

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Peter Petty

## APPEARANCES

## Commissioners Present:

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

## Staff Present:

Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant  
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel  
Ann Marx  
Sulma Hernandez

## Technical Contractors:

Public Comment Moderator  
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director  
Interpreter (Margarita de la Torre)

## Also Present

## Mappers:

Andrew  
Kennedy  
Tamina

## Public Comment:

1. Val Muchowski
2. Valerie Starkey
3. Speaker Number 3

## Public Comment (Cont'd.)

4. Speaker Number 4
5. Speaker Number 5
6. Colin Fiske
7. Brian Louis Stone
8. Eileen Evermore
9. Ava Biscoe
10. Eric Lucan
11. Maddy Hirshfield
12. Laurie Richmond
13. Alicia Hamann
14. Grant Werschkull
15. Tess Albin-Smith
16. Matthew Simmons
17. Lupe Gutierrez
18. Julie Fulkerson
19. Tim Farley
20. Marion Nina Amber
21. Michael Webster
22. Kevin Hendrick
23. Barbara Scott
24. Noah Levy
25. Erin Kelly
26. Speaker Number 26

## Public Comment (Cont'd.)

27. Speaker Number 27
28. Catherine Balck
29. Tim Howard
30. Tanya Horlick
31. Belia Ramos
32. Speaker Number 32
33. Leon Garcia
34. Jackie Elwood
35. Speaker Number 35
36. Speaker Number 36
37. Mathilda Chigaw
38. Randall Cruz

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     Future Meetings

\* Note: The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment period that is not already on the agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. [Gov. Code Sections 11125, 1125.7(a)]

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

Monday, August 23, 2021 9:32 o'clock a.m.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR (via Zoom): Good afternoon, California. Good afternoon, staff and Commissioners. Good afternoon, listening public. I hope everyone is well and excited for today's COI input meeting.

Let me extend greetings and salutations on behalf of the Commission. Welcome and thank you for tuning in to today's California Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of Interest Input Meeting.

I am Commissioner Derric Taylor, and I'll be co-chairing today's meeting with Commissioner Pedro Toledo. Today we will be offering one language line in the following language, Spanish, so language speakers can listen to the meeting in their native language.

Can I please have our interpreter provide our call-in numbers? Can I have the Spanish Interpreter, Margarita de la Torre, read the Spanish language line instructions?

SPANISH INTERPRETER (via Zoom): Yes. Good afternoon, Chair. This is the Spanish Interpreter, and I will be reading the language line instructions in Spanish. Thank you.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Spanish]

1 Thank you.

2 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Margarita.

3 Now we would go to Ravi for the roll call.

4 Ravi.

5 MS. SINGH (via Zoom): Thank you, Chair.

6 Commissioner Toledo?

7 Commissioner Turner?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER (via Zoom): Here.

9 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Vasquez?

10 Commissioner Yee?

11 COMMISSIONER YEE (via Zoom): Here.

12 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?

13 COMMISSIONER AHMAD (via Zoom): Here.

14 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

15 Commissioner Andersen?

16 CO-CHAIR ANDERSEN (via Zoom): Here.

17 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ (via Zoom): Present.

19 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari?

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI (via Zoom): Here.

21 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY (via Zoom): Here.

23 MS. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

24 Commissioner Sadhwani?

25 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI (via Zoom): Here.

1 MS. SINGH: And Commissioner Sinay?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY (via Zoom): Here.

3 MS. SINGH: And Commissioner Taylor?

4 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: And here. Thank you.

5 MS. SINGH: You're welcome.

6 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Before we begin, we want to  
7 acknowledge all those who are impacted by the Caldor,  
8 Dixie, Monument and McFarland Fires, and the other  
9 wildfires burning now in California. Know that we are  
10 thinking of you, your families and your communities. We  
11 understand that you may not be able to participate today,  
12 but encourage you to do so later. Your voice and the voice  
13 of all Californians is important to ensure fair and  
14 representative maps.

15 I will start by sharing a little bit about the  
16 Commission. Every 10 years after the Federal Government  
17 publishes updated Census information, California must  
18 redraw the boundaries of its Congressional State Senate,  
19 State Assembly and State Board of Equalization Districts,  
20 so that districts correctly reflect the State's population.

21 In 2008, California voters authorized the  
22 creation of the Commission when they passed the Voters  
23 First Act. It authorized the Commission to draw the new  
24 district lines for State Senate, State Assembly and State  
25 Board of Equalization Districts. In 2010, the



1 Congressional Voters First Act added the responsibility of  
2 drawing Congressional Districts to the Commission.

3           The 14-member Commission is made up of five  
4 Republicans, five Democrats, and four not affiliated with  
5 either of those two parties. The Commission must draw the  
6 district lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules  
7 designed to create districts of relatively equal population  
8 that will provide fair representations for all  
9 Californians.

10           The Census redistricting data was released the  
11 week of August 9<sup>th</sup>. When the Official California  
12 Redistricting Database is available in late September, the  
13 Commission begins drawing maps using six line-drawing  
14 criteria as outlined in the California Constitution. One  
15 of these is minimizing the division of cities, counties,  
16 neighborhoods and community of interest to the best extent  
17 possible.

18           We can obtain the city and county information  
19 from those jurisdictions, but we need the neighborhood and  
20 communities-of-interest information from Californians  
21 directly. That's why we have launched these Communities of  
22 Interest Input sessions, to get that valuable information  
23 from you directly. We encourage all Californians to  
24 participate in this process.

25           If you would rather submit COI input over the

1 internet, you can do so from our website, or by visiting  
2 drawmyCAcommunity.org. Skip the line, go on-line.

3 Now I will call on the Commissioners to introduce  
4 themselves and to say hello. To see the biographies for  
5 all 14 Commissioners, or for additional information, or to  
6 sign up for our e-mails, please visit our website at  
7 wedrawthelinesCA.org. I repeat, wedrawthelinesCA.org.

8 And if he's present, I'll begin with the co-  
9 Chair, Commissioner Toledo. Did he hop on yet?

10 All right. We'll move on to Commissioner Isra  
11 Ahmad.

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair, and  
13 welcome everyone to today's COI input meeting. I echo the  
14 sentiments shared by Commissioner Taylor regarding the  
15 fires and the disasters happening right now in Northern  
16 California. And we encourage you to participate when you  
17 can and when it is safe to do so, but looking forward to  
18 today's meeting.

19 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.  
20 And if she has joined us, Commissioner Linda  
21 Akutagawa?

22 We will move on to Commissioner Jane Andersen.

23 CO-CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair.

24 I also want to say to all the Californians in  
25 this area of Northern California that our thoughts and

1 prayers are with you. This is a very hard time. And  
2 despite that, we're looking forward to all the people who  
3 can -- who are able to come and speak with us today. We  
4 greatly appreciate it, and we really do want to hear from  
5 everyone else. So, thank you.

6 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner  
7 Andersen.

8 And next we have Commissioner Alicia Fernandez.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: [Introduction spoken in  
10 Spanish]

11 Good afternoon, California. I'm Alicia Fernandez  
12 from Yolo County. Thank you all for participating today.  
13 And I've got to tell you, every time I -- someone calls in,  
14 I learn a little bit more about California. So, thank you.  
15 Keep -- either call in, write, e-mail, whatever the case  
16 may be. And, again, our hearts do go out for those that  
17 are impacted by the fires. Thank you.

18 Thank you, Chair.

19 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner  
20 Fernandez.

21 Next we have Commissioner Neal Fornaciari.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good afternoon,  
23 California. Thank you for joining us for our input  
24 meeting. Looking forward to hearing all about your areas.  
25 And I just want to echo the sentiments about the fires and

1 the impact that those fires are having on folks. And  
2 please provide your input in any way you can, but please be  
3 safe, and our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

4 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner  
5 Fornaciari.

6 We have Commissioner Ray Kennedy.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

8 Good afternoon, everyone. I'm joining the  
9 meeting from my home in Morongo Valley, which is a rural  
10 Joshua Tree gateway community in the desert of Southern San  
11 Bernardino County. I'm looking forward to hearing what  
12 makes your community special to you. And thank you again.

13 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner  
14 Kennedy.

15 I have -- Commissioner Antonio Le Mons able to  
16 join us yet?

17 We will move on to Commissioner Sara Sadhwani.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Chair, welcome to all who  
19 are able to join us today. My name is Sara Sadhwani. I'm  
20 a resident of Los Angeles County, looking forward to  
21 hearing more about your communities, whether that's today  
22 or at some point in the future. As mentioned by everyone,  
23 you know, sending -- sending many thoughts to those  
24 impacted by the fires. And please know this is not your  
25 only opportunity to get involved. There will be many more.

1 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner  
2 Sadhwani.

3 Next we have Commissioner Patricia Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias, Commissioner  
5 Taylor.

6 [Introduction spoken in Spanish]

7 All those who are being affected by the fires,  
8 we're thinking about you. Please do participate when you  
9 can. There are a lot of different ways to participate.  
10 I'm serving you from San Diego

11 [Introduction continued in Spanish].

12 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.  
13 Joy, joy, joy. We have next Commissioner Trena  
14 Turner.

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Well, good afternoon,  
16 California. It's just an honor to be able to serve you in  
17 the way that we and my fellow Commissioners, all of us are.  
18 I'm Trena Turner. I bring you greetings from the San  
19 Joaquin Central Valley. I live in Stockton. I'm an  
20 ordained minister there, and just really looking forward to  
21 hearing from each and every one of you, expecting to be  
22 further enlightened by where you live.

23 I'm surprised always at the pieces of California.  
24 I think I've been pretty much all over the world and what  
25 have you, and as we are hearing from the Californians

1 that's calling in, I'm thinking, I don't think I've been to  
2 that part of California either. So, I think I've traveled  
3 too far out now. I need to expand and learn more about the  
4 State in which I live. So I'm looking forward to doing  
5 that vicariously right now through you all. Thank you for  
6 being here.

7 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.  
8 Has Commissioner Vasquez been able to join us  
9 yet? Then we will move on to -- I'm eager to learn a new  
10 fact today, Commissioner Yee.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Hi. I'm Russell Yee here in  
12 my home town of Oakland. And I look forward to hearing  
13 from California today, but especially from the North Coast.  
14 Our hearts are indeed with you through this fire season and  
15 active fires in your areas, but also the ongoing drought,  
16 which I know is grinding and really affecting many, many of  
17 your lives along the coast.

18 So, we want to hear about your concerns, about  
19 representation that you have and are happy with or unhappy  
20 with, and how would you like to see the maps drawn for this  
21 next election decade.

22 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.  
23 And hearing from all Commissioners that have  
24 logged on, I am Commissioner Derric Taylor. I'm joining  
25 you from L.A. County, from the City of Los Angeles, and

1 much like Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Turner,  
2 explained I learned something new from each and every one  
3 of these COI input meetings. Your input is valuable. And  
4 much like Commissioner Kennedy stated, I am eager to get  
5 more of your COI input.

6 We as a Commission we are active on social media,  
7 so please also follow the California Citizens Redistricting  
8 Commission on social media. You can find us on Facebook,  
9 Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube at  
10 wedrawthelineca.org. Again, your handle is at  
11 wedrawthelineca, one word. Follow us on social media.  
12 Following us on social media is another way to get useful  
13 information about redistricting and updates from the  
14 California Commission.

15 Before we continue, could I please have our  
16 interpreters provide our language line numbers one more  
17 time?

18 Margarita, please.

19 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair.

20 [Instructions read in Spanish]

21 Thank you.

22 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you.

23 This meeting's primarily for communities-of-  
24 interest testimony, focus on Del Norte, Humboldt County,  
25 Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Trinity Counties and the

1 surrounding areas, however, anyone in California can call  
2 in to provide input. General public comment will take  
3 place at the end of the meeting. Although the Commission  
4 has divided up California into 11 zones, that in no way is  
5 related to or reflective of redistricting lines or  
6 boundaries.

7           The Commission created the zones to assist  
8 Commissioners and staff in their outreach efforts only, not  
9 as an indication of plan boundaries. Today, we are joined  
10 by our line drawing team, Haystaq DNA and Q2 Data &  
11 Research, who will be displaying a map of the area that  
12 attendees describe.

13           Please start with the area you would like to  
14 discuss, and be as specific as possible about the boundary  
15 of where your community is located. It is our goal to find  
16 the area on the map you would like discuss prior to your  
17 testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood of a  
18 large city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to  
19 locate your area, your time will begin.

20           Attendees will not be able to share their screen.  
21 We are also joined by our Spanish Interpreter and Katy, our  
22 Comment Moderator. We'll be introducing attendees when it  
23 is their turn to speak. When you join the meeting, please  
24 use the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to  
25 enter the queue. If you have registered for a timeslot, we



1 encourage you to call in during your appointment timeslot.  
2 When it is your turn to speak, Katy, our Comment Moderator,  
3 will be identifying you by your assigned, unique I.D.  
4 number. You will be reconnected to the session with the  
5 ability to enable your own video and/or audio.

6           Registration is not required to participate in  
7 this public input meeting. The public has the option of  
8 calling in during the meeting to get in the queue to speak.  
9 If you do not have an appointment and wish to call in to  
10 provide public input, the number is 877-853-5247. Again,  
11 the number to provide input is, 877-853-5247. You will  
12 need to enter Meeting I.D. 86916422442. This call-in  
13 information and access code is also listed on the live  
14 stream. You will need to dial this number in order to give  
15 public input.

16           Today there will be Spanish interpreters  
17 available to interpret non-English input at this call-in  
18 number. The comment moderator will assign you a speaker  
19 order number before you begin speaking, and please make a  
20 note of this for future reference. You will be able to use  
21 this number to identify your COI testimony on our website  
22 at a future date.

23           The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute  
24 time limit for English speakers, and a six-minute time  
25 limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a

1 warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

2           At the beginning of your input you will see a map  
3 on the screen. Please remind the mapper what area you  
4 would like to see on the screen, and be as specific as  
5 possible about the boundaries of where your community is  
6 located.

7           If at the conclusion of the meeting there is  
8 still a need to allow for members of the public in the  
9 queue to speak, we will continue this COI input meeting at  
10 a new date and time, and will attempt to schedule the  
11 remaining members of the public to speak for their allotted  
12 three minutes. Please monitor the website, as we expect to  
13 post the continuation of this agenda within 24 hours.

14           A little information about the communities of  
15 interest and the Communities of Interest Tool. While there  
16 are no clear rules on how to define a community of  
17 interest, we've identified ways for you to describe your  
18 community.

19           One, begin with your county or city. Two,  
20 mention the street names and significant locations in your  
21 neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of your  
22 community. Three, what are your shared interests? Four,  
23 what brings your community together? Five, what is  
24 important to your community? Six, are there nearby areas  
25 you want to be in a district with? Seven, are there nearby

1 areas you do not want to be in a district with, and please  
2 us why or why not. And, eight, has your community come  
3 together to advocate for important services, better  
4 schools, roads or health centers in your neighborhood?

