
21 to emphasize with this multiple award RFP, is that we are
22 distributing funds based on work performed, and so the
23 Commission needs to ensure that we are doing due
24 diligence to identify the work that has been done for
25 them, and the funds that were used in order to do that

1 reimbursement.

2 So there are ways that we can help with streamlining
3 and having, you know, the expectations set upfront on
4 what that reporting will look like. And it will need to
5 be a written report that can also be complemented by a
6 phone conversation that's in here as well, but ensuring
7 that due diligence.

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Akutagawa.
9 Commissioner Turner, I see you.

10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I just realized, just for
11 clarification then, Director Kaplan, does that mean --
12 for the sake of all of us too -- so does that mean that
13 each month we will be, also the Commission, not just the
14 Staff, the Commission will be reviewing each of the
15 monthly reports? And then we will be -- because it's a
16 disbursement of funds, we will need to vote each month to
17 disperse the money, the funds to each of the contractors?

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Fernandez.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, I don't believe we do.
20 I believe it's a -- I would call it a deliverable and
21 it's any -- it would be similar to any other sort of
22 invoice processing that's done internally, where the
23 invoice would go to the specific area, which I would
24 think would go to Director Kaplan's area.

25 And then she would be responsible for determining

1 whether or not they had met that milestone for the
2 payment. And then she could report back to the
3 Commission. But I don't believe it would be the
4 responsibility of the Commission to approve that. But I
5 could be wrong. I have been wrong a few times. Ask my
6 family.

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Le
9 Mons. I wanted to support Commissioner Sinay's, some of
10 her comments. I'm really grateful for the report
11 template that it looks like that will be provided, and
12 the attempts to streamline that. And in understanding
13 that this particular -- this will be paid out in -- I
14 guess, in arrears, as opposed to upfront. So I guess
15 maybe that's why the monthly.

16 I wanted to go back to, I think, monthly reporting
17 is particularly cumbersome, even with a report that --
18 template that's provided. But then if, if it's going to
19 be based on actual work, I'm wondering: Is there already
20 a formula set up payment per widget? Or is it just a
21 division of the total grant amount, and then you receive
22 those funds at the end of the month if the report looks
23 satisfactory.

24 And I'm trying to figure out, what does it look like
25 to pay them? Because I don't see any cost, you know, per

1 activity. Or is there in a dollar amount assigned per
2 meeting, per training, per COI? What does monthly
3 payments look like based on a report without financial
4 structure tied to it, I guess; is what I'm trying to
5 wonder about.

6 Because if there's a way to -- particularly, because
7 there's monthly meetings going on as well. But if it
8 seems to me that if we've accepted someone as a viable
9 candidate to receive funds, and you have confidence in
10 your ability, and if they're meeting on a monthly basis,
11 there probably, could be, some funds released upfront,
12 and then paid out on a monthly basis, if that's
13 satisfactory.

14 Now, the reporting, if it's going to be based on
15 actual work, do we have that already determined what
16 that's going to look like; payment per what type of work?

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I mean, yes, Director Kaplan.

18 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: So this would be part of the time
19 line and budget that they would submit, that Commission
20 Le Mons, will go into in a further section, and that will
21 have the breakdown of activities and costs associated. I
22 know we had explored utilizing a potential template with
23 that budget so that the time line is associated with the
24 dollar. So this would be an entity in their application
25 identifying these are the activities they're going to be

1 implementing and the costs associated.

2 And so with that monthly reporting would then -- you
3 know, this would be the proposed, and then they would
4 report on the actual. And so that would be part of the
5 overseeing of these reports to ensure that, you know,
6 those activities actually occurred. And that's that
7 close working relationship with the field lead that would
8 be overseeing, as well as, you know, that costing being
9 realistic in terms of, you know, what they're charging to
10 do particular activities.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Yee.

12 VICE CHAIR YEE: Thank you. I had a question about
13 number of contracts. So it looks like it's set out for
14 six contracts, you know, divided regionally. So is that
15 absolutely set? Like if a smaller firm wanted to be in
16 one of the regions, would that be possible? Or is it
17 really all or nothing for each of these regions, and each
18 of the six contracts?

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, the way it's structured
20 is there is an assumption that subcontracting may be
21 necessary to reach the scopes of objectives. So that
22 would be on the lead proposer to determine what would be
23 needed to accomplish the activities for the region.

24 VICE CHAIR YEE: I see. Thanks.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Kennedy, and

1 then Commissioner Fernandez.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Looking on the
3 reports and reading the description of the initial status
4 report, and saying that it provides the first month's
5 update regarding the status of the key milestones. I'm
6 wondering if it would be possible to perhaps rephrase
7 that a bit, have something called a "Baseline Report",
8 and have the baseline report be a deliverable that could
9 be paid against, and that baseline report could be
10 submitted, you know, much closer to the start of the
11 contract.

12 You know, one week after the start of the contract,
13 there's a baseline report, the baseline report gets
14 reviewed, and a payment is made against that baseline
15 report; rather than waiting for a full month. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I guess that's something that
17 we have to -- go ahead, Director Kaplan. Commissioner
18 Fernandez --

19 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: But this was --

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Hold on one -- I'm sorry,
21 Director Kaplan. I just wanted to check in with
22 Commissioner Fernandez. Is it okay if Director Kaplan
23 answers?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: (No verbal response).

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Thank you. Director

1 Kaplan.

2 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: This was in some of the feedback
3 from OLS that it has to be on work performed. And so I
4 think we had originally framed it as, like a finalized
5 strategic plan. But it really has to be the work
6 implemented. And so that's why it's going to the
7 monthly. Not just the proposed of how the work would be
8 implemented, even though that is work to create the
9 strategies of the implementation of it.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And you say you don't -- you
11 seem perplexed on that Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. I mean, a baseline
13 report involves work that is done. That's why I'm saying
14 it's not going to be something that's submitted, you
15 know, the day that the contract is signed. It's going to
16 take, you know, a week or so. But you know, it is work,
17 and it is something that could be paid against.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Commissioner
19 Fernandez, then Commissioner Akutagawa.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I just wanted to
21 caution a little bit -- caution the Commission about
22 trying to transfer any of these responsibilities to our
23 staff. I mean, one, our staff is going to be busy.
24 They're already behind, right. I'm sure if I asked
25 Director Kaplan, she would be like, so overwhelmed, so

1 glad that she has staff.

2 But at the end of the day, for any sort of RFP, or
3 any type of invoicing, it needs to be the contractor
4 that's providing their information. It can't be -- it
5 should not be the Commission providing numbers, and
6 anything else to support why they should get paid,
7 because at the end of the day, all of this information
8 is, you know, is discoverable.

9 If somebody wants to audit it, or review it after
10 the fact, we need to make sure that it's the contractor
11 that is submitting this information. And it's their
12 data. And it is -- you've done a wonderful job of
13 outlining all of the responsibilities, so it's not like
14 if somebody submits a bid, they're not unaware of what
15 their responsibilities are.

16 So I appreciate you lining that out. And that is
17 how state contracting is, it's paid after the fact. And
18 that's, unfortunately, how it is. We don't do the ten
19 percent, give you a ten percent upfront so you can get
20 started. Unfortunately, that's how it works. And I know
21 that Commissioners Le Mons and Akutagawa have probably
22 been researching this more than we will ever know.

23 But those that are familiar, or have contracted with
24 the state, are familiar with this requirement. And
25 again, it is detailed out in the document so that

1 prospective bidders can decide whether or not they want
2 to bid.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Akutagawa.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I just wanted to
5 just reiterate what Director Kaplan said. This part
6 about the baseline report, I understand what your intent
7 is, Commissioner Kennedy, and I know what you say about,
8 you know, work is being done. Yes, there is a degree of
9 work that is being done. However, as Commissioner
10 Fernandez just also said, too, there is very, very
11 specific rules and regulations that we do have to follow
12 that we've learned in this process. And the intent of
13 what is going to be done is not considered a work
14 product.

15 And so therefore, even just to say a baseline
16 report, you know, we did this work because we're going to
17 tell you how we're going to do our work, is essentially
18 not going to be an acceptable kind of action or work
19 product. And so that was made very clear to us at the
20 very, very beginning when we started asking all these
21 questions.

22 We had hoped that we would be able to disburse some
23 funds even just on the basis of the plan. But we were
24 told very clearly that that's not going to be something
25 that is going to be allowable within the state

1 contracting rules. So we just want to just say that, you
2 know, that is something that was considered.

3 And as Commissioner Fernandez also just said, I
4 think -- we also realize that this does make things -- it
5 changes who will probably be able to apply. Commissioner
6 Yee, you know, any smaller organization can, but they
7 really have to have the capabilities of doing it.

8 Subcontracting is an option. And so this is going to be
9 up to, you know, entities to perhaps partner with others.

10 And again, as Commissioner Fernandez says, people
11 will know what they're getting into because the
12 requirements are very clearly laid out in terms of what
13 they are going to be asking to be done, and what they are
14 going to be applying to do.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Akutagawa. And I'll just echo that. And having been a
17 recipient of state contracts, to Commissioner Fernandez's
18 point, when you contract with the state, if you have
19 experience contracting with the state, you absolutely
20 understand what you have to do and what's required of
21 you.

22 Hopefully, those organizations who apply are
23 committed to our objectives in the broadest of sense, and
24 will be creative at their level in being able to partner
25 with and ensure that certain things happen. And we

1 didn't go so far as to make partnership requirements,
2 like some contracts do, some RFPs do, they force you to
3 contract in certain ways.

4 But I think what we're going to probably have very
5 passionate people who want to get this job done. And
6 hopefully they'll work within the confines of the
7 contract to reach the objectives.

8 Are there anymore -- I think I've got everyone who
9 had their hand up. Is there any more comments on this
10 particular section; the reporting? Okay. Thank you.

11 So jumping down to the -- let's see here, the
12 minimum requirements and -- excuse me -- the minimum
13 qualifications for the proposers; any feedback on that
14 area?

15 Commissioner Vazquez, then Commissioner Sinay, then
16 Andersen.

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I think actually it's
18 helpful to note, to understand that the vision for this
19 work is one where subcontracting takes place, because in
20 just, overall, looking at the qualifications, and then
21 the requirements in the later section seems pretty
22 challenging for most grassroots organizations to be able
23 to meet.

24 So I guess that was my overall feedback. But in
25 being educated on sort of the framing for this contract,

1 I think that's that is helpful. I would say maybe then
2 my overall feedback, if there is some -- I'm not sure how
3 much more this ties our hands, so maybe it's just us
4 communicating sort of through our meetings like this.

5 But the vision is that there will be like
6 subcontracting without requiring subcontracting,
7 necessarily, I think would be would be helpful for folks
8 who maybe aren't watching these meetings, but get this,
9 get this in their inbox. Someone says: Hey, you guys
10 could absolutely do this, apply for it. So we have to
11 also be able to feel like this whole document could go to
12 a grassroots organization, and have it be clear that they
13 could -- that they could enhance their application
14 through partnership.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Very good point.

16 Commissioner Sinay.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So the one question I have,
18 since we've done a lot of statewide outreach, I know that
19 some statewide organizations were waiting for our RFP to
20 come out, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, or the United
21 Way. You know, the United Way of California, Boys &
22 Girls Club. And so how would they -- is this open for a
23 statewide group to submit a proposal to the very -- you
24 know, be very specific who -- they're going to be working
25 across the whole state with their members; because I

1 think that will come up as one of the questions?

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Sure. Also, I think you can
3 apply, and I think you can apply for a maximum of three
4 regions. So there's an opportunity to -- you'd have
5 to -- you do have to put forward, though, three separate
6 applications. So it isn't you put forward one
7 application to cover three regions, for each of the six
8 that are identified you can submit -- but the maximum is
9 three. That would be an opportunity to have a broader
10 swath of the state, if you will.

11 Commissioner Sinay, did you want to -- do you have a
12 follow-up?

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I know you said this, and it
14 came in and it came out of my head, so I apologize. Are
15 we planning to do just one grant per region, or it may be
16 multiple grants up to the amounts that we put in the box?

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: The six that have been
18 identified, they're one per.

19 Director Kaplan, then Commissioner Andersen, and
20 Commissioner Kennedy.

21 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Just one note, to just reframe,
22 make sure that we're reframing to contracts.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh, right.

24 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: That we won't --

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, these aren't grants;

1 that's right, contracts, yes. I was coached on that
2 prior to this. Thank you, Director Kaplan.

3 Commissioner Andersen, then Commissioner Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. This is a very
5 interesting. There's a lot of -- I have a few -- an
6 answer to a question, and then a couple of redlines, and
7 then another request. So the first, it's very obvious in
8 the qualifications and experience, that these are
9 basically some subcontractors are essentially required
10 because it says, "You have to have five years more
11 experience in managing and tracking budgets for three or
12 more subcontractors for other groups."

13 So that's very explicit. Once they start looking
14 at, you know, what are the minimum requirements of --
15 that does mean this is for a bigger -- the bigger groups
16 to subcontract to those grassroots, is the way I'm
17 interpreting this.

18 This is then a couple of redlines: In table 3, the
19 Strategic Outreach Plan, the narrative response, to me
20 it's including sub-requirements. It should just be 1
21 through 12; there are no sections 1.1. And should just
22 be section 1 through 12; not 1.1 through 1.12.

23 And then a similar redline comment is on page 16,
24 that is still under item 4 -- actually D; Strategic
25 Partners, that's also one of the subcategories that

1 should be -- "strategic partners" should be underlined.

2 I would make a few different changes to make it a
3 little bit more clear steps, the difference between 4 and
4 5. But that's a personal preference.

5 Then going back to the subcontracting, I would like
6 to put a line in specifically on Northern California 2,
7 and then Central California 2, those areas, to
8 distinguish -- Northern California 2 is basically our
9 Zone A, B, and D, And I would like to make sure that A, B
10 as consideration, as well as D. Because that's all too
11 easy to kind of lump the Sacramento area in and skip over
12 A and B.

13 And similar, I would like on Central California 2
14 the distinction between F and G, with making sure that --
15 and in terms of the amount of budget, that would
16 obviously, you know, very easy to distinguish based on
17 population, but I don't want A and B and G to get missed
18 just because of the amount of contracting.

19 So I'd like to put that in, in terms of our -- but I
20 was looking for a place to put that in, which I hadn't
21 found exactly yet. So I will come up and propose that as
22 soon as I do find a good, nice, easy spot to put that in.
23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Thank you.

25 Director Kaplan.

1 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: With the comment on the table, can
2 you just tell me the page? I have a printout, and my
3 stapler is broken, so my papers are -- the page with the
4 table 1, the 12.1, just where that was.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It's table 3. And that is
6 on page 11. It's under -- it's the section 3-A, number
7 2, table 3.

8 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Oh. Okay. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Numbered 1, 2, 3, it's just
10 they go through the whole document.

11 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay. Thanks.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It's on page 11.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner.
14 Andersen. Commissioner Kennedy.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just wanted to point out,
16 under the six regions, we are missing four counties, so
17 we're missing, Lassen, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and
18 Santa Cruz.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you for that.

20 Director Kaplan?

21 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Commissioner Fornaciari had
22 emailed me also, so thank you, by flagging that. Thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Did I miss any Commissioners
25 who had -- oh, Commission Fornaciari.

1 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I want to start by
2 thanking the Subcommittee and Staff for all your hard
3 work on this. This has been a real, real big, big amount
4 of work. And thank you so much.

5 Just had a question about the table 1, about the
6 distribution of funding. Is that proportioned to a
7 population? Is that how you came to those numbers, for
8 proportional direct or --

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: And if I could add, I mean,
12 Commissioner Ahmad -- Chair Ahmad, and then Commissioner
13 Toledo. When the proposer -- I mean, I think that part
14 of how a proposal gets evaluated is going to be some of
15 those points that you raised, Commissioner Andersen, as
16 well, is that that organization really having an
17 understanding of how to reach the counties that are
18 within that particular region. Meaning these, not the
19 lettering formation, but how it's outlined here.

20 And for the reviewers to really be looking to make
21 sure that that kind of coverage is being identified in
22 the activities and plans. So you know, we would caution
23 submitters that, you know, don't submit for a region and
24 only focus on Sacramento. It's not going to get very far
25 in terms of getting approved. So I just wanted to make

1 that comment.

2 Chair Ahmad.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. And
4 we are at break, so we will come back at 11:15, and
5 continue this conversation. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: We will pick up with
7 Commissioner Toledo.

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

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back from break. Let's
11 continue the conversation where we left off.

12 And I will hand it back to Commissioners Akutagawa
13 and Le Mons.

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Chair. I believe
15 we left off with Commissioner Toledo wanting to give
16 comment.

17 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. Thank you,
18 Commissioners Le Mons and Akutagawa. I'm curious if the
19 outreach and education contracts would be similar to the
20 legal affairs contract where the individuals working
21 under the contract would each need to be approved by the
22 Commission, or if these contracts are different. Just
23 curious in terms of process, and just vetting.

24 And so I'm not sure if that question is for the
25 Committee, or for our Legal Team, but it just -- I'm just

1 curious to see what -- if we have any requirements that
2 we would have to meet in terms of just vetting and
3 approving the staff working under these contracts. Thank
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Does Staff have a response to
6 that question? Director Hernandez.

7 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: We're going to have to look
8 into that. I don't know at this point. Good question,
9 though. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Andersen.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It is in the -- page 16, it
12 actually says, the top, "Bidders are required to identify
13 all subcontractors being utilized for the contract." And
14 then under Independence, Conflict of Interest, which is
15 on page 17. It does say, 7-B, "Bidders must disclose and
16 shall have continued duty to disclose any financial,
17 business or other relationship with the contractor,
18 subcontractor, or individual employee." So that that is
19 intended to cover these issues.

20 And then C says, "The Commission shall have the
21 right to disqualify or terminate," if they believe the
22 interests -- are disqualified. So I think it does,
23 indeed, cover it.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Do you feel like that gets to
25 your question, Commissioner Toledo?

