

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission:Commissioners

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Neal Fornaciari, Vice Chair
Isra Ahmad
Jane Andersen
Alicia Fernandez
J. Ray Kennedy
Sara Sadhwani
Patricia Sinay
Derric H. Taylor
Pedro Toledo
Trena Turner
Russell Yee

Staff

Alvaro E. Hernandez, Executive Director
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant
Anthony Pane, Chief Counsel
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel
Fredy Ceja, Communications Director
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors

Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

Also PresentPublic Comment

Renee Westa-Lusk
(Unidentified)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1 Wednesday, July 28, 2021

9:30 a.m.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Welcome, everyone.
3 Welcome, California to today's California Citizens
4 Redistricting Commission Business Meeting. We have to make
5 that distinction since we've been having the Public Input
6 Meetings. Today is July 28th, and we are looking forward
7 to a full agenda and, also, to hearing updates and also
8 hearing from Californians on any comments that you may have
9 about what we may be discussing.

10 All right. Shall we go ahead and take roll,
11 Ravi.

12 MR. SINGH: Yes, Chair. Commissioner Andersen.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

14 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Present.

16 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.

17 (No audible reply.)

18 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

20 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons.

21 (No audible reply)

22 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

24 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

4 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

5 (No audible reply.)

6 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Turner.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

8 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vasquez.

9 (No audible reply.)

10 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

12 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad.

13 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

14 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Here.

16 MR. SINGH: You have a quorum, Chair.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, excellent. Thank

18 you, everyone, for being here. Let's go ahead. Let's

19 start with public comment on items that are not on the

20 agenda or just general public comment. Katy.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize

22 transparency and public participation in our process, the

23 Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone.

24 To call in dial the telephone number provided on

25 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247 for this meeting.

1 When prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number
2 provided on the livestream feed, it is 88653898419 for this
3 meeting.

4 When prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply
5 press the pound key.

6 Once you have dialed in you'll be placed in a
7 queue. To indicate you wish to comment please press star
8 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

9 When it is your turn to speak you will hear a
10 message that says, "The host would like you to talk," and
11 to "press star six to speak." If you would like to give
12 your name, please state and spell it for the record.
13 You're not required to provide you name to give public
14 comment.

15 Please make sure to mute your computer or
16 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion
17 during your call.

18 Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
19 when it is your turn to speak, and again, please turn down
20 the livestream volume.

21 We do not have any callers at this time, Chair.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. We'll go ahead and
23 we'll give the livestream a moment to finish the
24 instructions and finish the stream. In the meantime, we'll
25 just hold tight for a couple minutes.

1 (Pause)

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The instructions are
3 complete on the stream, Chair. We do not have any callers
4 at this time.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. Hopefully,
6 no one is having problems getting in, but in the meantime,
7 we'll go ahead and keep moving on with our agenda.

8 Let's go ahead and go to Director reports next,
9 and starting with the Executive Directors Report. Director
10 Hernandez.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair.
12 Good morning, everyone.

13 Want to let you all know that we are going to
14 have some additional recommendations for staff hiring
15 today. That will come forward by the Director of
16 Communication, as well as the Director of Outreach. So,
17 they'll be bringing forth two of those -- some additional
18 names for that.

19 I also want to talk about our budget. We finally
20 have a document for you guys to review. I apologize for
21 not having it up sooner. My mistake on that.

22 So, we have two documents. One is the
23 appropriation document and one of them is the expenditure
24 document.

25 So, the appropriation document basically outlines

1 the different appropriations that we've received in the
2 course of the Commission since 2019. You'll see that
3 information, the Budget Act of 2019, Budget Act of 2020,
4 Budget Act of 2021. That was the most recent one where we
5 did the May revised and asked for the additional funding.

6 So, if you look at the second document, which is
7 the expenditures document, and I've sent that out to the
8 Commissioners as well. It is posted on our website for
9 those who wish to take a look at it as well.

10 You'll see that the expenditures that we have for
11 the different categories that we've listed here. We are at
12 salaries, benefits, a million one, Commissioner per diem
13 travel 655,000, videography contract, you have that
14 283,000, the legal services, we don't have anything yet.
15 We haven't received invoices.

16 So, this is as of the 6-30, which is the end of
17 the year, the end of the fiscal year information. We're
18 still going to be receiving information for July and I
19 believe that will reflect a larger portion of the
20 expenditures because we've hired additional staff, we have
21 the legal services on board as well, and so, we've had a
22 number of COI meetings in July, so there's a lot more
23 activity that's happened in July that will show an increase
24 in our overall expenditures.

25 So, I wanted to share that with you. I'm sure

1 that you'll have some questions. I want to also allow
2 Commissioner Fernandez to add any additional information
3 she'd like to share.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Yes, and I
5 apologize for sending this out. We wanted it earlier, but
6 unfortunately we were still working on the numbers and
7 still working on the format. We wanted to try to make it
8 as easily understandable as possible.

9 And I just wanted to make one comment regarding
10 the expenditures. As you may know or may not know, there's
11 normally a one-month lag in terms of expenditures because
12 the invoicing for many of these services and contracts will
13 come the month after the services are provided, and the
14 same is true for commissioner per diem and travel. It
15 won't be reflected until that information is submitted from
16 the commissioners and actually posted, paid and posted to
17 the FIS/Cal system.

18 Is there anything else, Commissioner Fornaciari?
19 Where is he? He's not here, okay. Oh, I see, he left me
20 to fend for myself. Got it. Just kidding.

21 (inaudible)

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think that was it.
23 Thank you.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: So, our goal is to
25 report on this regularly so that you can see where we are

1 with things. And then, you know, there will be some
2 additional requests that we may make to the Legislature and
3 the Department of Finance for additional funding when
4 necessary.

5 We'll be looking at our overall expenditures and
6 our overall plan, given the recent changes from going back
7 to virtual versus the in-person for August. So, we have to
8 go back and look at our overall projections and see where
9 we are with everything.

10 So, okay. Moving on, we have contracts. I
11 believe our Director of Communications will be discussing
12 and sharing some of those contracts for outreach activities
13 such as (audio skipped) things like that.

14 Other than that, that's the report for today.
15 Thank you. Any questions?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Looks like Marian has a
17 question or a comment. You're on mute, too.

18 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't see that it's posted.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay. We're going
20 to get that posted. I've sent it over to Fredy, so it
21 might be just a lag in my email to him. I apologize.

22 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: It's up. If you
23 refresh, it should be up.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I don't see any other
25 questions. Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'll be honest. This isn't
2 traditionally how I see budgets or presented budgets to be
3 able to provide oversight and ask good questions. And, so,
4 obviously if the other commissioners are comfortable with
5 this, we'll move forward, but I am more used to be able to
6 see, okay, this is our monthly projections, this is where
7 we are, this is how we -- yeah. Having them in two
8 separate documents is difficult because you have to go back
9 and forth, plus we just received it two minutes before this
10 meeting started. So, having good questions is difficult
11 without having more detailed information and having more
12 time to review.

13 So I'm going -- the only question I can ask is
14 what areas are we overspending and what areas are we
15 underspending, and do we have any concerns. You know, when
16 you say we're going to get this on a regular basis, this is
17 the first time we've gotten it since March, and it's not a
18 whole lot of information, so I'm just curious if my fellow
19 commissioners feel like they have enough to be able to feel
20 comfortable with the oversight of the work we're doing.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair, and thank
23 you for the report. I think what I'd like to have, either
24 as an update or by the next report, is just the percentages
25 showing this is where we are and kind of what was indicated

1 by Commissioner Sinay. What is the percentage? Are we
2 over or under in each of these areas?

3 And I know that might be kind of hard in some of
4 the spaces because, of course, we're going between
5 expectations of virtual and in-person and what have you,
6 but the budget is for a particular time period, maybe even
7 if it's something as simple as this, if we were just
8 dividing it evenly, something to give an idea of this is a
9 flag. We're getting close in this area. Here a particular
10 place that we've had money allotted that we're not spending
11 at all for various reasons or spending a lot slower that
12 can be reallocated to different areas would be helpful.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I'd just like to
16 respond to some of the questions or the comments that have
17 been made.

18 First of all, we weren't able to present this
19 budget information earlier because the Fi\$Cal, it's a new
20 reporting system and it's different than what I was used
21 to, and we have to go kind of like a roundabout way to get
22 the expenditure information, so that's why it took us a
23 while to come up with the format and the information and to
24 validate the information.

25 So, that's one piece of it, but going forward, we

1 do have the format now and we do have the information where
2 to go to get all of information that we need so we can try
3 to provide it on a monthly basis.

4 In terms of the detail, Commissioner Fornaciari
5 and I felt that this was a high enough level for the
6 commissioners as well as the public. We do have access to
7 the detail, but we also felt as the Finance and
8 Administration Subcommittee, we do review the detail, and
9 we thought it was our charge as the Subcommittee to bring
10 forward to the Commission a higher level versus a 30-page
11 document that shows every single expenditure line item,
12 which is how the expenditure information is reported.

13 And in terms of the percentages, yeah, that would
14 be something very easy. We can add just another column
15 probably to the right showing what has been expended so
16 far. I think that would be easier, just showing how much
17 has been expended, like a percentage versus how much still
18 is left. But that should be easy enough to do.

19 I think that was it. Thank you. Great
20 questions.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So, I guess I'm relying on
23 my experience as a schoolboard member, because at the end
24 of the day we're held completely accountable for the full
25 budget so we were given the full expenditures. And it

1 worked out well because sometimes we caught things we
2 didn't, and we also learned about what was happening.

3 You know, I don't -- I'm feeling kind of -- not
4 that I don't trust the subcommittee, but the subcommittee
5 has a lot of power in a way that's been taken kind of --
6 that subcommittees are only the group that recommend to the
7 larger Commission, and the Commissioners are still held
8 responsible for all action.

9 And, so, maybe revisit and think through how more
10 information can be shared because we're all held
11 responsible.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Not seeing any other --
13 okay, Commissioner Toledo.

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I just wanted to thank the
15 subcommittee for the amount of work that it took to make
16 something that is so complex -- I know our budget is pretty
17 complex and put it into this more simple document that
18 allows us to understand our budget.

19 I agree with Commissioner Turner and Sinay about
20 the percentages and just giving us -- letting us know a
21 little bit more about how we're doing, where we're
22 overspending or underspending according to our projections
23 and our goals.

24 And that being said in accordance we should also
25 be able to project, and so, as much as we're able to with

1 the data we have, and I know it's difficult given the
2 technology software issues and also the staff, right, the
3 time and capacity to be able to do that. But as much as
4 we're able to project how we're going to be at -- you know,
5 by the end of the next quarter, the end of the year, et
6 cetera, so that we can plan accordingly. That would be
7 great, but I know how much work it is to work with the
8 budget and to massage the numbers to be able to get them to
9 something as digestible like this. And it's really
10 understandable, and I think it's a good first pass, so,
11 thank you very much.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I would
14 like to suggest that we put this on the agenda -- that we
15 plan to discuss this further at the next meeting. That
16 would give us time to review it further and come up with
17 any additional recommendations that we might have. Thank
18 you.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner
20 Kennedy. Actually, I'd like to then add onto what
21 Commissioner Kennedy said and also what Commissioner Toledo
22 said.

23 First off, I do want to also add my thanks to the
24 Finance and Administration Committee. I know that this is
25 a lot of work, and as Commissioner Toledo has pointed out,

1 it's a lot of work in trying to boil it down to a place
2 where it's still informative but also high level enough
3 that we don't get lost -- too lost in the details.

4 With that said, I do also agree with having a
5 column that indicates over and under budget.

6 And one other thing that I would like to ask that
7 I think would be helpful given if this is format that we
8 are going to agree to go forward. What it looks like is we
9 have basically two-months' worth of budget that is being
10 presented to us. It would be nice to get us -- I know that
11 this is probably going to add some more work, but it would
12 be nice to get a context in which we see the entire year,
13 and then also what the new fiscal year is going forward,
14 because I know that the July numbers are not in, but since
15 it is the beginning of a new fiscal year, it would be also
16 helpful to be able to just compare, you know, the previous
17 years' fiscal years to the current fiscal year at least
18 once for perhaps this next meeting that we'll have, just so
19 that we get a picture of the entire year. I think just the
20 two months is also a little hard to really understand where
21 we are.

22 We got the other budget, but I will say that I do
23 also appreciate this budget, although I understand what
24 Commissioner Sinay is saying as well, too. But at least
25 this gives most of us, you know, high level enough

1 information that we can at least start to ask questions if
2 we need to.

3 Anyone else with comments? Not seeing anyone
4 else. Okay. Thank you Director Hernandez, and thank you
5 to the Finance and Administration Committee.

6 We will move on to the next item on our agenda
7 which is the Communications Director's report.

8 MR. CEJA: Thank you, Chair. Hello,
9 commissioners.

10 I wanted to start off by giving you an update on
11 what's going on with the bids for radio and billboard
12 advertising. We did receive bids for zones E, F, and G
13 coupled together, H, J coupled together, and I, K coupled
14 together. Those are in the hands of our administrator.
15 They've been scored and recommendations have been made, so
16 we're dealing with the contracting aspect. They need to go
17 to OLS for approval.

18 We're still waiting to get a second bid for zones
19 A, B, B, which were coupled together, and zone C. We
20 should be getting those second bids today, and then we'll
21 forward the recommendation again to the administrator to
22 get those going.

23 Our bids for social media advertising and for
24 newspaper advertisements should be coming in today as well,
25 so I'm going to hold up until I have everything together in

1 a complete picture before I present it to you so that you
2 can see who is going to be providing those services.

3 I also want to report out that we interviewed for
4 the Communications Coordinator position. We had four
5 qualified candidates and one really stood out, so we
6 forwarded the recommendation to the Admin. and Finance
7 Committee, and we hope that they'll be moving forward with
8 the recommendation today.

9 We're shooting for an August 10th start date, and
10 again, this position will be solely responsible for
11 updating the website, helping with graphics and social
12 media. We have a lot to update on the website and it's
13 getting busier and busier as we have to upload documents
14 and keep that up to date.

15 For the social media report that was posted on
16 line, we're starting to see huge numbers, increases and
17 engagement, as well as our website. For Facebook we have
18 1,040 likes now. We've had 83,340 people reached in the
19 past week.

20 As far as Instagram, we have 208 followers now.
21 We've had a reach of 19,100. That's up by 117 percent.

22 Twitter is more active. It has 1,587 followers,
23 so people are looking at what we're posting, and we've had
24 8,721 profile visits in the last month. That's up by 45
25 percent.

1 LinkedIn, we've had 265 followers. Again, that
2 was increased when we posted the Communications Coordinator
3 position on there.