5           And these are not the only ways that you can  
6 describe your communities. Also, we invite you to use the  
7 Communities of Interest Tool to draw a map and describe  
8 your community by visiting [drawmycacomunity.org](http://drawmycacomunity.org). The  
9 website is available in 16 languages. Again, skip the  
10 line, go on-line. Submit your COI input today.

11           And, please, encourage at least three or more,  
12 indefinite numbers of people to do the same. As a  
13 reminder, even though we are focusing on specific counties,  
14 Californians from anywhere in the State are welcome to  
15 provide input.

16           We will now begin the public input session, and  
17 we'll start with the people who are registered, and then  
18 open the phone lines, if there's time, before the next  
19 session. If you are calling without an appointment, please  
20 do not hang up as you will lose your place in line.

21           I will hand this over to Katy, our Comment  
22 Moderator.

23           Katy.

24           COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

25           Welcome to the public input session. Please use

1 the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter  
2 the queue. When it is your turn to speak, I will identify  
3 you by your assigned, unique I.D. number from your invite.  
4 You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to  
5 enable your own video and/or audio. You will then be  
6 assigned a speaker order number before you begin speaking.  
7 Please make a note of your speaker order number for future  
8 reference.

9           The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute  
10 time limit for English speakers, and a six-minute time  
11 limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a  
12 warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining. It is the  
13 Commission's goal to find the area on the map you would  
14 like to discuss prior to your testimony. If you are within  
15 a specific neighborhood of a large city, please mention it  
16 by name. Once we are able to locate your area, your three-  
17 or six-minute testimony will begin. Attendees will not be  
18 able to share their screen.

19           At the end of your public input or at the end of  
20 your time, you will be reconnected in a listen-and-view-  
21 only mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind  
22 the mapper of what area you would like to see on the  
23 screen. At this time we will begin with 012, and then up  
24 next will be 002.

25           012, I will be promoting you now. 012, your

1 speaker order number is number one, if you will please make  
2 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your  
3 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
4 If you will please let the mapper know what area you would  
5 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

6 MS. MUCHOWSKI: Okay. This is Val Muchowski.  
7 And I'd like to discuss the North Coast, which includes  
8 Mendocino County where I live. And I live in Philo,  
9 California, so -- can you find it?

10 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment.

11 MS. MUCHOWSKI: Mendocino County. Philo, Highway  
12 128.

13 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

14 MS. MUCHOWSKI: Okay. When do I begin?

15 MR. MANOFF: Go ahead, please.

16 MS. MUCHOWSKI: All right. My name is Val  
17 Muchowski. I live in Philo in Mendocino County on the  
18 North Coast. We are 17 miles from the ocean. I am a  
19 retired teacher. I moved to Philo 45 years ago and built a  
20 dome on 20 acres. We were part of the back-to-the-land  
21 group who loved the North Coast.

22 The North Coast consists of Del Norte, Humboldt,  
23 Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. Linked together by  
24 the coastal range of mountains, the west side of the  
25 mountains are lined with ocean, with beaches, state and

1 federal parks, coastal tourist towns, redwood trees and  
2 fishing.

3           The eastern side of the mountains are fruitful  
4 valleys filled with vineyards, tasting rooms, dairies and  
5 cheese making, as well as small towns and villages. This  
6 area used to be ranching sheep and growing apples. There's  
7 quite a variety now.

8           Highway 101 links the North Coast from Del Norte  
9 to Marin County. The North Coast is also linked by water  
10 distribution. Lake Mendocino, Lake Sonoma and Russian  
11 River bring water to Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.  
12 The Eel River northward flows through Mendocino and  
13 Humboldt Counties.

14           People are also linked by Humboldt State and  
15 Sonoma State, educating the students of Del Norte,  
16 Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. They are  
17 the only University of California campuses on the North  
18 Coast.

19           Although the North Coast is very rural, we are  
20 notably different from much of rural California.  
21 Environmental protection, love of public land and concern  
22 about climate change are values shared on the North Coast.  
23 Mendocino is affected by climate change in a similar way to  
24 the other counties on the North Coast.

25           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

1 MS. MUCHOWSKI: Where sea levels rise and  
2 changing ocean conditions will affect our economies and our  
3 natural resources. The North Coast holds together  
4 geographically, and should have the same representation --

5 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

6 MS. MUCHOWSKI: -- on the state and federal  
7 level. Please keep Del Norte and the Golden Gate districts  
8 -- to the Golden Gate districts intact. Thank you very  
9 much. And I made it through.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

11 Right now we will have 002, and up next will be  
12 001.

13 002, I'll be promoting you now. 002, your  
14 speaker order number will be number two, if you'll please  
15 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
16 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
17 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area you  
18 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

19 MS. STARKEY: Great. Thank you. I want to be  
20 talking about District 2 as a whole today. So, I'm just  
21 going to go ahead and start.

22 My name is Valerie Starkey. I am a supervisor in  
23 Del Norte County. And while I am not speaking on behalf of  
24 the entire board, I do want to bring your attention to some  
25 of the concerns I have regarding the possibility of

1 changing our district lines. You have a very important job  
2 on this Commission, and your decisions will impact rural  
3 communities for a decade.

4 Del Norte County has a population of roughly  
5 27,000 people. We are rural, we are poor, and we greatly  
6 rely upon the State for assistance. Most of our livelihood  
7 locally comes from the fishing industry, our prison, which  
8 is Pelican Bay, and our increasing industry of tourism.  
9 Eight-percent of our land is state or federally owned, so  
10 growth in our area is restricted, and we will most always  
11 be -- we'll most likely always be rural and we will most  
12 likely always be a poor county.

13 Some of the speakers today are going to want you  
14 to consider moving us to District 1, so they will present  
15 information which indicates that we are more in line with  
16 Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. And I will admit we share  
17 some similarities, but our likeness to District 2 is far  
18 more significant.

19 Del Norte County, along with Humboldt, Mendocino,  
20 Sonoma and Marin have a coastline which promotes fishing,  
21 crabbing, outdoor recreation, and sometimes a lot of  
22 restrictions from the California Coastal Commission. The  
23 Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing  
24 California's coast and ocean for present and future  
25 generations. It does though -- so through planning and



1 regulation of environmentally sustainable development, and  
2 most important, effective intergovernmental coordination.

3           We need to ensure that our governmental  
4 representation is familiar with our coastal needs. As it  
5 stands now, five out of the seven counties in District 2  
6 are coastal counties, allowing our representatives to  
7 become intimately familiar with our needs.

8           Our fishing industry is one of the last remaining  
9 industries in our region. Over the past few years,  
10 restrictions on crabbing due to whale entanglements have  
11 made it difficult for our fishermen. Knowing that our  
12 representatives were advocating for five counties at once,  
13 because they were familiar with our needs, eased some  
14 fishermen's concerns.

15           Our crabbing season on the North Coast correlates  
16 with Humboldt, Mendocino and a portion of Sonoma, tying  
17 this coastline together. Additionally, our coastal  
18 counties all share research and resources for tsunamis.

19           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

20           MS. STARKEY: After Del Norte County experienced  
21 a tsunami in 2011, our connection with other coastal  
22 counties who have port-based fishing communities and  
23 harbors to house our boats became even more significant.  
24 Please consider keeping Del Norte County with the coastal  
25 communities in our district. Thank you for your time.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.  
2 Right now we will have 001, and then up next will  
3 be 003.

4 001, I will be promoting you now. 001, your  
5 speaker order number will be number three, if you'll please  
6 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
7 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
8 screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area  
9 you would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

10 SPEAKER NUMBER 3: Thank you very much. I'd like  
11 to speak to Sonoma County, most specifically, the town of  
12 Sebastopol. We're equidistance between Santa Rosa and  
13 Bodega Bay. So we're west of Highway 101. It's  
14 (indiscernible). There you go. There we are.

15 My family owns and operates a vineyard and winery  
16 in this area, in West Sonoma County. We identify as North  
17 Coast. We're 13 miles from the ocean as the drone flies.  
18 And one unifying interest of our community is broadband. I  
19 have the pleasure of being active with the North Bay/North  
20 Coast Regional Broadband Consortium. And we advocate for  
21 the deployment and access and affordability of broadband in  
22 four counties, representing Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino.

23 Our purpose is to now coordinate with new  
24 legislation that is going to build a middle-mile,  
25 statewide, open access broadband infrastructure that will

1 generally run north and south. It's being coordinate by  
2 the California Public Utilities Commission, Caltrans, and  
3 other agencies. And a lot of what is being discussed is to  
4 follow the state right-of-ways and highways, so most  
5 notably Highway 1 and Highway 101. And so that strategic  
6 corridor is part of what links the North Coast together.

7           There are currently 14 such consortia throughout  
8 the State. We're funded by the California Public Utilities  
9 Commission. We also share in North Bay low population,  
10 agriculture, tourism and geographical challenges to the  
11 deployment of broadband, so many of those issues are shared  
12 issues.

13           To the north of us there is another consortium  
14 called the Redwood Coast Connect, and that includes  
15 Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte. Broadband connectivity  
16 does not stop or start with county lines. Coordinating and  
17 planning north to south will reduce the cost, the capital  
18 expenditures --

19           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

20           SPEAKER NUMBER 3: -- and increase access to  
21 broadband, which is so vital to everyone in the State of  
22 California. I thank you very much for this opportunity to  
23 explain this issue.

24           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25           Right now we will have 003, and then up next will

1 be 021.

2 003, I will be promoting you now. 003, your  
3 speaker order number will be number four, if you'll please  
4 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
5 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
6 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area you  
7 would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

8 SPEAKER NUMBER 4: Yeah. So I will be discussing  
9 Del Norte through Marin Counties, the current district.  
10 And I'm having trouble turning on the video. There we go.  
11 I think that's good, right? Can you see me?

12 MR. MANOFF: We can't see you but we can hear you  
13 okay.

14 SPEAKER NUMBER 4: Sorry, I --

15 MR. MANOFF: You have -- it's okay. We can hear  
16 you --

17 SPEAKER NUMBER 4: All right. I'll just talk.  
18 I'll just talk.

19 All right. Dv-laa-ha, Commissioners, Dv-laa-ha  
20 is greeting in Tolowa Dee-ni', the indigenous people in  
21 most of Del Norte County. We also are home to the Yurok  
22 Tribe, which extends into Humboldt County. And you may not  
23 know this, but our county has more registered tribal  
24 members living on or near their traditional land than  
25 anywhere else in California, and we're very proud of that.

1           I have lived and worked in Del Norte County for  
2 28 years. My work is developing nature tourism and  
3 restoring coastal dune habitats. And if you hear  
4 Supervisor Starkey say, that our county is 80-percent  
5 federal and state land, then you can see why we would have  
6 nature tourism.

7           Our county is isolated from the eastern  
8 California counties by steep, roadless mountains quested  
9 with federal wilderness areas. I hope that you will keep  
10 Del Norte in our current coastal district with Humboldt,  
11 Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. All of these  
12 counties have redwood and outdoor tourism, harbors, rivers,  
13 salmon and other fishing and more.

14           One of our most powerful regulators is the  
15 California Coastal Commission which connects us all.  
16 Common challenges in our future are sea level rise,  
17 earthquakes and tsunamis. My restoration work on public  
18 land relies on close partnerships with state, federal and  
19 nonprofit agencies, for example, state parks. So you may  
20 be surprised to hear that nearly all of these partners are  
21 based in and live in Humboldt County, which is a two-hour  
22 drive to the south for me.

23           Regulatory agency staff of the Coastal  
24 Commission, State Air and Water Boards, are also all  
25 located in Humboldt and Sonoma Counties. Through our

1 Humboldt-based dunes co-op we connect with Mendocino and  
2 Marin. I have meetings, trainings and conferences with  
3 these folks down in Humboldt. I also receive healthcare in  
4 Humboldt. What do I do when I'm done with these meetings?  
5 It is relatively easy to meet with our elected  
6 representatives or their --

7 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

8 SPEAKER NUMBER 4: -- or their staff in their  
9 Humboldt offices. I may talk to them about candidates for  
10 the northern Coastal Commission seat, or other state parks  
11 and Cal Fish and Wildlife funding issues.

12 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

13 SPEAKER NUMBER 4: More than 10 years ago we were  
14 a district with the counties to the east. I am hard-  
15 pressed to find something that our temperate rain forest  
16 and redwood tourism-dependent county has in common with the  
17 dry, hot counties in the valleys to the east.

18 MR. MANOFF: Time.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

20 Right now we will have 021, and up next will be  
21 014.

22 021, I'll be promoting you now. 021, your  
23 speaker order number will be number five, if you'll please  
24 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll  
25 please let the mapper know what area you would like to

1 discuss, the floor is yours.

2           SPEAKER NUMBER 5: Good afternoon, everyone. I  
3 am Eureka, which is in Humboldt County. And Eureka's there  
4 on the bay -- there we are.

5           So, I want to thank everyone for your time today.  
6 As I've already seen, you're going to hear a lot of reasons  
7 that our district boundaries should remain, and that we  
8 should continue to be considered the North Coast.

9           I thought I'd mention something that is a little  
10 more specific, maybe that folks might not know about, that  
11 I think is a good example. So, I work a lot in economic  
12 and workforce development. And when Covid started, there  
13 were a number of economic development professionals I guess  
14 that are here in Humboldt, realizing that the agencies in  
15 support needed to come together to support our local  
16 businesses, to support our workforce. And in bringing that  
17 group together they immediately realized that we as  
18 Humboldt County are not alone, that we are a region. And  
19 it was very important that we bring regional partners in as  
20 well.

21           And so, Del Norte County became involved,  
22 Mendocino County became involved. We've even had  
23 representatives from Sonoma and Lake County come. And  
24 really, the point of this simply is to look at economic and  
25 workforce development and supporting the region

1 economically through this Covid crisis. It's been  
2 incredibly effective. There have been a lot of regional  
3 projects that have come about as a result of that  
4 collaboration and this organization and continues to.

5           And the other advantage of bringing these groups  
6 together is we have had a chance to meet with elected  
7 representatives. And because this entity, this  
8 organization, even though it's not formal, this collaborate  
9 group already existed. And so, we're very effective in  
10 being able to communicate with our representatives our  
11 needs, our opportunities, the challenges, that sort of  
12 thing.

13           It's also built relationships, and I think the  
14 whole North Coast really has a culture of collaboration and  
15 mutual support. And I really hope that you consider all of  
16 the testimony today, and that we are allowed to continue to  
17 work with our partners to the north and the south, and a  
18 little bit to the east of us. And thank you very much for  
19 your time.

