

**CA Citizen Redistricting Commission**  
**Public Input Design Sub-Committee (aka Design Working Group)**  
**March 18, 2021, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm**  
Summary, not official notes

**Participants**

Commissioners: Isra, Linda, Jane, Alicia, Neal, Patricia, & Trena  
Staff: Patricia, Marcy, Fredy, Cecilia, Alvaro

**Co-Facilitators:** Neal & Patricia

*Before we begin: Though I can't speak for all my fellow commissioners and staff, I am confident that they'd agree that we stand with our Asian Pacific Islander communities and condemn the ongoing violence toward Asian Americans. Please know that we see you and want to hear from your communities. Stop the Hate!*

Public Comment - Rene Westa-Lusk questions: What is the timeline, if members of the public miss the meeting in their area can they give testimony in other areas, will COI and Line Drawing meetings be streamed throughout the state, will the system check to see if people providing input live within the state or a given region, how will we verify written testimony, what criteria are we looking for in COI input. We included these questions in the list of questions below.

**Agreed upon Purpose for subcommittee:** To explore, design, and oversee implementation of how the public will submit their input to the CRC with an eye on legal requirements, accessibility, and transparency.

**The purpose for today's meeting:** To clarify the why and the what of this subcommittee's role. We will discuss how at later meetings.

*If What If is about imagining and How is about doing, the initial Why stage has to do with seeing and understanding. Warren Berger, A More Beautiful Question*

- *To answer why (be creative), it is critical that we step back from doing and knowing.*

**1. Agreements: How do we want to work collaboratively? Neal**

Robert Rules or another system: *We will be more flexible and fluid while respecting that other staff and working group members have something to contribute.*

Chair or facilitator? Rotating? *Neal and Patricia will share responsibilities and rotate being chair*

Setting an agenda: *Submit agenda items to Neal & Patricia. If you want to lead the discussion for a specific item, just let us know.*

Follow-up tasks: *After each meeting, facilitators will send a reminder to working group members with items and when they are due.*

Commissioners w/staff: *We work collaboratively to ensure that we design a process that meets our criteria*

Budget: We design and then create a budget or we have a budget and then design?  
May Revision due in a week; We will need to accept the budget we have AND design with cost not being a barrier. We understand that eventually, we may need to roll components back to fit within the budget.

**2. The following is what working group members (staff and Commissioners) wrote when asked: Why public input?**

- Engagement
- Inclusion - everyone can participate
- Differences: ex - Hispanic community in southern CA can be very different from central CA and/or Northern CA
- It's their (Californian's) process, we were appointed to ensure they are heard
- Fair representation
- One voice - be heard
- No way 14 individuals can know every person's COI
- Empowerment
- Educate Californians on the process and how it impacts them, motivate them to participate
- Public Support by involvement and judicial recognition of input
- Diverse voices representing the people of California
- Different perspectives
- "On the ground" knowledge
- Understanding of the nuances of communities, i.e. the difference between one block from another block or one street difference vs. another street difference
- Accountability to the people of California
- Transparency and trust in the process
- Anyone can participate
- Can't "draw" district lines without COI. W/o public, we are just drawing "pretty lines". Who will be represented where? We need to hear from the public!!!
- To allow for feedback on draft maps
- To allow Californians to describe their communities of interests. To be heard. We all have multiple communities of interest and can be small and extend far as well.
- Ensure all Californians have a voice in the redistricting process
- So the commission will know what is important to Californians when it comes to their representation.
- These are the people's maps, so the people should be able to give input
- To incorporate the voices of hard-to-count communities and let them tell us the stories of their communities.
- To ensure differently-abled persons are fully able to engage.
- When people participate in a process they have a stronger sense of ownership.
- To encourage transparency
- To empower communities
- To understand communities:
  - What makes it a community.
  - What unites them.

- What makes them unique.
- Then the districts can be represented by the appropriate elected officials.
- Understand the choices and trade-offs
- COI can't be done by technology

In summary: the people of CA's engagement in the process is critical.  
We (the CRC) can't do this work without the public.