4 And then YouTube still has 62 subscribers, but
5 we've had 1,802 views that are videos. So, people are
6 starting to poke around and look at what we're putting out.

7 We hope to, once we have another staff person
8 added to the team, to be dishing out more content so that
9 we can get folks engaged.

10 NationBuilder. Our database has grown again. I
11 actually got a bill in our email saying, hey,
12 congratulations. You have more people added to your
13 database. Here's your new bill.

14 We have 13,362 people in our database now, so it
15 has grown by about 2,000 people. So every day I get pings
16 on my email saying this presenter has been added to your
17 database, so it's just a testament of how much we're
18 growing.

19 And once we start doing the advertisements on
20 radio, billboard, social media, you'll see those numbers
21 increase dramatically.

22 This month, July, 2021, we've received 131 COI
23 email submissions, in addition to whatever has come into
24 through the COI database, COI tool database. These are
25 emails that we are receiving in-house. So, we have 131 to

1 add onto the other COI totals.

2 And as far as interviews, the Commission was
3 mentioned over the past week in "The Sun," in "Cal matters,"
4 "Citizen Journal," "VC Reporter," "Kion," "NAPA Valley
5 Register," and the "Los Angeles Sentinel."

6 And that's my report for today.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. Let me just see
8 if there's any clarifications. Director Ceja, I have a
9 couple of clarifications for you. You mentioned that you
10 received bids. I didn't hear where zone K fell in your
11 bids. Is it one that you received, or is it part of the
12 waiting?

13 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yeah. So, we've
14 received bids and have -- recommended contractors for zones
15 E on itself, or on its own, for zone F and G coupled
16 together, for zone H, J coupled together and I, K. And
17 we're still waiting for one more bid that we can present,
18 because we need two, for zones A, B, B that were coupled
19 together and Zone C alone. And those should be coming in
20 today.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. And just one other
22 clarification. You mentioned 131 COI inputs that you
23 received through emails; is that correct, through the
24 website?

25 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yes.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Just wanted to make that
2 clarification, make sure I heard that correctly.

3 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: And you'll see
4 those on the website very shortly.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, excellent. Thank you.

6 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: They're being
7 uploaded as we speak.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Okay. So, anyone
9 who is listening, if they're curious they can go to the
10 website and at least poke around on those received inputs
11 then. Okay, excellent. Thank you.

12 Let's go ahead and go to the Outreach Director's
13 report.

14 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Hi, good morning,
15 commissioners and the public.

16 I wanted to highlight again that we have released
17 a digital toolkit. It's on our website, and it includes
18 background information about the Commission, ways to
19 participate in the process and how stakeholders can help
20 spread the word, whether through social media, through an
21 email newsletter on their website and more, and that's in
22 our outreach materials on our website.

23 We want to highlight some of the last COI Input
24 Meetings that the Commission held. On July 22nd the
25 Commission hosted a Communities of Interest Input Meeting

1 focusing on Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa
2 Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura counties. There were 47
3 speakers in total. The majority were focused on Ventura
4 County. However, the Commission did hear from all the
5 counties that the meeting was focused on.

6 Also, on July 24th the Commission held a
7 Communities of Interest Input Meeting focused on Orange
8 County, which is J. There were 26 speakers in total. The
9 majority of the speakers focused on OC coastal cities, and
10 some callers discussed Westminster, Fountain Valley, Midway
11 City. Some gave input on Irvine.

12 And I also wanted to highlight upcoming
13 Communities of Interest Input Meetings that the Commission
14 is hosting.

15 Tomorrow, on July 29th, the Commission will be
16 hosting a Communities of Interest Input Meeting focused on
17 Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo,
18 Santa Clara, Solano and surrounding communities. Anyone in
19 California is welcome to provide input during this meeting.
20 It will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Registration has closed.
21 However, the public can call into the meeting the day of.
22 We'll be sending out an email blast today which also
23 includes the call-in information, which is 877-853-5247,
24 and the passcode is 85126633433. This information will be
25 posted on the livestream for the COI input meeting, and

1 we've been updating our social media the day before the
2 meeting with the call-in information as well. For this
3 meeting we have nine people registered, so we're really
4 encouraging the Commissioners to help spread the word and
5 the public that are tuned in. And I think I noted the
6 Communications Team will be sending out an email blast
7 today.

8 On 7-30 the Commission will hold a COI Input
9 Meeting focused on zone H, which is L.A. County, and the
10 meeting is from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. There is 35 people
11 registered for the meeting, and the registration closes
12 today at 5:00 p.m.

13 We did get a request for Spanish interpretation,
14 so we will have an interpreter on the line for that
15 meeting.

16 And on Saturday, July 31st, the Commission will
17 hold a Community of Interest Meeting focused on Zone I,
18 which is San Bernardino and Riverside Counties from 10:00
19 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There's 43 people registered, and the
20 registration is actually now full for that meeting, but the
21 public is still welcome to call into the meeting the day
22 during the meeting, and the call-in information will be on
23 the livestream as well.

24 The next COI Input Meetings after that include
25 August 4th and August 9th, as well as numerous more

1 throughout the month of August and September.

2 All of the information about the upcoming
3 Communities of Interest Meetings are available on our
4 website on the meetings tab
5 www.wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings.

6 Additionally, we've posted an updated flyer for
7 all upcoming COI input meetings in the outreach materials
8 section of the website. The flyer does reflect the four-
9 hour meeting times for August, as well as information about
10 language access.

11 The Commission will be providing automatic
12 interpretation in Spanish for all of the August and early
13 September COI Input Meetings, and have also identified one
14 meeting each for the additional 11 languages that the
15 Commission prioritized to provide automatic interpretation
16 on an audio line and to have an interpreter on the meeting.

17 As I've mentioned in the past, all other requests
18 for interpretation of public input must be submitted five
19 business days prior to the meeting, and can be submitted by
20 email at interpreter.request@CRC.CA.gov. on the
21 registration form for the COI input meeting, or by calling
22 our offices at 916-323-0323.

23 All of this information I just highlighted is on
24 our website on the meetings page and also on the flyer for
25 the COI Input Meetings.

1 Everything is moving forward to begin our
2 automatic interpretation for the August 4th meeting. And
3 staff are working on procedures and staff to implement the
4 additional language support.

5 We've also sent the flyer for our COI Input
6 Meeting to the language vendor for interpretation into the
7 12 languages and hope to have that back soon.

8 And also just want to highlight at last week's
9 Commission meeting the Commission voted to continue these
10 meetings virtually. The COI Input Meetings are not the
11 only way that the public can share their community of
12 interest with the Commission. You can also visit
13 drawmycacommunity.org to share your communities of interest
14 with the Commission, or you can submit public input or
15 comment to the Commission by emailing
16 Voter'sFirstAct@CRC.ca.gov or mailing our offices at 721
17 Capitol Mall, 3260 Sacramento, California, 95814.

18 The COI tool now has 699 COIs submitted by
19 members of the public which is an increase of 75
20 submissions in the last week. Additionally, the line
21 drawers have submitted a total of 343 COIs which are
22 digitized from the Public Input Meetings.

23 In the last week there was also two COIs
24 submitted in Spanish. And as I've highlighted in the past,
25 the Statewide Data Base has created short video tutorials

1 in English on the COI tool and some of the different steps
2 in the process. They have now released a few videos in
3 Spanish and will have more coming soon in other languages,
4 and these are available on Statewide Database YouTube
5 channel.

6 Additionally, this last week outreach staff have
7 followed up with venues they had either secured or
8 communicated with for potential hybrid COI input meetings
9 to thank them and to notify them that the Commission will
10 continue meeting virtually but may circle back this fall.
11 And we've also shared the digital toolkit and really
12 encourage those entities to continue to engage in the
13 process through our virtual COI input meeting or other ways
14 the public can participate.

15 Outreach staff has also been focused on
16 interviewing field staff and onboarding recent staff hires
17 that the Commission approved last week and has been helping
18 to lead this effort. Our Northern California field staff,
19 Vanessa Greer, began her work last week and is off to a
20 running start helping us with our outreach tool and
21 Airtable to track contacts.

22 Our Southern California field staff focused on
23 the I and K will begin this week, and we have two
24 additional field staff that we have recommended to the
25 Admin. and Finance Subcommittee for the Central California

1 field staff and the So. Cal. field staff focus on zone H
2 and J, so I will defer to that subcommittee when they're
3 ready to provide the recommendations to the full
4 Commission.

5 The outreach team has continued to focus on
6 outreach for upcoming COI Input Meetings and really also
7 highlighting the various ways to participate in the
8 process, including the COI tool.

9 At the local and statewide level we're focusing
10 on a broad range of entities to help amplify the Commission
11 and looking at other stakeholders, including safe
12 communities through banks, local business chambers and
13 broadening to other types of entities, in addition to local
14 governments and other CBOs that the Commission has engaged
15 with.

16 We also have an update from Frank Pisi on the
17 curriculum for 11th and 12th graders on redistricting which
18 is pretty much finalized. They'll be providing curriculum
19 and resources on redistricting two districts and are
20 highlighting Constitution Day on September 17th with
21 additional resources as well as a curriculum that will be
22 going out, and I'll provide more of an update on that.

23 And that was my report.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you, Director
25 Kaplan. Any questions? Okay, seeing none, let's go ahead

1 and let's move on to Chief Counsel's report.

2 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Thank you, Chair. Good
3 morning, Commission.

4 Just a quick personnel update. I briefly
5 mentioned at the last Commission meeting that the
6 finalization for two retired annuitants. One was
7 finalized; the other one was still in limbo.
8 Unfortunately, the one that was still in limbo, the
9 candidate has withdrawn, so we don't anticipate a
10 replacement at this time.

11 So Tim Treichel, who has been working with us
12 and Marian for at least the last few weeks, is going to be
13 not only addressing contract issues, but also addressing
14 conflicts of interest, and I've already had him start
15 working on a process that we're going to hopefully
16 implement here soon with all of you on regular sort of
17 periodic conflicts checks.

18 So, I think that's all I have on the personnel
19 update, so for purposes of going forward it will be the
20 three of us, myself, Marian and Tim. And I will at least
21 over email or at least over a video meeting have a chance
22 to formally introduce him. It can't be in person right
23 now, but at least virtually in the near future.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you so much.
25 Let's go ahead and let's move on. I don't see any

1 questions from anybody so far. All right.

2 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: I think Commissioner Kennedy
3 has a question.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.
5 Commissioner Kennedy.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Chief
7 Counsel, I was just wondering if you would be updating us
8 on the progress of Strumwasser, Woocher in preparing the
9 petition to the Supreme Court, or if that's going to come
10 from somewhere else.

11 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Sure, happy to give you at
12 least a little bit of an update. Right now we don't have
13 an exact timeline yet, but they are still working on that
14 direction from the Commission. When I have a little bit
15 more specificity for you all, I would imagine either myself
16 or Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner Toledo will be
17 able to report back on that, that they are working on that
18 direction from you all from before.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So, nothing has been submitted
20 yet?

21 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Correct.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Just to make sure.
23 Okay, thank you. Okay. It looks like we are at the end of
24 all of our director reports. Let's go ahead. Let's take
25 public comment on director reports only. Katy.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The Commission is now
2 taking public comment on the director reports agenda items.
3 To give comment please call 877-853-5247 and enter the
4 meeting I.D. number, 88653898419 for this meeting.

5 Once you have dialed in, please press star nine
6 to enter the comment queue. The full caller instructions
7 have been read previously in this meeting and are provided
8 in full on the livestream landing page.

9 And we do not have any callers at this time,
10 Chair.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Let's just hold tight for a
12 minute just in case somebody needs some time to call in. I
13 will say that in the meantime we will be -- I just want to
14 give a heads up to the Government Affairs and Census
15 Committee that you will be up next. I'll just wait a few
16 more seconds.

17 And Commissioner Toledo or Sadhwani I believe,
18 you'll be up next, and which one of you will be giving the
19 report?

20 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Either of us can. I mean
21 we don't have much to report at this point.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So, there's no significant
24 updates that I'm aware of.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Let's go on to

1 Agenda Item 4B, Finance and Administration. Commissioner
2 Fernandez and Fornaciari.

3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Sure. I'll go head
4 this time. Sorry I was -- I apologize for being late and
5 missing the beginning of the budget discussion, but thank
6 you all for your feedback. We will continue to work on
7 that and fine tune it.

8 So, we have a couple of things to talk about, the
9 travel policy and the hires, so why don't we start with the
10 discussions of the hires.

11 So, I'll start with, Fredy, if you could just
12 kind of briefly summarize the qualifications, the
13 expectations and the qualifications for the candidate, that
14 would be great.

15 COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yes, thank you so
16 much. So, as I mentioned earlier, we did interview four
17 individuals for the Communications Coordinator position.
18 The candidate that we are moving forward had extensive
19 experience working with Nationbuilder, which was a must,
20 but has also been working for outreach organizations in Los
21 Angeles, mainly with the -- with CARECEN, Central American
22 Resource Education Network in Los Angeles, an organization
23 much like CHIRLA, has been working on immigration advocacy,
24 and making sure they're engaging those hard-to-reach
25 populations that are either monolingual or immigrant

1 populations in Los Angeles. But not just in Los Angeles,
2 the reach is nationwide, so a lot of the values there and
3 knowledge skills and abilities aligned with the
4 requirements for the position. He has worked on updating
5 their website with Nationbuilder, which was amazing, has
6 written blogs, newsletter content, and has updated social
7 media channels and is an avid user of social media and can
8 do social media graphics which is also helpful.

9 So, I'm very excited to bring this person on
10 board so that we can have a stronger communications team,
11 like I mentioned earlier, be able to push out more content
12 to engage California.

13 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, Fredy. And then
14 I'll ask Marcy to go ahead. Thank you.

15 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you. We are
16 recommending two candidates for the field staff positions.
17 These are part-time positions supporting the field leads
18 and outreach staff with outreach and administrative efforts
19 related to COI Input Meetings and other outreach.

20 The candidate for the So. Cal. field staff would
21 cover zone H and J. This candidate comes to the Commission
22 after more than 10 years in the field of health care and
23 health care administration. His work included a great deal
24 of database experience, which will help the outreach team
25 in its support, the Commission's work and also direct

1 interactions with the public and external stakeholders.
2 His customer service and public facing program coordination
3 experience are part of his more than two years at UCLA's
4 Operation Mend where he worked as a part military veteran
5 and also gained that experience during his four years as a
6 critical person pleading for a cultural center in Sylmar,
7 California.