20           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

21           Right now we will have 014, and then up next will  
22 be 008.

23           014, I'll be promoting you now. 014, your  
24 speaker order number is number six, if you'll please make  
25 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your



1 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
2 If you will please let the mapper know what area you would  
3 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

4 MR. FISKE: Good afternoon. My name is Colin  
5 Fiske, and I live in Arcata in Humboldt County, but really  
6 I do want to discuss the North Coast as a whole, so I think  
7 that map is probably fine.

8 I really, like many of the other speakers, would  
9 like to see the coastal counties north of San Francisco Bay  
10 kept together in a single district. North Coastal  
11 California is a large and diverse area, but it shares a set  
12 of important ecological parameters with foggy, mild coastal  
13 areas separated by only a few miles from sort of more  
14 typical dry, hot, summer Mediterranean climate conditions.

15 We are a community of rivers and bays and lagoons  
16 and coastlines, and many of the region's main industries  
17 are based on our shared and unique environmental features,  
18 from agriculture to tourism. We also have along with  
19 those, strong shared environmental values.

20 Our economy, our history and our culture are  
21 dramatically distinct from those of our neighboring inland  
22 counties, where environmental values are not as strong and  
23 the economies are more heavily extractive and industrial.

24 Critically, our future challenges are distinct as  
25 well. Because of our combination of environmental

1 features, the coastal counties face both increase in  
2 wildfires and increasing sea-level rise. Our small towns  
3 and rural communities will be origins and destinations for  
4 climate refugees. This complex and evolving situation is  
5 perhaps unique in the State, and I think will dominate much  
6 of the future policymaking that most affects our region.

7           So, for that reason, I would encourage you to  
8 keep the region together, so that our future elected  
9 officials can effectively represent the unique, shared  
10 conditions that will face as a result of the climate  
11 crisis. Thank you.

12           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

13           Right now we will have 008, and up next will be  
14 011.

15           008, I will be promoting you now. 008, your  
16 speaker order number is number seven, if you'll please make  
17 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your  
18 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
19 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
20 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

21           MR. STONE: Yes. My name is Brian Stone. I am a  
22 harbor commissioner with the Crescent City Harbor District.  
23 I'm also the board president. And if we could zoom in a  
24 little bit on Crescent City, please. There you go. A  
25 little bit more to the left. There you go, is Bertsch-

1 Oceanview. There we go. If you look down below in the  
2 corner there, you'll see the Crescent City Harbor. There's  
3 that little tiny strip down there. It's actually not just  
4 that corner of land right there, it is the entire 4,352  
5 acres of harbor that exists in Del Norte County. And  
6 that's primarily where I want to speak about.

7           This is one of the largest ports on the West  
8 Coast. It has a net value of about \$420,000,000. And the  
9 primary focus is on two things, fishing, as well as  
10 tourism. The fishing industry, the crab season alone the  
11 year before last, brought \$54,000,000 worth of revenue.  
12 The other fisheries that are involved with the harbor are  
13 crab -- the crabbing season, the Dungeness crab, salmon,  
14 (indiscernible), bottom fish, shrimp and others.

15           One of the primary things that I need to tell you  
16 is that the harbor is basically tied to the south through  
17 -- along Highway 101, through Humboldt, down into Mendocino  
18 and down into the Bay Area, primarily because catch from  
19 our fish that we bring in, the crab primary goes south in  
20 the San Francisco Bay area. Most of the processing that is  
21 done is done in Eureka, California, and we're tied directly  
22 to them. And we just recently signed a lease with Pucci  
23 Foods one of their subsidiaries, which is a Bay Area  
24 company. And they are going to open a facility in our  
25 harbor, which will basically -- what's the term? I'm

1 missing it. But, anyway, they will basically process the  
2 fish right there at the harbor, and then ship it via trucks  
3 out. That's the primary goal. Because one of the things  
4 that I think we should look at is our geographic ties to  
5 the rest of the State. We don't have any roads going east  
6 over the mountains into Siskiyou and over in towards  
7 Shasta.

8           Can you draw the map back a little bit, please?  
9 You'll notice from the map there, you'll see -- well, right  
10 there. That's good -- you'll see that Highway 101 goes  
11 north and south. And then you'll see Highway 199 that goes  
12 over to the east. That goes up into Oregon, up into Grants  
13 Pass, up into Medford, and it follows along the ridgeline  
14 and extends itself all the way into Oregon. So we're not  
15 part of the eastern part of the State here.

16           MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.

17           MR. STONE: There's no roads going east out of  
18 Del Norte County. Primarily we're tied to the south and to  
19 our neighbors to the south.

20           MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

21           MR. STONE: One of our primary functions at the  
22 harbor is also tourism. We have 208 RV slips in two parks.

23           MR. MANOFF: Time.

24           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25           Right now we have 011, and up next will be 022.

1           011, I will be promoting you now. 011, your  
2 speaker order number will be number eight, if you'll please  
3 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
4 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
5 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area you  
6 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

7           MS. EVERMORE: My name is Eileen Evermore, and I  
8 have lived and worked in Del Norte County for the last 47  
9 years. I live off of Highway 199, which was just shown to  
10 you, which runs 23 miles from the Oregon border in a little  
11 town called Gasquet.

12           I had a jewelry store in Crescent City, a retail  
13 jeweler. I am a goldsmith and diamond setter. I had more  
14 store in Crescent City for 27 years. I recently retired  
15 and I now have a business as a vacation rental owner and  
16 operator. And that's what I wanted to address now is the  
17 significance primarily of the 101 corridor.

18           I communicate with my guests on a regular basis -  
19 - and by the way, I'm very successful at this. I've been  
20 at it for three years, and I am booked solid from like  
21 April to October. And then I'm booked -- every year I'm  
22 booked more and more.

23           But I communicate with my guests, and they tell  
24 me -- one of the things I always say is where are you  
25 coming from? And I always assume they would be flying in

1 from Medford, because Medford is the closest airport. But,  
2 no, that's not the case. In fact, the majority of my  
3 guests coming from the south are flying into San Francisco.  
4 And I do believe it has been part due to restrictions of  
5 Covid.

6           And now that they're free and they can travel,  
7 their vacation begins the minute they rent the car.  
8 Airplane travel isn't that enjoyable anymore. They get in  
9 the car in San Francisco, they want to see the city by the  
10 bay. They want to see the bay, they want to be on the  
11 Golden Gate Bridge. They want to travel through wine  
12 country. They want to taste the vineyard. They want to go  
13 Mendocino. They want to see Fort Bragg. They even want to  
14 drive on Highway 1.

15           Even when they get into Humboldt and they're  
16 looking at those redwood trees and they want to see the  
17 trees, they also -- excuse me, want to come to Del Norte  
18 County because we have the Smith River, which is the gem of  
19 the six-river system. In fact, I live in the Smith River  
20 National Recreation Area. And that is -- the river is  
21 growing in popularity. It is beautiful, pristine, it's  
22 water sports, it's kayaking, board paddling, swimming,  
23 fishing, sports fishing.

24           And so that 101 corridor, which we had had a  
25 terrible landslide between Klamath and Crescent City, that

1 has really crimped our style in terms of allowing those  
2 tourists to get to us on the south end from Crescent City  
3 of the 101 corridor. Well, I mean, during the time I've  
4 lived in Gasquet, there's -- I've watched Caltrans try to  
5 patch that up.

6 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

7 MS. EVERMORE: Fortunately now have a plan to  
8 reroute that, and that is going to be so significant. I  
9 really want to stay in touch with the entire 101 corridor,  
10 because so many of our tourists are coming straight to us  
11 from San Francisco.

12 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

13 MS. EVERMORE: Thank you for this opportunity to  
14 speak, and for your time.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 Right now we will have 022, and then up next will  
17 be 016.

18 022, I will be promoting you now. 022, your  
19 speaker order number will be number nine, and if you'll  
20 please make note of that for future reference. And if  
21 you'll please let the mapper know what area you would like  
22 to discuss, the floor is yours.

23 MS. BISCOE: I would like to discuss Humboldt  
24 County. I'm a resident of Arcata, and I live near Humboldt  
25 State University where I attend school.

1           My community of interest would best be described  
2 as the North Coast, or broadly Zone A, including Del Norte,  
3 Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Sonoma, Lake and Napa  
4 Counties. I feel that we are best represented together  
5 because of our unique ecological connections that are  
6 provided by the coastal influence of the ocean. And we are  
7 best represented together because we share this ecological  
8 community of the coastal redwoods, and we also face unique  
9 challenges of our coastal communities, which include sea-  
10 level rise and ocean acidification.

11           Another important reason to keep our community of  
12 interest together is because state agencies also recognize  
13 the important connection of the North Coast. For example,  
14 Caltrans District 1 is charged with our roads in Del Norte,  
15 Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties. And the North Coast  
16 Unified Air Quality Management District also ensures clear  
17 air for Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity Counties. And the  
18 North Coast Water Quality Control Board tends to clean  
19 water for Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Mendocino  
20 Counties, among others.

21           And, yeah, so that we are best represented  
22 together to face our unique environmental challenges, in  
23 that we are less well-suited with more inland communities,  
24 such as Tehama, Siskiyou and Shasta Counties, because those  
25 communities are based on more of an extractive economy and



1 are less protective of their public lands and environmental  
2 resources. Thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

4 Right now we will have 016, and then up next will  
5 be 007.

6 016, I will be promoting you now. 016, your  
7 speaker order number is number 10, if you'll please make  
8 note of that for future reference. If you'll please let  
9 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the  
10 floor is yours.

11 MR. LUCAN: Greeting, Commissioners. My name is  
12 Eric Lucan. I'm calling in from Novato, the northern most  
13 city in Marin County. If we could move over to the map  
14 there.

15 I am a Novato native and a 40-plus-year resident.  
16 I've also served on the Novato City Council for the past 10  
17 years, and also as mayor. I'm currently the Mayor pro tem.  
18 But I should clarify that my comments today are as an  
19 individual and not on behalf of the City of Novato or the  
20 City Council.

21 I think if there's one major theme or thought  
22 that I hope to communicate, is that Marin County has many  
23 more shared interests with Sonoma County, the North Bay and  
24 the North Coast, than we do across the bridge to the south  
25 with San Francisco.

1           Marin and Sonoma and the greater North Coast are  
2 closely connected, and I just want to briefly speak about  
3 this kind of through the lens of transportation. In  
4 addition to the Novato City Council, I'm also the chair for  
5 the Transportation Authority of Marin. And over the past  
6 decades we've worked closely with Sonoma County  
7 Transportation Authority on the Marin-Sonoma Narrows  
8 Highway 101 Project. Our counties and the whole North  
9 Coast are connected by one major transportation corridor,  
10 Highway 101. It connects our communities, our local  
11 economies and our businesses.

12           In addition to that, our counties, Marin and  
13 Sonoma, came together to form SMART, the Sonoma-Marín Area  
14 Rail Transit District, of which I've been a director for  
15 the past 10 years. SMART is one of just 31 commuter rail  
16 lines in the entire country. With current service running  
17 from the Sonoma County Airport Station in Sonoma County to  
18 Larkspur Station, with connection to the ferry for access  
19 to San Francisco. SMART is continuing to expand more with  
20 planned stations in Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale.  
21 Transportation and transit is just one way our communities  
22 are connected and should remain connected through district  
23 boundaries.

24           Beyond transportation there are many other, both  
25 organic and planned, collaborations between Marin and the

1 North Bay and the North Coast, including the North Bay  
2 Watershed Authority, labor groups, business groups,  
3 agriculture. We have a Highway 37 working group, a North  
4 Bay Life Science Alliance, the Great Redwood Trial and  
5 many, many more. Based on all of the past work,  
6 collaboration and partnerships amongst Marin, Sonoma and  
7 the entire North Coast, I encourage you to keep Marin  
8 together with the other North Coast counties. Thank you  
9 for your time.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

11 Right now we will have 007, and then up next will  
12 be 020.

13 007, I will be promoting you now. 007, your  
14 speaker order number will be number 11, if you'll please  
15 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
16 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
17 screen. If you'll please let the mapper what area you  
18 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

19 MS. HIRSHFIELD: Hi. Can you see me or hear me?

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can. Both.

21 MS. HIRSHFIELD: So, I'm going to be talking  
22 about Sonoma and Marin. My name is Maddy Hirshfield. I am  
23 with the North Bay Labor Council, and actually Council  
24 Member Lucan just make all of my points, but I will try to  
25 add a few, and I will be brief. I doubt I'll take the

1 three minutes.

2 But I also want to talk about keeping Marin and  
3 Sonoma County together, and not looping Marin off into San  
4 Francisco. As I mentioned, I'm with the North Bay Labor  
5 Council. We cover Sonoma, Marin, Lake and Mendocino  
6 Counties, and the issues are -- in Marin are just more  
7 similar to those areas.

8 They -- a lot of people live in Sonoma County and  
9 commute to Marin. Many of the workers are concerned that  
10 Marin will be sectioned off into San Francisco that's more  
11 urban. Sonoma County and Marin are more suburban and  
12 rural, and don't really have as much in common with San  
13 Francisco. The jobs are similar, the issues are similar.  
14 We share representatives, state representatives. And many  
15 of the workers are concerned that Marin will move off into  
16 San Francisco, and we just want to be sure that that  
17 doesn't happen. It fits much better in Sonoma County and  
18 with the North Coast.

19 And I have to say that I agree with almost  
20 everything I heard everyone saying about the northern --  
21 even northern areas, Mendocino, Del Norte, Humboldt. All  
22 of those counties have been together for a long time. We  
23 share issues. And I would urge you to keep those together,  
24 specifically Sonoma and Marin Counties. Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Caller, are you still there?

1 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Thank you.  
2 Unique I.D. 007, if you could please unmute. The  
3 Chair has some additional questions for you.

4 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Hi, caller. Are you still  
5 here?

6 MS. HIRSHFIELD: I'm here. Sorry.

7 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you. I -- we truly  
8 appreciate your testimony. Just as a point of clarity, can  
9 you define what the North Bay is, and how far north your  
10 definition is of the North Coast community?

11 MS. HIRSHFIELD: Are we talking the North Bay  
12 Labor Council or the North Coast community? I'm not sure I  
13 understood the question.

14 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: So, we would just like your  
15 definition of what the North Coast is --

16 MS. HIRSHFIELD: Uh-huh.

17 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: -- and what your definition is,  
18 what the North Bay is.

19 MS. HIRSHFIELD: Okay. Well, in terms of the  
20 North Bay Labor Council for whom I work, we cover Sonoma,  
21 Marin, Mendocino and Lake Counties. But as far as what the  
22 North Coast is considered, to me that is Marin, Sonoma,  
23 Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte. Does that answer your  
24 question?

25 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Yes, it does. Thank you very

1 much.