1 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I understand about the
2 subcontractor versus contractor. I think it's the
3 individual people doing work under these contracts,
4 whether they have to be approved, which is a slightly
5 different question, although related, because if we are
6 having to approve each person under those contracts, then
7 of course there is conflict of interest disclosure
8 requirements for each person, under each contract, and
9 potentially other --

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Individuals, yes.

11 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- requirements, as stated by
12 Commissioner Andersen.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. It does also say --
14 I will continue -- under 7-B on page 17, it also says,
15 "Or other relationship of the contractor, subcontractor,
16 or individual employees." So they have to require --
17 they do have to disclose that. And then under C, "The
18 Commission has the right to terminate them."

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Kennedy.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. Thanks. I would also
21 point out that on page 9, under minimum qualifications,
22 it talks about, "Bidder and the personnel proposed to
23 perform professional services, must have qualifications
24 and experience identified below." So there is a
25 requirement, and this is going to -- I mean, if they're

1 required to have this, then somebody, obviously, has to
2 review the proposal to make sure that they have it.

3 The one thing that I would suggest is that there may
4 be a possibility of breaking out the qualifications and
5 experience required from the bidding firm or
6 organization, versus qualifications and experience for
7 the personnel proposed, it might be useful to split those
8 two out. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do you want to stick to this
11 section or -- no, because I found that I'd missed one
12 question earlier, but I can send that later. So I'll
13 just --

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No. No, go ahead. What's
15 your question?

16 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. So on this question,
17 since we're in this section, and I don't want to
18 confuse -- for Marcy having to go back and forth. So I
19 have found that it's really important when creating these
20 larger contracts, and you have subcontractors, is to
21 actually ask for the contact information of the
22 subcontractors.

23 Because I'll be honest, a lot of times big groups
24 will put in names of smaller groups without asking them,
25 or them knowing. And I have also been known -- when I

1 was creating contracts -- to send the contract to the
2 subcontractors so they can see it as well. And they
3 would call me and say: Oh. I didn't even know we were in
4 that proposal.

5 And so whatever we can do to make sure that the
6 subcontractors are authentic partner and will be getting
7 some funding for the work they're doing, and you know,
8 and some recognition, not just that it gives them -- you
9 know, it gives the contract points, if that makes any
10 sense. So that was the one piece on this one I just
11 wanted to make sure.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you for that,
13 Commissioner Sinay. Any other comments on this section?
14 Commissioner Sinay?

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Not on this section.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm being disciplined.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: On the previous section, what
19 was the -- what was your comment on the previous section,
20 seriously?

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, we kind of dumped the
22 whole budget and went straight over to kind of the
23 subcontractors, and all that, unless it's in more than
24 one place. So can I just clarify where we are?

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Sure. Well, we did, because

1 one of our Commissioners asked a question about an area
2 that we hadn't gotten to, so you know, we just jumped
3 around, but it's okay. So go on and ask your question.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. So a couple things, and
5 please tell me which of these comments I can just email
6 to Director Kaplan because they're minutia, and they just
7 need to be. We think --

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Use your discretion.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: We think the COI tool --
10 training on the COI tool, and what we talk about in the
11 Public Input Design Subcommittee was that it's really
12 community mapping, so more the bigger picture,
13 understanding how to talk about communities and stuff,
14 and not just use the tool. And so in one of the
15 activities we kind of talk about just the tool, so if we
16 can -- if we can just pull back a little and say, either
17 communities of -- I always say communities of
18 interest/community mapping, so people understand the
19 bigger picture, and not just the tool.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Could you point as to where
21 you're referring?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I'll find out exactly
23 like where I found it.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: And get it to Director Kaplan.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. All right.

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: The other one on the contract.

3 I like that we looked at this as -- you know, a way to
4 look at it as equal, but not equitable, was to look at
5 the population. But the one piece that's in -- that
6 wasn't, I think, taken into account, is that there has
7 been \$3 million that has been awarded to certain areas
8 already, very specific areas.

9 And those tend to be the areas that we are also
10 giving a lot of larger grants to. And there's some areas
11 that have been completely -- not received any funding yet
12 for redistricting. And I just wanted to lift that up
13 because I think it's important for us not to say that
14 this was the most equitable way to do it, it was more
15 equal way of doing; and if anybody had thoughts on that
16 equity question?

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Fernandez.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, since Commissioners
19 Fornaciari and Sinay brought up the budget issue, I'll
20 just bring up the one concern that I have with Northern
21 California. It is twenty-two counties that are included
22 in that county, and I realize -- I mean, I guess the
23 easiest way to divide the funds is by population.

24 But also there're some challenges with, you know, a
25 third of the state trying to reach out to that area.

1 It's more -- the people are more dispersed, there's more
2 area to cover. They may not have as many community-based
3 organizations. So I just need to continue to try to push
4 for more resources for those areas, because they are
5 remote, just as some other areas in California that's
6 doing -- disbursing funds out by population sometimes may
7 not be the best for every Californian. So I just want to
8 make sure I stated that. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, we did give a lot of
10 thought to that, by the way, and there's any number of
11 formulas that could be used. But this is a population-
12 based project. Actually, what we're doing is based on
13 population, so we actually felt like, with all of the
14 myriad of ways you could go about dividing the money.

15 But then also being able to legitimately
16 substantiate these issues requires a lot of research, a
17 lot of support documentation, so it couldn't just be
18 theoretical, that this particular area doesn't have, or
19 this -- you really get into a much more intricate process
20 to support that kind of thinking.

21 So the subcommittee landed on the population-based,
22 not just out of ease, but also I think, primarily,
23 because that is what this whole -- what we're doing is
24 about the population. So if we make sure that the
25 resources were put into -- throughout California based on

1 population, then the onus are really going to be on
2 our -- on both that submit to really be aware of the
3 zones that they're focusing on, and how to maximize those
4 resources that are available, to get the best outcome for
5 that zone, or that region. So that was the thinking.
6 Just to go on record as to what the thinking was.

7 Other Commissioners?

8 Okay. If there is no -- well, are there other
9 comments on the section that we were on, which was the
10 contractor responsibilities?

11 So now we're going to move to Commission -- no, I'm
12 sorry, we had done Commission responsibilities. We
13 talked about the reporting, and then the minimum
14 qualification for proposals is where we are. I
15 apologize.

16 And so now we're down to Proposal Requirements and
17 Information. Anyone have any specific feedback on this
18 particular section? That's item 3, Proposal Requirements
19 and Information.

20 Commissioner Sinay.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm just saying, to create an
22 authentic collaborative it takes -- some of them already
23 exist, and they've been working on redistricting, and
24 talking about it, and this will help them gel, which is
25 really exciting. But for others, it's going to be tough

1 to do it in two weeks. And I understand -- so I just
2 wanted to allow you all the space to explain to the
3 public why we're doing it so quickly.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Director Kaplan.

5 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: We did do three weeks for the
6 proposal, not two weeks.

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Akutagawa.

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Commissioner Sinay,
9 I just want to acknowledge what you're saying. And we
10 are very conscious of it, but we're also, as much, trying
11 to balance that with the urgency of where we are right
12 now. And I am just happy that we do not have to go to a
13 plan B to be honest. That it is still within the time
14 frame that we could still get these funds out via
15 contract to do some of this work.

16 And we do realize -- I mean, there's a lot of things
17 that, you know, we would have wanted differently when we
18 first started out on this process, we had different kinds
19 of hopes. We had hopes that this would be able to go to
20 much, much smaller organizations, that we would be able
21 to grant for -- at the time -- I'm using the word
22 intentionally, "grant" funds to, you know, many different
23 organizations so that we can get deeper into some of the
24 areas that -- you know, I want to acknowledge what
25 Commissioner Fernandez also said, too. We were very,

1 very conscious of that, and we were aware of that.

2 But having to move to this more of a contracting
3 process, you know, it's not the perfect way in which we
4 would wanted it to have been, but it is the way in which,
5 given the speed by which we do want to get funds out
6 there, this is what we had to weigh. And that any
7 further delay would, I think, create more challenges than
8 create. And so I just wanted to, you know, say that,
9 that these are the considerations that we took part in.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you for that. And now I
12 want to look at the staff side of this, on the back end
13 part. We don't know how many RFPs -- I mean, how many
14 proposals, or whatever the right contract request --
15 whatever the right word is -- will be receiving three
16 days to review all of it, and check references, and
17 budgets, and all that, really seems tight. And
18 unfortunately, that could give us space to make mistakes.
19 So I just wanted to check if we really thought that was
20 realistic.

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Kennedy, you
22 have a separate point?

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: (No verbal response).

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Do you mind if we get
25 a response Commissioner Sinay's question?

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: (No verbal response).

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Akutagawa.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I do want to note
4 that the time line was one that was provided to us by the
5 Staff, and I trust that this is something that they took
6 into account, and I want to, you know, give them the
7 benefit that this is something that they feel is doable.
8 We do, I think, understand. And they are also very
9 conscious of the time line that we're under.

10 But I would invite, you know, either Director
11 Kaplan, or Director Hernandez to speak otherwise. But I
12 do want to just say that this is part of what I
13 appreciate what the Staff is doing, too, so.

14 It looks like Director Hernandez --

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner -- I mean,
16 Director Hernandez.

17 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Yeah. I believe we should be
18 able to meet that time frame. I don't anticipate all of
19 the proposals coming in at the end, so they'll be
20 staggered. So we'll be, you know, kind of looking at
21 them as they come in, and taking them into account. Now,
22 you know, if there is over a hundred that we don't
23 anticipate, then that will be a challenge. But both
24 Marcy and I have been working long hours, so this is par
25 for the course.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Kennedy, then
2 Commissioner Taylor.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. I'm just
4 wondering if there's something of a conflict between the
5 language on page 1, saying that the term of the contracts
6 will be one year with an estimated start date of July
7 18th. And the language, I think on page 11 in the in the
8 calendar that says, "Contracts will run until thirty days
9 after the submission of the final maps."

10 Might it make sense to have the language on page 1,
11 say "six months"? Given that we reserve the option to
12 extend the term of the contract under the same terms and
13 conditions. So if there were a need to extend it beyond
14 six months, we have that ability. But that would put it
15 more in line with the timing that's set out in the table.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thanks for that, Commissioner
17 Kennedy.

18 Commissioner Taylor, then Sinay.

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. Thank you. Commissioner
20 Kennedy just caught the same thing that I was concerned
21 about. And then secondly, do we have, even though it
22 can't be place, do we have a rough idea of how long it
23 would take the Department of Legal Services to approve
24 this for the implementation? Or is that another thirty
25 days before they'd actually be able to get to work? Do

1 we have an idea, or a guesstimate?

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Director Hernandez.

3 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Given that they've already seen
4 this iteration with the minor edits that we're going to
5 make to it, it should flow rather quickly. I'd say two
6 weeks, not thirty days.

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to go back to the
9 evaluation period, and ask Staff to consider making the
10 evaluation period June 29th through July 2nd, with a
11 posting on July 5th. Just in case you need extra time on
12 that three-day weekend that you have, because I'd rather
13 you all not need it, and get to celebrate 4th of July and
14 be excited, than do a quick, quick run.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Commissioner
16 Andersen -- excuse me, before you go, Commissioner
17 Andersen. Commissioner Turner, did you have your hand
18 up?

19 COMMISSIONER TURNER: (No verbal response).

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Commissioner
21 Andersen.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Actually, the --
23 opening proposals is set at a particular time, so it
24 really is, you can't open them as they come in. You must
25 wait and open them all at the same time. So the only

1 issue with the changing the Notice of Intent to Award,
2 you need to have that whole period in case someone
3 protests the bid, which they can do.

4 So those are, basically, that's a week five days,
5 and that's actually five calendar days -- those are not
6 just calendar days, those are business days. So that's
7 going to affect, if you change that date, in there. But
8 then also in terms of the Staff evaluating, in previous
9 RFPs, some Commissioners have also been involved, too,
10 who are on the appropriate subcommittee.

11 So I would recommend that we also add some
12 Commissioners in there, understanding that this is for
13 conflict of interest information. So it's not -- it
14 doesn't have to do with impartiality, it isn't another
15 issue of impartiality; it's looking at helping to look
16 particularly through the conflicts of interest. I would
17 make that recommendation.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Kennedy.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. If the proposals
20 are due at 9:00 a.m. on the 25th, could they be opened at
21 10:00 a.m. on the 25th?

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: That's a good question.
23 Director Kaplan, is there a specific reason why there's a
24 three-day gap there?

25 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I can note that to follow up with

1 Staff with that internally.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It's the weekend -- if I
3 might just jump in --

4 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: So with staff --

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. It's the weekend, and
6 usually we see --

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: They can't be opened on the
8 weekend?

9 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Is it?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No. You have to do that in
11 public.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It has to be done in public.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: At 10:00 a.m. on Friday, an
15 hour after they're due. I mean, I don't see the point in
16 sitting on them.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The reason is, it's usually,
18 you say is due at this time and -- but yeah, most people
19 considered it's the end of the day. And if you say 9:00
20 a.m., then there have been issues of: It didn't arrive in
21 time, it was delayed, that sort of thing. So there's
22 usually just a, just in case on that, but that's -- we
23 could, indeed, do it that way, but that's why it's
24 usually done like that.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I mean, if you're going to

1 wait until Monday, I would say make the deadline 5:00
2 p.m. on Friday, and then open them at 10 o'clock on
3 Monday.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I don't know about that
5 comment, Commissioner Andersen, I know any state proposal
6 that I -- I think if it's due at 5 o'clock, or 10
7 o'clock, at 10:01, you're late, period. And there is no
8 lead, no -- you know how many people have sweated months
9 putting together proposals, and had that dreaded moment.
10 So I have never heard of that leniency. But I could be
11 wrong.

12 Commissioner Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I concur with your comment,
14 Commissioner Le Mons, also with that. When we went
15 through the videographer, we actually did it that way,
16 where it was due like at 5 o'clock that Friday, and we
17 moved it to, like noon, so that we could open it up that
18 afternoon, for that specific reason of gaining -- granted
19 it's Friday, and you've got the weekend, but that's still
20 two extra days that you can, potentially, be doing your
21 reference checks and evaluation.

22 So if it's due at noon, it has to be in the office
23 by noon, right. It doesn't matter what was postmarked.
24 It needs to be in the office, or email, or however it's
25 going to be accepted.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Other comments on
2 this?

3 Okay. I think that, Director Kaplan, you've got all
4 of the -- oh, excuse me. Director Hernandez.

5 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: I just want to circle back. I
6 just checked with Raul just to make sure, that we can
7 adjust those time frames that we have listed there. And
8 you are correct that we have to open all the proposals at
9 the same time, so we can't stagger them as they come in.
10 I just want to clarify that. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. So it sounds like
12 I'll let the Chair address, whether we move today,
13 however we go about making that decision. Because that
14 sounds like a decision that needs to be made, that's a
15 little bit different than some of the minor edits to
16 language, et cetera. So I'll just put that on your
17 radar.

18 So moving to the -- any other questions on the
19 proposal requirements, and information, and the key
20 dates?

21 Okay. Require proposal forms and exhibits.
22 Commissioner Andersen.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. Before we jump to
24 that -- leave that section I did want to put in,
25 regarding the -- making sure Zones A, B, and G get

1 notified under -- on page 12, under our Outreach
2 Approach, I thought we could add in just under the, one,
3 two -- third bulletin where it says, "Target populations
4 identified within the region," and you do examples. That
5 we should also add in as an example, "geographic
6 diversity", which is one of our criteria, previously, but
7 just to emphasize it in that location.

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And then continue to the
10 next section. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You're welcome. So questions
12 on the next section, comments?

13 Okay. So moving to a Strategic Outreach Plan
14 Requirements section, are there questions or comments on
15 this section? We're on page 11, by the way, item 4.

16 Commissioner Vazquez.

17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. It actually extends
18 into the components; if you're ready for feedback for the
19 components.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Again, still, getting my
22 brain to understand that this is sort of one contract per
23 region. And the idea is that, theoretically, partners
24 will be brought in under subcontracts. I still feel like
25 many of the pieces, particularly around language and

1 communication access plan, and social media plan feel,
2 still, somewhat onerous to me for community
3 organizations, even theoretically large, regionally based
4 community organizations who will then subcontract with
5 partners to achieve some of these goals.

6 So I'm wondering, particularly, like there's a
7 component in the Communications Access Plan,
8 identification of the top six non-English languages
9 spoken. Could it be something like, "up to the top six"?

10 Again, I'm not sure how much capacity even large
11 organizations have to be able to do that kind of
12 landscape analysis in three weeks, if it's not already --
13 I feel like there are two sort of sets of groups, either
14 they already have a finger on the pulse of all of the
15 language in that region, or they work with a very
16 specific sub-population in that community, and may, again
17 within three weeks, may not have the resources to do that
18 kind of landscape analysis.

19 And then, again I -- some of these feel like things
20 that I think the Commission should have more of a hand
21 in, so things like: Could the social media and
22 nontraditional communications methods portion be
23 optional? I'm guessing, how much of this can be
24 optional, and how much of this needs to be a requirement?
25 And sort of if you put pieces in that are optional,

1 obviously that like elevates your application to the top
2 of the pile.

3 But I'm concerned, by requiring all of these and
4 all -- and detail within all of these, we are going to
5 get a smaller pool of potential applicants who may not
6 be, overall, the best fit to lead outreach in that
7 region.

8 I mean, we're basically identifying organizations
9 who are going to be leading the outreach in these
10 regions, and like: Do they need to be leading social
11 media outreach in that region? Maybe that region is not,
12 again, thinking in Northern California, is that going to
13 be the best use of our contractor's time, to be
14 developing a social media campaign? I don't know.