### 3. Clarify Purpose & Objectives: of each of the public phases

Name of phase (timeline)

- components
  - Role of public input

The public input phases include:

- ii. Public education (Winter & Spring)
  - Update the redistricting Overview presentation with an expanded COI component
    - Community helps with raising awareness including inviting us to present and asks clarifying questions
- iii. Community Mapping (Spring, Summer, & Fall)
  - COI public sessions with Commissioners (Design TBD)
  - Communities of Interest
    - COI Tool
    - Public testimony via mail, email, call, or statement during a CRC public meeting
  - Voter Rights Act
    - Communities can help us identify areas where we may be able to apply VRA
  - Racial Polarized Voting
    - Communities can help us identify areas where we need to look at RPV
- iv. District Line drawing w/census data and COI (Fall after Census data is ready)
  - Hybrid Virtual/Live Design TBD
    - The public can provide feedback on the district lines being drawn by CRC
- v. Community groups presentations & unity maps (Timing & Design TBD)

Lots of discussion on this topic. Does this give the input from these groups more weight? How do we decide what qualifies as a group to participate in this approach? Maybe there are two different types of input from community groups: unity community maps that show communities of interest and then unity redistricting maps that suggest how specific districts should be drawn. Bringing in community groups to get their perspective on this approach. Something to bring back to the full commission to decide if we want to do this. Update: Patricia & Neal met with XXX to discuss how best to reach a mutual understanding of this process/phase.

vi. Draft district maps (Timing and Design TBD)

A good discussion here wondering when does public input on Communities of Interest stops? Do we stop taking COI input before the first maps are drawn? Are we just taking feedback on the maps after the first map is drawn? Need to develop a timeline and be clear with the public. Do we give the public some time after the census data comes out to develop suggested redistricting maps? A week or two maybe? Do we have enough time to do that?

Update: Interviewees for Litigation Counsel suggested that we give the public some time to do this.

- First Draft
  - The public can provide feedback on the draft
- Second Draft
  - The public can provide feedback on the draft

**ACTION REQUIRED: CRC Hosted Redistricting Basic Session**

- All agreed that a priority is to have these sessions focused on the CRC's twelve languages
- Can we dub the Commissioner presentation video into the 12 languages instead of having Commissioners do a presentation live?
- Can we use social media live to play the videos and then respond to the comments or questions that are posted?

Next step: Staff will take the input from the working group and present scenarios at CRC business meeting or the next working group meeting so Commissioners can make a final decision.

**4. What information do we need to help us be creative and effective?**

Research on best practice best practices for interpretation during online public meetings- Patricia V-T

Budget baseline: to know where we are making choices - Neal

Understanding of group facilitated community maps and unity mapping - Patricia S. and Neal

Legal parameters both charter and Bagley Keene - Neal

Line Drawing Contract parameters - Jane

How technology can help our design (when needed)

Public input -- no callers

**Questions that came up during our Design session**

- What will the line drawing session from November - December look like?
- If a member misses a COI area, can they participate in another session even if the focus is not their zone/county?
- Will collecting COIs and line drawing be separate?
- Will there be a security check-in system? How will CRC know that individuals are from the area/region they say they are?

- What criteria is the CRC looking for in regards to COIs?
- What is it we want from the public at each phase? We can build with the end in sight
- What is community? What makes them eligible to be a community of interest?
- How do we clearly describe the whole process and how the public can engage?
- What can we use as a time-line?
- When is the right time for community groups to share their maps & unity maps?
- How do we want to collect data?
- What are the different types of inputs we need from communities?
- How do we manage line drawing and community input?
- How is community input part of the VRA & RPV process?
- How do we make sure that all data received is equitable?
- Do we need to look at the process as being linear? Can we receive any type of input at any time and hold it till we need it (ie district maps submitted during community mapping)
- We will continually receive community input. What will be the cut-off times so we can process the information we received? This is for all line drawing sessions
- If a group facilitates a COI with the input of many people instead and an individual submits a COI -- do we weigh them both the same?
- How do the different organizations work together to create the Unity Map?

## **A Few Examples of How Community & Community of Interest Have Been Described For the Public**

Defining a community:

<http://museumtwo.blogspot.com/2015/04/how-do-you-define-community.html>

Here is an example of how Sacramento defined it 2011:

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/GIS/RedistrictingDocs/RedistrictingPramer4-CommunitiesofInterest.pdf?la=en>

From Michigan: <https://votersnotpoliticians.com/coi/>

Their slide deck:

[https://votersnotpoliticians.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Copy-of-1\\_31\\_20Copy-of-COI-SlideDeck\\_-\\_Revised-on-1\\_26\\_20-FINAL-Make\\_A\\_Copy.pdf](https://votersnotpoliticians.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Copy-of-1_31_20Copy-of-COI-SlideDeck_-_Revised-on-1_26_20-FINAL-Make_A_Copy.pdf)

Does a good job on COI: slides 34 to 36

Common Cause: Community Mapping (train the trainer workshop)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VU47jYyVGVM>

- Kathy Fong from Common Cause does a great job starting at 2:29
- Their Culture; Concerns; Counts is good
- Starting at 15:00 it may be helpful to watch to define roles for staff/Commissioners

Common Cause Ohio Train-the-Trainer on community mapping

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyJD-EHZuEs>

**Next meeting: April 1 at 2 pm (after the CRC business) & April 6 from 2:00 to 3:30.**