8 The candidate for central California field staff
9 is a recent graduate of the University of California,
10 Davis, where she was on the Dean's honor roll and received
11 her Bachelors of Arts in international relations. She has
12 significant office experience and customer service
13 experience supporting aspects of a landscaping business.
14 She also completed an exciting internship with the Federal
15 Deposit Insurance Corporation as a legislative affairs
16 intern. And during her time in D.C. she assisted with
17 research, Congressional presentations and recordkeeping.

18 Both of these candidates are local to the area
19 where they will be working as well. Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, Marcy. So,
21 Commissioner Fernandez and myself have reviewed the resumes
22 and the job postings for all three of these jobs, and
23 support the hiring of these candidates to help out and
24 throughout our staff roles. So, we would like to make a
25 motion to hire the proposed candidates.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you. Any
2 discussion? Commissioner Fernandez.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I was going to second
4 the motion, and if we can, if you don't mind, Commissioner
5 Fornaciari, we'll actually name the positions,
6 Communications Coordinator and Field Staff on the motion if
7 that's okay.

8 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, thank you.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
10 Fernandez. Forgot about the second.

11 Any discussion? And I do want to note that we do
12 have a person who did call in to make public comment. It
13 might have been that I went too fast to the report, so I
14 will take general public comments in addition to when we go
15 to public comment on this motion. So, I just want to give
16 everybody a heads up.

17 All right. Seeing no other hands up, okay, we
18 will go ahead and go to public comment on this particular
19 motion. Katy, can you also just -- we'll also take the
20 caller that called in on the previous one, too.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The
22 Commission will now take public comment for the motion on
23 the floor and also the public comment for the previous
24 agenda items, I would assume, and general public comment at
25 this time.

1 To give comment please call 877-853-5247 and
2 enter the meeting I.D. number 88653898419 for this meeting.

3 Once you have dialed in, please press star nine
4 to enter the comment queue.

5 The full call-in instructions have been read
6 previously in the meeting and are provided in full on the
7 livestream landing page.

8 And at this time we do have a caller with the
9 last four 2829. If you will please follow the prompts to
10 unmute. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

11 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Hello, Commissioners. This is
12 Renee Westa-Lusk. I'm calling mainly because I thought
13 maybe the general legal counsel would get an update on the
14 petition to the California Supreme Court to get an order.
15 This motion was made back on your -- I'm sorry -- July 13th
16 business meeting. What is their progress in communicating
17 with the California Supreme Court? Have they already
18 ruled? I haven't heard anything. I'd like some update on
19 that. Thank you.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Ms. Westa-Lusk.
21 Yes, Chief Counsel Pane did give an update very briefly at
22 the end of his report. He mentioned that our counsel,
23 Strumwasser, Woocher -- I think I may have butchered their
24 name -- is in the process of preparing the petition to the
25 Supreme Court, but nothing has been submitted to the

1 California Supreme Court yet.

2 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. I heard the law firm
3 mentioned, but I didn't understand that it was pertaining
4 to the Supreme Court order.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

6 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay, okay.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

8 MS. WESTA-LUSK: All right. Thank you.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for calling and
10 asking. Okay, Katy.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was all of
12 our public comment at this time, Chair.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Seeing no other callers,
14 and I believe that the instructions have had plenty of time
15 now to have been read off and streamed on the livestream.
16 Director Hernandez, shall we go ahead and go to the motion
17 and the vote.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Yes. Let's check
19 the motion for spelling. Hopefully, you'll catch the one I
20 put in there purposely, wink, wink.

21 So, the motion is to approve recommended
22 candidates for the Communication Coordinator and the two
23 Field Support Staff. Yes, all right, the Communication
24 Coordinator and the two Field Support Staff.

25 Motion was made by Commissioner Fornaciari,

1 seconded by Commissioner Fernandez.

2 If that looks correct, I'll go ahead and proceed
3 with the vote.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, let's go ahead.

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Very well.

6 Commissioner Ahmad.

7 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
9 Akutagawa.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
12 Andersen.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
15 Fernandez.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
18 Fornaciari.

19 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

21 Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le
24 Mons.

25 (No audible reply)

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
2 Sadhwani.
3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.
4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
5 Sinay.
6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.
7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
8 Taylor.
9 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
11 Toledo.
12 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.
13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
14 Turner.
15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah.
16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
17 Vasquez.
18 (No audible reply.)
19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee.
20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.
22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Excellent. Thank you very
23 much. Thank you to the Finance and Administration
24 Committee on that work. I do know that you have one more
25 item that you're presenting.

1 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, the draft travel
2 policy.

3 I want to start out by thanking Commissioner
4 Fernandez for all of her hard work in getting this document
5 distilled down. It started at about a 15-, 16-, 17-page
6 document, and what we tried to do is to distill it down to
7 a resource for the Commissioners and staff to use to
8 understand, you know, how to do travel, you know, in the
9 context of the State of California and not include all of
10 the gory details of the rules, but just how those rules
11 apply to the Commission.

12 So, you can see on the first page we have 10
13 scenarios here for traveling, and normally travel is
14 supposed to be, you know, approved on a case-by-case basis,
15 but we thought that for the first six scenarios, you know,
16 that they should be just blanket approval for those six
17 scenarios so we don't -- every time somebody travels we
18 don't have to go through the approval process. And those
19 are basic just Commissioner Travels, staff traveling to
20 meetings. Hopefully, we'll be having in-person live
21 meetings, but it also covers Commissioners traveling to
22 Sacramento for meetings and to other places.

23 The third bullet was, you know, we had had
24 discussions about potentially, you know, having gatherings
25 of Commissioners, maybe, you know, in southern California

1 at some location where Commissioners might all get together
2 and tune into a meeting. So, we wanted to include that in
3 case, you know, that happens.

4 Then the final four, one is if Commissioners have
5 to travel litigation-related travel, and we thought that
6 would be approved by the Chief Counsel. And then the final
7 instances would be approved by the current Chair. So, if a
8 commissioner has to travel for a media-related appearance,
9 or education, or advocacy.

10 And then the final example was part of the
11 discussion that we had last week about traveling around
12 California to familiarize folks with parts of the state.

13 And, you know, we met -- Commissioner Fernandez
14 and I met with Director Hernandez and Chief Counsel to talk
15 about this and what that might look like. And, you know,
16 we thought of a couple of examples maybe that might be an
17 example of what this might look like.

18 For instance, if a commissioner wanted to drive
19 up 395 and see what, you know, it looked like on that side
20 of the Sierra, and then cross the Sierra right down the
21 valley to familiarize themselves with that, you know, we
22 got specific feedback or input on that topic, but many of
23 us, I imagine, have not been in that part of California,
24 and so to familiarize ourselves with that kind of thing or,
25 you know, I mean, so travel related to input or

1 clarification on the input would receive I think what we're
2 thinking would be appropriate in that context.

3 I mean, just taking a week to travel around
4 California, you know, may or may not be appropriate unless
5 it's specifically related to, you know, input is what we
6 were thinking in that context, but we want to bring this
7 forward to talk about that and those scenarios and what
8 that might look like. I don't -- I mean I think the rest
9 of it is kind of self-explanatory, so I don't know if,
10 Commissioner Fernandez, if you have anything else you'd
11 like to add.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. Thank you so much.
13 You covered it really well. Again, these are just
14 scenarios that Commissioner Fornaciari, Executive Director
15 Hernandez and Chief Counsel Pane, that's what we came up
16 with. There may be other scenarios. I think by the tenth
17 time that we had reviewed the document our brains might
18 have been a little fried.

19 But anyway, so what we tried to do is as
20 Commissioner Fornaciari said, we just tried to really
21 tailor it down to something that hopefully would be easier
22 for everyone to understand the process, and then we also
23 included links because the per diem rates and specific
24 requirements for maybe, I don't know, a certain scenario or
25 situation it will actually take you to the travel policy

1 that the State has.

2 So, after we put it out I did find just a couple
3 of edits that I'll fix before we move forward, but if
4 there's any questions.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. So, Commissioner
6 Kennedy and then Commissioner Turner.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Just a
8 couple of questions or thoughts to start with.

9 First of all, on number seven I would think that
10 we would drop "or legal representation," and leave this
11 fully in the hands of Chief Counsel. I mean other legal
12 representation can request or recommend to the Chief
13 Counsel, but since Chief Counsel is overseeing all of the
14 legal work, I would be more comfortable with having that
15 fully in the hands of Chief Counsel.

16 Also, on the last three, you know, the Chair
17 rotates and it's not always clear to everybody when the
18 Chair is rotating and so forth, and there could be
19 differences in interpretation and applications from one
20 Chair to another. I almost think it would be, you know,
21 more consistent to have these last three approved by Admin.
22 and Finance or some person or combination of people that is
23 constant from month to month.

24 Method of travel, and this is something that I
25 encountered last year when traveling up to Sacramento for

1 the first meeting of the first eight, you know. There was
2 a question of, you know, COVID and health and so forth, so,
3 yeah, I guess having in the best interest of the state, but
4 we also want to make sure it's in the best interest of the
5 traveler's health. Maybe that can be assumed to fall under
6 the best interest of the state, but, you know, I drove
7 because I was simply not comfortable flying at that point.
8 There are also issues of even getting from Palm Springs.
9 We will later this year have a nonstop to Sacramento, but
10 we didn't and trying to come up with a schedule that worked
11 was very, very difficult. So, in the end the travel by
12 rental car was approved. So, I just want to make sure that
13 we're taking into account the health of commissioners,
14 staff in this policy.

15 On receipts for meals and incidentals, you know,
16 I've worked for any number of organizations that have had
17 any number of policies, but I don't think I've ever seen a
18 requirement of employees having to produce receipts
19 substantiating amounts claimed within established per diem
20 rates at some unknown future date. What's the retention
21 period for this? That just struck me as a little
22 excessive. You know, clearly if there's something in
23 excess of the per diem rate, if you're claiming an expense
24 for a group of people, you know, those sorts of things, and
25 we can have a clear retention period on it, that would be

1 fine. But retaining receipts for some unknown period for
2 claims that fall within the per diem -- established per
3 diem rates just doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense.

4 I may have some more later, but that's what I
5 wanted to start here. Thank you.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you,
7 Commissioner Kennedy. Commissioner Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. So, my concern
9 is just a little bit different and for sure it has to do
10 with State allowances, but I just wanted to name that my
11 shock and surprise was just even looking at the dollar
12 amount allotments that's on here. That, to me, seems very
13 much so outdated. And I'm not certain that this Commission
14 can do anything about a State allowance, but what I'm
15 looking with not so much the meals, whatever they are, but
16 even we get down to the lodging requirements I'm not quite
17 sure where we're expected to stay for \$90 and \$100 a night.
18 So, I just wanted to name that. That was the shocking part
19 about it.

20 I appreciate boiling it down, making it easy.
21 It's very easy to understand and appreciate it, but these
22 rates are not realistic for any place that I would stay.

23 So, it reads to me like these are now just
24 opportunities for me to spend money to supplement what the
25 State is not willing to do.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I see Commissioner Sinay and I
2 think that's it. Yes, Commissioner Sinay.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Fernandez has
4 her hand raised as well.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Turner, that
7 was my reaction as well, and I have had to travel within
8 government rates. It was Federal government rates, and I
9 am planning to come up to Sacramento the 8th and 9th, so I
10 started looking at hotel government rates and none of them
11 fit into this.

12 So, what Director Acevedo -- sorry, Director
13 Hernandez recommended was to actually call and say you're
14 looking for State rates, not Federal rates. But, you know,
15 \$7.00 for breakfast, that's a cup of coffee these days.
16 And, so, yeah, I was kind of shocked by how low the State
17 rate is compared to the Federal rate.

18 And I just wanted to publicly, you know, to
19 understand, you know, we create our policy. Do we have to
20 follow it exactly the State's guidelines for the prices?
21 Okay, so Neal is shaking his head yes. So, sorry,
22 Commissioner Fornaciari is shaking his head yes.

23 So, I will let you know, Commissioner Turner,
24 what happens when I call in, if they actually lower their
25 rate or not. But that was my -- you know, playing the game

1 of calling everyone, you know, there is a way to get around
2 it if you can't fine one, but you have to call and Director
3 Hernandez can explain it, but I looked at the process and
4 it was talking to three different people and documenting it
5 all. And since I charge per hour, it's cheaper for me to
6 just pay the difference than for me to spend that much time
7 running around to document it. So, I felt the same way you
8 did, Commissioner Turner, that I'll be supplementing a lot.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez
10 and then Commissioner Fornaciari.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I just wanted to
12 provide responses. And, yes, welcome to my 30 plus years,
13 life in state government. Yes, the rates do not keep up.

14 In terms of the per diem for meals as well as
15 incidentals, that's a flat rate. We can't go above it.
16 And the reason you have to keep the receipts is in case
17 you're audited. It's not the Commission's requirement;
18 it's the State requirement.

19 I'm not sure what the -- 30 plus years I've never
20 been audited, but if you were, you have to have receipts.

21 I'm not sure what the retentions schedule is for
22 that.

23 And in terms of the lodging, we do have on page
24 four, there is an excess lodging rate request, and so what
25 you need to do is you fill that out and you forward it to

1 us and you do show three other -- I believe it's three
2 other rates showing that you couldn't find anything under
3 whatever the rate may be. I just do it online. I just go
4 in there and I check off for State rates, and if they don't
5 have it, that's what I print out, and that's my
6 justification in terms of this is the hotel and then here's
7 the copy of three others that also do not have the State
8 rate available.

9 So, yeah, it's disappointing, but it is what it
10 is, and, yes, working 30 plus years I did supplement quite
11 a bit, and unfortunately that's just the way it is.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fornaciari
13 and then Commissioner Turner.

14 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'll let Commissioner
15 Turner go. I thought Marcy raised her hand too. No, okay.

16 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I just have some
17 Sacramento hotel recommendations that are in the budget
18 that I stayed at, so I'll share that.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you. Commissioner
20 Turner, then we'll go to you.

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. So in response, all
22 very helpful information. I just wanted to say that things
23 are the same until they change, and at some point I think
24 that this just does need to be challenged. I think it's
25 ridiculous that there would be an expectation for the

1 amount of travel that we're going to do that I would need
2 to take time to contact three and four hotels to be able to
3 determine and send in paperwork.

4 And, no, you can probably tell before now I've
5 not worked directly for government, but this is, I think,
6 an awful waste of time and resources when there is an
7 acknowledged and a known average amount, for example, even
8 for Sacramento at \$95. I don't know, I just wanted to name
9 that and I think we should be pushing back. We should be
10 coming up with additional guideline rules, even under the
11 excess lodging that says if the base nightly room rate
12 exceeds the current State rate, then an excess lodging rate
13 approval request must be submitted. If for any of those
14 areas perhaps if that then did do some research and come up
15 with what is a current average for a hotel, then if we're
16 around that price, we'd need to have some sort of policy
17 that says this is, or maybe they should make
18 recommendations.