15 So that's my overall feedback, to the extent that --
16 again, I don't know what's allowed and what's not, but to
17 the extent the plan may include, "may" include as opposed
18 to "shall" include, for me, makes more sense for some of
19 these components.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Akutagawa.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think -- thank you,
22 Commissioner Vazquez, for that. I think on some of these
23 points, particularly like, I guess the language access,
24 and even the social media part, I don't think we're
25 looking necessarily -- I think this is when it comes to

1 evaluating. I think, you know, we want to know that
2 whoever is going to be bidding on this is going to have
3 some understanding of all of this.

4 We may, you know -- I think what's being worked out
5 is like, how much are we going to weigh, you know, social
6 media, some kind of social media, like ability, or
7 communication use that -- we want to know if the party is
8 even thinking about that, too.

9 I think on the language part, I guess I -- this is
10 for me, personally, so I just want to make that clear,
11 this is just my thought. My thought is that since
12 whoever is going to successfully win this bid is going to
13 have to be able to cover a broad swath of a region, it's
14 got to be someone who's going to at least have a broad
15 general pulse of some of the languages in that region.

16 So therefore, if someone is very specifically
17 working with just one community, you know, they may be
18 great, if they also have very -- you know, existing
19 relationships with potential subcontractors who can cover
20 the other languages. And they should already know that,
21 I think, if they're already working with other partners.
22 If they're ones that are broad and they're going to bring
23 in other partners, I expect that they'll probably have a
24 broad, general sense of some of the top languages, in
25 their areas.

1 I do agree that it could be up to but -- because
2 there may be just some very, you know, particular
3 dominant languages in certain areas, and it may not be
4 six. But I do expect that they're going to have a real
5 good pulse of the non-English languages and the needs in
6 the areas. And I think that's what's reflected in the
7 RFP here.

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Excuse me. And I
9 would just add that they can explain why they're not
10 addressing a particular thing. And so for example, on
11 and up to six, if that's not pertinent for that area,
12 that also will give you some insight into their knowledge
13 of the area.

14 Or any of the other categories; if this is a nontech
15 wire environment, you would say, you know: Social media
16 doesn't make sense in this environment because the
17 infrastructure isn't there, et cetera, but this is how we
18 would approach whatever the case may be.

19 Commissioner Kennedy. And then I'll come back to
20 Commissioner Vazquez.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. I just wanted to
22 share that I did attend the statewide VAAC, Voting
23 Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting last week, and
24 one of the takeaways from that meeting was that we need
25 to be putting more emphasis on producing plain language

1 materials. And I can share some examples of plain
2 language explanation of election-related issues. But I
3 did take the point, and I wanted to share that. Thank
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Commissioner
6 Vazquez.

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I think it could be
8 made much more clear in -- than these qualifications that
9 there is an opportunity to explain why you're not
10 addressing certain portions of the plan components.
11 Because definitely in every single component that are
12 "shall describe", that are "shall describe", and then it
13 lays into detail what they shall describe.

14 And if you don't -- if you're not going to do said
15 thing, it's not clear that that is also an acceptable
16 response to your outreach plan component. So I think
17 that needs to be made more clear. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
19 Vazquez. Any other comments on this section?

20 Okay. Moving along to, I think background is pretty
21 straightforward. Are there any comments on that section?

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Background was on language
23 access, and I think the next section is on the project
24 budget.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Can we -- let's

1 see here -- so we have language access and communications
2 and then we have the project budget. And I'm not quite
3 sure why that part is bold, but I won't worry about it.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think the bold kind of
5 throws it off, yes.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The first time I looked at
8 that, too. Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay; project budget.
10 Commissioner Sinay.

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I saw a Director Kaplan raised
12 a hand, and I don't know if she wanted to address
13 something first.

14 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Sorry. Can you just flag the note
15 in -- the bolding, the question about the bolding, so I
16 can circle that?

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: The word "background", it's
18 under A.

19 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Oh. Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah.

21 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: On project budget, it says --
24 the fourth bullet down says, "At least ten percent of
25 funds should be specified for local community-based

1 organizations and small business to provide accessibility
2 tools." And then below are examples of unallowable
3 costs, and it says, "Equipment including computers", and
4 that seems that contradict each other. And I would
5 also -- so that seems to contradict each other.

6 And then my second question would be: Why would we
7 say, no equipment, since technology and equipment are so
8 critical in this whole process? And it seems -- you
9 know, it seems not to make sense -- it doesn't make sense
10 to me that we would say "no equipment".

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So the distinction between
12 those two is one says "access to", which is not the same
13 thing as "computers". So the ten percent that you're
14 referring to is not saying you can purchase computers,
15 it's to facilitate access. And then the other is, not
16 capital purchases, basically, that's really what "no
17 computers" are. So do we -- is that what we really want
18 is for these resources to be spent to purchase equipment?
19 No. Especially not a short-term project like this,
20 because the computers will belong to the state, so I
21 mean, that's a whole other -- that's just sort of my
22 reaction to that, but.

23 Commissioner Sinay.

24 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I guess I need clarity on:
25 Would they belong to the state? And second I know --

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Uh-huh.

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. So they would belong to
3 the state. So they could go -- that they're donated to
4 libraries, and such that -- our state libraries.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Is that what we want to do
6 with the resources; is facilitate libraries getting
7 computers?

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, if I -- what I wanted to
9 just bring up is that in my conversations, that there
10 are certain technology pieces like, you know, in talking
11 to the libraries, some of them have projectors and are
12 able to show the communities of -- you know, our meetings
13 and others wouldn't. And that would be one expense that
14 they would have.

15 Others, you know, we heard from Statewide Database
16 that if someone were going to be a -- you know, that some
17 places do need a special computer for the COI, so I
18 just -- I guess I would feel better, and this is just me,
19 if we said no more than "X" could be spent on equipment.
20 Because it could be iPads are being bought to be able to
21 do the -- tablets are being bought to do that, if they're
22 thinking creatively.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Vazquez, then
24 Andersen.

25 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I want to -- I want to

1 echo these sentiments. I'm thinking if you're hiring
2 organizers, even part-time, temporary, six-month staff,
3 organizers, you know, you may be needing to equip them
4 with cell phones to do phone banking. Again, if you're
5 thinking creatively, you get organizers to take an iPad
6 door-to-door and walk someone through the COI tool,
7 because that is the way -- that is the way to reach them.

8 And you help them submit a map right there on the
9 doorstep. Like I think there's -- I think technology, we
10 have seen in this pandemic that access to technology is a
11 huge, huge gap for underserved communities.

12 And we don't -- for us to not empower our
13 subcontractors to meet this need, which is a technology
14 need, clearly across the state, I think we haven't
15 thought about how technology access gaps are going to
16 limit participation in our process. So I feel the same
17 as Commissioner Sinay. That I think we need to think
18 critically about how to achieve this, given the
19 constraints of the state.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Andersen.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. This is an
22 issue, absolutely. But I think there are other
23 requirements. Remember the Legislature is actually
24 tasked with providing access for the public to the
25 Commission, to provide input in mapping. And that's part

1 of what the Statewide Database was getting -- being asked
2 to provide public access areas and centers, which could
3 indeed house a lot of this information.

4 I understand there is the issue of, you know, that
5 quick -- like Commissioner Vazquez was just mentioning,
6 you know, which was used in the census, was the iPad
7 giving access. That was very successful with the census.

8 I'm just wondering if there are rules about
9 equipment in the money that was actually targeted for
10 this granting purposes, that may allow for a portion of
11 that, or may actually restrict it, which I think we need
12 to look into that before we can actually -- although we
13 understand there's a need for it, we may be restricted
14 about that.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I'd like to offer a
16 comment there, too. I don't disagree with Commissioners
17 Sinay or Vazquez. However, I feel like these resources
18 should not be utilized for equipment. I think what we've
19 talked about a lot, month-over-month has been
20 technology -- analog, really being one of the biggest
21 differentiators that technology -- we've moved to a
22 technology based communication in the last year.

23 And lots of resources have been deployed throughout
24 the state to address this, by school districts, and
25 others, to make sure that communities who have suffered

1 in the technology gap.

2 I'm not saying they've reached a hundred percent
3 saturation, they have not. But there has been resources
4 deployed because we moved to having to do school online,
5 and all kinds of things online that communities have not
6 been able to do prior to 2020. And at the same time,
7 what we've argued here repeatedly is, everyone is focused
8 on technology. And the areas that we really want to
9 reach are areas, oftentimes, who have no access to
10 technology at all.

11 And so investing in technology from a capital
12 standpoint seems contrary to that. And then finally, I
13 think the reality is that where we are in this process,
14 and the timing, this is going to -- these are not going
15 to be people who apply for this project, who aren't
16 ready.

17 This is, just the topic and subject matter alone,
18 the ones who are going to have to lead this, are going to
19 have to have a certain degree of readiness. And I think
20 even in their partnerships, they're going to choose
21 organizations that they've been working with, that they
22 know are ready to deploy. There's not a huge learning
23 curve or long runway for these resources. That's just
24 the reality.

25 So I think if we're looking at this through the lens

1 of organizations that are ready, if you have to build
2 infrastructure, if you're -- that's just, to me, not
3 ready. And every opportunity everyone's not ready for.
4 And that's okay, too. But we'll move another group
5 closer to readiness the next time.

6 So we're not going to solve every problem with this
7 small amount of money, when we need to get the word out.
8 So that's just what I wanted to add to that conversation
9 as well.

10 Commissioner Kennedy, then Vazquez.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Yeah, I'm moved,
12 at least to some extent, by Commissioner Vazquez's
13 earlier comments. And I'm wondering if we could just
14 move the consideration of the equipment purchase to the
15 evaluation process and look at it through a values or
16 money lens.

17 You know, if we had two proposals, and you know, the
18 main difference was one wanted to spend money on
19 equipment, and one wanted to spend money on, you know,
20 other ways of generating the outreach, we could still
21 look at, you know, which one was going to give us better
22 value for money, and make that decision there, giving
23 some more leeway to the groups. Rather than just from
24 the get-go, saying, no, you can't buy a computer
25 equipment.

1 So you know, I'm thinking maybe there's another
2 option here. And second of all, in that line, once we
3 receive these proposals, are we able to negotiate as we
4 have with some of our other contracts? Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Vazquez, then
6 Turner.

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I just I don't think
8 the state has made nearly enough technology inroads that
9 one would think or certainly hope. And again, especially
10 for -- if we're talking about hard-to-reach communities,
11 this is where shoe leather and -- old-fashioned
12 organizing really, really matters. And again, that door-
13 to-door, that in -- that physically distanced, but still
14 in-person connection and communication that people have,
15 that organizers have with these hard-to-reach communities
16 can be, I believe, I think a proposal could absolutely be
17 enhanced by the use of equipment.

18 They have -- traditionally, the shoe leather is to
19 activate and get people to go -- to leave their homes and
20 go vote, or go submit their ballot -- you know, mail in
21 their ballot. And the outcome that we want to see is for
22 people to either show up at a meeting and/or submit their
23 maps. And I don't think the sort of access that is
24 currently being planned on for the community -- for the
25 mapping tool via libraries is sufficient in a country

1 where we're still emerging from a pandemic.

2 And I think that we have to acknowledge that people
3 are going to be restricted in their movements, and
4 therefore then, this technology piece has to be, I think,
5 part of the in-person organizing strategy.

6 And so yes, I agree that there's going to be a
7 certain level of readiness for some organizations. And
8 at the same time, many of these organizations have been
9 doing this sort of door-knocking, physically distance,
10 in-person engagement without -- with an ask that is not
11 directly tied to technology.

12 And if ask is, submit a map, for me, hard-to-reach
13 communities, if you have organizers, again, armed with
14 iPads, or what have you, to be able to walk each
15 household through a community mapping exercise in
16 twenty/thirty minutes, for me, that feels like an -- I
17 would like to hear that proposal.

18 Because that, again, I could also see it -- envision
19 a proposal where they're then only realistically able to
20 like reach X number of households in this region, and
21 that might not -- like that might not work. But I want
22 to hear about those proposals where they're, if given X
23 amount of money and the ability to like purchase, you
24 know, twenty iPads for our twenty organizers, we could
25 actually move the needle in this particular community.

1 I'd like to hear that proposal.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Turner.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I almost want to just
4 stand down and say yes to exactly what Commissioner
5 Vazquez said. I want to add, though as -- because I
6 think it's so -- I'm wondering if there are opportunities
7 still to lease tablets and utilize them if the purchase
8 is what the sticking point is, number one.

9 But as far as being able to lease tablets, being
10 able to purchase hotspots and things, I think it's really
11 important that there is the opportunity for people to
12 engage at that level.

13 And then, Commissioner Kennedy, when you talked
14 about, being able to weigh at the end. Again, I would
15 love the opportunity for the proposals to be submitted so
16 that we can see if, indeed, trying to balance out
17 language access into some of these areas, we are able to
18 go and utilize, spend money for tablets would allow us to
19 reach certain languages that could not be, or was not
20 submitted in a different proposal, might have us
21 ultimately make a different decision. If it means we're
22 going to reach a particular segment of our community that
23 we would not reach without, you know, achieving their
24 feedback as a result of spending the money on tablets.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I'd just add to that

1 that I don't disagree that tablets can facilitate a
2 particular process. I guess my lens still remains more
3 from a readiness standpoint. The boots on the ground,
4 shoe leather, these people do this work. They've been
5 doing it, and they have the tools they need, usually, to
6 do it.

7 And so to assume that they aren't able to do their
8 work because they don't have a tablet, or they can't
9 distribute tablets to whomever it is they want to
10 distribute tablets to, I think is a broad assumption in
11 many ways. Because the individuals who are ready to do
12 this work do it like they're doing it currently. And I
13 don't think whether it gets done or doesn't get done is
14 whether we pay for tablets and cell phones.

15 Commissioner Akutagawa, then Commissioner Vazquez.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Two things; one, I'd like
17 to ask, perhaps Director Hernandez, if there is -- and I
18 think this might have been asked earlier, but I don't
19 know if we need to find out if we are disallowed, or not
20 allowed from including equipment purchases. I think this
21 may clarify whether or not this is a conversation that we
22 need to continue to entertain. I think that that's going
23 to tell us one way or the other.

24 The other thing, too, I do want to just note,
25 Commissioner Vazquez, I'm with Commissioner Le Mons. I

1 agree with everything that you're saying in terms of
2 technology access. But I also want to note, you know,
3 having been part of the Zone G conversations with
4 Commissioner Andersen, there're some things that I think
5 technology is not going to solve.

6 There are people in certain hard-to-reach regions of
7 California that do not want to be contacted by
8 technology, do not want somebody to come knocking at
9 their door. And in fact, you're probably putting
10 yourself in danger if you do do that. They're out in
11 certain regions for a very distinct region and they do
12 not want to engage.

13 However, I think those are then the kind of, you
14 know, things that we also need to understand that, yes,
15 broadband access in certain -- and in a number of areas
16 is restricted, as well as access to technology is
17 restricted. But I'm a little hesitant to just say, well,
18 you know, if we just arm people with iPads, and you know,
19 put them out into -- you know, the streets and walk
20 between regions -- or between, you know, homes to homes,
21 I don't know if that's going to be the sole purpose.

22 What I'm understanding, though, from what you're
23 saying, is that you'd like to see at least a proposal for
24 those that may want to use technology; and I think that's
25 why I think it would just be helpful for us to know

1 whether or not that's even allowable, because I know that
2 there's some very distinct rules, I think, around
3 contracting, and use of state funds.

4 And so that's why, you know, I would just propose
5 that perhaps we just table this part of the conversation,
6 and allow the Staff to find out whether or not that's
7 something that we can do, because it could end up
8 becoming a moot point.

9 But I do also want to just remind people that in
10 certain regions, yeah, the shoe leather may work, but in
11 other cases there may have to be other ways in which we
12 want to ensure that people are reached. And it may not
13 only be the technology; and again, through face-to-face
14 contact. So I just want to acknowledge that too.
15 Thanks.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Andersen.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: (No verbal response)

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh. I thought I saw your
19 hand up a few moments ago.

20 Anyone else with comments on this particular aspect
21 of the conversation? Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just, not on this budget. I
23 mean, I don't know, I still feel --

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: You know, I still feel I still

1 would like to see some money going to technology, but I
2 understand both sides, and I like that -- I appreciate --
3 I don't like -- but I appreciate that we are saying: Hey,
4 we're going to fund organizations that are already ready,
5 and are larger and stuff. And that is a bias. And I
6 think it's important to acknowledge that we didn't go in
7 with that idea, but because of the urgency to get the
8 funding out, that's where we are.

9 And we all -- we'll take some time -- I hate to say
10 it -- but to mourn kind of that the project we had in our
11 mind to what the reality is now.

12 And so Commissioner Akutagawa, and Commissioner Le
13 Mons, and stuff, I know you you've gone through the hard
14 process of mourning -- you know, just getting cut, and
15 cut, and cut, and you've been able to mourn, mourn it
16 through the last few months. While for a lot of us it's
17 still fresh. And so thank you for giving us that space
18 to be able to discuss our frustrations. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Sinay.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I wanted to just say on --
22 under other Examples of Unallowable Costs, the third one
23 where it says, "Expenses for staff time related to policy
24 advocacy." I think we mean there, policy can be exactly
25 what we're doing, and so I'm thinking that what was meant

1 by "policy advocacy", because we are asking people to
2 advocate, and advocacy is okay for nonprofits, lobbying
3 is not. I just wanted clarification. If what was met by
4 "policy advocacy" was things outside of redistricting and
5 if we just wanted to be more clear in that way.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Chair?

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. I
8 just wanted to circle back to see where we are with this
9 conversation, and what else the subcommittee needs. Do
10 you all have intentions of bringing this back with
11 recommended edits? Or would you like to have a motion on
12 the floor to make those edits and continue to move
13 forward with the contract? So I think we just need
14 clarity on what those next steps look like for you.