2 MS. HIRSHFIELD: Okay. Sure.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
4 020, and then up next will be 018.

5 020, I'll be promoting you now. 020, your  
6 speaker order number will be number 12, if you'll please  
7 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll  
8 please let the mapper know what area you would like to  
9 discuss, the floor is yours.

10 MS. RICHMOND: Hi, everyone. Thank you so much  
11 for this opportunity you have. Thanks for all the hard  
12 work that you all are doing. I am in Humboldt County. I'm  
13 hoping to talk about kind of the whole North Coast region,  
14 of the sort of District 2 region that you have set aside.

15 My name is Laurie Richmond. I am a professor at  
16 Humboldt State University in the Department of  
17 Environmental Science and Management, although I'm kind of  
18 speaking on behalf of -- not of the university, but of  
19 myself as an individual.

20 I do work on marine and coastal systems. And of  
21 the policy and planning dimensions, I sort of teach  
22 planning classes on marine and coastal planning, working  
23 with fishing communities and on questions of coastal  
24 resilience. And I would just like to echo -- I don't know  
25 that I have a ton more to add from the wonderful,

1 articulate testimony that lots of folks have given you up  
2 and down the coast, but just to add to the chorus of really  
3 keeping these North Coast communities together. That we  
4 really -- I see them as really knitted, sort of  
5 economically, socially and environmentally, with similar  
6 ecosystems, facing kind of some similar challenges.

7 I've done a lot of work with fishing communities  
8 of the California North Coast, you know, from Crescent City  
9 kind of all the way down, and know that there's just a lot  
10 of common issues that commercial fishing, recreational,  
11 charter fishing all remain very important parts of the  
12 economy of these regions.

13 And so being able to be together and have a  
14 government advocate that understands these issues and kind  
15 of advocate for them together, sort of if there's disaster  
16 money for a crab fishery, that money can come -- sort of be  
17 advocated and kind of come together. And I've seen it  
18 happen, the communities are really linked and work a lot  
19 together on challenges related to commercial fishing.

20 Also, facing a lot of similar challenges, folks  
21 have talked about it. I am the co-chair of the HSU, has a  
22 sea-level rise initiative that's really focused on research  
23 and planning related to sea-level rise. A lot in Humboldt  
24 Bay, which is experiencing the fastest rate of sea-level  
25 rise in California, but these challenges are happening up

1 and down the coast. And I think there will be a lot of  
2 need for communities to kind of work together on these  
3 issues.

4 At the same time we are kind of knitted together  
5 through wildfire issues, a lot of rural land in Trinity  
6 County as well. That learning how to kind of manage and  
7 deal with climate change, and also like a real forward  
8 thinking about how we're going to plan and adapt to this.  
9 So I think facing a lot of similar challenges.

10 Lastly, just talk about the abundant natural  
11 resources, economies kind of embedded with them, protecting  
12 them, especially --

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 MS. RICHMOND: -- the salmon fisheries and rivers  
15 that continue to be a priority to restore. It just  
16 culturally, it feels like we're together and we all travel  
17 together.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

19 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

20 MS. RICHMOND: So, anyway, just really echoing  
21 all the wonderful things folks are saying together -- okay.  
22 And so, thank you all for your time. And I'm happy to  
23 answer questions later.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25 Right now we will have 018, and then up next will



1 be 017. I would like to invite 009, 015, 019 and 023 to  
2 use the raise your hand button at the bottom of your  
3 screen, as you have appointments during this session, and  
4 you will have priority.

5 018, I will be promoting you now. 018, your  
6 speaker order number is number 13, if you'll please make  
7 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your  
8 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
9 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
10 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

11 MS. HAMANN: Hi. My name is Alicia Hamann, and I  
12 -- the community I want to speak about today is  
13 Northwestern California, specifically, I am from Humboldt  
14 County. In my work as Executive Director for Friends of  
15 the Eel River, partnering with other counties,  
16 specifically, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin, is extremely  
17 helpful on our programs on Eel River Dam removal and  
18 building the Great Redwood Trail. And those are just two  
19 examples of how connected our region and the North Coast  
20 really is.

21 One thing that defines our community is the  
22 unique ecology of California's Northwest coast. Our  
23 coastal moderated forests, particularly the redwoods, form  
24 an ecological community which has really supported economic  
25 and cultural history that's unique to our region. This

1 community faces challenges which are also unique to our  
2 region, especially changes we're experiencing due to the  
3 climate crisis. Sea-level rise and reduced summer fog are  
4 two issues that affect our region, and it's really  
5 important that we're united in addressing these challenges.

6           Most of our region is rural, but we are distinct  
7 from many other rural regions of California, in that  
8 environmental protection, love of public lands, and concern  
9 for and a will to address climate change are values that  
10 are really strongly shared in our community.

11           Coastal rivers and streams unite and define  
12 northwestern California. They're more than bodies of  
13 water, they're really a way of life here. Our rivers drain  
14 to the Pacific Ocean, and unlike watersheds and ecosystems  
15 farther inland, ours are heavily influenced by the ocean,  
16 by marine fog and, of course, by the anadromous lifecycles  
17 of salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, lamprey and other wildlife  
18 in our unique ecosystem.

19           Our climate and environment have helped to shape  
20 the economies of the area, whether that's wood, wine or  
21 weed, we've developed a similar culture that prioritizes  
22 clean and healthy environment in order to protect these  
23 economies. And, of course, ocean fishing is another  
24 economic activity which ties together the North Coast and  
25 distinguishes us from inland portions of Northern

1 California.

2           Our economy and our culture are shaped by our  
3 natural environment, and our interests are best served when  
4 regions with that shared natural environment are  
5 represented together. Geographic boundaries have shaped  
6 our culture, and continuing to share representation with  
7 the communities defined by those geographic boundaries  
8 makes sense, because it maintains a certain clarity of  
9 shared interests and goals.

10           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

11           MS. HAMANN: And Northern California's coast and  
12 the immediately adjacent areas, we share this common  
13 economy and culture, but we are a less similarly aligned  
14 with communities to the east. These areas are more  
15 culturally conservative.

16           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

17           MS. HAMANN: Their economies are more tied to  
18 extractive industries. And they're just (indiscernible)  
19 for our area and our shared values in this community.  
20 Thank you so much.

21           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

22           Right now we will have 017, and then up next will  
23 be 013.

24           I would again like to invite those that have  
25 appointments during this session to please use the raise

1 hand button at the bottom of your screen. That is for 009,  
2 015, 023. I also invite caller 0526, unique I.D. 004, to  
3 press star-nine to raise your hand if you wish to give  
4 comment during this session.

5 I do see those hands. And caller 0526, I do see  
6 your hand as well.

7 017, I will be promoting you now. 017, your  
8 speaker order number is number 14, if you'll please make  
9 note of that for future reference. If you'll please let  
10 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the  
11 floor is yours.

12 MR. WERSCHKULL: Thank you very much. My name is  
13 Grant Werschull. I am a Del Norte County resident, and  
14 specifically, that would be the City of Crescent City, and  
15 living very proximate in the Hiouchi area to the Smith  
16 River, which was mentioned by a couple previous speakers.

17 And I just want to thank you for the opportunity  
18 to speak about our North Coast region, and also just  
19 acknowledge many wonderful previous speakers touching on  
20 issues that I was planning to speak to. And so I won't be  
21 redundant. I'll try to touch on things that perhaps were  
22 not mentioned as much.

23 I have been living in the area off and on for  
24 about almost 50 years as a consultant to the State  
25 Department of Fish and Wildlife, planning team with Redwood

1 National Parks. Executive director, and now co-executive  
2 director of a nonprofit called the Smith River Alliance,  
3 and also consulting with some of our local institutions,  
4 like the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority.

5           And, you know, over the years, some of the points  
6 that have been mentioned so very much resonate for me,  
7 recognizing our tribes here in the area, that would be the  
8 Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria, the Yurok  
9 tribes. And, you know, frankly, their historic areas, and  
10 the natural features that we have here, the ocean, our  
11 coastal forests, our rivers, so incredibly defining and  
12 empowering really for all of us.

13           The agency that I am working with now, the Smith  
14 River Alliance, we're particularly involved in salmonid  
15 habitat restoration. That's just an important cultural  
16 species for the entire coast. And it really, you know, all  
17 the way back pre-European, is such a binding, almost totem,  
18 if you would, to, you know, who we are as a people and what  
19 we strive to do to see that those species would be fully  
20 restored.

21           Some of the institutions that were mentioned  
22 previously are public trust agencies, serve the North Coast  
23 region, such as the Coastal Commission, North Coast  
24 Regional Water Quality Control Board. You heard from the  
25 harbor. One entity that I don't think was mentioned was

1 the Border Coast Regional Airport Authority. And as that  
2 name suggests --

3 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

4 MR. WERSCHKULL: -- as that name suggests, that's  
5 coastal Del Norte County, City of Crescent City, El Valley  
6 Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, and then our colleagues  
7 to the north, Brookings and Curry County.

8 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

9 MR. WERSCHKULL: So, thank you for helping us  
10 hold our little bioregion together on the North Coast. And  
11 we value our neighbors very much and appreciate the  
12 opportunity to be heard by you.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

14 Right now we will have 013, and up next will be  
15 005.

16 013, I'll be promoting you now. 013, your  
17 speaker order number will be number 15, if you'll please  
18 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
19 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
20 screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area  
21 you would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

22 MS. ALBIN-SMITH: Hello. My name is Tess Albin-  
23 Smith, and I'll be speaking about the North Coast. I  
24 currently live on -- serve on the City of Fort Bragg  
25 Council and in Mendocino County, as well as many councils

1 and committees with joint jurisdiction throughout the  
2 County of Mendocino.

3           Again, I live in Fort Bragg. It's a community  
4 about three hours north of San Francisco, and about five  
5 hours south of the Oregon border. All our coastal  
6 committees are surrounded by redwood forests and whitewater  
7 ocean. We are unique. We are the feeding ground for  
8 whales, anadromous fish, such as salmon and steelhead that  
9 spawn in our coastal rivers. We have fog in our summers,  
10 which the redwoods depend on, and from which the redwoods  
11 capture and resupply our groundwater reservoirs, which is  
12 our only source of water.

13           Fort Bragg was historically a mill town, with a  
14 thriving commercial fishery industry. And although our  
15 local mills have changed owners and moved east, we are  
16 still very much logging and commercial fisheries industries  
17 up and down the coast.

18           Our North Coast counties include Del Norte,  
19 Humboldt and Mendocino County, who like us are more and  
20 more dependent on a tourist economy. For example, my city  
21 of Fort Bragg currently derives 50-percent of its income  
22 from sales and hotel tax alone.

23           Now I know that most -- one of the criteria for  
24 redistricting is that the district should be comprised of a  
25 specific community interest. I think I speak for most of

1 our coastal cities when I say, our interests are not be  
2 cookie cutter any town, franchise, USA. We want to be a  
3 destination respite from the city, the big cities, and its  
4 formula businesses, traffic congestion, high rises, heat  
5 and smog. We want to be different.

6           And our coastal tourist economy has everything to  
7 do with our -- our town histories, our whitewater ocean,  
8 our redwood forests environment, our clean air and our cool  
9 climate. We are not like any other place in California,  
10 and that is why tourists come and that is how we survive  
11 today.

12           So we need our elected representative to live on  
13 -- in our areas and to understand where we come from. And  
14 while Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties are the  
15 most closely aligned in term of economy and history,  
16 infrastructure issues, such as broadband, hospitals,  
17 schools and job opportunities, and while we share a concern  
18 for sea-level rise and what that means to our futures, to a  
19 lesser extent our neighboring --

20           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

21           MS. ALBIN-SMITH: -- rural counties of Trinity,  
22 Napa and Lake are also aligned. We share a similar rural  
23 economy and similar infrastructure issues, and a small-town  
24 feeling. I would like to add that Marin and Sonoma  
25 Counties they should be in the mix. They are a rapidly



1 growing economy and rural based with ranches, and we belong  
2 together. We would not want you to include the Bay Area  
3 cities in our district. Thanks for letting me speak, and  
4 that's for what you do.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

6 Right now we will have 005, and up next will be  
7 009.

8 005, I will be promoting you now. 005, your  
9 speaker order number will be number 16, if you'll please  
10 make note of that for future reference. And if you'll  
11 please let the mapper know what area you would like to  
12 discuss, the floor is yours.

13 MR. SIMMONS: Hi. Thank you. I would like to  
14 discuss the North Coast. This current map is good.

15 My name's Matt Simmons, and I'm located in Arcata  
16 -- Arcata in Humboldt County. And I want to emphasize that  
17 everything I've heard so far basically aligns with what I  
18 believe, which is that the North Coast is a unique  
19 community that should stay together and maintain its  
20 current representation.

21 I think that that's the case because we share a  
22 lot of unique characteristics and a lot of unique  
23 challenges. So, starting on the coast, the North Coast is  
24 rugged in a way -- rugged and undeveloped in a way that I  
25 think folks in other parts of coastal California don't --

1 like can't understand until they come up here. It's just  
2 miles and miles and miles of undeveloped, rugged coastline  
3 that provides, you know, the ecosystems for animals and  
4 fishing jobs and, you know, just amazing, breathtaking  
5 tourism.

6           And then as you move -- sorry. So then that's  
7 facing the challenge of sea-level rise, which is going to  
8 hit our area distinctly hard because -- another speaker  
9 already mentioned that Humboldt Bay, the sea-level rise is  
10 rising here faster than anywhere else in the State.

11           As you move inland you have the 101 Highway, also  
12 known as the Redwood Highway, which is really the artery  
13 and lifeline of the North Coast. I thank you for putting  
14 up this map. It's super helpful.

15           Basically all commerce and travel that is coming  
16 through the North Coast is on this north-south line. It --  
17 people obviously do go east-west, but it's a much smaller  
18 percentage of folks. And, you know, if you're someone  
19 living in Del Norte County, you basically have to go  
20 through Humboldt in order to get anywhere else in  
21 California.

22           I was playing around with Google Maps, and if you  
23 want to get to Siskiyou County, you have to go up quite a  
24 bit into Oregon, and then come back down the, you know, the  
25 5 basically in Oregon. So like Del Norte is super

1 connected to Humboldt, same with Sonoma. You know, it's  
2 that north-south corridor again.

3           And then you have farther east, you have a  
4 coastal mountain range, which is what really gives the  
5 North Coast a unique weather and climate. I mean, it's  
6 often like 60 or below right on the coast, whereas it's  
7 like 100 degrees in the summer further inland. And so,  
8 living in, you know, Mendocino versus living in Tehama, it  
9 feels like two completely different places. It's just so  
10 stark how different it is. And that's true all the way up  
11 and down the coast.