19 But for all of us to go through the process and
20 submit three, I don't think it reasonable, so I wanted to
21 name that. From my perspective I think that's way too many
22 phone calls, too much work and too much paperwork to be
23 submitted.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fornaciari,
25 did you want to comment?

1 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. I want to thank
2 everyone for their feedback so far. I've worked for the
3 Federal government and the Federal per diem rates are in
4 some cases more than 50 percent higher than the State
5 rates. It's ridiculous. I agree.

6 I do, Commissioner Turner, like your suggestion
7 of, you know, having staff help us out. So, a part of what
8 I envision is going to be happening -- or we envision is
9 what's going to be happening is if we're all traveling
10 together, the staff will be making arrangements for us, but
11 we will definitely think about ways to streamline this
12 hotel process, and I appreciate that feedback.

13 And, Commissioner Kennedy, yeah, I appreciate
14 your feedback, too. We'll look into that incorporating
15 your comments. That's all I had.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy and then
17 myself.

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: On the retention of
19 receipts issue, these days, you know, receipts, depending
20 on how long they want us to keep them, they don't even
21 last. They fade, you know. You'll have a piece of paper
22 that has nothing legible on it just because it's so old.

23 So, you know, do we have to photocopy every
24 receipt? If we're going to have to photocopy every receipt
25 then, you know, we might as well just say submit all of

1 your receipts to headquarters and then headquarters takes
2 the responsibility for archiving all of this. I really
3 don't think that that should be on the individual
4 commissioner to try to retain receipts that are just going
5 to fade and become illegible over some period of time,
6 depending on how much heat they're exposed to, et cetera,
7 et cetera.

8 Under car rental resources for state travel I
9 would suggest that two sentences be reversed. "Expense
10 claims for rental vehicles at noncontracted companies will
11 not be reimbursed," should come before, "The only exception
12 being the Crescent City Airport, which does not have either
13 company." So, yeah, that's it for me for now. Thanks.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Just my comment. I was waiting
15 to see if anybody else was going to mention this. I don't
16 know if I'm reading it incorrectly, but I think it's a
17 little odd, if I'm reading it properly, where it says in
18 terms of meal reimbursements, it does that, "For trips
19 lasting less than 24 hours, either before 6:00 a.m. or at
20 or after 9:00 a.m. breakfast may be claimed if a trip
21 begins at or before 4:00 p.m. and at or after 7:00 p.m.
22 dinner may be claimed." And it says, "When" -- let's see.
23 There was a portion that said essentially that lunch may
24 not be claimed, or it doesn't really speak to whether or
25 not lunch is claimable. Is that correct?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Can I answer that?

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. It reads weird.

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: If the travel is less
4 than 24 hours, lunch cannot be claimed. But if it's a day-
5 and-a-half, then you can. So, if your original trip was
6 longer than 24 hours and goes into the next day, you can,
7 but that's -- again, these are the California Human
8 Resources policies. It's not Alicia's policy. It's not
9 Neal's policy. We had to take the information. So, yes,
10 if it's less than 24 hours from the start to finish of your
11 trip, you may potentially claim your breakfast, potentially
12 claim your dinner, but it depends, right, depend when you
13 start and when you finish. But you cannot claim lunch, and
14 I don't know the justification for that or what the
15 thinking was, but it is what it is.

16 And we were talking with Executive Director
17 Hernandez earlier and he did say if there's a time when
18 many of the commissioners are going to go to a certain
19 place, staff can call ahead of time and book rooms or get a
20 block of rooms and do all of that, the paperwork for us,
21 and in terms of contacting other lodgings also.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So on that same note I also
23 want to clarify this, too. It also says when trips are
24 less than 24 hours and there is no overnight stay meals
25 claimed are taxable. Does that mean it's taxable to us?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, yes. Taxable to
2 the individual.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, okay. So I thought I was
4 really understanding it incorrectly. Thanks for the
5 clarification. I do have to echo what Commissioner Turner
6 said. I do want to just make it known that that seems a
7 little rather odd and perhaps borderline ridiculous that as
8 if we were traveling either on business on behalf of the
9 State or as an employee, that just seems a little odd that
10 you would have to be taxed on something that you're doing
11 on behalf of your employer, but on our part as a volunteer
12 of the Commission.

13 One last question that I want to also just ask
14 about, and this echoes a little bit of what Commissioner
15 Kennedy said. My particular concern is on number ten,
16 which is commissioner travel, you know, to familiarize
17 themselves with parts of California. I understand some of
18 the suggestions of potential scenarios for it. I would
19 like to suggest that we come up with some guidelines as to
20 what that means. I am concerned that it would be seen as
21 basically the commissioner or the Commission, or more
22 specifically right now I'm going to say the commissioner if
23 it's individuals, basically taking a vacation, you know, at
24 the cost of California state taxpayers. So, I think as a
25 Commission we choose to make trips for the purposes of

1 familiarizing ourselves. I think that may be a little bit
2 more easier to perhaps justify and speak about. But I
3 think as individual commissioners we're deciding, you know,
4 we're going to go on vacation somewhere because we want to
5 familiarize ourselves, I would be concerned that there
6 would be commentary or concerns about, you know, waste of
7 taxpayer dollars on, you know, just basically taking a
8 vacation.

9 Commissioner Fernandez and then Commissioner
10 Fornaciari.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Well, I guess two
12 pieces. In terms of the per diem and the lodging and all
13 of the rates, unfortunately we don't have the time to try
14 to submit comment or try to fight that. But maybe part of
15 the lessons learned, if we want to try to add that and then
16 maybe one or two people take that on in terms of feedback
17 to Cal. HR or whoever may be, I think that's a great idea
18 because it has been outdated. It always lags.

19 And then the second point, thank you Chair
20 Akutagawa for bringing that up. I did want to go back to
21 the scenarios, specifically seven through ten. I know
22 Commissioner Kennedy had mentioned leaving out legal
23 representation on number seven. And the reason I opted to
24 keep it in is I'm not sure, nothing against Chief Counsel
25 Pane. I hope he stays with us forever. But what happens

1 if we don't have a Chief Counsel, right. So, I was
2 thinking longer term, you know, past drawing maps and
3 there's litigation. So, I just wanted to have someone
4 there that would -- that could -- that would approve it and
5 obviously would let us know about any potential or need any
6 subpoenas or our need to be present for any sort of
7 litigation.

8 So, Chair Akutagawa, if you don't mind going
9 through seven to ten, maybe those scenarios, and let's see
10 if we need to make any changes to that. That would be
11 great. Or actually, to all of them if there's any other
12 changes through the one through six as well. Thank you.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fornaciari.

14 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. I think what we'll
15 do based on the feedback and comments, I know Marcy has
16 some hotels she can suggest in Sacramento. But we'll get a
17 list together of nearby hotels that would offer the State
18 rate.

19 I know that when I was planning on staying up in
20 Sacramento, I called a hotel that was just a few blocks
21 away and got a State rate, even though it wasn't listed on
22 the website.

23 And, so, we'll get that figured out and
24 definitely have that for the commissioners.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I see Commissioner

1 Turner had her hand up.

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. Two quick
3 things. To stay with the chart number seven, the chart is
4 giving scenarios and showing approval or approach, and
5 here, regardless of what we list, Chief Counsel and/or
6 legal representation, is it that they're approved or is it
7 that they will be reviewed by Chair, or they -- can we just
8 add in what is the action. We list the players but not
9 the, you know. So, can agree that Chief Counsel and/or
10 legal representation approved, or are they going to be
11 reviewed by the Chair or something instead of just their
12 name there.

13 And then under, going back, where the Crescent
14 City I think when Commissioner Kennedy mentioned it he made
15 me read it a little bit closer. Am I just understanding --
16 I won't find it -- but is it saying that if we were to fly
17 into a place and meet up with other folks and catch a Lyft,
18 Lyfts are not approved? Is that what this is saying here,
19 no Lyfts or any of those other ride shares?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, it's -- at base
21 providers it's a Zipcar, Lyft and Gig Car are not allowed.

22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: So, period, there were no
23 open. Thank you. That's all.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari.

25 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez,

1 so can we take a taxi? I mean if we can take a taxi, why
2 can't we take a Lyft?

3 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You can ask CalHR.

4 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Again, it's not Alicia's
6 policy by no means. It says expense for rental vehicles at
7 noncontract companies will not be reimbursed. This
8 includes at base providers such as Zipcar, Lyft, Gig, and I
9 would assume Uber as well. Yeah, sorry. Don't hate me.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: We don't hate you. We're just
11 thinking it's a little outdated. Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I had meant to mention
13 this earlier. I think just for the purpose of having a
14 comprehensive policy, the policy should have whatever
15 statement we want to make on expenses for staff, partners,
16 whoever, who might at some point accompany a commissioner
17 on a trip and how any expenses related to that, I mean if
18 the hotel charges for an extra person or something, how is
19 that dealt with? Just better to have it in the policy and
20 understand how it's going to be dealt with one way or
21 another. Thank you.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I'm not seeing any other
23 hands. Commissioner Fernandez, I do want to ask you, it
24 looks like there is going to need to be some revision,
25 further revisions, perhaps and some additional

1 clarification on the items, so can we ask that the Finance
2 and Administration Committee I guess take it back and
3 relook at some of these comments and questions that have
4 come up and return back to us at our next meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: The reason -- well, we
6 want to bring it forward, and we could do that. There's
7 not that many revisions that I have so far. But we did
8 want to have something in place because comments at the
9 last meeting were that we didn't have some of the -- it
10 sounded like some of the commissioners were holding off on
11 travel because we didn't have a travel policy. But we've
12 always -- we had a travel policy during our first meeting
13 in August. Raul Villanueva, he did provide us with the
14 travel information, but this provides more direction, I
15 guess, in terms of what is allowable by the Commission
16 versus not allowable.

17 I've made comments -- the only change I would not
18 make or I would recommend not making is Commissioner
19 Kennedy did bring up a point regarding if someone else
20 travels with them that is not a commissioner. Again, this
21 is reimbursement for the commissioner only, so if the other
22 people that are traveling with you, if that needs to be
23 separated out, it should be separated out, but what should
24 be submitted is commissioner expenses for their sole
25 expenses.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, so -- and Chief Counsel
2 Pane, I do see you. My question would be on numbers eight
3 through ten. Does there need to be some type of guidelines
4 that will then be supplemented as an addendum. Perhaps we
5 can go ahead and vote on the travel policy today and then
6 with the understanding that there will be additional
7 guidelines around those particular items. And then also,
8 given Commissioner Kennedy's suggestion that it not be the
9 Chair but perhaps a more consistent body such as the
10 Finance Administration Committee.

11 All right. Commissioner Fornaciari, and then
12 we'll go to Commissioner Andersen, and oh, I'm sorry, Chief
13 Counsel Pane did have a comment, so my apologies.

14 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: Actually, Chair, you took
15 the words out of my mouth. I was going to recommend what
16 we could do is if the Commission wanted to vote on this
17 version and certainly come back and make additional tweaks
18 and/or addendums to, they certainly could.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner
20 Fornaciari.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. Actually I was
22 going to suggest that maybe the Commission can approve
23 travel to headquarters to attend meetings today, and we can
24 go back and work on the suggestions, because I think some
25 of them are kind of fuzzy and we need to think them through

1 a little bit and what the scenarios are.

2 I guess I wouldn't feel that comfortable asking
3 the Commission to approve us developing scenarios that we
4 would implement without kind of coming back and reviewing
5 them, you know, what we've suggested. So, I mean maybe we
6 can just approve the travel to headquarters for the time
7 being and then work on the rest of it. I don't know how
8 Commissioner Fernandez feels about that.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. We'll go to Commissioner
10 Fernandez and then go to Commissioner Andersen.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think I would be okay
12 with that, but maybe if we can approve a few more than just
13 one, just the first scenario, especially if at some point
14 asks me to go out and do something, and then we could come
15 -- I mean we could obviously approve the travel policy and
16 exclude certain scenarios, that's for sure. That's
17 something that's doable. But I'm hoping that maybe we can
18 go through some of them. I would hope that maybe at least
19 four and five and six maybe we could approve, too. That's
20 for the staff in terms of if at some point in time we are
21 traveling they're able to travel -- I mean they can travel
22 now regardless, but at least it's in writing.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I was going to say I
25 recommend we go approving one through six, and then with

1 the seven through ten be part of the subjects coming back.

2 And the other expenses and details as we have
3 discussed with slight modifications, again to come back for
4 further -- but right now let's approve one through six.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez
6 or Fornaciari, would you like to make a motion?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, the only one I
8 really -- out of one through six, number three, if I could
9 just draw your attention to that one. That one is
10 commissioner's travel to specific location to attain a
11 Commission meeting with other commissioners. So, that
12 would be let's say there's a site in southern California
13 and it's not necessarily our headquarters because we're
14 going to have our videographer will be here in Sacramento,
15 but maybe there's a group attending in southern California
16 together.

17 So, I just want to make sure everyone, all the
18 commissioners are okay with that. I support that, but I
19 just want to -- that's the only one that would be a little
20 different than just a regular travel.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. So,
23 what's the difference between number two and number three?
24 I mean meeting sites throughout California would seem to
25 include a specific location to attend a meeting with other

1 commissioners.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. So, number two
3 would be let's say we were traveling, so it's a designated
4 site that we will be. Like if it's zone K and we're
5 actually traveling to zone K, it's a specific site.

6 Three is in this virtual world right now the
7 headquarters, Sacramento, is the main location for our
8 videographer. So, during virtual we're all at home, but
9 let's say, for example, someone finds a location, some of
10 the commissioners want to actually attend the meeting
11 together, but they can't come to Sacramento, so they want
12 to attend in whatever location that is. Does that make
13 sense, Commissioner Kennedy, or did I just confuse it even
14 more?

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I still think it could be
16 subsumed under number two.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: I see number two involves a
19 planned meeting of commissioners versus three, and I'm
20 thinking, for instance, the far north, and I'm remembering
21 conversations since we don't have a commissioner from the
22 far north. But I promised people from the far north we'll
23 come to see you, you know. I wanted to make it on that.
24 But if we're just located somewhere, taking a virtual
25 meeting, that's different than actually having a meeting in

1 that place, so that's the distinction I see.