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think there's a couple of
16 them, in my mind, that do require a very specific motion.
17 I think it was a couple of germane points. And then, I
18 don't -- we haven't had a chance to really talk about it,
19 but Commissioner Akutagawa, I don't know what your
20 thoughts are.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I would say that
22 it's more the latter, so that we could keep this moving.
23 Our hope is that, as Commissioner Le Mons said at the
24 very, very beginning; major substantive changes is going
25 to require another review by OLS, and that means that

1 we're looking at a further delay. I think, you know, we
2 definitely heard the feedback from everybody. And I
3 think the smaller edits will be easier to move forward
4 on. But to Commissioner Le Mons' point, I think getting
5 clarity on the couple of points that he mentioned so.

6 It looks like Commissioner Toledo has his hand up.

7 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. I just had a question
8 for, I think it's for Legal at this point. You know, our
9 Constitutional provisions and statutes state pretty
10 clearly that Commissioners and Staff of the Commission
11 are not able to accept -- are not able to communicate on
12 redistricting matters, line drawing, outside of public
13 meetings.

14 And so I'm just curious how that impacts our
15 outreach and education, because what I've been hearing is
16 individual -- Commissioners talking about these outreach
17 staff of the Commission, or outreach workers, I'll just
18 say that, helping individuals submit their COI data,
19 helping them through the process.

20 So I'm just curious in terms of the distinction
21 between receiving and accepting that information, talking
22 about that, as opposed to facilitating just the
23 submission process? And how do we make it clear that
24 that these individuals wouldn't be having conversations
25 about redistricting matters outside of a public meeting?

1 Thank you.

2 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Commissioner, is that something
3 you'd like me to opine on? Is that about the --

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes. Yes. I was wondering if
5 you or Marian can opine on this issue in terms of
6 these -- whether these individuals are employees of the
7 Commission, and whether they're subject to the
8 requirements; and as such whether how we -- how do we
9 modify the scope of work, if we need to, to ensure
10 compliance with those Constitutional provisions and state
11 statutes pertaining to this matter? Thank you.

12 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: So my initial thoughts. And
13 I'm happy to let Marian also jump in. But I would want
14 to make sure that we're satisfying 8253 for this -- with
15 this contract. And so to the extent we need to make sure
16 we have the right disclaimers or provisions for any of
17 these communications, they all have to be allowable
18 communications, is provided under the law.

19 So if we have to -- this entire contract is centered
20 around, making sure that we're adhering to the legal
21 requirements. So we would be doing that as applied. For
22 example, if we have to have a -- if, for example, we have
23 a public hearing for a particular outreach regarding
24 redistricting matters, then that's -- then we would
25 pursue that, we would have that. And we would make sure

1 that any communications that are made from these
2 consultants, or the contractors, are still -- don't
3 violate our Commission statutes.

4 It looks like Marian has her hand up as well.

5 STAFF COUNSEL JOHNSTON: If I could just add one
6 point. Contractors are not employees, so contractors who
7 assist people in, for instance, filling out the COI tool,
8 the COI tool submission becomes public when it is
9 transferred to the Commission. Any other document
10 submitted by email, or regular mail, or however, is also
11 made public, so the fact that a contractor is assisting a
12 member of the public with doing that, I don't think
13 violates your statutes in any way.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you, both, for that.
15 That addresses my concern. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Turner.

17 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I'll pass. Thank
18 you.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Chair, how would you like us
20 to proceed?

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for this very robust
22 conversation. A lot of moving pieces, you all put a lot
23 of work into this contract. I think at this point, it
24 would be helpful if we can get some motions on the floor
25 for those changes that you heard for that -- for the RFP.

1 And then also looking at the time line that you all had
2 drafted, within the draft, having June 4th as the date
3 the RFP goes live, puts us in a little bit of a bind of
4 getting this RFP contract language approved by the
5 Commission to move forward.

6 Being that we have today and tomorrow, and then we
7 have an as-needed meeting scheduled for next Wednesday.
8 And we can certainly meet on that day if we need to. But
9 that would be a day-and-a-half prior to the launch of the
10 RFP.

11 So what does the subcommittee need in order to move
12 this forward at this point?

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So I think we need, at the
14 bare minimum, a motion to consider the feedback that was
15 given, that some feedback still needs to be vetted with
16 the OLS, to vet those items with OLS, to adjust
17 according -- this isn't the motion, because this is not
18 eloquent at all, but which, adjust accordingly and move
19 forward keeping -- with respect to the time line that we
20 currently have.

21 Unless Commissioners have any -- let me back up. I
22 think I would do a round robin with Commissioners to see
23 if they have -- which items they feel are germane at this
24 point, because I think that there are some that certain
25 Commissioners are really passionate about. And then I

1 think those would be the ones we'd probably need to --
2 maybe make a motion as to how we move forward if we're
3 split.

4 So if you're okay with that, Chair, that's what I
5 would recommend. And then that way, I don't have to try
6 to do it from my memory, nor do we have to comb through
7 all of the notes that Chair Kaplan -- Director Kaplan is
8 taking throughout the day. So does that work for you,
9 Chair?

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah. That works for me. Go ahead
11 and start your round robin, I guess.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Okay. Just literally
13 we'll go through, and go: Commissioner Yee, are there
14 items that are germane that you think we need to make
15 sure are included beyond the -- you know, beyond the
16 minor edits?

17 VICE CHAIR YEE: Nothing that hasn't already been
18 mentioned.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think the two that I just
21 want to make sure that gets looked at, is if we can
22 change the posting date to July 5th so Staff has more
23 time to review; and if there's a way to put some money
24 for technology, maybe a limited amount.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Commissioner

1 Akutagawa -- I mean, no. Commissioner Andersen.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a couple of items that
3 make sure they get addressed is, we discussed the idea of
4 when the proposals are due versus when they're opened.
5 However, we want to resolve that.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Also, the word "State" is
8 used multiple places in the document, instead where it
9 should be "Commission", we want to make sure that gets
10 caught all the way through the document.

11 And then Commissioner Sinay -- or actually, the
12 items that Commissioner Sinay just brought up,
13 additionally, I want to make sure, and this is actually
14 for Legal and Staff to go through, make sure that our
15 attachments, which are not in this, also correspond
16 directly to -- specifically our conflict of interests --
17 make sure that they're consistent with this RFP portion
18 that we've looked at.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Andersen.

21 Commissioner Toledo.

22 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think as much as possible,
23 if we can highlight our -- or highlight the use of the
24 word "nonpartisan" throughout, the contract is to make
25 that clear. I'm still concerned a little bit about

1 impartiality, although I think the scope of work has
2 addressed some of those concerns. And I appreciate for
3 all of your hard work on this, to the Commission. Thank
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Commissioner
6 Fernandez.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm good. I believe I've
8 already voiced a few things, and then I've just got a few
9 minor changes that I'm going to forward to Marcy. So I'm
10 good to go.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Commissioner Taylor.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. I just want to agree
13 with Commissioner Toledo. Nonpartisan should be stressed
14 throughout the verbiage of the RFP. I agree with maybe
15 limited funding for technology. And I just think having
16 the applications due and opened on the same day is just
17 terribly efficient; so incredibly efficient. So that's
18 it. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Taylor. Commissioner Kennedy.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Not to duplicate anything
22 that's already been said, I'll just reiterate the
23 takeaway from last week's VAAC Meeting, the importance of
24 producing plain language materials. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Director Kaplan, were you

1 going to ask a question?

2 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Is that a note in the -- as the
3 direction for the contractor to include language like
4 that, the materials that are developed, using plain
5 language?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right. That would go under
7 Language and Communication Access, the bullet, "Provide
8 redistricting information to persons with disabilities by
9 using Braille, American Sign Language, captioning, plain
10 language, and any other tools that would increase
11 accessibility."

12 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Can you just remind me the page,
13 I'm just noting on something else?

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That is --

15 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: It's in the --

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- page 14,

17 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner
19 Kennedy. Commissioner Turner.

20 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I have nothing
21 additional to add.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Vazquez.

23 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: With the limited funding for
24 technology, I'm good.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Commissioner

1 Fornaciari.

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't have anything,
3 yeah. Thanks.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you. Commissioner
5 Akutagawa.

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Just want to say, thank you
7 to everyone, for this really robust conversation. And
8 appreciate all of the feedback that we received.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Chair.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: I have nothing additional to add.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. So with that, then I
12 recommend that we make a motion to make the edits to the
13 document as noted by Director Kaplan, getting clarity
14 from and making an adjustment to a portion: A percentage
15 of budget, being able to be assigned to equipment within
16 the confines of OLS. And moving the -- excuse me --
17 changing the open time to day of, which I believe is
18 January 25th -- excuse me -- June 25th, not January, June
19 25th at 10:00 a.m. versus the 9:00 p.m. time that we have
20 currently.

21 That would be the motion I would put forward. I
22 think that covered all of the key points. A second?

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: (No verbal response).

24 CHAIR AHMAD: I see Commissioner Fernandez as the
25 second.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: So the motion on the floor is to
3 incorporate the recommended changes by the Commission, as
4 noted by Director Kaplan. Follow up with OLS regarding
5 the inclusion of technology fundings, and releasing
6 fundings for technology. And change the date of opening
7 the RFPs to the same date of the due date, by 10:00 a.m.,
8 I believe it was.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: From memory. And the motion was made
11 by Commissioner Le Mons, seconded by Commissioner
12 Fernandez. Do we have any discussion on this at the
13 time, on the motion, specifically, on the floor?

14 Okay. Can we move to public comment on the motion
15 that is on the floor?

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

17 In order to maximize transparency and public
18 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
19 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
20 telephone number provided on the live stream feed. It is
21 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
22 provided on the live stream feed, it is 92638886526 for
23 this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID
24 simply press the pound key.

25 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in the

1 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press
2 star 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.
3 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message
4 that says: The host would like you to talk, and to press
5 star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,
6 please state and spell it for the record. You are not
7 required to provide your name to give public comment.

8 Please make sure to mute your computer or live
9 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during
10 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert
11 for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please
12 turn down the live stream volume.

13 And the Commission is taking public comment on the
14 motion that is on the floor at this time.

15 We do have a caller in the queue, with their hand
16 raised. Go ahead. The floor is yours.

17 MS. GOLD: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Rosalind
18 Gold with the NALEO Educational Fund, R-O-S-A-L-I-N-D,
19 and the last name is Gold, G-O-L-D.

20 I want to just echo our comments regarding kudos for
21 the robustness of the discussion that you've been having
22 on the Grant Program. When I heard the motion, I just
23 did want to clarify an issue that had been discussed a
24 little earlier. We don't think it will be helpful to put
25 in an explicit restriction, on funding going to

1 organizations which also lobby. Lobbying has a very
2 distinctive meaning under the Internal Revenue Code.

3 And if you are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization
4 and you're a 501(c)(3), you are allowed to do very, very
5 limited lobbying.

6 So we would not want the money restricted -- kept
7 from groups that do lobbying. We would recommend that if
8 there is a prohibition, it be that none of the money,
9 none of the grant money can be used for lobbying as set
10 forth in the Internal Revenue Code.

11 And you know, I think there're lots of examples,
12 from grant letters, from foundations, as to what that
13 language would look like. Again, saying that none of the
14 money can be used for lobbying. You know, some
15 organizations do have partner 501(c)(4)s that do their
16 lobbying, so they don't do it through their (c)(3)s, but
17 you can --

18 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

19 MS. GOLD: -- do very limited lobbying through your
20 (c)(3)s, and we wouldn't want to keep those organizations
21 from getting the money as long as they don't use the
22 money for lobbying. Thank you so much.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And I
24 would like to remind those calling in to press star 9 to
25 raise their hand if they wish to make a comment on the

1 motion that is on the floor. And there is a raised hand.

2 I did see Ms. Kaplan's hand go up.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Marcy, do you want -- do you have
4 something to address?

5 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I just want to clarify the
6 language in the RFP: The examples of allowable costs are
7 costs for the contract, so that's where the expense or
8 staff-related policy, or advocacy, or lobbying, is
9 related to the expenses of the contract. Not limiting an
10 organization who does lobbying.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. And we will move
12 on to our next caller. Go ahead. The floor is yours.

13 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Hello. This is Renee Westa-Lusk.
14 I just don't understand how this outreach effort going
15 through, I guess, groups that applied for the grant money
16 includes going door-to-door with technological equipment
17 that is supplied by the CRC.

18 I mean, you talk about hard to reach, but there are
19 so many rural parts of the state that are extremely hard
20 to reach, and they would probably love to have someone
21 come to their door and help them with -- you know, figure
22 out the COI tool, and print a map or whatever -- do a
23 community of interest map.

24 And I just don't see how just giving certain parts
25 of California this equipment advantage, and extra

1 training, and all that, and the door-to-door service, is
2 really fair to the other areas that won't qualify for any
3 of this help.

4 That's my comment. Thank you for listening.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And that is
6 all our public comment at this time.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Katy.

8 Alvaro, are you ready to call roll for the vote.

9 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Just about. I want to make
10 sure I have the motion correct. It was very lengthy.
11 One second, let me share the screen.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: While you do that, I see Commissioner
13 Akutagawa's hand up.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think I -- I just
15 wanted to clarify just what the last commenter was asking
16 about. Just for clarification -- if I'm understanding it
17 correctly -- it sounds like she is not understanding, you
18 know, about I guess going door-to-door sounding like it
19 may be limited to certain parts of California. I don't
20 believe that that's what we were discussing.

21 It was more specifically about whether or not, you
22 know, technology -- the purchase of technology for the
23 purposes of door-to-door outreach should be allowable
24 under the contracts, or the provisions of the contracts
25 which would disburse the funds.

1 If and how, you know, each successful bidder would
2 go about taking part in outreach, and reaching the hard-
3 to-reach populations, which does include rural
4 communities, that's going to be based on, hopefully, the
5 expertise of each of the bidders who are going to
6 successfully win each contract, whether they choose to
7 use technology or do it in other ways. That's going to
8 be, again, up to each of the successful bidders.

9 I also want to just note that what I said about Zone
10 G, which is a rural community in Eastern California, we
11 have been told that, yes, some people would love to see
12 people go door-to-door, but there are also as many people
13 who would prefer not to have somebody come to their door,
14 and knock on their door. So I just wanted to note that
15 there is -- as there is in California, all across the
16 state, there is quite a bit of diversity when it comes to
17 our communities as well, too. So just making that note
18 about that. So thank you.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. We are ready for the vote,
20 Alvaro.

21 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I'll read the motion
22 once again, "Motion to make edits to the outreach RFP, as
23 noted by Director Kaplan. Follow up with OLS for
24 releasing funds for technology equipment, and changing
25 the opening up proposal time of day of June 25th -- or to

1 day -- June 25th, at 10:00 a.m." Is that correct?

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

3 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Chair, there was one
5 distinction, as I'm reading this. It isn't just to
6 follow up with OLS, but it's follow up and incorporate,
7 so I did -- yeah, follow up with OLS and incorporate
8 releasing funds for technology, if permitted.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you for that
10 clarification.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Uh-huh.

12 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay. We will begin the vote.
13 Commissioner Akutagawa.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Alvaro, can you just --
16 Alvaro, can you just -- I'm sorry, the last part of your
17 motion. Can you move "today" -- just remove "today"?
18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Also, could you fix that the
20 way Commissioner --

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The "follow up" part?

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. The "follow up" part;
23 that Commissioner Le Mons said, it's "follow up with OLS,
24 and incorporate", you know, "for releasing funds and
25 incorporate," not "incorporating with OLS".

1 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Is that correct.

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think you need to delete
3 "for", "incorporate releasing funds", so it should not be
4 "incorporating for", it should be just be "incorporate
5 releasing funds".

6 And since we're on that, can I just note that
7 "equipment", there should not be that extra "e" after
8 "p", and "opening" should be one "n". Thank you.

9 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: I am definitely exposing my
10 weakness here, my spelling.

11 Okay. Once again, I'll read off the motion: Motion
12 to make the edits to the Outreach RFP, as noted by
13 Director Kaplan, follow up with OLS, and incorporate
14 releasing funds for technology equipment, and changing
15 the opening of proposal time to June 25th at 10:00 a.m."

16 Okay, we'll begin the vote.

17 Commissioner Akutagawa.

18 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

19 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

20 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

21 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

23 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari.

24 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

25 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

2 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

5 Commissioner Sinay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

7 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor.

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

11 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Abstain.

13 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez.

14 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Abstain.

15 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee.

16 VICE CHAIR YEE: Yes.

17 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

19 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Is this a special vote?

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Anthony. I'm forgetting my training
21 already. Is this a special vote?

22 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: It is a special vote, but --

23 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: It is, because it's for the
24 decision, for contracting decisions.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Got it.

1 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: So the motion fails.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. I am not sure where to
3 move from here. Perhaps we have about -- yikes -- we
4 have lunch at 12:45. So we can either continue this
5 conversation, to see where our sticking points are, and
6 where we can come to a compromise. Or we can table this
7 and jump into the next item, and come back to this item
8 at a later point in our meeting. Do we have
9 recommendations?

10 Yes, Commissioner Yee.

11 VICE CHAIR YEE: Commissioner Sadhwani expects to be
12 back after 3:00, if that makes a difference.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons.

14 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So I guess maybe should talk
15 to Commissioners Turner and Vazquez to find out what the
16 sticking point is from their perspective?

17 CHAIR AHMAD: I see, Commissioner Vazquez, you have
18 your hand up?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. I think I need more
20 clarity about -- if there's a time line, a quick time
21 line, even a twenty-four hour time line in terms of just
22 checking with the powers that be about what language can
23 actually be -- can actually be included in this type of
24 contract, related to technology, and what those
25 parameters would be specifically.

1 Because then, I feel like I could have like a real
2 discussion as to whether or not we include that in this
3 RFP. My problem is that, I don't -- we were having two
4 different -- I felt like we were having two different
5 conversations. One, do we include this or not? Which
6 is, I think, the more important conversation; and we were
7 also having a conversation about, can we do this or not?

8 And so I feel like we should just check to see if we
9 can, in terms of like what those -- like I would like to
10 know exactly what those parameters are. And then I feel
11 like we could have -- we could have an actual discussion
12 about whether or not, we should include it in the RFP,
13 and I don't feel like we were having two distinct
14 discussions.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons, and then
16 Kennedy.