12           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

13           MR. SIMMONS: You know, Del Norte is very  
14 different from Siskiyou in terms of climate and weather.

15           And so, you know, I think we've heard from a lot  
16 of folks how happy they are with the current situation, and  
17 that's just because they feel like we are one community  
18 that works well together. Thank you so much for this  
19 opportunity.

20           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

21           Right now we will have 009, and up next we'll  
22 have 015.

23           009, I'll be promoting you now. 009, your  
24 speaker order number is number 17, if you'll please make  
25 note of that for future reference. And if you will please

1 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,  
2 the floor is yours.

3 MS. GUTIERREZ: Good afternoon. My name is Lupe  
4 Gutierrez, and I live in Del Norte County. The --  
5 specifically, I am at almost the intersection of 101 and  
6 Highway 299, which is -- I'm actually just about a quarter  
7 mile from what we call, "Ruby van Deventer Park." But I  
8 also would like to say that I have property in 96048 zip  
9 code, which is off Highway 299 in Trinity County, and it's  
10 five miles away from the Monument Fire.

11 And so, one of the things that I definitely would  
12 like to bring up, similarities and differences, people talk  
13 about the climate, but I think more specifically, people  
14 really enjoy the trials. They enjoy backpacking the river.

15 And speaking of the river, both these rivers have  
16 a granite company that sits on it, and I truly believe and  
17 have sat in on city council meetings in Trinity County,  
18 where people are concerned with the water quality, the  
19 contamination, the noise. And there's things like that  
20 that are similar with the company that we have here on --  
21 sitting on the water.

22 But aside from that fact, also -- I'm not going  
23 to be very popular in saying this, but nobody has brought  
24 up our housing crisis, and our housing crisis right now, we  
25 have what we call a continuum of care, and the common

1 purpose of planning housing and community action programs.  
2 And that has seven counties, and those seven counties  
3 include Del Norte, Humboldt, Shasta, Lassen, Siskiyou,  
4 Modoc, Sierra and Plumas.

5           So we do have some things in common with -- in  
6 common with those counties as well. And I'm going to  
7 emphasize not only the housing crisis and (indiscernible)  
8 the homelessness, but really, those trials are a wonderful  
9 thing to visit in all of those counties, and they all have  
10 distinct water issues that particularly affect the  
11 wildlife, particularly fish, and we have to pay specific  
12 attention to the natural hazards, such as the fires that  
13 we're battling right now.

14           So, that's really all I wanted to say. Thank you  
15 very much.

16           CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you for your input, and  
17 Katy, this will be our last caller before our mandatory  
18 break.

19           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. I was going to  
20 ask if you would like to do one more. Okay.

21           015, I will be promoting you now. 015, your  
22 speaker order number is number 18, if you'll please make  
23 note of that for future reference. If you will please let  
24 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss today,  
25 the floor is yours.

1           You can now enable your audio and video in the  
2 lower-left corner of your screen.

3           MS. FULKERSON: Unmute. Can you hear me now?

4           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

5           MS. FULKERSON: Hi. There you are. Okay. I'm  
6 Julie Fulkerson, and I am a former city council member from  
7 Arcata and Trinidad, as well as a county board member from  
8 the County of Humboldt. So I've been paying attention to  
9 these issues for most of my life.

10           And I've loved the unifying comments that I've  
11 heard during this entire session. I would like to just --  
12 just touch on another aspect of our diversity. Most people  
13 who are into science know that biological diversity is what  
14 keeps us alive. And I think that's also true for the  
15 social diversity and the economic diversity.

16           And because Humboldt and our region in general,  
17 Del Norte and a little bit farther south of us, we have to  
18 be very clever and resourceful. Some people refer to us as  
19 behind the redwood curtain. It's -- it is somewhat in the  
20 fog. It is rugged. It is rough. It is isolated.  
21 Sometimes our roads are washed out from all three sides.  
22 We still have the ocean as access, but that's not easily  
23 accessed generally.

24           So, we get to be a little bit independent in a  
25 good way. And I think as a result, we have some of the

1 most innovative production companies and thinkers, both in  
2 the arts, but also in industry. We have top-of-the-line  
3 industries that are exported all over world. So we have to  
4 build on the kinds of things that our neighbors from the  
5 south, Mendocino and Marin have done, and Sonoma, where  
6 they have a little stronger financial resources being  
7 closer to the center of the State. But up north we have a  
8 lot in common with those to the south of us, and we need to  
9 stick together because of our shared natural environment,  
10 the diversity of our ecosystems which make us stronger, and  
11 also our social strengths.

12           We're hardy, resourceful and we're conservative.  
13 I think that's interesting when I look at the nation as a  
14 whole and maybe even part of the State of California.  
15 Because we do have limited resources, and because we live  
16 right next door to those resources of water and trees and  
17 agriculture and fishing, we pay attention to the  
18 limitations of that.

19           So, that's what we have in common. We need to  
20 stick together, and I'm glad to hear all of those comments  
21 earlier. So, thanks so much.

22           CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Caller, are you still there?

23           MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Thank you.

24           Speaker 015, if you could please unmute yourself.

25 The Chair had a couple of additional questions for you.

1 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, caller, for your  
2 input. How far south would you consider your community of  
3 interest?

4 MS. FULKERSON: Well, I'm sorry, I'm a sort of a  
5 no-borders person, so my community of interest is pretty  
6 big. But in this context it really is to -- including  
7 Marin. A lot of people in the Bay Area think of Northern  
8 California as the Sonoma-Marin area, and maybe they even  
9 think of Mendocino. But it's important for people to be  
10 reminded in the rest of the State, that Humboldt and Del  
11 Norte are really a part of the North Coast, and a part of  
12 the same watershed systems and the same kind of thinking  
13 about ecology and so forth.

14 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you. I appreciate it.  
15 That is perfect.

16 And, also, I would thank all of California for  
17 your COI input thus far. We are required to take a 15-  
18 minute break to give staff a brief respite.

19 I would like to remind the public, even if you  
20 are in agreement with previous testimony, please define  
21 your community boundaries so that your particular testimony  
22 is correctly noted.

23 When we return from break we will start with  
24 individuals who are registered for an appointment time  
25 slot, and then open the phone lines if there is time. When



1 we come back from break you'll be in the trusted hands of  
2 Commissioner Toledo for the remainder of the meeting. So  
3 don't leave or hang up. Your testimony is needed and  
4 valued. See you back at 4:45.

5 (Off the record at 4:31 p.m.)

6 (Back on the record at 4:45 p.m.)

7 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO (via Zoom): Welcome back to the  
8 California Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of  
9 Interest Input Meeting. My name is Pedro Toledo, and I  
10 want to encourage you to visit the communities-of-interest  
11 tool to draw a map and describe your community by visiting  
12 drawmycacommunity.org.

13 For anyone who has joined us recently, we are  
14 offering language lines for Spanish language speakers to  
15 listen to the meeting in their native language. And a  
16 separate line for those who wish to provide public comment  
17 or public input.

18 Could our Spanish interpreter please read the  
19 translation, the full call-in instructions, please?

20 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes. This is the  
21 Interpreter, Margarita. I will read the full call-in  
22 instructions in Spanish.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Margarita, you're on  
24 mute.

25 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Sorry about that.

1           Good afternoon, this is Margarita, the Spanish  
2 Interpreter. I will go ahead and read the full call-in  
3 instructions in Spanish.

4           [Introductions read in Spanish]

5           Thank you.

6           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And as a reminder,  
7 even though we are focusing on specific counties today,  
8 Californians from anywhere in the State are welcome to  
9 provide input.

10           I will pass this over to Katy, our comment  
11 moderator, to continue with public input. We're going to  
12 start with those who are registered, and then open the  
13 phone lines, if there are -- if there is time, before the  
14 next session.

15           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

16           Welcome to the public input session. Please use  
17 the raise hand button at the button at the bottom of your  
18 screen to enter the queue. When it is your turn to speak,  
19 I will identify you by your assigned, unique I.D. number  
20 from your invite. You will be reconnected to the session  
21 with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio.  
22 You will then be assigned a speaker order number before you  
23 begin speaking. Please make a note of your speaker order  
24 number for future reference.

25           The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute

1 time limit for English speakers, and six minutes for those  
2 with an interpreter. There will be a warning at 30 seconds  
3 and 15 seconds remaining.

4           It is the Commission's goal to find the area on  
5 the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.  
6 If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city,  
7 please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your  
8 area, your three-minute or six-minute testimony will begin.  
9 Attendees will not be able to share their screen. At the  
10 end of your public input or at the end of your time, you  
11 will be reconnected in a listen-and-view-only mode. At the  
12 beginning of your input, please remind the mapper of what  
13 area you would like to discuss.

14           I will be starting this session off with caller  
15 0526, unique I.D. 004, and then unique I.D. 023, you will  
16 be next, as you are both holdovers from the first session  
17 and have been here since the beginning. And then we will  
18 move on to the appointments for this session. So, 004 and  
19 023.

20           004, if you will please follow the prompts to  
21 unmute at this time by pressing star-six on your telephone  
22 keypad. 004, your speaker order number will be number 19,  
23 if you'll please make note of that for future reference.  
24 And if you'll please let the mapper know what area you  
25 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

1 MR. FARLEY: Thank you very much. I would like  
2 to discuss Southern Solano County and Northern Contra Costa  
3 County, please.

4 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

5 MR. FARLEY: Thank you so much for the  
6 opportunity to address this Commission. It's once a  
7 decade, and I think this is far more democratic than in the  
8 past. My name is Tim Farley, and I'm a former city council  
9 member in the community of Martinez. It's a very historic  
10 community. And we also have a great deal of communities of  
11 interest with Benicia and other northern communities. In  
12 particular, we share the Carquinez Strait, and we have  
13 marinas that are in common.

14 We have industries that are in common. We have  
15 the oil industries that we share, with refineries both in  
16 Martinez, Benicia and in the Rodeo area. And, lastly, we  
17 also the wine country with the famous Diana Winery, that is  
18 a legacy winery going back to the early days.

19 I can only imagine how busy the Commission is,  
20 but I would hope that you would continue to keep the  
21 communities of Benicia and Martinez, and the communities of  
22 interest of the Carquinez strait, and the industrial  
23 communities together. The 680 corridor farther south is  
24 primarily a bedroom community, whereas Martinez and Benicia  
25 and Vallejo are industrial working-class communities that I

1 believe should be kept in interest. I appreciate the time,  
2 and I won't keep you. And that concludes my comments this  
3 afternoon.

4 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

6 Right now I'll be going to 023. I will be  
7 promoting you now. And then up next after that will be  
8 025.

9 023, your speaker order number will be number 20,  
10 if you'll please make note of that for future reference.  
11 And if you'll please let the mapper know what area you  
12 would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

13 You are on mute, ma'am. There you are.

14 MS. AMBER: Okay. Okay. There. All right. So,  
15 Marion Amber. I'm speaking from Bayside, California, which  
16 is part of Arcata. And I am speaking about the North  
17 Coast, specifically, Humboldt. And as Julie said, you  
18 know, we're part of the -- we're behind the redwood  
19 curtain. It's a very kind of unique, poetic way of  
20 describing this area. And it's a quiet little world in a  
21 way. It's out of the way, certainly, but we're fierce  
22 protectors of nature and heritage.

23 We particularly share a history of environmental  
24 protection with Mendocino, our tree sitters who challenged  
25 the cutting of old-growth redwood. We mobilized to keep

1 Calpine -- Calpine's LNG storage facility out of Humboldt  
2 Bay. We've protected Native American sacred sites.  
3 There's a proud history here. And EPIC, which is an  
4 outstanding environmental group, has sued to protect this  
5 legacy, to protect animals, the marbled murrelet, the  
6 northern spotted owls. But we're part of a larger  
7 community as well.

8 We're part of the entire North Coast, starting  
9 with Del Norte and moving down through Humboldt, Mendo,  
10 Sonoma and Marin. Our ecosystems are heavily shaped by the  
11 Pacific. Our climate and environment has shaped our  
12 economies, agriculture, dairy, fishing, and climate change  
13 will affect all of us and we need to be able to adapt  
14 together.

15 And being paired with communities further to the  
16 east, such as Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, it's not going to  
17 help either of us very much, because we have different  
18 interests. And so I strongly encourage you to consider us  
19 who we are, who we've been, and leave us as we are. And  
20 thank you so much for your work. I appreciate it.

21 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

23 Right now we go to 025, and then up next will be  
24 024.

25 025, I will be promoting you now. 025, your

1 speaker order number will be 21, if you'll please make note  
2 of that for future reference. And if you'll please the  
3 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor  
4 is yours.

5 MR. WEBSTER: I'm going to be discussing Marin,  
6 Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

7 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. So ahead, please.

8 MR. WEBSTER: My name is Mike Webster. I'm a  
9 resident of Ukiah and Mendocino County. I'm a retired U.S.  
10 geological survey, Water Resources Division, which I served  
11 36 years. For the last 18 years I was the field office  
12 chief in Ukiah, with an area covering Del Norte, Humboldt,  
13 Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

14 What geographically binds these counties together  
15 is the ocean to the west and the mountains to the east,  
16 with small valleys in between. Common industries include  
17 fisheries, tourism, timber, agriculture, with main crops of  
18 wine grapes and cannabis.

19 Water resources along the coastline often comes  
20 from groundwater wells and small aquifers, or withdrawn  
21 from rain collectors beneath the small rivers or creeks.  
22 For groundwater, if the supply is over drafted, the wells  
23 can dry up or result in saltwater intrusion from the ocean.  
24 At low flows, rain collectors can dewater its source.

25 As our drought continues, these issues become

1 more important, and some communities are already dealing  
2 with them, especially wells going dry. Creeks that  
3 recharge these small aquifers run west along the coast, and  
4 east-west from the mountain ranges surrounding the valleys.  
5 They are disassociated with the State's central valley.

6           On a much larger scale, there is one issue that  
7 involves the counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Lakes, Sonoma  
8 and Marin. That was started by PG&E's intent to auction off  
9 the Potter Valley Project. Eel River water flows through  
10 Humboldt County to the ocean, just south of Eureka. Lake  
11 Pillsbury in Lake County collects runoff from rain and snow  
12 in the Mendocino mountains. Water released from Lake  
13 Pillsbury flows to the Van Arsdale Diversion that diverts  
14 water through the mountain into Potter Valley, where it  
15 runs through a powerhouse. Water from the power -- Potter  
16 Valley Project runs to Lake Mendocino, where it is held  
17 then released through summer for water supply in Mendocino,  
18 Sonoma and Marin Counties.

19           In 2017, at the request of several entities,  
20 Congressman Huffman brought together an ad hoc committee of  
21 stakeholders to discuss water supply and ecological  
22 concerns, and put together a two-basin solution for the  
23 Potter Valley Project, and the relicensing process with the  
24 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Due to time  
25 constraints, I will not mention these stakeholders, but I



1 will summarize that there are a total of 30 groups. They  
2 consist of --

3 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

4 MR. WEBSTER: -- tribes, recreational and  
5 commercial fisheries. The counties of Humboldt, Mendocino,  
6 Sonoma, Marin, as well as forest service, irrigation  
7 districts and all active with -- and they're all active  
8 within the current regional district.