2 You know, it's tricky because if we don't have a
3 scheduled agendized meeting in the location somewhere, of
4 course, we cannot meet privately with people. That would
5 be against Bagley-Keene. So, try to think of some way to
6 be -- to see some of these places may well be worth seeing
7 in person, and yet, stay within the rules.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy, back to
9 you.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I'm
11 thinking that, you know, if you look at Bagley-Keene and
12 the requirements for teleconference participation and so
13 forth, I mean a meeting is not necessarily in one location.
14 A meeting can have several locations for the same meeting,
15 and that's why in my mind two and three I don't see a real
16 substantive difference between the two.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you for that. We
18 are up against our break. Let's go ahead. Let's take our
19 break, 15-minute break, now and we will return at 11:15,
20 and we'll see where we'll go forward when we return.

21 (Off the record 11:00 a.m.)

22 (On the record 11:15 a.m.)

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. Welcome
24 back. We are going to continue on our previous
25 conversation around the travel policy. I do see that

1 Commissioner Fernandez has her hand up.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I pressed the
3 wrong button. Hot off the presses. In terms of at base
4 providers Zipcar, Uber, and Lyft, they are allowable, so
5 I'll be making that change to the policy.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, see the power
8 that I have? No, just kidding.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Now can we fix everything else
10 that we brought up?

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I have to mute
12 myself now.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Commissioner
14 Sadhwani.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. Just on that
16 point, if it is allowable what is the best way to show our
17 receipt for that. It's typically on your phone. Screen
18 shot that's printed or just that little logistic. If you
19 could add that into that, it would be great. You don't
20 have to necessarily answer now, but --

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No one here is an accountant
23 and won't want to give tax advice, but it might be helpful
24 if staff can look into for all of us just the guidance on
25 if we do have to pay things out of pocket, what is and

1 isn't allowable as a write-off on your taxes.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Commissioner
3 Fernandez.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm laughing because you
5 know Director Hernandez used to work at FTB, right, for
6 many years, so that's good. Good we have an insider.

7 In terms of the app. base, I think -- can you
8 send it to your email and then just print out your email,
9 the expenses? That might be the best way to do it.

10 And then in terms of the tax I don't know. I use
11 TurboTax.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I see Director Kaplan
13 and then Commissioner Turner.

14 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yeah. I know on Lyft
15 you can go into the app. and then you can click on it. It
16 also gives you a printout map that I would have to submit
17 in the past when I've used that.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: They do also send it to
19 your email, too.

20 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: There's a pdf that you
21 can print or attach.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner, and then,
23 Commissioner Fornaciari, did you have your hand up?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: That's all. I was just
25 going to refer to the pdf. I know it's pretty easy to

1 print out receipts for at base Lyft ride.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. I'm not
3 seeing any other hands. My question is to the Finance and
4 Administration Committee. Do you want to bring forward a
5 motion, or do you want to wait?

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I'm trying to
7 think of the motion. I'm just -- okay, I will bring
8 forward a motion that we approve the travel policy with
9 edit mentioned, and just scenarios one through six.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Do we have a second?
11 Okay. Commissioner Fornaciari, thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'll second.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you for seconding
14 it. Any discussion, any comments? Commissioner Toledo.

15 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'm just -- it sounds a
16 little -- I'm just wondering if we just want to approve the
17 policy now, knowing that there's going to be edits in the
18 future instead of approving some things and not others.
19 I'm always for like the simplest thing. I don't think
20 anything in here is so incorrect or -- that's the wrong
21 word -- is so -- isn't something that we can't live with or
22 we couldn't fix in the future. So, I'm just -- if we want
23 to approve the policy, I think perhaps just approving it
24 with the recognition that it will be changing, or, yes,
25 this is the changes to it now.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So, Commissioner Toledo,
2 are you suggesting or making an amendment to the current
3 motion?

4 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'm just suggesting that,
5 yes, I'm just asking maybe we don't just limit to the six,
6 but rather, you know, that we just pass -- that we move
7 forward with the entire policy, recognizing that there will
8 be changes. At this point we're not really traveling much
9 other than perhaps maybe staff, at least for the next
10 month, so we still have an opportunity to update this
11 further, and the areas where we might have some travel seem
12 to be appropriate at this point. There's an item for each
13 one of those.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Of course, you know, making
16 the change for the apps. and so forth, that makes sense.
17 That would be my suggestion to Commissioner Fernandez, if
18 she's willing to take it. I mean she may want to just
19 limit it to the pieces that are absolutely -- that
20 absolutely make sense at this point.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari,
23 what do we think on this? Is that -- are we going big or
24 going home, or all or nothing?

25 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'm fine with that

1 suggestion if the Commission is. I mean I don't know what
2 the pulse of the Commission is, you know. I mean we'll get
3 it approved. I mean we'll go back and work on the
4 suggestions and work on some scenarios for seven through
5 ten and kind of think about the approval process and how
6 we'll do that and bring that back. So, if the Commission
7 in general is comfortable with that approach, I'm fine with
8 it.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, we're going to go
10 for it.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So, you are amending the
12 friendly amendment. It looks like, Commissioner
13 Fornaciari, as the second you are also accepting that
14 friendly amendment. Okay.

15 I do believe Executive Director Hernandez is
16 probably going to want a rereading or a restatement of the
17 motion.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. Motion to
19 approve the travel policy with edits. Was that it,
20 Commissioner Toledo?

21 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. I think that would
22 cover it, approval of the policy as stated around the apps.
23 and I know there were a couple of others.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah, just edits, yeah.

25 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Edits, yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Let's see.
2 I'm not seeing any additional hands, comments. We can --
3 okay, let's go to public comment on this, and then we're
4 going to take a vote after that. So, Katy, public comment
5 time.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The
7 Commission will now take public comment for the motion on
8 the floor in regards to the travel policy.

9 If you have a comment please call 877-853-5247
10 and enter the meeting I.D. number, 88653898419, for this
11 meeting.

12 Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a
13 queue -- once you have dialed in, please press star nine to
14 enter the comment queue.

15 The full call-in instructions are read at the
16 beginning of the meeting and are provided in full on the
17 livestream landing page.

18 We do not have anyone in the queue at this time,
19 Chair.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Katy. Would you please
21 just let me know once the livestream is finished? Oh,
22 Commissioner Fornaciari.

23 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I was just looking at the
24 updated travel policy and apparently motorized scooters and
25 bicycle rentals are covered, too.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Do you feel like Lime and Bird?

2 Okay.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The instructions are
4 complete, Chair.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you.

6 Executive Director Hernandez.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay. I like the
8 simplicity of this one. Thank you, everyone. It's making
9 my job so much easier.

10 Okay. We will begin the vote here. Commissioner
11 Ahmad.

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
14 Akutagawa.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
17 Andersen. I don't see her there. Commissioner Fernandez.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
20 Fornaciari.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner
23 Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Abstain.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le

1 Mons.

2 (No audible reply)

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

4 Sadhwani.

5 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

7 Sinay.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

10 Taylor.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

13 Toledo?

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

16 Turner.

17 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner

19 Vasquez.

20 (No audible reply)

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner

22 Yee.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

24 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: I believe this

25 does not require a special vote, so the motion passes.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you very much,
3 and thank you to the --

4 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: It does not
5 require.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Does not require, okay. And
7 thank you to the Finance and Administration Committee for
8 your continued work. We do appreciate it.

9 Okay. Let's move on with the subcommittee
10 updates. Let's go to number 4C, Gantt Chart.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing to report at this
12 point, Chair.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very
14 much, Commissioner Kennedy. Let's go on to number 4D, VRA
15 Compliance Committee. Commissioners Sadhwani and Yee.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: We are -- Commissioner
17 Yee, feel free to jump in here at any point. We are
18 waiting to hear more from Mr. (indiscernible) Becker team
19 about their process to hire an RPV racially polarized
20 voting analyst. They did have out a call for proposals.
21 My understanding is they received applications from four
22 different either individuals or teams to serve in that
23 capacity, and we're planning to hold interviews this week,
24 but I haven't heard too much more about it.

25 As you may recall we had agreed an RFP for the

1 legal team has specified that they would have the ability
2 to identify and hire the person that they felt, you know,
3 most comfortable with, with final approval by the
4 Commission.

5 It occurred to me, Chair, I know there was talk
6 of canceling the August 5th meeting. That's still fine,
7 but I do think that at some point we will need a vote on
8 the final approval of RPV. Probably that would have
9 occurred on August 5th, but if we're not meeting that day,
10 that's going to be okay. We'll figure it out for August
11 10th.

12 Russell, anything else to report? I think that's
13 about it?

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. Just that our line
15 drawer, Karin McDonald and David Becker did meet to have a
16 working meeting last week and they said that went well.
17 So, I'm looking forward to their continued collaboration.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: That's correct, and we
19 will see the product of that collaboration on August 10th
20 when they present what they're currently calling a heat map
21 using ACS data of identifying those regions where they
22 anticipate we will need additional analysis for VRA
23 compliance, that RPV analysis. And, so please stay tuned
24 for more on August 10th.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Great. Anything

1 else? All right, thank you. We'll go on to agenda item
2 number 4E, Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee.

3 Commissioner Sinay and Fornaciari.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Is it okay if I ask a
5 question for the group before us? I was raising my hand.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sure. Oh, I'm sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, it's hard to see.
8 Commissioner Sadhwani you had said that -- well, let me ask
9 you, if we postpone approving it to August 10th, the
10 consultant who will be on the racial polarizing, is that
11 putting our timeline behind because that person can't work
12 until we approve them? What is that doing to our timeline
13 of getting work done?

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: It might put us slightly
15 behind. Certainly there had been mention the last time
16 that we spoke with David Becker that some preliminary
17 analysis might be conducted prior to August 10th that could
18 be shared on August 10th. So, if we can't approve the RPV
19 analyst until the 10th, that's not going to happen. Is
20 that completely detrimental to our entire process? I don't
21 think so. I think that we will probably be fine. And in
22 some ways we have a lot for August 10th already. So, in
23 some ways, you know, then we push that to whatever our next
24 full meeting date is. I think that that could work out
25 also. I didn't anticipate that much analysis having been

1 completed by the 10th in terms of the racially polarized
2 voting. It's really the focus is on that heat map of ACS
3 data, and then we can give the direction in terms of the
4 RPV analyst at that meeting. I think it will work out
5 okay.

6 But, yes, I mean I think we are losing a few days
7 there. But between the 5th and the 10th, you know, how
8 much would realistically get done that would be ready to
9 present, I'm not sure. So, it's fine.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I guess I was looking at
11 more between the 5th and not the 10th but the next meeting,
12 you know, the accuracy of the whole thing.

13 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Right.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Because if we just go one
15 meeting at a time, it's one thing, but we need to be
16 looking at the big picture since we are starting to hit
17 deadlines.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, absolutely, and when
19 we get to the Line Drawers Subcommittee we're definitely
20 thinking about the RPV piece there as well, and really
21 having a further, you know, a much more robust analysis
22 completed in September. So, we're certainly thinking about
23 that full trajectory, and I think we just need to spend
24 some more time being able to meet with Becker to really
25 finalize that process. I think that's one of the ongoing

1 challenges.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So, Commissioner Sadhwani, if I
3 can ask a question then. Based on what you said, you said
4 that the Legal Counsel Team is holding interviews this
5 week. Will they have a candidate ready to present to us if
6 we were to have a meeting next week? And then as you had
7 also mentioned, will they have -- will that five days make
8 a difference in terms of being able to have something that
9 makes it so that we should do so, and then at what point
10 will you know whether or not they will have somebody to
11 present to us on the 5th?

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I believe that they would
13 have someone to present for August 5th. And Russ and I
14 haven't had a chance to speak with them. I don't know if,
15 Chief Counsel Pane, when you spoke with the team last week
16 if they had any specifics in terms of their timeline.

17 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: As per the RPV analyst, I
18 didn't have an exact because I think they were just closing
19 the advertisement, and they were still expecting some
20 additional applications, so I don't have any more
21 specificity than that. So, I'm not sure exactly what their
22 timetable is past that point.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Well, we have not made
25 any decisions yet. Perhaps we could stay in communication

1 as to whether or not there will need to be an action. And
2 if, for whatever reason, as Chief Counsel said, it doesn't
3 look like they're going to be ready, then we could go ahead
4 and plan for that to be brought forward at the August 10th
5 meeting. Okay, perfect.

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay, we will do.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you. Let's
8 go on to agenda item 4E, Commissioner Sinay and Fornaciari,
9 for Outreach and Engagement.

10 COMMISSIONER: Nothing significant to report.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, all right. I like this.
12 We're just going to move right along. Okay, let's go to
13 agenda item 4F, Language Access. This is myself and
14 Commissioner Fernandez.

15 I know that we have noted that we believe we have
16 been sunsetted, but our agenda item continues to show up on
17 the agenda, so we do not have anything to report; is that
18 correct, Commissioner Fernandez? Okay. Thank you.

19 We will move on to agenda item 4G, Materials
20 Development Committee, Fernandez and Commissioner Kennedy.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We received draft short
22 videos from the communications team. Both Commissioner
23 Fernandez and I have provided some initial comments on
24 those. So, we are looking forward to the next version of
25 those, and those should be very soon.

1 Anything else, Commissioner Fernandez?

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, and we're still -- I
3 believe the last update we received for the paper COI
4 communities of interest tool is that it's with the post
5 office right now, and we're trying to work that piece out
6 right now. But it has been translated into the various
7 languages, so we're just waiting to hear back from the post
8 office and then we can send that out and post it onto our
9 website.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And Commissioner Fernandez,
11 just for clarification, when you say it's at the post
12 office do you mean for the self-address, you know, postage?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It's not there to be
16 mailed out to everybody. It's just to get their
17 information as to how to put that prepaid postage on that,
18 and then we'll have to print it out. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And the idea was that we
20 would also ensure that the format of it for folding and so
21 forth was within postal service guidelines as well.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great, yes. That would be sad
23 if we printed and it is not in guidelines. Thank you for
24 making sure that that is accurate.

25 Okay. Let's go on to agenda item 4H, The

1 Website, Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We had provided our second
3 set of recommendations to staff I believe last week, so we
4 have nothing further at this point. I don't believe -- we
5 will continue to monitor it, we will continue to monitor
6 public feedback and make further recommendations as
7 necessary.

8 Commissioner Taylor, do you have anything
9 further?

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, I agree with that
11 statement. We look forward to onboarding of our Systems or
12 our Website Manager so that we can help to implement those
13 changes and suggestions.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Commissioner
15 Turner, did you have your hand up to make comments? I just
16 saw a wave.

17 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I probably was just
18 flopping around. No comment.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No problem. Thank you. Just
20 wanted to make sure.