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, my understanding was
18 that we were determining if we could, and if we could, we
19 were incorporating it. That's what we voted to do. So
20 that wasn't an outstanding item.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That was my understanding as
23 well.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Did we talk about a

1 percentage? If we are allowed, you know, what portion?

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you for the invitation,
4 Commissioner Le Mons. I don't have a sticking point. I
5 appreciate all of the discussion, and will continue to
6 abstain.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Marcy.

8 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I do want to highlight that the
9 way the RFP is written, it does allow for ten percent of
10 funds on technology, and just clarity around the
11 equipment purchases, versus other ways to utilize
12 equipment. So whether it is through leasing as was
13 discussed.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: I see Commissioner Vazquez, and then
15 Le Mons.

16 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, thank you for the
17 clarity. I guess it was not clear to me that it would,
18 for sure, be included, and my understanding of the motion
19 was that we were -- we would check, and then some
20 decision would be made at the subcommittee level, and/or
21 with staff as to what and how to include around
22 technology. And that did not seem sufficient to me.

23 So if we go back in here, yes, we can include this
24 piece with these parameters, and we'll include it; I
25 mean, personally, I would like to actually see what that

1 language looks like, before approving the RFP, but I also
2 trust my fellow Commissioners in that if they don't feel
3 like they need to review that particular language before
4 approving the RFP, then I could approve this motion, with
5 that in mind.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Le Mons, and then
7 Fernandez.

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, I was curious on the
9 vote, because we have one absent Democrat, you have two
10 abstaining, how many do we need to pass? This is a
11 clarity question on actual votes. Three?

12 STAFF COUNSEL JOHNSTON: Three from each group.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So if -- and if Commissioner
14 Turner is not going to vote, then where, we are -- this
15 is just sort of a moot point.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Three total.

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Three total, or --

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Three total Democrats, you would need
19 to vote, yes.

20 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Ah, three. Okay. So we can
21 potentially have two, but it's not -- and it's kind of
22 unfair to Commissioner Sadhwani, who was not here for any
23 of the discussion, like -- I don't know. Yeah, I'm a
24 little frustrated, I guess, at this point. Maybe we
25 shouldn't have proceeded with the discussion without

1 having Commissioner Sadhwani present.

2 And I thought part of what we -- why we moved J to
3 the beginning was so that we were allowing for presence
4 because of this potential issue, so anyway.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: So we are right up against our
6 mandatory required break, which is lunch. So I have
7 noted down, Commissioners Fernandez, Kennedy, and then
8 Andersen.

9 But we will be taking a break right now and meeting
10 back up here at 1:45.

11 I would like to remind folks that we do have a time-
12 certain presentation today at 2:00 p.m., so we have
13 fifteen minutes when we get back to continue this
14 conversation, and hopefully come to a resolution on this
15 item.

16 See you all at 1:45.

17 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 12:45 p.m.
18 until 1:45 p.m.)

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Hi. Welcome back from lunch. I just
20 have a few administrative updates for everyone before we
21 jump back in. We will actually be going into Closed
22 Session today at 3:30 to address data and cybersecurity
23 issues.

24 Ahead of that, we have our 2:00 p.m. presentation by
25 the Statewide Database. So we have about fifteen minutes

1 to continue that conversation regarding item 9-J, the
2 grant -- the contract RFP language.

3 And I had Commissioners Fernandez, Kennedy, and
4 Andersen in the queue.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Let's
6 see. Is Commissioner Vazquez on? But it was my
7 understanding that, if we reworded the motion, I believe
8 she would be in favor. She just wanted to make sure that
9 it explicitly stated that if we did find out that we
10 could -- I guess the contract could include equipment,
11 that we would therefore change the RFP to reflect that.

12 So I'm thinking that what we would do is, if we
13 could -- if it could include computers, that we would
14 just get rid of that last bullet on page 15, under,
15 Examples of Unallowable Costs, we would just remove
16 "equipment purchases, including computers". But
17 Commissioner Vazquez is not on right now.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, and then
19 Andersen.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. My
21 recollection is that Commissioner Vazquez wanted to know
22 pretty much exactly what language could go in there. So
23 my proposal would be to table a motion tomorrow to
24 reconsider. So a motion to reconsider tabled tomorrow
25 would both give us an opportunity to have an answer

1 regarding the technology purchases question, as well as
2 give Commissioner Sadhwani time to review the video of
3 the discussion. So that's my proposed way forward.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner -- and I see Marian's
6 hand up; and then Andersen and Akutagawa.

7 STAFF COUNSEL JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani said
8 she would be absent tomorrow; or a large portion of
9 tomorrow also.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sadhwani did say she
11 would be back by 3:00 p.m. tomorrow. So if we pushed
12 this to later, half of tomorrow, we could, potentially,
13 have enough folks for the vote.

14 Commissioner Andersen, and then Akutagawa.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm not going to speak for
16 Commissioner Vazquez, although it was my understanding,
17 as long as it had the right words -- she thought it was
18 "precluded", and I -- what Ms. Kaplan has said, at least
19 ten percent of the funds being, you know, access to
20 computers, internet, that could indeed be part of the
21 money. And if that is, indeed, what we found out from
22 Counsel, that that is indeed allowable, I would certainly
23 be okay with that being -- the amount being about ten
24 percent.

25 I don't believe that you can scratch "equipment

1 purchases, including computers". You might just have to
2 say, "Eliminate, including computers," because I believe
3 there is a contract requirement about that. But that is
4 what I'd like to get from Counsel. Thank you.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner --

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And actually I like --
7 sorry -- I like Commissioner Kennedy's idea, if we have
8 to. Although I do believe, you know, there are five --
9 five Democrats, five Republicans, and we have one
10 abstain, one absent, so.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa. And then we
12 shall wrap up this conversation for now.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I do want to just let you
14 all know that I did have a conversation with Director
15 Hernandez. And Chair Ahmad, I think that this may -- I
16 don't know if this would just -- if we could just
17 continue on this. I know that we have a scheduled
18 presentation or discussion time, but I do want to tell
19 you -- or maybe perhaps Director Hernandez could speak to
20 the questions that are open, and that have generated the
21 most conversations. That way then we know, and while the
22 conversation is still fresh, I feel like we can at least
23 just address those right now.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. Just want to uplift that, we
25 won't be able to take a vote not right -- or actually, we

1 do have enough people to vote. I'm sorry about that.

2 Go ahead, Alvaro.

3 DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: So we did some additional
4 checking, and Raul confirmed that the contract does allow
5 for purchasing of technology equipment, PCs. We just
6 wanted to uplift that, it may not be the best use of
7 time -- or of our resources, state resources, purchasing
8 of PCs. But that being the question, the answer is yes,
9 they can purchase equipment.

10 We also have laptops available here that we could,
11 you know, loan out. So there may be some workarounds as
12 well. But that question answered.

13 In regards to the timing and the time frame,
14 depending on when we have it approved, this projection
15 was based on approval of the RFP on June 2nd. So if it
16 were to be approved prior to that, then obviously we will
17 be able to adjust those time frames accordingly.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you. So for right now,
19 I would like to put a pause on this specific item, and
20 come back to it tomorrow. That way we can give her some
21 of her colleagues a little bit more time to catch up on
22 this, and then we can take the vote up again on the RFP.

23 But as of right now, just to make it very clear, the
24 vote did not pass; therefore, there's no direction being
25 given to Staff right now in terms of moving this item

1 forward.

2 So with that, we have about eight minutes. I'm
3 going to be optimistic here, and check in with agenda
4 item 9-A, the Government Affairs Subcommittee, if you all
5 have your report out ready.

6 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I can be quick -- I'm not sure
7 if we can do it in eight minutes given that we have two
8 policies to review.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Is it okay --

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So I'm happy to give the
11 overview and if -- I just don't know if we'd have enough
12 time for conversation if there is any.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Sure. Sure. And if it's okay,
14 Commissioner Toledo, can I skip over to a subcommittee
15 that may be able to report out within that time frame?

16 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Certainly. Certainly. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Great. Finance and
19 Administration, you all have something short?

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We have an item to vote
21 on, too.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. GANTT Chart?

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No further work has been done
24 on the GANTT Chart, at this point.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for your report out.

1 VRA Compliance?

2 VICE CHAIR YEE: Nothing new at this time.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Outreach and Engagement
4 you all have -- do you all have a quick report out, or do
5 you all have something substantially --

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We have a motion.

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: We have a motion.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. And then Language Access, I
9 know you all are tied into the meeting schedule calendar
10 if I'm --

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, not really. We could
12 discuss it. I don't know if Commissioner Akutagawa, I
13 think that we can discuss the -- whatever changes we
14 have, which we didn't have any changes for language
15 access, it was more of moving some of the dates around.
16 But I believe we were going to discuss that during either
17 agenda item 11 or 14, because that's more of a
18 scheduling, not a language access.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. So does this then --

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. We don't have anything
21 else for Language Access.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. I'm crossing that off.

23 Materials development: that's Commissioners
24 Fernandez and Kennedy.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We have the paper-based

1 communities of interest tool form that has been
2 distributed as a handout.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Do you all have --

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And at this point, I think
5 what we were thinking is we're going to hand it off to, I
6 believe to the Communications, right, Commissioner
7 Kennedy? Because we're pretty much done with it, we're
8 getting ready for public input meeting. We need to start
9 sending those out, and getting them translated.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So kind of, more of an FYI
12 to everyone.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: And is that to -- you said it's to the
14 Communications Team; so Fredy and Team?

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. And you do all -- you all don't
17 need a vote or a motion on any item at this time?

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I don't believe we would.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Great. Website Subcommittee,
20 Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, this, I guess, can tie
22 into the communities of interest form. One of the
23 questions that we have at this point is, and Commissioner
24 Taylor and I have exchanged some thoughts on the website.
25 And one question that we have is: Are we making our

1 recommendations to the Commission? Or are we making our
2 recommendations to the Staff? And Marian has said that
3 if the Commission has delegated authority over the
4 website to the Staff, then our recommendations will be
5 directed to Staff rather than to the Commission.

6 If I understood it correctly, Marian?

7 STAFF COUNSEL JOHNSTON: Right. And I don't know if
8 that decision has been made by the Commission.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy, is that the
11 decision that you would like to bring forward at this
12 time for the Commission to consider?

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Do you have a recommendation on
15 the direction we should take?

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: My recommendation would be
17 that the Commission delegate authority of the website to
18 Staff. And that therefore the Website Subcommittee's
19 recommendations would be directed to Staff.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: My gut says that this is a motion that
21 is required, but given that there's three minutes --

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: That's it, I (indiscernible,
23 simultaneous speech).

24 CHAIR AHMAD: -- we won't be able to take in public
25 comment, and do all the things that we need to do prior

1 to our guests arriving at 2:00 p.m.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Audio interference).

3 CHAIR AHMAD: So from here, shall we come back to
4 Website Subcommittee? Okay. I have made a note that
5 there's a motion that you all foresee coming.

6 Data management. Commissioner Turner.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. We don't
8 have anything just yet to report out on.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Two minutes we have. Cybersecurity
10 Subcommittee, Commissioners Fornaciari and Taylor.

11 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We don't have anything
12 substantial to report out at this time.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Incarcerated Population
14 Subcommittee; that's Commissioners Fernandez and Sinay.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We do not have anything at
16 this point.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: The second Incarcerated Population
18 Subcommittee, focused on Federal Facilities;
19 Commissioners Kennedy and Turner?

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing to report, other than
21 that the letter has reached Senator Padilla's office.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Lessons Learned Subcommittee,
23 Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Our standard refrain, please
25 keep them coming. The log continues to grow.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Then, IT Recruitment Subcommittee,
2 Commissioners Andersen and Fornaciari.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No. Nothing new.

4 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: No. Yeah, nothing at this
5 point.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: We just went through eleven
7 subcommittees. Woo-woo. I have made a note on our list
8 of -- Government Affairs, we will return to for a policy
9 review and potential action; Finance and Administration
10 is expecting a motion; Outreach and Engagement
11 Subcommittee is also expecting a motion; Website
12 Subcommittee is also expecting a motion.

13 And then now, we will turn it over to our
14 Communities of Interest Tool Subcommittee, Commissioners
15 Akutagawa and Kennedy, for their report out.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: All right. Great. I know
17 that we will or have -- yes? Thank you. We have been
18 joined by our contacts at the Statewide Database.

19 Before I introduce some to discuss the access
20 centers, the redistricting access centers, I do want to
21 just give additional -- an additional very quick, brief
22 update from a communities of interest tool perspective.
23 One, is around the communities of interest tools,
24 specifically around requests for help, we have noticed
25 that there were a couple of comments centered around the

1 communities of interest tool, and the need for help, live
2 help specifically, which I know that -- at least one
3 comment said that they had tried to request help and had
4 some problems.

5 We did share that -- actually I take that back. We
6 had two comments around the need for help, and we did
7 share that with the Statewide Database folks, and they
8 have noted that they have addressed those. There was one
9 that was also sent back to us in the comment letters.

10 I do just want to just, generally, say to anybody
11 looking to use the Statewide Database, the communities of
12 interest tool, if at all possible, we find that the
13 Statewide Database is very responsive, and that we want
14 to encourage you to access them for live help.

15 And they have both -- they have helped both during
16 the day, but also into the late evening as well, too. So
17 if you are using the tool after work, and after dinner,
18 and after you get your kids settled, it is possible to
19 get some help there as well, too.

20 We also believe that they are best positioned to,
21 you know, provide the help. However, we do recognize
22 that, you know, maybe there is some difficulty in
23 reaching them, and that if you do need to, you can
24 utilize us, the Commission, as a secondary or backup
25 point. And what we'll do is we'll make sure then that we

1 forward the request or the need for assistance to the
2 Statewide Database.

3 The other thing that I want to also just note on the
4 communities of interest tool, is that we've been
5 receiving now, weekly updates on the use of the tool.
6 And we are happy to report that we are seeing that the
7 use of the communities of interest tool is growing. We
8 saw it was first -- from the time we started receiving
9 updates about roughly a month ago, first it was like ten
10 increases from the previous week. And then it became
11 fifteen, and then twenty; and based on the last update
12 we've had, an increase of thirty new users to the
13 communities of interest tool.

14 So the good news is that the trend is going up,
15 people are using it, and we want to encourage folks to
16 please, please keep using that communities of interest
17 tool. It's something that we think is a neat tool that
18 will enable us, the Commission, to be able to get input
19 directly from you. And you can always go back in and
20 edit it, if you feel like there is something that needed
21 to be edited.

22 So with that, I want to just also, next introduce --
23 or actually maybe before I do that, if I can.

24 Commissioner Kennedy, is there anything that you
25 want to add to what I just shared, before I introduce our

1 speakers?

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No. Thank you for taking
3 care of that.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: All right, great. I would
5 like to introduce Karin Mac Donald and Jaime Clark. They
6 are here to speak with us about questions related to the
7 redistricting access centers. I know that in a meeting,
8 I think it was maybe two, or maybe three meetings ago, we
9 did have a number of questions about the role of the
10 redistricting access centers.

11 And we did also ask both Karin and Jaime to come and
12 join us so that we can all hear directly from them around
13 the questions related to the purpose, and how the hiring
14 is going to go, how these staff that would be hired for
15 that, is going to be utilized, and how we can also use it
16 to complement the efforts of our Commission's field staff
17 as well, too.

18 So with that, I'm going to turn this over to you,
19 Karin, and to Jaime. Thank you for doing this, and for
20 joining us here.

21 MS. MAC DONALD: Thank you so much, Commissioner
22 Akutagawa; and hello, Members of the Commission. Thank
23 you for inviting us to be here.

24 Jaime has a PowerPoint that she will share for --
25 that we're both going to use. So if that's okay, Jaime,

1 and if Kristian will let you, then maybe we can share
2 that.

3 Great. Thank you so much.

4 So this is a little bit of a bigger update,
5 actually, not just about the centers, the redistricting
6 access sites, but also about redistricting software. And
7 essentially, what we would like to talk to you about is
8 the entire approach of providing access to redistricting
9 software and to redistricting data that we have worked
10 on.

11 And again, let me just start by saying we really
12 appreciate your collaboration, and thank you so much for
13 everything that you just said about the COI tool,
14 Commissioner Akutagawa. I think, you know, working
15 together, this is going to be a really successful
16 project.

17 So okay, Jaime, let's go. Thank you.

18 So the way that we have approached the access to
19 software for redistricting, has really been multifaceted.
20 As you can see on the slide, and as you know, our first
21 tool that you are very familiar with, is of course the
22 community of interest tool. It was the first community
23 of interest tool anywhere in the United States.

24 It was, of course, not available ten years ago. And
25 you know, ten years ago, not a lot of people thought

1 about making -- creating a tool for communities to figure
2 out, you know, where their boundaries are, and to let
3 anyone know what their interests are.

4 So we're pretty proud of that tool. I think it's
5 pretty successful at this point, as you've noted. And of
6 course, we have it available in so many languages, which
7 is wonderful. And definitely there is nothing even
8 remotely similar to this tool out there.

9 So the second part to this multi-pronged approach to
10 redistricting access, or software access, redistricting
11 software access, is the redistricting access centers, or
12 redistricting access sites. And this is, of course,
13 something that came out of the last redistricting. And
14 we'll talk about this a little bit more detail -- in a
15 little bit more detail on the next slide.

16 And then also, we would like to talk to you about
17 two additional levels of line-drawing software, and
18 access to line-drawing software. And I know that this is
19 something that many of you have been very interested in
20 finding out about. Like what were we going to do? And
21 we are now at the point where we would love to talk to
22 you about it.

23 So there is one, the first level, which is a desktop
24 line-drawing software that we'd like to talk to you about
25 and show you. It is, at this point called, Draw My CA,

1 and then there is an online line-drawing software piece,
2 and we're calling that, Draw My CA Districts.