9 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

10 MR. WEBSTER: A project of this level only  
11 reinforces the need to keep this region intact for the very  
12 reason that our hydro-geographic infrastructure is  
13 connected with these counties. The region has been  
14 connected for my entire career.

15 MR. MANOFF: Time.

16 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now will be 024,  
18 and then up next will be 028.

19 024, I will be promoting you now. 024, your  
20 speaker order number is number 22, if you'll please make  
21 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
22 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,  
23 the floor is yours.

24 MR. HENDRICK: Okay. Thank you very much. I'm  
25 going to talk specifically about Del Norte County and our

1 connection to Humboldt County, and more generally about our  
2 relationship with the other coastal counties all the way  
3 down to Marin.

4 My name is Kevin Hendrick. I will north of  
5 Crescent City in Del Norte County on the Pacific Coast,  
6 about 20 miles south of the Oregon border, and in 350 miles  
7 north of San Francisco. I've been an active member of this  
8 community since 1993.

9 I'm speaking today to keep -- ask you to keep our  
10 district the same as they are now. Some people are asking  
11 that our districts be changed to connect with Siskiyou  
12 County to our east. This makes no sense if we are looking  
13 to identify communities of common interest. We are  
14 separated by a substantial mountain range, and there are no  
15 direct roads to connect us. To get to Yreka, the county  
16 seat in Siskiyou County, it takes three hours to drive 160  
17 miles up into Oregon and back into California. We are  
18 physically separated and do not share overlapping interests  
19 in any practical way.

20 By comparison, our community is integrally  
21 connected to Humboldt County and the other coastal counties  
22 to the south of us. Del Norte County and all the counties  
23 to the south are linked by Highway 101. We are only 80  
24 miles from Eureka, the county seat of Humboldt County.

25 As a small, rural county, many of us need to

1 travel to Humboldt County for medical services, including  
2 specialists that we don't have locally. Our local open-  
3 door clinic that serves low-income and uninsured is based  
4 in Humboldt County and has a satellite clinic in Crescent  
5 City. Our senior services are provided through the Area 1  
6 Agency on Aging, which has their main office in Humboldt  
7 County and provides services to Del Norte County.

8           Our cooperative tourism marketing for the redwood  
9 coast promotes the redwood state and national parks, which  
10 bridge the border of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Our  
11 education system is linked through the College of the  
12 Redwoods, which has a main campus in Humboldt County, and a  
13 smaller satellite community college in Del Norte County.

14           Our fishing and maritime are linked. Del Norte  
15 County is a leader in California for volume of crab caught  
16 each year. Much of this crab is shipped down the coast to  
17 Humboldt County for processing and shipping. Our largest  
18 indigenous tribe, the Yurok tribe, has ancestral lands that  
19 spread across both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

20           These are only a few examples of why it's  
21 important for my community --

22           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

23           MR. HENRICK: -- to remain the same district as  
24 Humboldt and all of the counties to the south of us. We  
25 are all coastal counties that have much more in common than

1 any counties to the east. For all of these reasons --

2 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

3 MR. HENRICK: -- I strongly urge you to keep our  
4 districts as they are. I ask that you keep it coastal.  
5 I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

6 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

8 Right now we have 028, and then up next will be  
9 034.

10 028, I will be promoting you now. 028, your  
11 speaker order number is number 23, if you'll please make  
12 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your  
13 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
14 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
15 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

16 You're still on mute. We can see you, we just  
17 can't hear you.

18 MS. SCOTT: Okay. Got it.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect.

20 MS. SCOTT: Good afternoon. Again, I spoke at  
21 the June meeting, and my name is Barbara Scott. Mike and I  
22 live on the Sea Ranch, that's Sonoma County, and thank you  
23 for this opportunity.

24 Last time I talked briefly about Sea Ranch, but I  
25 really would like to add more information about this

1 community. I had spoken about the abundant wildlife, the  
2 coast and how we work to preserve it. Now I'd like you to  
3 know more about the ranch itself.

4 We a 10-mile stretch of the coast comprising  
5 5,000 acres, (indiscernible) with blending with the  
6 environment -- and I hope the dog barking isn't bothering  
7 you.

8 (Dog barking in background.)

9 We have very strict CC&R's which we appreciate.  
10 We are governed by an elected board of directors. The  
11 ranch has 40 miles of roads maintained by the association,  
12 a full security staff, over 40 miles of hiking and  
13 equestrian trails, three swimming pools, tennis courts, a  
14 community center, to name only a few of our amenities. And  
15 right along Highway 1 at Stewart's Point is Twofish Bakery,  
16 and you must stop there if you're up here.

17 We're closely aligned with businesses in Walhalla  
18 and Point Arena, the example, the Walhalla Arts Center, the  
19 Redwood Coast Humane Society, Coastal Seniors and the  
20 service organizations. We sponsor charity events, such as  
21 Project Santa, that helps needy families in Point Arena,  
22 Walhalla and surrounding towns.

23 Our desire is to see our district remain as it  
24 is. We rely on our connections from Marin County north to  
25 the Oregon border. We share medical facilities and

1 services. They often overlap. We share educational  
2 concerns, helping with tutoring-mentoring programs in the  
3 local schools. Mendocino and Sonoma and Marin receive  
4 their water from Lake Mendocino and the Russian River. The  
5 Eel River water supplies Humboldt and part of Mendocino  
6 County, and as previous speakers have said, Highway 1 is  
7 our link. We have strong connections all the way up, as I  
8 said, to the border.

9 I hope this gives the Commission a clearer  
10 picture of who we are and what our needs are. They are  
11 truly coastal. It is our sincere wish that our district  
12 remains intact. And thank you so much for your time.

13 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now will be 034,  
15 and then up next will be 030.

16 034, I will be promoting you now. 034, your  
17 speaker order number is number 24, if you'll please make  
18 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
19 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,  
20 the floor is yours.

21 MR. LEVY: Thank you. I'm focused on the North  
22 Coast counties. My name is Noah Levy. I'm a resident of  
23 Arcata in Humboldt County. I really appreciate the  
24 opportunity to speak to you today, and I appreciate the  
25 important work that your Commission is doing.

1 I've been on this call for a little while, and  
2 I've already heard certain other speakers explain in  
3 better, more precise language the reasons that I would have  
4 liked to give for why the North Coast counties do belong to  
5 -- do belong together as a community of interest. And by  
6 the North Coast counties, I'm talking about Humboldt, Del  
7 Norte, Mendocino and Sonoma certainly. And then I could  
8 add in Marin for certain purposes and a couple of the  
9 inland counties as well. If we're going to talk about a  
10 slightly larger district, we could include Lake, Napa and  
11 Trinity. But the heart of the North Coast is Del Norte,  
12 Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma.

13 I want to specifically call out those four  
14 counties and say that they must all be seen as the heart of  
15 this North Coast area, which is -- belongs together for,  
16 you know, climate reasons, for economic reasons and for  
17 cultural reasons. Climate-wise it's really important to  
18 think about how the North Coast is its own climate that's  
19 quite different from the inland counties. Very, very  
20 different than the climate that you find in Siskiyou and  
21 Shasta, Tehama, et cetera.

22 Economically we are shared -- we share the 101  
23 corridor, which is a lot -- connects a lot of the  
24 businesses and towns on the -- in this district that we're  
25 talking about. And, of course, we share the coast and the

1 coastal economy.

2           And culturally I think it's important, too, that  
3 politically the North Coast has been for a long time  
4 representing a more progressive, more liberal sort of  
5 political voice, and has had that representation in -- both  
6 in the State and Congress. That differs somewhat from the  
7 inland counties, like Siskiyou, Shasta and Tehama.

8           So, I don't want to take up any more time than is  
9 needed. I think I have made the point that for reasons  
10 that have to do with the climate, economy and the culture,  
11 I really hope that you will keep the North Coast counties  
12 together as a district representing the community of  
13 interest that spans Del Norte County down to Sonoma County  
14 on the coast. Thank you so much.

15           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

16           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
17 030, and up next will be 033.

18           030, I will be promoting you now. 030, your  
19 speaker order number is number 25, if you'll please make  
20 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
21 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,  
22 the floor is yours.

23           MS. KELLY: Great. Thanks. I'm here to discuss  
24 Humboldt County and the North Coast. And my name's Erin  
25 Kelly, and I'm a forestry professor at Humboldt State



1 University. And a lot of the speakers before me kind of  
2 said things that I would have said. But I live in Eureka,  
3 and I support remaining aligned with counties kind of  
4 generally to the north and south of us, including Del  
5 Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

6 A lot of people talked about kind of climatic or  
7 ecological reasons, which I agree with, but I also think  
8 I'll bring up some political reasons. A lot of projects  
9 that have been proposed by our representatives within this  
10 region are really beneficial to us and reflect our values,  
11 things like the Great Redwood Trail and the Northwest  
12 California Wilderness Recreation and Working Forests Act.  
13 And I think a lot of the political emphasis to the inland  
14 region doesn't reflect our values. So, there's been a lot  
15 of denial of climate change or voting against efforts to  
16 curb or mitigate it.

17 So I think that we're really well represented  
18 where we're at right now. Our values of protecting the  
19 environment, but also advancing education and science and,  
20 you know, promoting amazing recreational opportunities,  
21 supporting the arts, and building these diverse economies  
22 that include natural resource management, and also  
23 conservation. And, you know, people have mentioned  
24 fisheries, forestry, but also the knowledge economy and the  
25 tech sector. All of these kind of hold us together, and I

1 think make us a really logical unit to -- as a community of  
2 interest. So, thank you so much.

3 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
5 033, and then up next will be 038.

6 033, I will be promoting you now. 033, your  
7 speaker order is number 26, if you'll please make note of  
8 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
9 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor  
10 is yours.

11 SPEAKER NUMBER 26: I would like to speak to  
12 Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte. And I  
13 reside in Ukiah in Mendocino County. And Highway 101 runs  
14 through Ukiah. It also runs through -- in Eureka,  
15 Humboldt, and then again in Del Norte, Crescent City, and  
16 through Santa Rosa in Sonoma, and through Marin as well to  
17 the bay.

18 And what we all share in common is our coastline,  
19 all the way from Marin, all the way up to Del Norte. So in  
20 addition to this highway, we also share the coast, which  
21 has Highway 1 along it as well for large portions of the  
22 coast. And I think all the coastal counties have been --  
23 all have been resistant to drilling off the coast for oil.  
24 And that is one thing I believe unites all of the coastal  
25 counties in Northern California.

1           And the river systems, people have talked about  
2 that, too. You know, the Russian River runs through  
3 Mendocino and Sonoma. The Eel River starts in Mendocino  
4 County and runs north into Humboldt. These are very real  
5 things that join us all as a community of interest. Our  
6 rivers, you know, the major highways, and certainly the  
7 coast where people earn their living through fishing. And  
8 also in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, silviculture or  
9 logging is a large industry as well that unites -- and I  
10 would throw Del Norte in there, too, that unites all of  
11 those counties.

12           And then to the south, you know, Sonoma and  
13 Marin, it's the dairy industries over on the coast, again,  
14 that unite those counties. And we have some dairy up in  
15 southern Mendocino as well, in the Point Arena area there's  
16 some large dairy operations on the coast, also.

17           So it's the -- you know, the coast, the fishing,  
18 you know, that unite us all. And more recently now, we  
19 have a train that you can pick up in Sonoma County and it  
20 takes you all the way down to --

21           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

22           SPEAKER NUMBER 26: -- to the ferry. And, you  
23 know, our economies are mostly small, local businesses.  
24 We're a tourist-based economy as well. And that we share  
25 with --

1 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

2 SPEAKER NUMBER 26: -- with Humboldt and Del  
3 Norte, you know, along with Mendocino. And I thank you for  
4 your time. I'd like to stay together as the North Coast.

5 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
7 038, and then up next will be 026.

8 038, I will be promoting you now. 038, your  
9 speaker order number is number 27, if you'll please make  
10 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your  
11 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
12 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
13 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

14 You're still on mute, sir. We can see you but we  
15 can't hear you. Now we can't see you or hear you. There  
16 you are.

17 SPEAKER NUMBER 27: There we go. Hi. I knew  
18 we'd get there. I'd like to discuss Humboldt County  
19 mainly. Hello?

20 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

21 SPEAKER NUMBER 27: I'm sorry. My wife Cathy  
22 (phonetic) and I moved to Humboldt County in 1971 to attend  
23 Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods. We  
24 fled from the rat race in Southern California at the time  
25 and never looked back. After graduation from college we

1 liked the area so much, we decided to stay in Humboldt to  
2 make a living and start a family. Fifty years later our  
3 two children live within a half-hour drive from their  
4 homes, and we now enjoy the company of four grandchildren.

5 My feeling about our current legislative district  
6 is a quote by Thomas Bertram Lance, "if it ain't broke  
7 don't fix it." It's seriously over time I have noticed a  
8 great deal of synergies, synergies involved between the  
9 counties and our district.

10 A number of other commentators have shared their  
11 experiences. For example, local behavioral health board  
12 member Clark Moore (phonetic) detailed how the counties  
13 work with each other for the better of all. Of course  
14 climate change, ramifications are shared concerns of  
15 everyone.

16 On the economic development side, we have a major  
17 oceanic underwater fiber cable coming to Humboldt Bay,  
18 along with a data bank. Fish farming's in the works.  
19 There's an offshore wind tower -- as is offshore wind  
20 tower. And, of course, the Great Redwood Trail will be a  
21 great asset for locals and tourists alike. And Humboldt is  
22 a recognized leader in the rapidly growing legal cannabis  
23 industry, and that's something to note in your  
24 consideration.

25 After graduating from HSU -- a little bit about

1 me, I accepted a job as a wholesale floor covering  
2 distributor based in San Francisco Bay area, and promoted  
3 to the Eureka warehouse as branch manager, and that  
4 required coordinating logistics between local retail  
5 clients and numerous manufacturers located in California  
6 and around the nation.

7           In 2001 I opened (indiscernible) to offer  
8 consulting services to clients in the flooring industry  
9 interested in doing business in China. I was a founding  
10 member and served on the Freshwater Educational Foundation,  
11 Freshwater School Board, and the Eureka Adult School  
12 Business Advisory Council. Currently I'm a board member of  
13 the nonprofit Coalition for Responsible Transportation  
14 Priorities.

15           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16           SPEAKER NUMBER 27: And along those lines you  
17 heard many times today about the Last Chance Grade from  
18 Humboldt to Del Norte County, how significant it is and how  
19 the slides had really crippled us here lately, and we  
20 really need to get that project (indiscernible).