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. We'll go on to
23 agenda item 4I, Data Management, Commissioners Turner and
24 Ahmad.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: No updates at this time.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. All right. We'll move
2 on to Agenda Item 4J, Communities of Interest Tool.
3 Commissioner Kennedy, I'll ask if you want to report on
4 anything.

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I have nothing. Director
6 Kaplan has already reported on the number of submissions
7 through the tool.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you. Let's go on
9 to Agenda Item 4K, Cybersecurity.

10 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I don't have anything to
11 report. Commissioner Taylor, do we have anything?

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, I agree. We have
13 nothing significant to report. Thank you.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. Let's go on to
15 Agenda Item 4L, Incarcerated Populations for State and
16 local facilities, Commissioners Fernandez and Sinay.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We've been sunsetted, so
18 it's showing up, so we have nothing to report. Thank you.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. And then Agenda Item 4M,
20 Federal Facilities, Commissioners Kennedy and Turner.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Turner,
22 anything?

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Nothing at all, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I will try to follow up
25 with Senator Padilla's office to make sure that we just

1 close the loop on the letter that we sent.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great.

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Sadhwani has
4 a question.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Commissioner Sadhwani.

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. I do just want to
7 note that as we get closer to August 16th and the presumed
8 date that Census data will be made available to the Legacy
9 data, we do need to figure out what we're doing here with
10 the Federal data. Are we doing anything? Are we dropping
11 the data completely? Is there some other scheme that we're
12 going to use? Because ultimately to develop the
13 redistricting database we're going to need to know what the
14 will of the Commission is.

15 If we need to bring others to kind of help give
16 some insight to that, you know, we could do that. So, I
17 just wanted to push a little bit because this question does
18 need to be answered actually sooner rather than later in
19 order to develop the redistricting database.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you. Okay,
21 Commissioner Kennedy.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Sadhwani, for the question. My understanding was that
24 whereas the legislation gave us the option of deciding what
25 to do with individuals in State custody, we do not have

1 that same latitude with individuals in Federal custody, and
2 that, you know, the Census data are what they are in
3 relation to those individuals in Federal custody at this
4 point. And we've also received clear indications from
5 Federal Bureau of Prisons that, you know, other than giving
6 us a large number or the number of individuals in Federal
7 facilities, that's all they can give us, and that's not
8 useful to us in building a database.

9 So, my understanding is that as far as
10 individuals in Federal custody the database that we
11 received from Statewide Database is the database. We don't
12 have any leeway to change or give instructions even.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sadhwani.

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: And, I mean, yes, I think
15 that is all absolutely true. And I'm trying to -- please
16 feel free to refresh my memory if I have this wrong, but
17 previously we had voted on and discussed a motion around
18 the Federal inmate data, and the recommendation at that
19 time was simply to drop the data, right, so that it's no
20 longer in the database at all. I had raised some concerns
21 and I think that others -- is that not correct?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Not that I recall. We
23 took a vote to send the letter to Senator Padilla because
24 there was a hearing coming imminently, and we wanted to at
25 least go on record as, you know, asking Senator Padilla to

1 press the Bureau of Prisons for data that might be useful
2 to us. But my understanding is that all of the
3 communications, at least to date, with Bureau of Prisons
4 has resulted in nothing of utility to us.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't remember -- I don't
7 feel like we said anything about the Federal inmates
8 because we still wanted to see what information we would
9 receive, but I could be wrong, so if you just go back to
10 look at what the motion stated.

11 We do know that the Statewide Database was able
12 to get the number of inmates in custody at the Bureau of
13 Prison on April 1, 2020, who claimed to be from California
14 aa their state of residency was 10,326. So that was about
15 as much information we received. We don't have any more
16 details about those 10,326. So, I think your question was
17 what do we do about those 10,326 individuals? How do we
18 count them? And, yeah, that part has still been up in the
19 air.

20 And then that means of all the other folks who
21 are in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, all the other
22 incarcerated people in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in
23 California that are not this 10,326 are from other states
24 outside of California.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sadhwani.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. My thought -- I
2 could have sworn I remember there was language that I think
3 it was you, Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Fernandez
4 who is waving her hand, specifically had had. It was about
5 dropping all of those folks from the database. So, I just
6 want to see if that's still something we're contemplating
7 because I think at that time there was interest to do so,
8 to do something with those Federal inmates.

9 I remember specifically I had raised the concern
10 that if we're dropping people completely that what
11 precedent does that set for other communities, and what is
12 another scheme in which we might otherwise distribute them
13 throughout the State. But -- Commissioner Fernandez maybe
14 can fill in some gaps here, and could also just be
15 misremembering it.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You're remembering it
18 correctly, Commissioner Sadhwani. We did come forward
19 prior to splitting out the State from Federal incarcerated
20 population, Commissioner Sinay and I did bring forward a
21 recommendation that we removed the incarcerated population
22 from the Federal facilities. And the problem was we had
23 nowhere to put them because we don't know where they're
24 from. And, so, that was the issue and the concern at the
25 time which is why the motion did not go forward because we

1 didn't know where to put those 10 to 14,000 incarcerated
2 populations in Federal facilities, and that's when the
3 motion -- that's when they went forward with the Padilla
4 letter, trying to get information. And the only
5 information we had was what we received from Karin
6 McDonald. And she gave us the totals, and we were able to
7 look up how many incarcerated populations per facility in
8 California, so we had those numbers, but again, those
9 numbers may also contain incarcerated populations from
10 other states. So, you know, what we were able to get, we
11 tried to move forward with it, but again, we didn't have
12 anywhere to put them. That was the concern.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sadhwani.

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: So, just to close the
15 loop on this, because my understanding after that
16 conversation, and thank you so much, Commissioner
17 Fernandez, I thought I was like losing my marbles here, was
18 that we were going to think about how to redistribute them.
19 But at this point in time, given our timeline, it sounds
20 like our path forward is to just leave folks who are in
21 Federal prisons where they are and to not -- not attempt to
22 reallocate them and redistribute them in any way, shape or
23 form. Is that what I'm hearing from the subcommittee?

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Turner, and then
25 Commissioner Ahmad.

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. Perhaps it's a
2 conversation that we still need to have. The letter that
3 was sent was asking two specific things. I pulled it up to
4 see. The letter was asking, "Given your experience
5 addressing the issue and your membership on the Senate
6 Committee on the Judiciary which has oversight over
7 national penitentiaries, you might be able to help break
8 any log jams that are preventing us from receiving data
9 that would assist us in our work. Therefore, we are
10 specifically seeking your assistance in two areas."

11 First bullet was, "Obtain from the Federal Bureau
12 of Prisons useful information on the previous residence of
13 individuals held in Federal facilities as of April 1, 2020,
14 ideally individuals held in facilities located in
15 California as well as Californians held out of state for
16 this redistricting cycle," and then secondly, "Working with
17 your colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to ensure that
18 such information is available to the 2030 California
19 Citizens Redistricting Commission and its counterparts in
20 other states going forward."

21 So, for the piece that we were working on, we
22 were waiting still on a response, and I think the updates
23 we're providing that we've not heard from them for this.
24 The discussion that you're lifting now is perhaps a
25 discussion that we need to have and bring some closure to.

1 But this is what we were waiting on response for.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Ahmad.

3 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I just
4 wanted to ask a clarifying question. Dropping or keeping
5 this population in the data set is it a decision that the
6 Commission should make, or is that something that Statewide
7 Data Base has the purview over as the holder of census
8 data? I'm just not sure.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay.

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was looking. The way that
11 it was presented to us by Ms. McDonald was I don't know if
12 this information helps with anything since the law doesn't
13 provide for random reallocation within California for this
14 cohort. But I wanted you to have this information.

15 So, they're not -- they're waiting for us to
16 decide what we do with that 10,000, if we do anything,
17 because there is no law around it. And so she even put her
18 arms up in the air and said, here you go, but I don't know
19 if it's helpful at all.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think based on Commissioner
21 Turner's suggestion it does sound like further conversation
22 perhaps at the subcommittee level would be warranted, and
23 then for them to come back to us so that we can have
24 further and more informed decision after some additional
25 consideration.

1 Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Kennedy, is
2 that acceptable to the both of you?

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We will meet on this and
4 come back to the next meeting.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. All
6 right. Let's go ahead and let's move on to Agenda Item 4N,
7 Lesson Learned Committee -- or Lessons Learned Committee,
8 Commissioner Ahmad and Kennedy.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. We have
10 submitted, and it is posted as a handout, a submission to
11 the Commission recommending that the Commission engage in a
12 Lessons Learned discussion at the August 5th meeting using
13 the questions outlined below to orient the discussion. We
14 feel that with the Commission having been in place for a
15 year it would be useful to capture some of the lessons
16 learned at this point before we have to shift our focus to
17 the map drawing. If we wait until after map drawing, we
18 may lose some of the detail that we would be able to
19 capture at this point.

20 This would also be a little bit of a practice
21 session for what we hope will be a very robust lessons
22 learned exercise next year after the map drawing, after the
23 litigation, giving people a better idea of what to be
24 looking for as we go forward, and our hope is that the
25 report -- the final report that the Commission issues will

1 be better, more detailed, more useful to the 2030
2 Commission and other stakeholders as a result of this
3 interim lessons learned exercise, if you will.

4 So, the questions that we suggested as discussion
5 guide, first of all, what do you wish you had known about
6 the redistricting process a year ago?

7 Second, what additional training, if any, do you
8 wish you had had before the mapping phase begins, since
9 we're getting close to that point?

10 Looking forward, what would you want to say to
11 anyone interested in being on the 2030 Commission, as well
12 as how is the 2030 redistricting process likely to differ
13 from the 2020 process?

14 Looking for recommendations on are there ways
15 that we can increase our efficiency at this important
16 juncture in our work. Any further recommendations for
17 increasing our reach? Do we have everyone and everything
18 that we need to complete the task at hand?

19 I might also, I was thinking further on this this
20 morning as far as recommendations for increasing our
21 efficiency, we might also look at the shifting balance in
22 tasking between the commissioners and the staff. When we
23 started a year ago with very minimal staff the
24 commissioners took on so much of the workload and we have
25 gradually shifted that balance and just, you know, let's

1 talk about do we have that balance right at this point.

2 And then finally, just recommending that folks
3 take the opportunity before we get insanely busy to reread
4 some historical documents describing the 2010 process, such
5 as the final report of the 2010 Commission, the handbook
6 document that the 2010 Commission produced, as well as the
7 report that the League of Women voters had commissioned.

8 So, that is the recommendation of the Lessons
9 Learned Subcommittee.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
11 Kennedy. I think we had -- I had a bit of confusion. For
12 some reason I had thought that Commissioner Sadhwani and
13 Andersen were the ones that were bringing forward a Lessons
14 Learned agenda item previously, so I had emailed them to
15 ask if this was something that would be covered at this
16 meeting. Now you know why I was asking you about that.
17 For some reason it was attached to both of your names, so
18 that's why I had asked if it was a conversation that would
19 be done or could be done at today's meeting versus - or
20 perhaps pushed to August 10th. We were just trying to see
21 if it was something that was urgent and whether or not we
22 could make one less meeting if there was no other actions
23 other than the lessons learned.

24 So, now I realize I was confused about that. My
25 apologies, Commissioner Kennedy.

1 So, the question does still stand. Is this
2 something that you feel we should do at the August 5th
3 meeting, or is this something that we should plan for at
4 the August 10th meeting?

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: My initial or our initial
6 proposal, Commissioner Ahmad and I, discussed this and, you
7 know, thought that we would put it on the agenda for the
8 10th of August if there were time available, but otherwise,
9 you know, put it off for August 5th. And it does seem to
10 me that we've got more than enough already planned for the
11 August 10th meeting and that having this as a standalone
12 or, you know, if we want to take a quick vote on the
13 subcontracting of an RPV analyst, you know, August 5th
14 would be an appropriate time to do this if you wanted to
15 get the general framework into people's hands early enough
16 so that the colleagues would have a chance to reflect
17 before we get to that point.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I like the subcommittee's
20 proposal because it would be -- from the 10th of August
21 we're starting to get in the line drawing process, and this
22 will get lost. It's something that we will certainly get
23 into at the end of it all, but it is good and I think
24 there's several points here which I think are very
25 appropriate to wrap our heads around a little bit before

1 the August 10th meeting.

2 I would actually request, though, just for -- it
3 would make it much easier. The recommended reading, the
4 links to those could be attached to the document, because I
5 was actually trying to find the League of Women Voter's
6 document and I couldn't find it.

7 And then I think -- yeah, and possibly even maybe
8 another one which if I find I will add to the
9 subcommittee's document. Thank you.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, all right. Thank you. I
11 was going by what was on the -- on our agenda building
12 document, and it didn't seem like it was going to be super
13 full, so that's why we're hoping to clear a meeting since
14 we have a number of meetings, but it sounds like there may
15 be more. So, we'll go ahead and we'll plan for that
16 potentially at the August 5th meeting. We'll also wait to
17 hear what Strumwasser Woocher also say about the RPV
18 analyst as well, too.

19 Okay. Let's move on to --

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Ahmad, do you
21 have anything further?

22 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No, you covered it all.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Thank you.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you. And then last
25 Agenda Item 40, Line Drawer Committee. Commissioner

1 Andersen and Sadhwani.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. We also have a
3 document which hopefully everybody saw. It is the same
4 document from last time with a couple of couple of
5 modifications. And I don't know if I can bring that up.
6 Does anyone happen to have that handy, or I can just --
7 actually, for the public's sake it would be better to show
8 that. Hang on two secs.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: It is part of a handout,
10 Commissioner Andersen. It is -- it was on the website.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, but just sometimes
12 it helps to look at it for the public's -- ah ha, is this
13 it?

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: I can bring it up.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, great. Would you,
16 please? Great. Thank you very much, Commissioner Yee.

17 The only changes that have happened, this is
18 still, you know, the plan. This is starting at the August
19 10 we're getting into recommendations the -- I'm sorry, the
20 VRA will be giving us a presentation as well as with Karin
21 McDonald about population deviation, and then the end of
22 August, the other August meetings will be as soon as
23 Airtable data is available, we'll go over the debriefs of
24 what we've seen or what is the whole input that we're
25 getting, the COI input.

1 The September meetings, and this is what has
2 changed. Based on our input from last time, the series of
3 meetings that September week, we actually had the 15th,
4 16th, 17th. Yom Kippur starts as sundown on the 15th and
5 until, of course, sundown on the 16th. So, we needed to
6 not have a meeting on the 16th, and the idea would be the
7 15th would be the full CRC meeting, and part of that time
8 would then also go to the line drawing to discuss the
9 actual now what do we want to do with the COIs. And then
10 the 17th and 18th would be exclusively that. So, that
11 would be essentially with the line drawers. And that's a
12 change, and I believe that matches what we sort of had
13 discussed at the full Commission.