3 So you see that we're working on a theme here: Draw
4 My Community, Draw My CA, and Draw my CA Districts.

5 And these tools are very different from each other,
6 but they also have a lot in common, and they are designed
7 to, basically, provide users and participants with a
8 pretty seamless transition and seamless experience when
9 they want to perhaps move from the, so to speak, entry
10 level of drawing their community of interest, and then
11 they get more interested, and then they want to draw a
12 district actually. So there is a little bit of a
13 seamless transition to that.

14 But let's talk about the redistricting access
15 centers first -- actually, we're talking about the
16 community of interest tool first. So sorry.

17 So the community of interest tool, of course, is
18 DrawMyCACommunity.org. The official launch was March
19 2nd, 2021, and we now have sixteen languages, which is
20 pretty incredible. There are ongoing updates of support
21 features which, you know, we are still actively working
22 on the tool. It's working very well.

23 But you also know that somebody just recently found
24 a little bug in there, and we're always very appreciative
25 to anybody who lets us know that there's anything that is

1 not working. And that is, of course, what we have always
2 done, and how we also run the Statewide Database.

3 So it's not -- this is not -- you know, us being
4 available and open to input is nothing new to anybody who
5 has ever worked with us. We also, of course, set up this
6 seamless data transmission with the -- or we are setting
7 up a data transmission with the Commission. And that is
8 in progress right now.

9 And as you are bringing your Data Management Team
10 online, and you are hiring your data manager, all of this
11 will be integrated.

12 As of May 20, as Commissioner Akutagawa just
13 mentioned, we have had 286 individual registered users,
14 and we had 240 completed submissions. And there are, of
15 course, also submissions in the pipeline that are not yet
16 completed.

17 The target audience for the community of interest
18 tool is, as you know, absolutely everybody, everybody in
19 the State of California. That's why we have so many
20 languages, we're really trying to reach anyone who wants
21 to participate, and we're trying to make it very easy.

22 And again, one more time, if you have any problems,
23 please reach out. We have Chat Support, and we're very
24 happy to help.

25 We are trying to get as much feedback as possible,

1 from as many Californians as possible, and that is,
2 regardless of their knowledge or interest in
3 redistricting, anybody can participate, and just say:
4 Hey, this is where my neighborhood is, let me just draw
5 it for you.

6 So this is a relatively simple task. You define
7 your community of interest, it's pretty low barrier of
8 entry. And of course, this is all relative. Sometimes
9 when I say it's a low barrier of entry, there is, of
10 course, some people that, you know, are just not familiar
11 with, you know, computers. They have never really used
12 line-drawing software in any way.

13 And you know, I'm not going to sit here and say that
14 it's easy for everybody, there are obviously different
15 user groups, and for some people it's going to be a
16 little bit more difficult than for others.

17 And we're really hoping that this help system that
18 we have in the background will assist in catching people
19 that may, you know, not be as familiar with computers,
20 but that do want to participate, and that they can walk
21 them through step-by-step.

22 So next slide, please, Jaime. Thank you so much.
23 Now, we're at the redistricting access centers.

24 So to remind you, because I know you've heard about
25 them, in 2011, we had redistricting access sites funded

1 by foundations. It was The James Irvine Foundation. I'd
2 written a grant to them, and we'd worked on it, and they
3 funded six centers. They were not fully funded, so they
4 were actually only staffed part time.

5 But we did what we could with the budget that was
6 available. And of course, as you know, in 2011, there
7 was a recession. The state wasn't doing very well. So
8 you know, funds for these kinds of efforts were pretty
9 hard to come by. So we're very, very grateful that The
10 Irvine Foundation, at the time, took a chance on us and
11 actually implemented this.

12 And the centers were very well received. They had
13 technical staff, and quite a few people took advantage of
14 them, and also quite a few, like local organizations,
15 neighborhood organizations, and so forth, used the
16 centers pretty regularly, and frequently.

17 In 2021, the State stepped in and said: Hey, this
18 worked well. We have some money, let's do it again. And
19 we had hoped to expand to more locations than the six
20 largest urban centers, which is where we were, where we
21 landed last time. And you know, there was a little
22 complex algorithm, actually, that went into figuring out
23 where they should be.

24 Back in the day, we looked at, you know, how long do
25 people have to drive, but I think we all know that, you

1 know, six redistricting access sites for the entire State
2 of California. I mean, California is just so large, it's
3 just not going to do it. And that's actually exactly the
4 reason for why we went to this like multi-pronged system,
5 and system of access.

6 So basically not just have two centers, but also
7 have like different levels of software that people can
8 use. And I'll talk about this a little bit more in a
9 second.

10 So again, we had hoped to at least meet the level of
11 service that we had last time. We were -- I mean, that's
12 what we're hoping now. That's what we are doing. But we
13 had hoped to expand to other locations. But then COVID
14 happened. And when COVID happened, of course, everything
15 was just thrown up in the air, and we were trying to
16 figure out what to now do.

17 And so we started to shift to figure out a very
18 robust remote support system for the other tools that we
19 were providing, because we didn't know whether we were
20 going to be able to open at all. And so we didn't know.
21 And nobody knew.

22 And so that's kind of where we detoured a little
23 bit. But we're still at the same level of access that we
24 had last time with respect to the centers. And we are
25 in, roughly, the same areas also. So we wanted to make

1 sure that there would not be a reduction in services if
2 health policies allowed, and we could open.

3 So we have, as Commissioner Akutagawa mentioned
4 earlier, we have already hired some of the managers for
5 these sites. And the way we did that because, you know,
6 UC Berkeley and -- I mean, you're going through the same
7 kind of hiring issues. Things just take a really long
8 time.

9 So we ended up having to hire just to be ready to
10 open. We have to start the hiring process pretty early,
11 and had to, you know, get jobs approved in the middle of
12 a hiring freeze, and so forth. So you know, we are,
13 essentially, now at the point where the managers that we
14 have hired, they are the ones that are providing that
15 online support. And then as soon as they can, they will
16 be moving into these centers to help people in person.

17 So just to point out access versus outreach, because
18 I know that this has come up, these are not really
19 outreach centers. They are access centers. So the
20 primary purpose is to provide a place to use the tools
21 that we're making available.

22 And of course, in collaboration with you, you are
23 undertaking a much broader effort. You're doing all of
24 this outreach, and we, basically, are the place where
25 people can come in, and then just use the tools, and sit

1 down, and spend some time, think through these things and
2 create their input, no matter what that might look like.

3 So we're hoping also that we can collaborate with
4 you, moving forward, as we have been, just to let people
5 know that these resources are available, that these
6 centers will be open, where they are, and what's
7 available there, and so forth.

8 The resources that are available in each center are
9 essentially the same that we had last time, but with a
10 little bonus. So we have staff trained on redistricting
11 processes and criteria. We have public computers that
12 will be available there. And then the COI tool, of
13 course, is available at the redistricting access sites.
14 And then we will also have line-drawing software
15 available at the sites. And of course, we now have two
16 different levels of line-drawing software, and we did not
17 have that last time.

18 So last time what we had was no COI tool and just a
19 desktop system. So there were, you know, I think we had
20 two or three computers that people could use in each site
21 and they had desktop systems, and the level of access is
22 just much different this time.

23 So next slide, please, Jaime?

24 So for line-drawing software just to talk about
25 that, and kind of get away from the COI tool, and from

1 the access center; so this is like the third level of
2 access, really. It is a different target audience than
3 when you're talking to people about the COI tool. While
4 it is obviously available to all Californians, I think
5 the people that are going to take us up on actually using
6 the line-drawing software, it will be just a different, a
7 different population that may have a little bit more
8 knowledge about redistricting, in general, or more
9 interest in redistricting.

10 And thus, also people that may have a little bit
11 more time, to be frank, you know, not everybody has the
12 time to draw an entire district or an entire district
13 plan. They definitely need to know what a district is.
14 They have to know how to draw a legally compliant
15 district in a perfect world, and of course, will have
16 supporting materials available to make it as easily
17 understandable as possible. But it definitely still is a
18 different target audience.

19 The scale of submissions is also going to be
20 different. And this is just some stats, rough stats from
21 last time, just to give an idea of the takers here. So
22 in 2011 we had about 22,000 written submissions, so
23 essentially no COI input, and so forth, but we only had
24 about fifty, or less than fifty plans that were
25 submitted.

1 So they were either partial or complete plans, and
2 some plans, so when we say "plans", we basically mean a
3 map that's not a COI map. So it's a map that was
4 generated with data like -- you know, census data, and so
5 forth. So that's the difference in scale.

6 And that leads us, basically, to that conclusion
7 that this is definitely a different target audience, even
8 though we're making it easier, and a lot less expensive
9 this time, obviously, to participate.

10 So what we're trying to do here is we try to fill
11 the access gap. The COI tool is basically for those that
12 are providing, you know, neighborhoods, communities of
13 interest, and so forth, those are little building blocks
14 that you can use to put your districts together. And
15 then there are two options for people that want to try to
16 put those building blocks together and also use
17 redistricting data.

18 And please remember that in the COI tool, we're not
19 providing data. The COI tool, basically, collects data.
20 We're collecting data from people about what's going on
21 on the ground.

22 So California's -- you know, California has some
23 pretty unique needs in data, obviously. You know, we
24 have the incarcerated folks that need to be adjusted, and
25 we have a nonpartisan approach, and you know, providing

1 this software, and actually making it available, having
2 the software designed in a way that allows for these
3 unique needs and the unique data to be provided is very
4 important, we think.

5 So it's also not a replacement really for private
6 software that's used by redistricting professionals. So
7 you know, there is not the kind of reporting
8 functionality, and so forth, that you might look for when
9 you're a redistricting professional, when you have, you
10 know, multiple reports already programmed, and so forth.
11 So this is a different level, most certainly, of
12 software. So this is really for everybody across the
13 board, but not really for professionals who, presumably,
14 can afford their own software.

15 So go ahead, Jaime. Thank you.

16 And then there is -- so there is the desktop
17 software. So this is our first level of line-drawing
18 software. And this is, again, available to all. But
19 it's not an ideal solution for everybody, because it's a
20 little bit more difficult.

21 So the desktop software is a QGIS plug-in. QGIS is
22 an open-source software that anybody can download. And
23 this is a plug-in that we designed specifically for
24 California. It's desktop software. It's not online
25 software. You need a -- you know, you need to have a

1 moderate level of, you know, technology sophistication to
2 install it, even though we're working on a very good, and
3 you know, very clear user guides which, you know, I want
4 to just say thank you to everybody who is beta testing
5 all of our stuff. And I'm sure that perhaps some of you
6 will also volunteer to do that. So thank you again.

7 There are some large data files that you have to
8 download. So once you have it on your computer, then you
9 have to download data files. And you know, just to
10 remind you all, California has a lot of geography. We
11 have 530,000-something census blocks. And so when you're
12 downloading data, it takes a minute, and it takes another
13 minute if you have a slow internet connection. So then
14 you have to set it all up.

15 And this one is not something that you just
16 probably -- that you probably don't do on the fly just
17 when you have an hour. I think this is ideal for more
18 fixed locations like the access centers, libraries, so
19 library computers, a college, for example, you know,
20 community college, CIS Labs, and so forth.

21 So this is kind of an ideal package. It's free to
22 use. It is open-source. It is designed for California.
23 And you know, what more can you ask for? I'm starting to
24 feel like I'm doing an infomercial, but it is pretty
25 cool.

1 Next slide, please, Jaime?

2 So the features are: So again, it's called, Draw My
3 CA. It's designed to facilitate access to California's
4 statewide redistricting process. Free to use, built on
5 open-source GIS software. You don't need a license. You
6 can keep it on your computer as long as you want to, and
7 no salesperson is going to ask you to renew it. And you
8 know, members of the public can download it to their PCs
9 and then use at home. And it allows people to submit
10 their district plans directly to you, again.

11 So there is a seamless transfer that we see with the
12 COI tool also where things don't go sideways. They're
13 not going to go to somebody else. They basically just go
14 to you, so that there's no confusion, and nobody,
15 hopefully, will be standing there, ever, and saying: I
16 submitted something and now you don't have it; what
17 happened? Because there's no third party involved, you
18 know, it just goes to you.

19 So the plug-in is available in Spanish and English.
20 And as far as we know, this is the only software that we
21 have found that actually has language capabilities. And
22 again, this is a different user group. We are
23 anticipating fewer users, but hopefully many, many, many
24 more than we had last year -- last time, and hopefully
25 many, many more maps.

1 And I think, Jaime, with the next slide, I think
2 you're taking over; is that correct?

3 MS. CLARK: Yeah.

4 MS. MAC DONALD: Okay. I will move it over to
5 Jaime. Thank you.

6 MS. CLARK: Thank you, Karin. And just one moment;
7 I'm rearranging my screen. I'm there now.

8 So we are going to provide sort of an overview of
9 how to use the Draw My CA tool. And also, we have a
10 video demonstration of the tool itself. And I'm going to
11 jump into that now.

12 This slide details the overall user flow for Draw My
13 CA. So users log in with their same credentials that
14 they use to log into the COI tool, for example. From
15 there users can connect to the server, or work off-line.
16 And we'll go into what that exactly means in an upcoming
17 slide.

18 And then users create a district plan by type. So
19 you know, users say: I want to create my Congressional
20 district. I want to create an Assembly district. Or a
21 State Senate plan for the entire State of California.
22 Through the tool, of course, users create and edit their
23 districts. Users will be able to write comments about
24 their districts. And then again submit their data to the
25 Commission.

1 Here we go. So when users sort of log in and
2 connect to the server, the reason that we have a log in
3 for this tool, unlike the COI tool, users will need to
4 log in, and that is so that users can only see their own
5 projects that they're working on, whether or not they're
6 working at home or on a public computer.

7 And additionally, users can work off-line and
8 connect to the server later. So working off-line would
9 look like: Okay, I'm going to create my plan. I'm just
10 going to -- just going to work off-line, and then when
11 I'm home or when in an internet connection, I can connect
12 to the server, and submit once I'm somewhere where there
13 is internet connection.

14 And additionally, when users connect to the server,
15 they can create a plan on one computer, save their work,
16 and then keep working on that plan from a different
17 computer. So one scenario that this could work in, is if
18 somebody goes into one of their redistricting access
19 centers, learns how to use the program, and then maybe
20 even gets help installing it on their laptop, that maybe
21 they have.

22 Then they can, you know, work from the access site,
23 save their work, upload it to the server, and then go
24 home and keep working on that exact same plan from their
25 personal computer that they have at home, should they

1 wish to.

2 And I'm going to hide this. Okay. So this is sort
3 of a screen. You log on, or decide to work off-line, and
4 the next step in the process of creating your plan is
5 choosing the area that you want to work with. So users
6 can choose geography from their -- just one individual
7 county, or they could choose a group of counties,
8 neighboring counties, or they can work on a plan with
9 their entire state.

10 Next step, is based on the type of district the user
11 would like to work with. That ideal population is
12 automatically calculated by the plug-in, so users will
13 have everything that they need to be able to draw
14 districts that comply with the equal population
15 criterion. And users will either start with a blank map
16 or with the 2011 statewide districts.

17 So that means, you know, starting fresh, or if users
18 want to load up the current plans -- the current
19 districts, pardon me, and sort of have a really in-depth
20 sense of: Okay, here's the 2011 districts with the 2020
21 data loaded into the plan and can really see like: Okay.
22 Now, ten years later, this district is too small in terms
23 of population, it needs to grow. Or this district is too
24 big in population, needs to, you know, shed some
25 population. So users can start with whichever option

1 they prefer.

2 Users will have access to block-level census data,
3 and block level census geography it's going to be the
4 exact same database that the Commission is working with.

5 So again, access to California's official
6 redistricting database and this table, the image that's
7 here on the right side of the screen, the red area that's
8 highlighted is one census block, and users can see all of
9 the information, all of the census data that is
10 associated with that one census block.

11 Again, users will be able to export and submit to
12 the Commission from inside the tool, users who are
13 connected to the server, this is one thing you do need to
14 be connected to the server for. Users can submit just
15 one district, or full district plans to the Commission,
16 and users will be able to export to their local computer
17 that they're working on, their own equivalency files, and
18 Shapefiles, and PDFs.

19 This is an example of the PDF. It just shows, you
20 know, one district, some of the statistics associated
21 with the district, the district comments, and all of this
22 will review in the demonstration video that we have
23 coming up shortly. And yeah, you know, district
24 comments, and again, just sort of an image of the
25 district itself.

1 And with that, I'm going to quit sharing my screen
2 and hand it over to Kristian, who has a copy of our
3 video. Oops.

4 MR. MANOFF: All right. If you'll just wait a
5 moment, we'll bring that up.

6 (Pause)

7 (Video played at 1:50 p.m.)

8 VIDEO NARRATOR: -- facilitate public participation
9 in California statewide redistricting process. When a
10 user creates a new project and creates a plan layer,
11 they'll be navigated to the screen. In this
12 demonstration, we will be starting with a blank map.
13 Please follow my cursor, as I point out, various features
14 throughout this demo.

15 The current screen is displaying the map of
16 California, a panel displaying all the layers on the map,
17 the redistricting panel, and the statistics panel. The
18 user can create and edit districts through the tools and
19 the redistricting panel. For the purpose of this demo,
20 we will be looking at Sacramento, California.

21 To draw a new district, go to the redistricting
22 panel, find the Action, and click on the dropdown menu to
23 select New District. When the user clicks on the Select
24 Features by Area, or Single-Click button, they will get a
25 dropdown list of different methods that they could use to

1 select the area.

2 Then, the user can begin to select the areas they
3 wish to include on their district. The Create a New
4 District button commits this change and creates a new
5 district. The district will now appear in the
6 redistricting list and the layer panel.

7 The user can change the district name or add
8 comments on their districts. Navigate over to the
9 redistricting list, click to highlight the district of
10 choice, then click the Change District Attributes button.
11 Here, the user can change the name or comment on their
12 district. To save, simply click, Okay.