21           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

22           SPEAKER NUMBER 27: Thank you very much. I  
23 appreciate it. I've been a resident here since 1971, and  
24 let's keep it going.

25           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
2 026, and then up next will be 027.

3 026, I will be promoting you now. 026, your  
4 speaker order number is number 28, if you'll please make  
5 note of that for future reference. You can now enable your  
6 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
7 If you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
8 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

9 MS. BALCK: I will be discussing Del Norte County  
10 and the coastal counties.

11 Hello. My name is Catherine Balck, and I have  
12 lived and worked in Del Norte County for 10 years. I work  
13 at Sutter Coast Hospital where I'm an ultrasound  
14 technologist.

15 I'm here testifying before you today in my  
16 capacity as the Vice President of the Board of Directors  
17 for the Del Norte Arts and Cultural Association, also known  
18 as the DNACA.

19 DNACA is the state local partner with the  
20 California Arts Council for the County of Del Norte. We  
21 have been in existence for over 40 years, providing our Del  
22 Norte constituent's performance art series and supporting  
23 art in public places in our local community. We also  
24 provide art education in our schools and art programs for  
25 veterans, incarcerated people and seniors.

1           We are closely aligned with other arts  
2 organizations in Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity Counties.  
3 We interact with these groups monthly, discussing  
4 programming opportunities, fundraising issues, and other  
5 arts-related matters. We currently receive grants from the  
6 Ink People and the Wild Rivers Foundation, both of whom are  
7 located in Humboldt County.

8           Many of our performing artists use the north-  
9 south coastal 101 Highway corridor to travel to our venues  
10 and to head to their next concert locations. We have  
11 vendors and attend workshops in the Humboldt area, and many  
12 of our concert attendees come up from the Humboldt areas,  
13 like Arcata, McKinleyville, Eureka, Ferndale and Fortuna.

14           We feel closely connected with our neighbors in  
15 Humboldt, Trinity, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin  
16 Counties. These areas have vibrant arts communities that  
17 support our work here in remote Del Norte County. I feel  
18 strongly that continued association with these coastal  
19 communities is essential to the wellbeing of our county and  
20 our arts council.

21           I'm sure that there are also art communities in  
22 the eastern part of our State, but due to the geographical  
23 reality of difficult, windy roads that require a long drive  
24 through Oregon, we do not interact with these communities  
25 on a regular basis.



1           The coastal communities also share the impact of  
2 the Highway 101 transportation issues. The Last Chance  
3 Grade has been a problem for decades, and our coastal  
4 neighbors share our concerns about keeping Highway 101 open  
5 and functioning as the main transportation path through our  
6 common communities.

7           When Highway 101 has problems, the eastern  
8 counties are not impacted --

9           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

10          MS. BALCK: -- as their transportation hub is  
11 around Highway 5. The eastern counties do not understand  
12 the impact of slides and road closures on our main  
13 thoroughfare.

14          I'm asking that the Commissioners continue to  
15 align Del Norte County with --

16          MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

17          MS. BALCK: -- the coastal communities that we  
18 are linked with, Highway 101. We share many similar  
19 problems that are unique to the coast, and that are not  
20 related to the inland communities. Changing our district  
21 would negatively impact the arts community in Del Norte,  
22 and we respectfully request --

23          MR. MANOFF: Time.

24          CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

25          PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have

1 027, and then up next will be 029.

2 I'd like to invite 035 to use the raise your hand  
3 button at the bottom of your screen to get in the comment  
4 queue line.

5 027 -- I see your hand, 035. So 027 will be  
6 right now. 027, your speaker order number is number 29, if  
7 you'll please make note of that for future reference. You  
8 can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left  
9 corner of your screen. If you'll please let the mapper  
10 know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is  
11 yours.

12 MR. HOWARD: Hello. Can you hear me?

13 MR. MANOFF: Yes. Go ahead, please. 027, we can  
14 hear you.

15 MR. HOWARD: Hello. Can you hear me?

16 MR. MANOFF: Yes. Yes, we can hear you.

17 MR. HOWARD: Yes. Very good. Thank you.

18 MR. MANOFF: You're welcome.

19 MR. HOWARD: My name is Tim Howard. I'm calling  
20 from Arcata, California in Humboldt County. I wanted to  
21 discuss Humboldt County specifically and the coastal  
22 counties currently in this district in general.

23 I wanted to ask if I could first ask the  
24 Commission a question first. Just from seeing -- finding  
25 out about this on your site and reading a bit on there, I

1 was little unclear.

2           So, correct me if I'm wrong. If Marin County is  
3 removed from the current Congressional District -- our  
4 current Congressional Representative, Jared Huffman, is  
5 from Marin. And that means we would have a new  
6 congressional representative if the district was rejoined  
7 without Marin, am I correct in that?

8           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: I'm not understanding your  
9 question. Can you repeat it?

10           MR. HOWARD: I said in part of this congressional  
11 district we are represented in Congress by Jared Huffman.  
12 I believe he is from Marin. Correct me if I'm wrong.

13           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Your current representative is  
14 from --

15           MR. HOWARD: So, if Marin County was removed and  
16 this was redrawn, then we would have a new congressional  
17 district -- Congressman, correct?

18           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Potentially.

19           MR. HOWARD: So, I want to just say I -- I  
20 personally am very happy with him as my congressional  
21 representative, and I don't want that to change. I'm  
22 thinking about the potential of how this could be  
23 withdrawn, removing Marin and putting in Napa. Marin's a  
24 lot bigger than that. I assume that we would then get more  
25 of Sonoma, which would also be in the inland areas. I've

1 been -- I was looking at how the district is drawn, and I  
2 would much rather keep the district as it is.

3 I've been -- I've lived in this district almost  
4 my whole life, and I remember when -- so, I remember very  
5 well before it was drawn the way it currently is. I don't  
6 want to go back to days of having -- being represented by  
7 more conservative Democrats or moderate Republicans. I  
8 like that this district is progressively drawn with a  
9 progressive, a progressive Congress person, and I don't  
10 really want that to change.

11 I've -- I can only echo the comments that I've  
12 heard from a lot of people already on here, about how the  
13 coastal counties and this district as it is now have a lot  
14 in common as far as --

15 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. HOWARD: -- as far as climate and geography  
17 and challenges and positives. So I can only echo all that,  
18 and I really don't want to see it with -- be withdrawn  
19 specifically. I know Marin is a long way from Humboldt  
20 County and it's not the same.

21 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

22 MR. HOWARD: But when I've been through there,  
23 you know, many times since I was a child in the 70's, you  
24 know, I feel a lot more in common there than I do say,  
25 Shasta, just much closer away. So I want you to keep the

1 district as it is, please.

2 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, speaker. And I also  
3 just wanted to let you know that the California Citizens  
4 Redistricting Commission cannot consider incumbency in the  
5 redistricting process. We're not -- that's not a factor,  
6 but we are certainly looking at communities of interest and  
7 the interests that your community (indiscernible).

8 MR. HOWARD: I understand.

9 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you so much for your  
10 comments.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.  
12 Right now we will have 029, and then up next will be 035.

13 029, I will be promoting you now. 029, your  
14 speaker order number is number 30, if you'll please make  
15 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
16 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,  
17 the floor is yours.

18 MR. HORLICK: Thank you. I'm Tanya Horlick with  
19 KMUD Radio Redwood Community Radio. We broadcast out of  
20 Humboldt County and cover all of Humboldt County. We also  
21 reach into western Trinity County, southern Mendocino --  
22 or, sorry, northern Mendocino County, and southern Del  
23 Norte.

24 As a speaker before your Commission, I want to  
25 first honor you for this opportunity to represent my

1 community. I live and work in Garberville and Redway in  
2 southern Humboldt, which you can see in your map south of  
3 that green splotch, which Humboldt Redwoods State Park.  
4 That's the greatest, contiguous area of old-growth forest  
5 remaining in the entire world. So although we're here in  
6 Northern California, we draw a lot of international  
7 tourists, which is ironic because our society here is not  
8 built for the modern, urban infrastructure.

9           Garberville and Redway are not established as  
10 cities, although they are urban centralities in these  
11 areas. The closest nearby locations that have hospitals  
12 are 45 miles to the north in the middle of Humboldt, or  
13 about 45 miles to the south in northern Mendocino. So we  
14 possess one of the only hospitals in our entire region, but  
15 we're not classified as a city in Garberville.

16           I want to point this out to you because the  
17 hospital, that's one of the only services we have. In many  
18 modern parts of California, you have complete internet  
19 connectivity, you have complete cellular coverage. We do  
20 not. So close to Highway 101, lots of our community has  
21 access to the internet, access to cellular coverage. And  
22 when you get north or west or east of Highway 101, you lose  
23 connectivity. I want to point that out to you on behalf of  
24 all of our residents that probably can't attend this  
25 meeting.

1           In addition to the fact that there's few public  
2 services in Garberville, one hospital with one ER in our  
3 entire region, we also lack funding for roads, and our  
4 roads are extensive, and our county, Humboldt County cannot  
5 pay for all the road repairs we now have for our  
6 communities to even stay connected to a hospital, if they  
7 need it. So we need more road funding. I want to point  
8 that out to you.

9           We also, as I mentioned, need more cellular  
10 networks and internet connectivity. Many people here are  
11 farmers, gardeners, entrepreneurs, who tend to share a love  
12 of culture on all levels. There's a long tradition for  
13 agriculture, and an ever-evolving artistic and culturally  
14 beneficial --

15           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16           MS. HORLICK: -- community -- thank you.

17           We also treasure our precious redwood forest and  
18 the rugged wildness of the Lost Coast. So it's important  
19 to note that we are a modern community in a very rural,  
20 undeveloped area. I believe that southern Humboldt --

21           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

22           MS. HORLICK: -- western Trinity and northern  
23 Mendocino ought to be its own district. I stridently urge  
24 the Commission to consider this, and to look more closely  
25 at our topography and the lack of services in southern

1 Humboldt --

2 MR. MANOFF: Time.

3 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Can we have the caller back?

4 Just wanted to --

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Just a moment, Chair.

6 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

7 MS. HORLICK: Thank you. What else would you  
8 like to know?

9 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Just a little bit of  
10 clarification of what your community of interest is, and  
11 also just to thank you for promoting of today's event. I  
12 know you've helped us with promotion of today's event, so.

13 MS. HORLICK: yes, sir, and it's a pleasure to  
14 see you. Thank you for also being a guest on my radio  
15 program several weeks ago, and informing our community.

16 Yes. Specifically, I represent I suppose  
17 southern Humboldt, Garberville and Redway, but I believe  
18 that it is true that western Trinity County and northern  
19 Mendocino are very similar to us. Does that help you  
20 clarify?

21 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: So is that your community of  
22 interest for purposes of today?

23 MS. HORLICK: Yes.

24 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay.

25 MS. HORLICK: Yes. Exactly this area you have



1 mapped right now.

2 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. Well, thank you so  
3 much for your help.

4 MS. HORLICK: Thank you, Commissioner.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

6 Right now will be 035, and then up next will be  
7 037.

8 035, I will be promoting you now. 035, your  
9 speaker order number is number 31, if you will please make  
10 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
11 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,  
12 the floor is yours.

13 MS. RAMOS: Good afternoon. I would like to  
14 discuss Napa County. Perfect.

15 Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Belia  
16 Ramos. I am the Fifth District Supervisor for Napa County,  
17 and I have the privilege of representing the City of  
18 American Canyon, the southernmost city of Napa County, the  
19 second most populous city in our county, and certainly the  
20 most diverse.

21 While this is only the second Commission to have  
22 been called to service, I can say that the City of American  
23 Canyon and Napa County already have a history with the  
24 Commission. Back in 2001 under different circumstances, we  
25 loaded a bus and we came to participate in public comment

1 before the Redistricting Commission because of an  
2 unfortunate event. We have a zip code. It's a very  
3 notable zip code, 94503. And what's notable about is that  
4 while the City of American Canyon is wholly contained  
5 within Napa County, our zip code is aligned with Vallejo in  
6 its neighboring Solano County. And this can lead to some  
7 misconceptions of actually where we belong.

8           And so in order to ensure that this Commission,  
9 the 2021 iteration of the Commission, respect the  
10 affiliation that we have as a Napa County city, I wanted to  
11 speak to that just a little bit.

12           Napa County is home to 138,000 residents, and  
13 certainly Napa County's agricultural heritage is  
14 undeniable. From the vines that grow on the valley floor,  
15 then in our hillsides, to the bottling and to the shipments  
16 of these fine Napa Valley wines, I can actually tell you  
17 that all these activities are occurring in the southernmost  
18 portion of Napa County, and principally, in American  
19 Canyon.

20           It is imperative that our countywide small-town  
21 living and agricultural heritage be recognized. The Napa  
22 County Board of Supervisors on March 11<sup>th</sup> approved a  
23 resolution that was forwarded to the Commission defining  
24 Napa County as a whole as a community of interest.

25           The City of American Canyon sent a letter to the

1 Commission on April 6<sup>th</sup>, also noting its desire to continue  
2 to be represented along with the rest of Napa County. And  
3 I, along with Solano County Supervisor Erin Hannigan on May  
4 5<sup>th</sup> sent a letter to the Commission, explaining the  
5 relationship of American Canyon with Vallejo and Benicia.  
6 As an original California county, we're asking the  
7 Commission to keep Napa County whole as one  
8 congressional --

9 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

10 MS. RAMOS: -- senatorial and assembly district.  
11 It is important for us to continue to be able to advocate  
12 in a uniform fashion for our agricultural heritage that is  
13 a vital part of California. Thank you so much.

14 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
16 037, and then up next will be caller 3150.

17 And then I'd like to invite the other callers  
18 that have called in to please press star-nine on their  
19 telephone keypad to raise their hands.

20 Right now, 037, I will be promoting you. 037,  
21 your speaker order number is number 32, if you'll please  
22 make note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
23 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
24 screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area  
25 you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

1 SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Hello. Am I on?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You sure are.

3 SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Thank you. I live in  
4 McKinleyville, which is sort of the northern part of  
5 Humboldt County. And I would like to advocate for keeping  
6 our district related to the coast. I've spent a lot of  
7 time on the coast, but also inland in other counties,  
8 Siskiyou and Shasta and eastern Trinity. And we on the  
9 coast share a very different regimen culturally,  
10 environmentally, politically, with our neighbors to the  
11 south in Mendocino, and particularly western Trinity, that  
12 differs from those characteristics further east.

13 So, I find, you know, our representation is very  
14 reflective of these values. Our agricultural pursuits, our  
15 forestry pursuits, our fisheries pursuits are all sort of  
16 aligned in this region, and are quite different from those  
17 in the east. So that's pretty much what I want to say. I  
18 appreciate the opportunity to have some input here.