14 And then the other change is back down here on
15 the second week of October, we were doing it -- the four,
16 five, six was a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Then we were
17 staggering it, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Wednesday,
18 Thursday, Friday. But we've made a slight change in that
19 second week of October. The 13th, 14th, 15th is Wednesday,
20 Thursday, Friday, as the October also, the next week, the
21 20, 21, 22 is also a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

22 And those are actually the only changes to the
23 proposal.

24 Now, if anyone has questions about what we're
25 doing, going over that again, we can certainly answer. I

1 can't see --

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Perhaps, Commissioner Yee, you
3 could stop sharing and then we could see who all has hands
4 up. I think I do see Commissioner Sinay, but I wasn't
5 sure. Okay, Commissioner Sinay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just a really simple
7 question. It looks like we're looking at not having any
8 meetings during weekends in October; is that correct?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I think --

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Only the potential one.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The 30th -- excuse me --
12 the 30th is a Saturday.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for asking that,
14 Commissioner Sinay. I would like to ask Commissioner
15 Andersen if it would be possible, I noticed that only the
16 potential one as needed is scheduled for a Saturday. I was
17 going to ask if it might be possible to move either the
18 second or the third one, visualization number two or
19 visualization number three, move it so that at least one of
20 those dates also extends or takes place on a Saturday so
21 that there would be at least one opportunity for folks who,
22 you know, would only be able to take part on a Saturday can
23 take part in that.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: You know, these are
25 business meetings. And we sort of -- the reason why we're

1 doing it this way is to give the line drawers the time to
2 put together the information between that. And, so --
3 excuse me -- like we say the four, five, six, one group is
4 going to be doing in on the fourth, and then they will have
5 until that next first day to put all their stuff together.

6 So, shifting it back to a weekend would then --
7 it would impact the line drawers a little too much.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, actually, Commissioner
9 Andersen, I was suggesting that we move it forward, for
10 example, 21, 22, 23, the 23rd being a Saturday. So, they
11 actually gain an extra day.

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, I see.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So that at least one of the
14 visualization sessions would take place on a Saturday.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: You mean two of them.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No, because it sounds like the
17 28th, 29th is as needed, so it's uncertain as to whether or
18 not it will actually happen.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Chances are it will
20 happen, but I see what you're saying.

21 Let's -- certainly we can go back and talk to the
22 line drawers about if that would work.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fornaciari,
24 is your hand up or is it flopping together. Oh, that was
25 Commissioner Turner that said that.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Fernandez
2 did have her hand up earlier.

3 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry, okay.
4 Commissioner Fernandez.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you for the
6 information. The only -- I guess we also have to consider
7 we're probably going to need some business meetings in here
8 as well, so we need to see how that -- do we attach it on
9 to one of the days, do we do a free day? So, I was kind of
10 hoping it would be a proposal of just not line drawing, but
11 also of business meetings as well. And I realize that
12 you're focused on line drawing, but it would be helpful.
13 Like when we did the public input, we did public input plus
14 business meetings. That way we can get it all on one
15 calendar. That would be very helpful.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Good point, and again, we can
17 sort of have -- revisit that and come back at the next
18 meeting with a few more days on there.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, we definitely
20 weren't thinking about business meetings and focused on the
21 line drawing process. Is there a sense in October how many
22 business meetings we would want to calendar? Two, and then
23 use as needed, or do we need more than two?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think two would
25 probably work personally. I don't know what the rest of

1 the commissioners --

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And if we did that would that
3 then add a fourth day to any one of those weeks?

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: It would definitely add a
5 fourth day.

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes. We could try the
7 7th and say we go to the 20 to 23.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. Commissioner
9 Andersen, we can take a look at that in conjunction with
10 Alvaro offline.

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: We need to run this past
12 the -- with the line drawers as well. So, if we could take
13 that back to the subcommittee and then come back. But,
14 yeah, we can add a couple of business meetings, and then as
15 you noticed, we sort of dropped in the -- we don't actually
16 put in anything dates-wise for November, December because
17 that is anticipating, you know, hearing back from the
18 Supreme Court.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: If I can also make a
20 suggestion. In addition -- Commissioner Fernandez, correct
21 me if I'm wrong. Are you suggesting two full days? You
22 know, like two days of full -- two full days of business
23 meetings.

24 We've also had I guess the practice now of having
25 the as needed four-hour meetings as well, too, that maybe

1 that should be also considered in your calendaring as you
2 look at the schedule for October, as we're finding we
3 schedule these if we need it, but we're taking up a lot of
4 these if-we-need-it meetings, too. So, just want to bring
5 that up for your consideration, too, when you do the
6 calendar.

7 Okay. Any other comments about what the Line
8 Drawing Subcommittee has proposed in terms of dates or the
9 documents? Commissioner Turner.

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. I want to say thank
11 you so much for the very helpful and to encourage as soon
12 as we can finalize dates and have them on the calendar is
13 very beneficial. October is not that far away. And to be
14 able to have the best opportunity to fully participate in
15 the meetings I would need them calendared as soon as
16 possible. Because I know we're trying to weigh in a lot of
17 things on that, but if we can get them solidified that
18 would be beautiful.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I am with you on that,
20 Commissioner Turner, and we will finalize that ASAP.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Is it possible to
22 even look at November as well, too?

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Maybe. Well, if I may
24 respond, I think the key piece here is when are the draft
25 maps due?, and that date for those draft maps will flow

1 from what our final map adoption date is based on the
2 outcome of the Supreme Court. So, to me it's a little bit
3 of a challenge. We haven't really thought about how to do
4 that yet.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Marian, and then
6 Commissioner Turner.

7 MS. JOHNSTON: If you go by the November 1st date
8 that is currently in place, then you stick with December
9 15th, you're only going to have the six weeks in between
10 time. I would suggest that whatever happens get your first
11 draft out no later than November 1st so you have more time
12 to do another draft if you want to do a draft, because six
13 weeks isn't enough time to do another draft and then the
14 final maps I don't believe.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: That's helpful, so maybe
17 we'll just operate off of November 1st and start building
18 out a tentative schedule. But I do think, to Commissioner
19 Turner's point, I definitely feel a need to calendar these
20 things because I've got a lot going on, too. November,
21 December is just a little bit up in the air until we
22 finalize the Supreme Court decision.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Commissioner
24 Turner, I know that you had your hand up.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I just wanted to go

1 back to the document for a minute.

2 Also, there is a note here that spoke about the
3 additional CRC business meetings that are tentatively
4 scheduled for 23rd, 29th and 30th. If these are going to
5 be dates can we also put them on as dates and then just
6 make them as needed as well, just everything that we think
7 we could do calendared would be great. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Those dates actually are
9 on there right now, the 23rd, the 29th and 30th. Those are
10 actually in the original that I believe that Commissioner
11 Fernandez put together. That's why we said --

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Oh.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: We're just saying in
14 terms of what they might be used for, but the 23rd, 29th
15 and 30th are, indeed, CRC.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Executive Director Hernandez, I
17 think you're going to need to mute one of your computers.
18 Thank you. All right.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The 23rd is a 4:00 to
20 8:00 and the 29th and 30th are full days from 9:30 to 4:30.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. And I think those are on
22 our calendars right now.

23 If I can suggest to Commissioner Sadhwani and
24 Commissioner Andersen, as you look at the date, I think
25 given what Marian has also said, it may be helpful if you

1 were to utilize if we are not able to get the extension
2 that we're requesting, if you could visualize what those
3 dates in November and December would look like. I think
4 having those at least on our calendars in the event would
5 at least enable us to just be able to, you know, at least
6 block some of those dates should we need to use the earlier
7 dates, and then as we've been doing, you know, as things
8 change we've been just tweaking the dates, and we'll just
9 continue to do that, and, hopefully, we will be able to
10 receive the extension as we requested, but I think it may
11 be helpful for just our visualization also to really play
12 out if it were not changed, what would that look like for
13 all of us in terms of timing.

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Absolutely.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. All right. I'm
16 just looking to make sure I'm not missing anyone. Okay. I
17 am not seeing anyone else, and so -- all right, we are
18 about half an hour from our mandated break, and so let's go
19 on. Okay. Let's go ahead and take public comment on
20 Agenda Number 4, all of the subcommittee reports. Katy,
21 I'm going to call you back.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The
23 Commission is now taking public comment on Agenda Item 4 A
24 through O.

25 To give comment please call 877-853-5247 and

1 enter the meeting I.D. number, 88653898419, for this
2 meeting.

3 Once you have dialed in, please press star nine
4 to enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions
5 have been read previously in the meeting and are provided
6 in full on the livestream landing page.

7 We do not have any callers at this time, Chair.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you, Katy.
9 Would you just let us know when the two minutes or the full
10 set of instructions are read off or finished on the live
11 stream?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, absolutely.

13 (Pause)

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I do see star nine.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: We do have a caller.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller with the last
17 44075, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute. Go
18 ahead, the floor is yours.

19 UNIDENTIFIED: Hello, Commission. We appreciate
20 the conversations about lessons learned. In the 2010 final
21 Commission Handbook the Commission recommended posting
22 transcripts, and one page giving the summary of all actions
23 taken within 48 hours of every meeting. Does this
24 Commission plan to heed this recommendation? Are we still
25 waiting transcripts and summaries, especially as your

1 meetings are increasing in number?

2 This is Item 16 out of 30 in your final handbook.

3 I really appreciate your response. Thank you.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you, caller.

5 Director Hernandez, I'm going to ask you to comment on
6 this. I do believe that there is work being done on this
7 item.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Yes. We're
9 continuing to work with our vendor to get the transcripts.
10 There's quite a few that they provided to us. Now, the 48
11 hours, I don't believe that we'll be able to meet that
12 timeframe at this point. We do have summaries that are
13 provided where we identify the timestamp for the video, for
14 reference in the video, itself. And we also indicate what
15 motions were taken on that document. I wouldn't
16 necessarily call it a summary, but I believe it is very
17 similar to that where it identifies that information. So,
18 we're still working on the other piece, so --

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Executive Director
20 Hernandez. Okay. Katy, I don't think I see any other
21 callers.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That is correct,
23 Chair. We have no other callers, thank you, at this time.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very
25 much. All right. Let's go ahead. We'll move on to the

1 next item on our agenda, number 5, Committee updates, and
2 this is for number 5A, Public Input Design Committee,
3 Commissioners Ahmad and Fornaciari.

4 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Sure. We met yesterday
5 or the day before, and we designed the agenda prior to our
6 last meeting, and, you know, what we had put to talk about
7 on the agenda for that meeting was really kind of looking
8 at the COI input, how do we review the COI input as we're
9 going along during this phase. What is the strategy for
10 looking at -- when this input stage is over, what's our
11 strategy for looking at the COIs and doing a review of all
12 the input? And then the other thing on the agenda was
13 discuss phase three, what does line drawing look like?

14 Subsequently, you saw the Line Drawing
15 Committee's report or proposal that they put forward, and
16 they've proposed approaches for all three of those things,
17 and they're going to work through those, those three things
18 that we need to do, and report back to the entire
19 committee.

20 We did have a good discussion, though, about, you
21 know, looking at the COI input and, you know, what's our
22 approach for looking at it, you know, and unfortunately,
23 now as we all know the database is not up and running yet,
24 you know, but we wanted to ensure that, you know, we're
25 treating all input equally, and so in order to do that, you

1 know, we need to wait for the database to be done and
2 populated so that we can review all of the input. And so,
3 unfortunately, we're not going to be able to do that as
4 soon as we would like, but, you know, again, the line
5 drawing proposed plan had the dates of -- where are we --
6 August 10th, 19th and 31st if the data were available at
7 that point for reviewing the COI input. And then they put
8 proposed dates of September 15th, 17th and 18th to really
9 go through all of the COI data in detail, you know, before
10 we begin line drawing.

11 And then, you know, we talked about what is it
12 going to look like for public input after the draft maps
13 are put forward. And, again, the line drawing team is
14 going to think about that and put together a proposal to
15 bring forward to the full Commission.

16 So, we talked about sunseting the committee, but
17 we decided we have one more meeting scheduled for August
18 16th, and we're just going to leave that on the books, and
19 if the Public Input Design Committee Meeting, you know,
20 needs to get together and talk about something at that
21 meeting to bring forward to the full Commission, we'll do
22 that. You know, we'll put an agenda together and then
23 decide later if we need to meet. If not, we would --
24 either way we'll propose sunseting the committee and the
25 Line Drawing Committee will take the design of the rest of

1 it on from there.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner
3 Fornaciari. Is there any comments or questions about --
4 okay, Commissioner Ahmad?

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I just wanted to add that
6 Commissioner Fornaciari led us to a record time in getting
7 us through the meeting. We were in and out in one hour.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That is quite an
9 accomplishment. Thank you for that.

10 Okay. Anyone else? Any comments? I don't see
11 any. All right. We're going to move along. We might just
12 actually -- I'm not going to jinx it. I'm not going to say
13 anything. We are going to move on to --

14 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez,
15 Alicia.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, sorry. For some reason I
17 didn't see you there.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Am I blending into the
19 background?

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think you are. You are.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll wear a different
22 color suit next time.

23 I'm just wondering if it might be a good time to
24 maybe just -- maybe discuss amongst all of us how we feel
25 our Public Input Meetings are going, maybe if there's any

1 changes. Not that I'm thinking there are, but I'm just
2 wondering as we get into the second phase of Public Input,
3 which is going to be during the line drawing, I don't know,
4 I'm not sure if we're going to have that conversation at
5 some point, maybe suggestions on how to improve, or I don't
6 know. I'm just kind of throwing it out there because I
7 don't want to jinx anything, but we are on Agenda 5A and
8 there's only a couple more items.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That's why I stopped. Thank
10 you for bringing that up. I'm going to ask the Public
11 Input Design Committee, is this something that you want to
12 take on as a conversation with the whole committee, or is
13 that something that you want to take back and just -- I'm
14 sorry, I meant do you want to do this with the full
15 Commission or do you want to take it back with the whole
16 committee?

17 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, I mean, if we have
18 input and things you'd like to see changed in our current
19 meetings, we need to hear about it now because our next
20 meeting is not until the 16th and by then we'll be almost
21 done.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: We have 22 minutes to have this
23 conversation. I had to count. Commissioner Fernandez, I
24 see you now.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: May I -- let me think --

1 I'll put my bottle or something on my -- the one thing I
2 did notice is that I strongly feel that we can open up the
3 number of appointments. Outreach Director Kaplan mentioned
4 at I forget which meeting, all the appointments are closed,
5 and I have yet to see a meeting in the last few weeks where
6 everyone that had an appointment called in. So, I would
7 hate to discourage anyone from phoning in or setting up an
8 appointment, so similar to what, unfortunately, airlines
9 used to do is they overbook, so maybe if we try to
10 accommodate more people. I mean I'm glad that we're down
11 to four hours. That's great. I think it's more efficient
12 use of everyone's time, but I also feel like we could
13 probably open up some appointment slots, especially if we
14 are at a point where they're all filled up.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Fernandez. Any additional comments? Commissioner
17 Fornaciari.