13 The user can further edit their districts by
14 choosing Add Area or Remove Area from the action dropdown
15 menu on the redistricting panel. Here, I'm adding an
16 area to my district. And here, I am removing an area
17 from my district.

18 You may notice that as districts are being created
19 and edited, the statistics panel is updating. The
20 statistics panel shows the underlying data associated
21 with the areas that make up the district. The user can
22 work with the statistics table to gain understanding of
23 the population of their districts and to consider whether
24 or not they will make changes to their district plans.

25 The table displays the population of the district

1 the user is working with, along with the demographic
2 makeup of the district, including the data associated
3 with the district as it is drawn. The selected area that
4 will be added to or removed from the district, and the
5 resulting demographic makeup of the district should the
6 user make the change.

7 In addition to the total population by race and
8 ethnicity, the user can view the voting age population,
9 and citizen voting age population, recent ethnicity
10 breakdowns of the districts in their plans. The user can
11 manage their district layers through the Draw My
12 California tab on the top toolbar, and clicking on the
13 Plan Layer Management.

14 Here, the users will be able to create a layer or
15 delete a plan layer. The user can add new district
16 layers to their project and switch between editing the
17 different district layers without having to switch
18 projects or close and reopen the program.

19 It is also possible to import a redistricting plan
20 into the plug-in via the Draw My California tab on the
21 top toolbar. Here, the user will be able to import from
22 layer, or import an equivalency file. During this
23 feature, the user can start with their own district plan,
24 as opposed to starting with a blank map or the current
25 statewide districts.

1 The Draw My California plug-in can create a PDF of
2 each district in the plan. This feature is found in the
3 Draw My California tab on the top toolbar.

4 The user has the option to create a PDF of
5 individual districts, or the program will generate an
6 atlas, or a set of PDFs with one district per page. The
7 printout will include an image of each district, any
8 written comments the user added, and underlying data
9 associated with each district.

10 Draw My California allows the user to export and
11 save equivalency files and Shapefiles directly to their
12 local computer. When the user is done working on their
13 project, they could submit their single district or full
14 redistricting plan directly to the California Citizens
15 Redistricting Commission.

16 All the aforementioned file types, along with any
17 written comments the user provides, will be included in
18 the submission the Commission receives.

19 MS. MAC DONALD: Thank you, Kristian, for showing
20 this video. And Jaime is going to pull up the PowerPoint
21 again. And I just wanted to give a shout out to our
22 colleague, Sarah (ph.), who expertly narrated this video.
23 And she's also the redistricting access center manager
24 for Sacramento. So I hope all of you at some point will
25 get to meet Sarah in person. So anyway, I'm pretty

1 excited about this.

2 So now we're going to move on to the next level of
3 access. So our next redistricting access tool number
4 three in the lineup is Draw My CA Districts, the online
5 tool. And Sarah spells [Sa-rah], exactly like that, in
6 the chat. I'm sorry.

7 So let me talk about the online tool just a little
8 bit. And then I'll pass it back over to Jaime.

9 I just wanted to remind everybody that there are
10 some pretty unique challenges when you're talking about
11 redistricting access, redistricting software in
12 California. And that is really because we're a really
13 big state, and we have a lot of people, we have a lot of
14 census geography. So any software product has to support
15 an incredible amount of data. And that data, for an
16 online tool of course, has to be sent over the web.

17 So also to remember that we're drawing lines using
18 block-level geography, so again, 530,000 of these, so
19 when you are doing something that's strictly online,
20 let's say you've drawn an entire district and you're just
21 adding one block, this system computes all of the 530,000
22 blocks, to add that one, or take one out.

23 So that, of course, brings up issues of bandwidth.
24 And we have those anyway because, obviously, there are
25 quite a few people that don't have access to the

1 internet, or don't have access to high-speed internet, or
2 you know, maybe have to pay for certain levels of use and
3 start -- you know, not everybody has unlimited access to
4 high speed internet, obviously.

5 And the other issue that this, of course, raises for
6 any, really, online tool that anybody is looking at is:
7 How long does it take? How long does it take for the
8 little wheel to be spinning, for everything to be
9 computed? And some of that, you know, has to do with
10 bandwidth, you know, just the amount of bandwidth that
11 you have available. But it just has to do with the
12 geographies and so forth.

13 And then the other issue, of course, is the number
14 of potential users. Now, online redistricting software
15 is still pretty new, and redistricting doesn't happen
16 often enough that anybody can actually say that they
17 really know what the use is going to be. I spent quite
18 some time throughout the decade looking at jurisdictions
19 that were using online tools. And I have to say the
20 number of participants has always been negligible. I
21 mean, there have just not been a lot of takers.

22 And when you talk to people, a lot of times what
23 they tell you is that it's just too difficult. It's just
24 really it's a pretty high level of entry. I mean, the
25 barrier of entry is pretty high.

1 And so what we were trying to do with this online
2 tool with Draw My CA District, is to seamlessly go from
3 the COI tool to this particular tool, and provide
4 something that is already familiar to people. In fact,
5 this tool draws a lot of its design and its functionality
6 from the COI tool, and it also draws from the QGIS plug-
7 in.

8 So essentially, you can think about it as the two
9 bookends. There is the COI tool on one end, and the QGIS
10 tool is on the other end. So you know, the least
11 technical knowledge needed for the COI tool, and then the
12 most technical knowledge really needed for that QGIS
13 tool. And then this one is nicely in the middle.

14 And Jaime is going to show you a little bit about
15 it. So take it away, Jaime. Thank you.

16 MS. CLARK: Sure. Thank you, Karin.

17 So again, Draw My CA Districts, our online
18 redistricting tool is designed to facilitate public
19 access to California's statewide redistricting process.
20 And just like the COI tool, it's free to use, you don't
21 need a licenses, or anything like that to be able to use
22 this tool. We are making it as user friendly as
23 possible, and accessible. It is, you know, as we are
24 building out the tool, it's undergoing, you know,
25 constant accessibility audits.

1 Users can submit their district plans to the
2 Commission from inside the tool; so again, no need to
3 download, and email files, or any of your testimony to
4 the Commission. Just like the COI tool, online help will
5 be available through the Chat function in this tool. The
6 tool will be available in Spanish and English.

7 And again, as Karin mentioned, it's going to be a
8 really familiar interface for users of Draw My CA
9 Community. So it's not like learning a totally brand new
10 tool, there is a lot of overlap. The look and feel is
11 really the same, and the overall functionality is
12 similar, with definitely more functionality built into
13 this tool.

14 Here you go. So the user flow for this tool, Draw
15 My CA Districts, users can log in with, again, the same
16 credentials across all of the tools, or users can use the
17 tool as a "Guest". The difference, of course, is being
18 able to save your district plans and draw my -- yeah,
19 save the district plans and draw my districts where
20 there's not an opportunity to save your work, and come
21 back to it later. You're using it as a guest.

22 Just like the QGIS plug-in, users create a district
23 plan by type. Through the tool, users can create
24 districts, and edit the districts they're working with.
25 And again, and at the end when the user is happy with

1 their work, they can submit directly to the Redistricting
2 Commission.

3 And we have some animated slides here so you can see
4 some of the functionality inside the tool users create
5 districts based on the census geography. The drawing
6 functionality is pretty similar to that of Draw My CA
7 Community. The main difference is that users select the
8 area and then commit the change, just like in the QGIS
9 tool.

10 And similar again, to QGIS, in that plug-in, we have
11 a statistics table that shows each district's population,
12 voting-age population, and citizen voting-age population
13 breakdowns by race and ethnicity.

14 Again, just like in the QGIS plug-in the data that's
15 associated with each of the districts is available
16 through the statistics table. And also, users can use
17 the statistics table to -- you know, to consider whether
18 or not they'll make certain changes. Like, okay, what if
19 I add this area, or this census place to my district?
20 Oh, I can see that that's too many people, so I'm going
21 to need to sort of reframe how I'm working with this.

22 And again, this data is going to be -- is going to
23 be the official redistricting database for the State of
24 California, the same data that the Commission will be
25 using in its line-drawing process.

1 Users will be able to provide written descriptions
2 of each of the districts that they're working on, on a
3 district-by-district basis. So here's my first district,
4 District A, I'm calling it. And my comments are: I'm
5 creating this district to keep this area and this area
6 together. And that's around that.

7 And there's also a section for written testimony
8 where users can include overall commentary on their
9 entire redistricting plan. So I created these Senate --
10 this is my Senate plan, and I created my Senate districts
11 to keep rural areas and metropolitan areas as separate as
12 possible where I could.

13 And users will be able to export and submit, really
14 similar to the COI tool. Users can create single
15 districts, or full redistricting plans through the tool,
16 and submit that to the Commission from inside the tool,
17 by all types available for export to the users, local
18 computer or the same as the COI tool, is the equivalency
19 file, which is a census block assignment file,
20 Shapefiles, which is a GIS layer, and a PDF. It could be
21 a PDF of their single district if they're doing one
22 district, or PDF of each district in their redistricting
23 plan.

24 I'm going to hand it back to Karin for this one.

25 MS. MAC DONALD: Thank you, Jaime. Thank you.

1 So again, just to summarize. The approach here is
2 that there are multiple options for access. There are
3 centers that are offering in-person and remote support.
4 Not all of our remote people are going to be located in
5 the centers. We also have remote-remote people. So
6 we're still hiring. We're still in the process of hiring
7 and adding people to the team. We're pretty happy with
8 where we're at right now.

9 Then, you know, QGIS can be used by people where,
10 you know, getting to a center might be impractical. It's
11 just too far away. Or you know, people just don't have
12 time when the centers are open. So if there is, you
13 know, a PC available, they have a PC, they can download
14 this, and then they can just create their districts on
15 their own time.

16 Again, the support is available irrespective of
17 whether you're in the in the redistricting access center,
18 or not. And then the online tool is available anywhere
19 people can go online. And that may be in the center,
20 that may be on their computer; or for people that just
21 want to do a little bit more extensive work, they would
22 probably be using the QGIS.

23 The time line, of course the COI tool was, you know,
24 released March 2nd, 2021. The centers are going to open
25 depending on public health directives. But you know,

1 there is, obviously, light at the end of the tunnel, it
2 appears.

3 And then the line-drawing software right now, we are
4 working toward a release date at the same time as the
5 redistricting data, the official redistricting database
6 comes out. So we would load it in and then release the
7 line-drawing software at the same time. We will be
8 using -- we will be looking for beta testers, so please
9 let us know if you are up for beta testing. We would
10 really appreciate your input.

11 The Statewide Database's role, as you know, is
12 really the same as with the COI tool. We will capture
13 and then just transmit the data securely to you, and we
14 will be providing user support through our team, and
15 analysis and application is of course your job, and we
16 will just send you the files over, so you can do that
17 job.

18 For future discussion, there are probably a lot of
19 things that we'll need to talk about, and we're looking
20 forward to it. Things like: Are partial plans accepted?
21 And you know, what do we do about support materials for
22 your outreach? You know, can we collaborate on that?
23 What do you what would you like to see from us? Is there
24 any other way that we can help you? And what else should
25 we talk about?

1 I'm sure -- I mean, this was a pretty dense
2 presentation here. So I'm sure you have a lot of
3 thoughts. And we're happy to come back. You know where
4 we live. And we, you know, look forward to this ongoing
5 collaboration.

6 So thank you very much. And with that, I think,
7 Jaime, we are on to questions. Thanks for your time.
8 And thanks, Kristian, for showing this video. And also,
9 one more shout out to our colleague, Marinela (ph.), who
10 helped us with the animated slides, and was a UX designer
11 on these tools, and just wanted to say thank you to
12 Marinela also.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Wow. Thank you for
14 that. That was great to have that expanded presentation.
15 And I want to see if any of the Commissioners have any
16 questions, comments.

17 Karin, I'm hoping that you'll also be sharing the
18 presentation. I feel like -- I know for me, I feel like
19 I need to take it and just kind of relook at digest it as
20 well too.

21 Okay. Commissioner Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh. Jaime and Karin,
23 thank you for the presentation, very interesting, and
24 exciting, I think. You may have said this, but I'm
25 wondering, in a couple of the applications where you're

1 actually able to log in and save. You said that we can
2 then print out and use the information. Are you able to
3 see what others have submitted and downloaded --

4 MS. CLARK: (No verbal response).

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. I see, no. That's what
6 I thought. Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. MAC DONALD: Commissioner Turner, you can -- I
8 think that's on your end how you want to make that
9 available. Statewide Database end, we're not we're not
10 going to make that available. We feel like that is up to
11 you, what you make available, and how we make that
12 available. But we're, of course, happy to work with you.

13 MS. CLARK: Yeah. And just to add to that a little
14 bit. Thanks Karin, and thank you, Commissioner Turner,
15 for that question. So for example, should the
16 Commission make all of the Shapefiles available that are
17 submitted through the COI tool, then member of the public
18 could download those and then import all of those into
19 their plan in QGIS.

20 So QGIS is a full GIS software, and our plug-in was
21 built sort of with the framework of that software, but
22 you know, QGIS itself is really the backbone of the
23 software -- or of the plug-in, rather. It's like the
24 foundation upon which the plug-in is resting.

25 And because it has full GIS capabilities, users

1 could definitely, or members of the public could, you
2 know, download the Shapefiles, should the Commission make
3 those publicly available, and then import those into
4 QGIS, and use the plug-in -- use those when they're
5 creating their districts, through the plug-in.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Oh. Commissioner Yee.

8 VICE CHAIR YEE: Thank you. Thank you, Jaime and
9 Karin. Wow. What an amazing array of tools. Two
10 questions, basically. One is, you know, it's so much
11 functionality. Wow. I mean, you know, as we sit here
12 and think about it, it all makes sense. But I could see
13 how the public would be pretty overwhelmed, yeah. You
14 know, in just explaining the COI tool, let alone these
15 other two tools.

16 I'm wondering what your expectation is,
17 optimistically but realistically, on how these will
18 actually get used, you know, plus the access centers.
19 You know, and as the Legislature funded these efforts,
20 you know, what were their expectations on -- on how much
21 they'll be used? You know, and in what form? In what
22 fashion? So that's the first question.

23 The second question is, how about us then, as
24 Commissioners? You know, as we get into the drafting
25 phase, and so on, I mean, are these tools that we should

1 get good at, you know, and really learn for ourselves?
2 Are there other tools you expect us to be using at that
3 point? Or is it really optional for us, as
4 Commissioners, because you guys will be doing line
5 drawing, you know. What would be a good expectation for
6 ourselves in regards to these tools?

7 MS. MAC DONALD: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you for
8 those questions. And maybe I'll take the second question
9 first, if that's okay. So just to be clear, Statewide
10 Database will not be line drawing, and I think that with
11 respect to what you should be learning, or what you want
12 to learn, I think perhaps a conversation with your
13 Counsel might be -- might be in order on that, you know.
14 But these are public tools and that's the way that
15 they've been designed.

16 And really I'm just going to pictures one more time,
17 if anybody here in this group would like to beta test.
18 That would be fantastic. We would love your
19 collaboration and see your -- you know, get your
20 feedback.

21 With respect to the first question. It is
22 definitely not for everybody. And you know, GIS software
23 is not -- it's not the easiest. I mean, you know, even
24 just thinking about, Jaime and I were formatting the
25 PowerPoint earlier, you know, and there were a couple of

1 page numbers missing.

2 I mean, I think we've all been there, you know,
3 software, and you know, doing anything with any kind of
4 sophisticated software, it takes a little time to come up
5 to speed.

6 But having said that, Jaime and I have spent over
7 two years looking at software packages that are out
8 there, and looked at line-drawing software, we looked at
9 just anything that we could get our hands on, and tried
10 to figure out what's easy and what's not. And of course,
11 everybody says that it's easy, but it isn't. And let's
12 not fool ourselves. I mean, it isn't easy.

13 But what we found is that most of the redistricting
14 software, in particular, that's out there is very much
15 geared to the most frequent users, which are people that
16 are, you know, drawing political districts. So that
17 goes, again, toward that whole like, California is unique
18 because we have different criteria. We do things
19 differently than most people, right?

20 So that was one thing that we looked at was like:
21 Why are all these functionalities in there? Why are we
22 constantly looking at what is it, donkeys and -- was it
23 donkeys and elephants? Anyway various animals on there,
24 and you know, while that's kind of cute, it's just not
25 how we draw a line.

1 So we looked at why are there all these bells and
2 whistles if they're not applicable to California? Why
3 are there, you know, all these compactness measures in
4 there if the California -- when the California
5 Constitution is very specific about what compactness
6 measure -- what the compactness measure is for
7 California? And that compact compactness measure is not
8 in there.

9 So what we set out to do, once we started with the
10 COI tool, was essentially to make things as easy as
11 possible by not adding things that people don't need. So
12 there is not as much functionality in there as you will
13 see with other software. And that is specifically geared
14 or designed that way because we don't want to confuse
15 people.

16 We feel like if we provide the essentials and we
17 provide those essentials well, we will be able to get
18 more people to use these tools, and get more people to
19 participate. With respect to the level, you know, like
20 the user -- like how many users are going to be using
21 the -- or utilizing the redistricting access site, I
22 don't know that there was a specific expectation.

23 I think our expectation -- our expectations at
24 Statewide Database was that we would be able to meet the
25 same level of access, so we looked more at it from the

1 access perspective to just make it possible for people to
2 participate if they want to.

3 And you know, the Legislature was incredibly open to
4 our suggestions. And in fact, you know, when the funds
5 were transferred to Statewide Database, it was before
6 COVID. So we had, you know, higher expectations of
7 perhaps more sites. And you know, we basically just
8 said: Hey, if we get a good Commission, and we get people
9 that really do help us, and collaborate with us, and do
10 outreach, then we will get more people to go to these
11 sites.

12 And then of course, with COVID, and so forth, it
13 just turned into a little bit of a broader project by
14 saying" Okay, well, if we never are able to open these
15 sites then, you know; how do we catch people? What do we
16 do?