18 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'd like to hear from
19 Marcy on that thought. I thought we had already kind of
20 done that, but I do -- you know, I want to recognize and
21 acknowledge that, you know, that we had a fully booked up
22 zoning meeting, and then a bunch of people, I guess, didn't
23 call in. And I'm wondering -- I was thinking about this
24 earlier but it slipped my mind, but I'm wondering is there
25 anything we can glean from that?

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Kaplan.

2 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes. Commissioner
3 Sinay had asked me to look at kind of the rate of no shows.
4 We had looked at the previous COI meetings and it had
5 ranged from about three to six, like some, many that were
6 just a couple, and there was a handful that had five or
7 six. This last meeting at Zone E there were in the second
8 session nine people who did not show up. So, you know, if
9 there is this recommendation to open additional slots, if
10 you want to just provide some more guidance. So, currently
11 we're including slots based on a four-minute, three minutes
12 for the public input and one minute for the transition.

13 We are also -- so, the day before the meeting the
14 VSS team sends the link for people to join. They sent
15 another reminder the day of. And then also during the
16 meeting someone on our team sends a reminder to folks, so,
17 that has helped (indiscernible) for people who haven't
18 called in to join as well, and so, I do think one thing to
19 keep in mind is there may be additional links in language
20 public input for the August meeting, which would take up
21 more time, but we could reduce the transition time and add
22 in more slots.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari.

24 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I thought Anne said the
25 average -- the other day Anne said the average was like

1 around two minutes for the input. But that counts
2 everybody, right, even the phone calls.

3 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I don't have that off
4 the tip of my head in terms of -- I can look at -- I think
5 someone has compiled that in terms of like what we've been
6 seeing lately as the average. The four-minute is what we
7 had based on time slots. When the Commission has
8 recommended initially doing a three minute with a two-
9 minute transition, and then we saw people weren't -- we
10 didn't need as much time, and so we had moved to the four
11 minute. So, we can lower that and add in more time slots.

12 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I mean I think it would
13 be a good idea if you guys took a look at that and thought
14 about, you know, if you could comfortably add, you know, a
15 few more appointment slots to each session, I think that
16 would be a great idea.

17 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you.
19 Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Turner.

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. I did notice that on
21 some of -- we've been getting like 19 out of 18 slots
22 filled, so that's been working well, so I thank you for
23 that.

24 I did want to see, I think Commissioner Kennedy
25 brought this up, but now that we're doing Facebook it would

1 be helpful if on the registration form, I don't know if
2 it's too late, we can ask how did you hear about us, and
3 just put, you know, how did you hear about this meeting
4 just so we know what is working well so we can continue to
5 tailor our outreach and communication efforts.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner
7 Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I'm wondering,
9 on the -- do we know for those that are calling in to
10 register we see how many has actually registered in a given
11 timeslot. Do we know if we're turning people away? Do you
12 know how many we couldn't register, because we're talking
13 about shortening them so more people can get in? I'm just
14 wondering how many people are trying to get in.

15 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: May I go?

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes. Sorry about that.

17 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: So, the public is able
18 to call in the day of the meeting, and we have been opening
19 the phone lines to accommodate call ins. We do not have a
20 way to track how many people -- once the registration form
21 closes, how many people are still clicking on that to try
22 and register. So, it automatically closes and includes a
23 notice that registration is full and it recommends that
24 they call in the day of the meeting, or sign up for another
25 meeting, or that they can also go the -- I'm forgetting the

1 line. Skip the line and go on line.

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. I guess what I'm
3 wondering is, is that are we getting more demand than slots
4 that we have prior to it closing? So, not so much that
5 it's closed and now people have to call a different time.
6 While it is still open if the demand is so high, because
7 we're looking at allowing shorter time periods to allow
8 people to get in, I'm wondering if that is going to address
9 what the issue is, if there is even a problem with people
10 getting in.

11 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: So, there has only
12 been two meeting so far that have been full before
13 registration closes. So, that was the zone E meeting, and
14 I'm not remembering the date, and then this Saturday's --
15 I'm sorry let me just double check. It was either Friday's
16 or Saturday's meeting that is full before the registration
17 has closed.

18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

19 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So, Marcy, or Director Kaplan,
20 is there a way to maybe create a waitlist where you leave
21 it open and just let everybody know at this point, you
22 know, all the appointment slots are full. We'll let you
23 know if we have any cancellations, and that perhaps you
24 can, you know, take those additional people and then we'll
25 give you the analytics that I think Commissioner Turner is

1 asking about. And, Commissioner Sinay, I can see you, so
2 you're afterwards. Director Kaplan.

3 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I think we would have
4 to look at how we might be able to do that. I think given
5 the turnaround is getting links to the public because there
6 is that option for anyone to call in, we are -- when those
7 invitations go out the day before, we are also now getting
8 the call-in information, including the passcode, the day
9 before, and so we have for the last several meetings been
10 including that in our social media communications we
11 provided to the Chairs and staff for that zone to also help
12 get that out, for example, in today's email blast for
13 tomorrow's meeting and the other upcoming meetings we
14 included the call-in information.

15 So, because the Commission does allow people who
16 don't have appointments also to call in during the meeting,
17 that's how we've accommodated that. But I can see -- I
18 think, you know, at some point we would need a cutoff to be
19 able to allow for the proper communications to those who
20 had registered or on a waitlist of some kind.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. And thank you,
23 Commissioner Fernandez, for having us talk about this now
24 because these are all good questions.

25 I know that we're sending emails. Have we

1 thought of calling people to make sure? It's sounding like
2 our show rate is pretty high. Our no-show rate is low; our
3 show rate is high, whichever way you want to put it. So,
4 maybe we don't need to call individuals.

5 But, you know, I think that piece is -- you know,
6 if we start seeing a high no show rate or in some
7 communities a call may be better than an email.

8 And what did we finally decide, because I know
9 we've had different conversations, on organizations
10 blocking time for their members? And, you know, I'm going
11 to call it associations. Sorry. You know, if ten
12 associations say they have ten people and block some time,
13 I know that in Orange County there was a group who had
14 asked Commissioner Akutagawa and Commissioner Sadhwani if
15 they could do that. So, did we make a final decision or
16 did we encourage them just to have each individual submit?

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So, I'll just answer you real
18 quick. Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Kennedy
19 will be next.

20 What we did do is in fairness to everybody, we
21 did ask the group who inquired to follow the process that
22 everybody else is following and to sign up for an
23 appointment. And where (audio skipping) and would call. I
24 think that it didn't seem like it was, you know,
25 detrimental towards their testimony. I think that they

1 intended that -- I mean I think it sounded like, you know,
2 the people that they wanted to have call in called in.

3 Okay, Commissioner Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So I understand the
5 difficulties inherent in getting the Zoom connection
6 information to people at the very last minute, but could we
7 or did we email them and encourage them? If someone -- is
8 there a way to notify a self-selected group of people,
9 those who have tried to sign up and then unable to, could
10 they get on a waiting list and get an email when there is
11 time and make them call in by phone? So we don't try to
12 get them all of the Zoom information, but we do alert them
13 that there is time available at that moment that they could
14 call in by phone.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Kaplan, I think this
16 is a question that you're best able to answer, and then
17 we'll go to Commissioner Ahmad.

18 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I mean we could create
19 -- we could explore creating like a Google sign up or
20 something once we have -- when there is a meeting that's
21 full and then prior to registration being closed. It's
22 just additional -- I think I'd have to look at staffing
23 logistics if it's something feasible that we could explore
24 so I could come back with an option to do that.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you. So, we have

1 Commissioner Ahmad, and then after that will be
2 Commissioner Fernandez.

3 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I wonder
4 if we are trying to solve a problem that has not been
5 identified or potentially does not exist. I recognize
6 that, you know, we do have some empty space in the
7 different sections that we could theoretically fill with
8 more appointments, but we don't know that people would sign
9 up for more appointments, or if they will just call in.

10 Additionally, I would never call in to a
11 commission. I would submit on line. And so there will be
12 those people who, you know, are just as interested in the
13 conversation but may choose an alternative method rather
14 than just calling in during a live Community of Interest
15 Input Meetings to provide their testimony and input.

16 So, I appreciate the conversation. I'm having
17 difficulty identifying the problem that we're trying to
18 solve it at this point, if there is even a problem to solve
19 at this point.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you for
21 raising that Commissioner Ahmad. Commissioner Fernandez,
22 and then I also want to just note that we have seven
23 minutes until our break.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I just wanted to
25 clarify. I didn't note it was a problem; I'm just noting

1 that we could potentially have more people sign up for
2 appointments because there have been occasions where the
3 different timeslots have been filled. So, one, we don't
4 know if more people would have signed up, but if we open up
5 more timeslots, that does provide more opportunity
6 potentially.

7 And then I just want to make sure that I am not
8 in any way indicating that we reduce the three-minute
9 timeframe. I think that's been good. Some people have
10 needed it and some people haven't which I think it's a
11 good, happy medium.

12 One other thing is in terms of maybe trying to
13 speed up the transition a little bit is, you know, we have
14 the list that has the callers that are calling in with
15 their name and, so, sometimes that might be helpful to say
16 their name, because they don't know that I'm 012 or I'm
17 013, but if you say their name, if we say their name then
18 that might be helpful.

19 But other than that, I appreciate the
20 conversation.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. We have
22 Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Kaplan. Is this
23 something in response to what Commissioner Fernandez just
24 said? Okay, if you could -- Director Kaplan, if you could
25 go and then we'll have Commissioner Sinay.

1 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: So, the reason we
2 created the unique I.D. was because we are not requiring
3 names and wanted to avoid utilizing the public's name
4 unless they wanted to say it at the Public Input Meeting,
5 and so that's why we implemented a unique I.D. numbering so
6 to call on them and how they would be identified, so,
7 Anthony, I'm not sure if there's anything else to add to
8 that.

9 CHIEF COUNSEL PANE: No, I think that's correct.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you, on that
12 Director Kaplan, I think we'll just do what we did before.
13 We'll continue to use the unique I.D., and then if for some
14 reason Katy or whoever is the Comment Moderator is not
15 getting a response, we can always resort to trying to use
16 the name like it worked the last time that we had to do it,
17 I believe.

18 Commissioner Sinay.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just quickly. Yeah, now
20 that we've had enough people submit COIs and have been
21 engaged, I'd like us -- I brought this up before, and we
22 were in other places, and I know people laughed when I was
23 the Chair and I said please make sure to tell a friend or
24 ten. But the best way to get people engaged in what we're
25 doing because it's so new is for them to hear from someone

1 they know. So, I'd like both Outreach and Communications
2 staff to really think through how we create a tell-a-friend
3 type campaign based on those who've already submitted.
4 Thank you for submitting. Thank you for participating.
5 You know, please share.

6 I had asked when the COI tool was created if
7 there could be a button that says, yeah, that you put it on
8 your social media, right. I submitted a community of
9 interest to the Redistricting Commission, you can, too.
10 And they're like, oh, we don't know how to do that. But
11 just speaking through how we use the network we have to
12 tell three more friends. I mean, you know, that's the only
13 way we're going to get out of our circle and really get
14 folks engaged. And those who have submitted are best
15 advocates to say this is easy, this is what you need to do.
16 You can do it, or what not.

17 So, if others agree I think it would be great if
18 both communications and outreach come back to us with kind
19 of some thought on how to do that.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Any comments on that,
21 otherwise, I think we have heard from previous
22 presentations from the communication staff that the social
23 media shared by each of us does increase the reach more so
24 than the Comm. team putting out the social media posts. So,
25 Director Kaplan, do you have something to add on that one?

1 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I just wanted to recap
2 a couple of the requests that I'll be following up with.

3 So, we're going to explore, look back and see
4 some of the average speaker time to see where we could add
5 in additional time slots for the upcoming meetings. Also,
6 just kind of looking at the no-show rate to see where we
7 could add that.

8 There was a request to add a question on the
9 registration form on how did you hear about the COI Input
10 Meeting, so, should you want us to move forward with that.

11 And then also exploring the wait list options and
12 ways for participants to share with their network.

13 We can also continue to highlight the digital
14 action toolkit or pieces of that also which has a whole
15 kind of action section on how to get folks engaged.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. That sounds like a great
17 recap. Thank you so much for that.

18 Marcy, we are just in time. We have one minute
19 before we need to go to break.

20 Let me just ask on Agenda Item 5B, Legal Affairs
21 Committee, Commissioners Yee and Toledo, do you have
22 anything to update on us? No; is that correct?

23 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No additional update, or no
24 significant update I should say.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Okay, no

1 significant updates.

2 Kristian, I have a question to ask you. All we
3 need to do is take public comment, and then I believe we
4 can adjourn this meeting.

5 MR. MANOFF: Stand by. I think that is
6 acceptable, Chair. We can do that.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. Okay,
8 well then, Katy, if you could read the instructions for all
9 general comments both on Agenda Item number five, but also
10 general comments as well, too.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The
12 Commission will now be taking general public comment for
13 items not on the agenda and for Agenda Item 5A and B.

14 To give comment please call 877-853-5247 and
15 enter the meeting I.D. number, 88653898419 for this
16 meeting.

17 Once you have dialed in, please press star nine
18 to enter the comment queue.

19 The full call-in instructions have been read
20 previously in this meeting and are provided in full on the
21 livestream landing page.

22 We do not have any callers in the queue at this
23 time, Chair.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. If you could just let us
25 know when the instructions are finished streaming.

1 (Pause)

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I will just say that as much as
3 I was trying to beat Commissioner Fornaciari's record of
4 one hour, I knew that wasn't going to be possible, but I
5 don't think we're going to be having any complaints about
6 being able to conclude our business by 12 -- well, a little
7 after 12:45.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You also had a full
9 agenda, Chair Akutagawa.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So I think that's
12 probably a new record. I'm pretty sure it is, actually.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, the
14 instructions are complete on the stream.

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Well, fabulous, and
16 with that I do believe I am going to officially adjourn
17 this meeting at 12:47.

18 (Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.)

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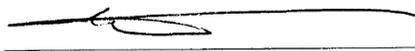
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REPORTER' S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of September, 2021.



PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public

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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



September 17, 2021

MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367