17 And you know, the online tool versus the QGIS tool
18 came in at that point where we said, okay, the online
19 tool is going to be the "easiest", quote/unquote, to use
20 while still not, you know, super easy because it's still
21 GIS software, and has to be learned.

22 The QGIS is for more sophisticated users that
23 perhaps want to spend more time, have more time, and want
24 to do more complicated things, and perhaps submit more
25 than one district, more than one plan.

1 So I'm sorry, Commissioner Yee, I don't really have
2 any numbers for you, of expectations. I think my
3 expectation would be to make it as easy as possible in
4 this very complicated field to open the doors to anybody
5 who wants to participate, and to have a robust, you know,
6 support network in place that will help people that get
7 stuck somewhere along the line. So I hope that answered
8 your questions.

9 VICE CHAIR YEE: Yes.

10 MS. MAC DONALD: And I'm very happy we're talking
11 about this.

12 VICE CHAIR YEE: Yes, it does. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And I see
14 Commissioner Sinay, and then Commissioner Turner.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Akutagawa.

17 Thank you, Karin and Jaime, for the presentation.
18 As Commissioner Akutagawa said, it's going to take a
19 little bit of time to soak in all the different pieces.

20 But as I was watching the presentation, and this is
21 the same question I've had with the COI tool, and this --
22 these may be questions for 2030, but how do we -- how do
23 other redistricting efforts -- how are these tools -- how
24 can these tools be used by other redistricting efforts in
25 California? You know, the cities, and county efforts,

1 and school boards, they don't -- they're not putting in
2 as much resources, but the community does want to be able
3 to use some of that.

4 So what thoughts do you all have about how the
5 community can use this for, yeah, for their local
6 redistricting efforts?

7 MS. CLARK: Thank you for your question. The answer
8 is simple, as with the COI tool, where you can export
9 your files, and then email them to the appropriate place.
10 These tools really were geared towards the statewide
11 process. There's not going to be a way to say, you know,
12 here's my ideal -- here's my ideal population per
13 district. I'm going to plug that in, and then magic is
14 going to happen where -- you know, it's certainly not
15 quite that simple.

16 I suppose that an enterprising person could say,
17 hey, I know what my ideal population is, I know what my
18 geography is, and I'm going to do my best with these
19 tools to make districts that meet that ideal population,
20 and export my files, and send those in that way. But you
21 know, it's certainly not as simple as with the COI tool.

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think it was Commissioner
23 Turner that was next; and then Commissioner Andersen.

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you. I wanted to
25 just ask, how are you -- as the Statewide Database, how

1 are you marketing these tools so the community even know
2 that they do exist; all of the different components?

3 MS. MAC DONALD: Well, so far, and I thank you for
4 that question, Commissioner Turner. So far we haven't
5 marketed them at all. You are the first people to find
6 out about them. You know, aside from our beta testers
7 who have been working behind the scenes on them.

8 So this is our public reveal, so to speak. And we
9 will put notifications onto the Statewide Database
10 website, of course. We're hoping, again, to talk -- to
11 collaborate with the various groups that were
12 collaborating with us when we first came out with the COI
13 tool, and of course with you.

14 So you know, we'll tell everybody we talk to about
15 these tools, in particular, you know, as we move forward
16 with developing them, and they're set, and people have
17 tested them, and we will do what we can. But will
18 heavily rely on you and your, you know, outreach
19 mechanisms. And we will support you as much as we can.
20 But then also through the access sites, of course, you
21 know, there will definitely be something there also.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And yeah, Karin. I'd love to
23 beta test.

24 MS. MAC DONALD: Oh, great. We will be in touch.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I know that Commissioner

1 Andersen is next, followed by Director Kaplan.

2 I also want to just note that we are going to be due
3 for a break in ten minutes.

4 Also, Karin, before Commissioner Andersen speaks,
5 can I just mention. I thought I saw something about the
6 tool will go live at the end of September or late
7 September; is that true?

8 MS. MAC DONALD: Yeah. So that's our development
9 deadline right now, because remember that these tools,
10 they rely on data, right. And since we have to use
11 official redistricting data, essentially we need to load
12 something in. And right now there's nothing there. You
13 know, our focus has been on making sure the COI tool is
14 in really good shape. Then we'll move on to the QGIS
15 tool, and then, you know, use the code from both of these
16 to do the online tool.

17 So that's just, basically, our development time
18 line. And happy to continue to update you on how that's
19 going. And talk about these things.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I just wanted to
21 ask, because of Commissioner Turner's question about
22 marketing. It's not something that you can market just
23 yet then because you're still developing it?

24 MS. MAC DONALD: Right? Though I do -- I do feel
25 like, you know, Commissioner Turner's point is really

1 well taken, because just letting people know that this is
2 coming is going to be very important. And because
3 otherwise, people get stressed out, they're like: Is
4 there going to be anything? You know, how am I going to
5 be able to participate? And just letting them know it's
6 there, and perhaps just provide updates to you on a
7 regular basis might be a really good thing, because
8 you're getting more coverage also as people are starting
9 to check into to the redistricting process. So I think
10 that's going to be very important.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. And my thought is
12 that the people who'll most likely be interested will be
13 the ones who are watching us.

14 Let me go to Commissioner Andersen, then Director
15 Kaplan, then back to Commissioner Turner. And then I
16 think we will be at break.

17 Commissioner Andersen.

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you for your
19 interesting presentation. Much more than I was
20 expecting; I was expecting this to be about centers, the
21 access, and the COI tool. I had no idea that the
22 redistricting tool was being presented today. So there's
23 a lot of issues to be discussed with that one,
24 coordination, criteria, training.

25 But let's start on the easy stuff. And I won't even

1 get into some of it. The centers, do you have any idea
2 how many and where they are? And then, yeah, and then,
3 you know, on the staffing, and when are those going to be
4 opening?

5 MS. CLARK: Yeah. Thank you for your question.
6 There are going to be six centers, and they will be
7 located in Sacramento, Oakland, Fresno, Long Beach, San
8 Diego, and San Bernardino. And we will be opening them,
9 you know, as possible, based on public health guidelines.

10 We have, you know, active -- we're calling the role,
11 site managers. And just in general, our redistricting
12 access support team. We have, you know, a number of
13 people already hired, and we are continuing to hire for
14 these roles, as Karin mentioned, where it's -- you know,
15 it's not quite as easy as if we were a private
16 organization, and could immediately put out a job
17 description, and hire.

18 There are a lot of steps. We are in a hiring
19 freeze, and having to get exemptions for every single
20 hire. And then there are a lot of official processes
21 that we follow. And you know, we have a number of people
22 hired. We're also in the process of interviewing others.
23 We have some really great candidates. And also everybody
24 that we've hired so far is amazing.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. And just, then the

1 COI tool, obviously we're -- that this is going to be
2 supported at these access centers. And that information
3 has been greatly coordinated with the Commission to
4 understand how we're handling all this stuff.
5 Coordinating this redistricting tool, though, are you
6 already envisioning what committee, or is this also going
7 through the COI tool? Do you want us to create a new --
8 a subcommittee just to deal specifically with the mapping
9 input?

10 Obviously we need it. So there's a line drawing
11 component, there's a data management component. So how
12 soon can we start coordinating with you on this?

13 MS. MAC DONALD: I think any time, it's up to you.
14 Again, we're in development on both of the tools. So you
15 know, as you organize yourselves, whatever works for you
16 is going to work for us.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Great. Just want to make
18 sure that we're on track for our break.

19 Director Kaplan, and then Commissioner Turner, and
20 it looks like Commissioner Fornaciari.

21 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you. I'll just be quick.
22 Thank you again for the presentation. And just to echo
23 some of the comments that we have been discussing. The
24 offer that you made about communication materials, so I
25 think, you know, staff, we're going to work with you on,

1 and with the Commissioners on how we can message this to
2 provide, you know, as much information as possible to the
3 field staff, also as they're out in the field, and that
4 they're communicating these resources and directing folks
5 also.

6 I had more of like a longer term question, I think
7 for the Commission, and for Karin and Jaime. For when
8 the Commission comes out with draft maps, is that this
9 Draw My CA Districts tool would then be what people would
10 utilize to provide feedback on draft maps? Or maybe this
11 is for another discussion, but I think just helpful. I
12 know we're now just in the COI input phase, and I'm
13 thinking a little bit further along, that I think that's
14 helpful.

15 MS. MAC DONALD: Yeah. And thank you for that
16 question. I think once the draft maps come out, we can
17 move them, as a geography, into the tool so people can
18 see what the draft maps look like. And then they can
19 either, you know, they can evaluate them for themselves,
20 they can make changes, and then submit a map with their
21 changes, and then also with their comments in both tools.
22 So that can be done over either one of them.

23 And I just kind of wanted to say something about the
24 comments section, that's actually a really important one,
25 because you may get somebody, you know, gives you a

1 couple of districts, and they're very well drawn
2 districts and you don't really know what they were trying
3 to accomplish. So you're looking at these districts that
4 somebody spent a lot of time on, and you can't perhaps
5 use the exact districts, but you might be able to
6 accomplish something that is very close to what the
7 submitter wanted to do.

8 So if they put into the -- it into the comments, I'm
9 submitting these districts because they're keeping X, Y
10 and Z communities together, but then I also have to
11 equally populate these districts. So I just added this,
12 and this, and this. Then you know why it was drawn that
13 way, and you might be able to just accomplish the essence
14 of these -- of the district in your district. So that's
15 why that piece is also important.

16 And I just thought I'll flag that because you asked,
17 you know, how do people provide feedback? And I think
18 that's the way to do it. So I hope that made sense.

19 DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you very much.
21 Commissioner Turner said she will pass. And let's go to
22 Commissioner Fornaciari.

23 And then we will be turning it back over to Chair
24 Ahmad for our break.

25 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Just in consideration of

1 our break, I'll just quickly volunteer to test, and we
2 can talk about my other questions then. Thanks.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Not seeing any other
4 comments. Chair Ahmad, turning it back over to you.
5 Thank you. You're on mute.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Jaime and Karin, for this
7 presentation, and to the COI Tool Subcommittee for
8 putting this together for us. As we heard, this is, you
9 know, very early in the process, so we have lots of time
10 to provide our feedback and to get organized around
11 utilizing these tools.

12 But as of right now, we do have a break until 3:30,
13 and we will be joining in Closed Session at 3:30. And
14 you all should have gotten that link. See you all at
15 3:30.

16 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 3:15 p.m.
17 until 3:30 p.m.)

18 (Closed Session)

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back, everyone. We just
20 popped out of Closed Session. And I would like to report
21 that we met in Closed Session regarding data and
22 cybersecurity issues, and no action was taken.

23 With that, we have about nine minutes left with our
24 ASL Team, so I just wanted to do a quick overview of the
25 agenda for tomorrow.

1 Tomorrow is going to be Motion Tuesday, because we
2 have quite a few items on our agenda that'll require some
3 motions. So I will review them now.

4 So item 9-A, the Government Affairs Subcommittee;
5 item 9-B Finance and Administration, item 9-E, Outreach
6 and Engagement; item 9-H the Website Subcommittee; item
7 9-J, the Grant/Contracting Subcommittee. And then we
8 still have to hear from the item under item 10, which is
9 the Legal Affairs Subcommittee; item 12, which is the
10 Line Drawer Updates Subcommittee.

11 And I would also like to emphasize that we do have a
12 presentation, a COI input -- a Communities of Interest
13 Input dry run starting at 1:30 tomorrow. There are quite
14 a few number of items to make motions on and approval for
15 that session. And I would prioritize that before going
16 out to the subcommittees, because of the fact that we
17 have to post the agenda very quickly.

18 So I'm hoping we can get through all of those items
19 tomorrow. But before we close, is there any other items
20 that I'm missing that my colleagues would like to raise
21 at this time?

22 Yes, Commissioner Fernandez, and then Andersen.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I was just alerted
24 that we may need to take a motion on the paper COI, in
25 terms of having it translated into all the languages.

1 But I'm not sure. We can have, hopefully, a quick
2 discussion on that tomorrow.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: That's for Materials Development,
4 correct?

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: (No verbal response).

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, 9-G, sorry.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Andersen.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I was just wondering,
10 you know, in terms of the -- we have copies of virtually
11 everything except on 9-E, what are we -- is there a
12 motion? Is there a document, a handout that should be --
13 that goes to that item? 9-E was just Outreach and
14 Engagement?

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioners Sinay and/or Fornaciari,
16 do you all have --

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. There wasn't a
18 document. We were just going to talk about the --

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Phasing out the public
20 education, and going into phase two. And so it's just a
21 quick and easy one, really.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: On the COI paper tool, are we

1 going to discuss it; because there is a second half to it
2 that we haven't had a conversation on?

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We can discuss it, but we
4 really need to try to finalize that, moving forward. But
5 yeah, of course it's one of the handouts, so if everyone
6 can take a look at that tonight that'd be great. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. And then just another
9 reminder, tomorrow's meeting starts at 1:00 p.m., not the
10 usual 9:30 a.m. With that --

11 STAFF COUNSEL JOHNSTON: Public comment?

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, public comment.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right; to end our
14 day.

15 In order to maximize transparency and public
16 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
17 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
18 telephone number provided on the live stream feed. It is
19 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
20 provided on the live stream feed, it is 92638886526 for
21 this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID
22 simply press the pound key.

23 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
24 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press
25 star 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

1 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message
2 that says: The host would like you to talk, and to press
3 star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,
4 please state and spell it for the record. You are not
5 required to provide your name to give public comment.

6 Please make sure to mute your computer or live
7 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during
8 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert
9 for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please
10 turn down the live stream volume.

11 And we do not have anyone in the queue at this time.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: We can budget a couple of minutes.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have someone in
14 the queue with their hand raised. And go ahead. The
15 floor is yours.

16 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Good afternoon. This is Lori,
17 L-O-R-I, Shellenberger, S-H-E-L-L-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R. I am
18 the redistricting consultant for Common Cause. Good
19 afternoon, Chair Ahmad, and Commissioners.

20 I'm calling regarding the draft policies on your
21 subcommittees and third-party communications. First, I'd
22 like to acknowledge that some of the hot water you got
23 into was from an information-sharing meeting that Common
24 Cause did participate in, and looking back, and given
25 Common Cause is a champion of transparency, we probably

1 could have brainstormed an approach with you that would
2 have furthered your information gathering on an urgent
3 matter, and been consistent with your subcommittee and
4 third-party communications policies, that would have
5 avoided the blowback that resulted.

6 So on that note, we'd like to put forth an idea we
7 think would maximize transparency, and minimize the
8 likelihood of after-the-fact allegations about third-
9 party communications.

10 But first, I would like to commend you on the
11 radically inclusive approach you've used to inform your
12 planning and implementation of your unique 2021
13 redistricting process. We echo the League of Women
14 Voters' support for the policies that facilitated that
15 which you adopted after thoughtful discussion and
16 consultation with your Counsel.

17 Even more importantly, we appreciate the way in
18 which you followed those policies and diligently reported
19 out the content of the subcommittee work and the intimate
20 information gathering you've done. As a party to some of
21 those communications, I feel they were reported out
22 thoroughly and accurately.

23 However, even though those conversations don't
24 involve district lines, talking about other subjects
25 behind closed doors still gives some members of the

1 public pause, and their concern is genuine, and it's
2 fair.

3 Setting aside the conspiracy theories of nefarious
4 intent and bad-faith accusations, others, including
5 former Commissioners and Independent Commission
6 proponents, are raising concerns that details of
7 nonpublic conversations could be unintentionally left
8 out, or subtle dynamics could somehow influence a
9 Commissioner.

10 So we're recommending that you adhere to your
11 policies that consider recording and posting all
12 conversations with third parties within a certain time
13 period, twenty-four, forty-eight hours. I'm not sure
14 what works for your staff, of course, and the logistics
15 there.

16 But we and those who followed you work, your work
17 closely over the last several months know that you are
18 one hundred percent aboveboard. And we're incredibly
19 grateful to see a Commission so committed to the broad
20 outreach and inclusion that you've pursued so far.

21 But by taking -- but if you take these extra steps
22 of recording and posting third-party conversations, then
23 anyone would be able to watch, provide public comment --

24 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

25 MS. SHELLENBERGER: -- related to the conversation,

1 or offer up their expertise, or ask for their own
2 meeting. We hope you'll consider incorporating this into
3 your policies, and that you regularly explain those
4 policies to the public just --

5 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

6 MS. SHELLENBERGER: -- to avoid future criticism.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And we do
9 have one other caller. Please go ahead.

10 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Hello. This is Renee Westa-Lusk.
11 I just have some questions because I haven't been able to
12 watch the meeting, all the meetings. Will the public --
13 my first question is, will the Public Input Meeting after
14 June 14th be in-person? Or will they be in -- well, in
15 virtual form? I know that you said that two statewide
16 public input meetings would both be virtual, I assume,
17 but what happens about the ones when you're in the
18 different regions?

19 And then the second question I have: Do persons
20 wanting to give public input at the statewide public
21 meetings, or the other regional meetings, will they have
22 to make appointments in order to get a slot to speak?
23 And those are my questions. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And that is
25 all our callers at this time.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Katy.

2 STAFF COUNSEL JOHNSTON: To answer the first
3 question, which is, the answer is we're waiting for
4 direction from the governor, and he's supposed to make an
5 announcement before June 15th as to what the post-COVID
6 rules are going to be. And until we get that
7 information, we don't know what the Commission will be
8 allowed to do as far as actual public meetings.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. And with that, we don't
10 have any more public callers at this time.

11 We will go into recess until tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.
12 Thank you, everyone.

13 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned
14 at 4:40 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 I do hereby certify that the testimony in the
4 foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein
5 stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were
6 reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and
7 a disinterested person, and was under my supervision
8 thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

9
10 And I further certify that I am not of counsel or
11 attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing
12 nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause
13 named in said caption.

14
15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
16 14th day of June, 2023.

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21 _____
PETER PETTY, CER-493

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