19 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Can I ask a question?

20 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

21 037, the Chair had some additional questions for  
22 you, if you could unmute, please.

23 SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Yes. Uh-huh.

24 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. Could you please define  
25 western Trinity County?

1 SPEAKER NUMBER 32: How would I --

2 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: What communities would that  
3 include, or how would you define that?

4 SPEAKER NUMBER 32: I'd define as mostly those  
5 that are sort of contiguous with Humboldt. I'm not sure  
6 geographically how to -- how to define that. Probably west  
7 of Weaverville. You have the map up there?

8 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Uh-huh.

9 SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Yeah, probably west of  
10 Weaverville. I'd say that probably would do it.

11 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, expert. Appreciate  
12 it.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.  
14 Right now we have caller with the last four,  
15 3150.

16 I would like to invite the other callers that  
17 have called in to please press star-nine on their telephone  
18 keypad to raise their hand indicating they wish to give  
19 comment during this session.

20 At this time caller 3150, if you will please  
21 follow the prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-  
22 six. Caller with the last -- there you are. Your speaker  
23 order number is number 33, if you'll please make note of  
24 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
25 mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor

1 is yours.

2 MR. GARCIA: Very good. I'd like to speak about  
3 Napa County, please.

4 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

5 MR. GARCIA: Yes. My name's Leon Garcia. I'm  
6 Mayor of City of American Canyon. Our supervisor in  
7 District 5, Belia Ramos, spoke a little earlier. I'd like  
8 to underscore as well some of her comments. You know,  
9 American Canyon is the logistic center for the wine  
10 industry. We have the sizable warehouse installation in  
11 American Canyon. That's a preferred spot because it's  
12 access to rail and the state highways. And we are very  
13 much that -- part of that huge industry in that county.

14 Likewise, also tied to that is infrastructure  
15 needs. We work with both Solano County, our representative  
16 there. We have joint committee meetings between Marin,  
17 Sonoma, Napa and Solano Counties trying to address the  
18 congestion on State Highway 37. And I guess the business  
19 in terms of funding, to (indiscernible) approve that for  
20 our economic interests, basically our commuters and our go-  
21 through services that are moving back and forth.

22 And that would -- so we would like to say in fact  
23 with Napa County, and we may -- keep our districts as they  
24 are right now. It serves us quite well. Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

2 And at this time everyone in the queue has given  
3 comment during this meeting at this time, Chair, so I will  
4 defer to you.

5 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. Thank you.

6 So I just wanted to remind the public that  
7 there's -- there are numerous ways to provide public input  
8 to the Commission. Communities of internet public input  
9 meetings are taking place throughout the summer. Visit  
10 [wedrawthelinesca.org](http://wedrawthelinesca.org) for more information.

11 Also, you can visit the Community of Interest  
12 Mapping Tool, [drawmycacomunity.org](http://drawmycacomunity.org). The on-line COI Tool  
13 is available in English, Spanish, simplified Chinese,  
14 traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Armenian,  
15 Farsi, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, Punjabi, Khmer, Hmong and  
16 Thai. And tutorials are available in those languages.

17 On our website at [wedrawthelinesca.org](http://wedrawthelinesca.org) you can  
18 find the Draw My CA Community icon. Also, you can reach us  
19 by e-mailing us at [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov). We can also  
20 be reached by snail mail at California Citizens  
21 Redistricting Commission, 721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260,  
22 Sacramento, California 95814.

23 And as a reminder, if you need an interpreter to  
24 provide public input on a day when there is no language  
25 line, please public your request at least five business

1 days prior to the meeting. You can submit your request via  
2 e-mail to [interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov](mailto:interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov) on the COI Meeting  
3 Appointment Form, or call our office at (916) 323-0323.

4 With that, Katy, can you please read the  
5 instructions on how to call in?

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

7 In order to maximize transparency and public  
8 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
9 taking community-of-interest input by phone.

10 To call in dial the telephone number provided on  
11 the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted  
12 to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live  
13 stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When  
14 prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the  
15 pound key.

16 Once you have dialed in you will be placed a  
17 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star-  
18 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When  
19 it is your turn to speak you will hear a message that says,  
20 "The host would like you to talk," and to press star-six to  
21 speak. If you would like to give your name, please state  
22 and spell it for the record. You are not required to  
23 provide your name to give public comment.

24 Please make sure to mute your computer or live  
25 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during



1 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for  
2 when it is your turn to speak, and, again, please turn down  
3 the live stream volume.

4 And at this time, Chair, we do not have any  
5 callers in the queue.

6 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Katy.

7 Just as a reminder, we have a busy week this  
8 week. We have three Community of Interest Input Meetings.  
9 The first is tomorrow, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., focusing on  
10 Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo,  
11 Santa Clara, Solano Counties and their surrounding areas.  
12 And we will have Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian  
13 listening lines and interpreters available.

14 The second meeting is on Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> at  
15 3:00 p.m., focusing on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced,  
16 San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare Counties and their  
17 surrounding areas. And we will also have a Spanish  
18 listening line, as well as Spanish interpretation  
19 available.

20 And then on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.,  
21 we'll be focusing on Monterey, San Benicia, San Luis  
22 Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura and their  
23 surrounding areas. This meeting will also have a Spanish  
24 listening line and Spanish interpreters available.

25 Registration for each meeting closes two calendar

1 days before, and at 5:00 o'clock. The next Commission  
2 business meeting will be on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30. You're not  
3 required to make an appointment to provide public input at  
4 our Community of Interest Meetings, however, it is  
5 recommended and -- but you can always call in the day of  
6 the meeting.

7           At this time our meetings are still held  
8 virtually, so anyone in California can provide input. And  
9 please go to our website, [wedrawthelinesca.org](http://wedrawthelinesca.org), for meeting  
10 information.

11           Katy, at this time do we have any callers?

12           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I would like to invite  
13 those that have just called in to please press star-nine to  
14 raise your hand indicating you wish to give comment. That  
15 is for caller with the last four, 8056.

16           And for those that have just called in as I am  
17 saying that, to please press star-nine on your telephone  
18 keypad to raise your hand indicating you wish to give  
19 comment.

20           Caller 2114, if you will please follow the  
21 prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-six.  
22 Caller 2114, your speaker order number is number 34, if  
23 you'll please make a note of that. If you'll please let  
24 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the  
25 floor is yours.

1 MS. ELWOOD (phonetic): Yes. I would like to  
2 discuss the North Bay, Sonoma County.

3 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

4 MS. ELWOOD: Hi. My name is Jackie Elwood, and I  
5 am a Rohnert Park resident. I am calling to just make sure  
6 and to remind you guys to not forget Rohnert Park while,  
7 you know, doing the redistricting.

8 I just -- as a resident I felt like it was  
9 important to get a call from someone from the city, so that  
10 our voice will be heard, and you guys will take Rohnert  
11 Park into consideration while doing the redistricting.

12 MR. MANOFF: Caller 2114, does that complete your  
13 comments?

14 MS. ELWOOD: Yes, sir.

15 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: I have a quick comment --  
16 question for the caller.

17 MS. ELWOOD: Yeah.

18 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Is -- so your  
19 community of interest would be Rohnert Park. Are there any  
20 other communities that you would keep together in the  
21 redistricting process, or is that the community that you're  
22 -- that you want to be kept whole?

23 MS. ELWOOD: Well, right now the way things are -  
24 - I mean, it's just good to think about keeping it together  
25 as a whole. The represent -- the person representing us

1 right now is great. If Rohnert Park can, you know, put  
2 together and be represented by that same person, that will  
3 be fantastic. You know, it is always great to have, you  
4 know, people represented as a whole, as, you know, as  
5 separate. I felt like it was important to -- for you guys  
6 to just know it, I mean.

7 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Absolutely. Well, thank you so  
8 much for your comments.

9 MS. ELWOOD: Thank you so much for giving the  
10 time. I really appreciate it.

11 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for taking the time.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

13 And at this time I'd like to invite those that  
14 have called in that have not given comment today, to please  
15 press star-nine on their telephone keypad if they wish to  
16 give comment during this session.

17 Caller 8056, if you will please follow the  
18 prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-six.

19 Caller 8056, your speaker order number will be number 35, if  
20 you'll please make note of that for future reference. And  
21 if you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
22 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

23 SPEAKER NUMBER 35: Thank you. I'm calling in  
24 from Sonoma Valley. That is just to the west -- I'm sorry,  
25 to the east of the Rohnert Park caller that just called in.

1 You see on the map there it says, "Boyse Hot Springs, El  
2 Verano." That's the area that I represent.

3 I've been a resident here for -- since the mid  
4 90's. I'm a -- have been a small business owner. I have  
5 been active in local community matters, rotary and served  
6 on various commissions, including the Transportation  
7 Commission and the Climate Action Commission in Sonoma  
8 County. And professionally, I've been an energy consultant  
9 for most of my career.

10 My concerns are very similar to the ones  
11 expressed by most of the callers today, including the last  
12 one from Rohnert Park. I believe that communities should  
13 remain continuous in their representation. I also heard  
14 similar comments from American Canyon, and all the people  
15 from the North Coast.

16 The concern that I have is in District 4. We are  
17 effectively -- there's a slice of Sonoma County that  
18 belongs to Assembly District 4. And while there are  
19 certain benefits to being -- to having three different  
20 representatives touch on Sonoma County, it's -- actually, I  
21 don't see a logic to community of interest.

22 Almost all of the activities that me and the  
23 people I live in my community with are concerned about,  
24 happen in the county seat of Santa Rosa or in the County of  
25 Napa, adjacent to us. And we have assembly members that

1 represent primarily Marin or primarily the northern area,  
2 or Yolo County in the case of assembly more currently. And  
3 it makes it strange that, you know, our assembly person  
4 really can't get over to the communities of Rohnert Park or  
5 Sonoma Valley to meet with us as often as we might like.

6           And the communities of interest really do in this  
7 area run up and down the valleys. That would be the  
8 coastal valley, the valley along -- the Sonoma Valley --  
9 well, the Petaluma first valley, then the Sonoma Valley,  
10 and then the Napa Valley.

11           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12           SPEAKER NUMBER 35: And further to the east, you  
13 get into the Solano County area.

14           So, if you're going to have that kind of long  
15 finger district, I can see if running up these valleys, as  
16 the people from Napa have encouraged to have that remain  
17 there, the case in their situation. But in our area, it's  
18 very strange the way that District 4 is carved out. Thank  
19 you for your consideration of my comments tonight.

20           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

21           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That was all of our  
22 callers at this time, Chair.

23           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. It would be great  
24 if you could read the instructions on how to call in.

25           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely. Would you

1 like the full instructions or abbreviated?

2 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: The full instructions will be  
3 fine.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.

5 In order to maximize transparency and public  
6 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
7 taking community-of-interest input by phone.

8 To call in dial the telephone number provided on  
9 the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted  
10 to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live  
11 stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When  
12 prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number -- I'm sorry.  
13 When prompted to enter the participant I.D., simply press  
14 the pound key.

15 Once you have dialed in you will be placed a  
16 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star-  
17 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When  
18 it is your turn to speak you will hear a message that says,  
19 "The host would like you to talk," and to press star-six to  
20 speak. If you would like to give your name, please state  
21 and spell it for the record. You are not required to  
22 provide your name to give public comment.

23 Please make sure to mute your computer or live  
24 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during  
25 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for

1 when it is your turn to speak, and, again, please turn down  
2 the live stream volume.

3 And at this time, Chair, we do not have any  
4 callers in the queue.

5 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Katy. With that,  
6 let's go to a five-minute break -- or actually to watch the  
7 video, the five-minute video.

8 (Off the record at 5:56 p.m.)

9 (Back on the record at 6:01 p.m.)

10 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California  
11 Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities of Interest  
12 Input Meeting. For anyone that has joined us recently, we  
13 are offering lines for Spanish language speakers to listen  
14 to the meeting in their native language, and a separate  
15 line for those who wish to provide public comment or public  
16 input.

17 Could I have the Spanish Interpreter please read  
18 the instructions on how to join the call?

19 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair. Would that be  
20 the language line instructions?

21 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes, please.

22 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Okay. Thank you.

23 [Instructions read in Spanish]

24 Thank you.

25 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Margarita.



1           And during this session we're taking  
2 appointments. If you had an appointment and you weren't  
3 able to call in during your block, please call in now. And  
4 as a reminder, even though we're focusing on specific  
5 counties of California, anyone in the State can -- is  
6 welcome to call in and provide input. We will continue to  
7 take public input at this time, and we'll also invite  
8 public comment. So any public comments are welcome during  
9 this time.

10           The phone line for public input and public  
11 comment will close at 6:30. We will get to all callers who  
12 have called and are in the queue at that time. To -- and  
13 if we need to, we will go beyond 6:30, if needed.

14           I will pass this over to Katy, our comment  
15 moderator.

16           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

17           In order to maximize transparency and public  
18 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
19 taking community-of-interest input and general public  
20 comment for items not on the agenda by phone.

21           To call in dial the telephone number provided on  
22 the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted  
23 to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live  
24 stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When  
25 prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the

1 pound key.

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

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

15           And we do not have any callers at this time,  
16 Chair.

17           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So as a reminder,  
18 we have three Community of Interest Meetings scheduled for  
19 this week. This first is tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., focused on  
20 Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo,  
21 Santa Clara, Solano Counties and their surrounding areas.  
22 And we will have Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian  
23 listening lines and interpreters available.

24           The second meeting is on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> at  
25 3:00 p.m., focusing on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced,

1 San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare Counties and their  
2 surrounding areas. And we will have a Spanish listening  
3 line, as well as Spanish interpretation available, and on  
4 Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., focused on Monterey, San  
5 Benicia, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz,  
6 Ventura, and their surrounding areas. This meeting will  
7 have a Spanish listening line as well as Spanish  
8 interpretation. And registration for each meeting closes  
9 two calendar days prior to the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

10 The next Commission business meeting will be on  
11 the 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30. You are not required to make an  
12 appointment to provide public input at any of the Community  
13 of Interest Meetings, however, it is recommended, but you  
14 can always call the day of the meeting.

15 At this time our meetings are still held  
16 virtually, so anyone in California can participate and  
17 provide public comments. Please go to our website,  
18 [wedrawthelinesca.org](http://wedrawthelinesca.org) for meeting information.

19 With that, Katy, do we have any callers on the  
20 line?

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Not at this time,  
22 Chair.

23 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. So I'll open up to  
24 Commissioners, if there's anything that -- I don't have a  
25 prompt today, so you're welcome to share, as long as we're

1 talking about something interesting.

2 I did -- I thought one thing that was interesting  
3 was the, how tall we are. Thank you, Commissioner Yee, for  
4 that information. It was so revealing, because I've not  
5 met I think anybody on the Commission in person, so I was  
6 -- so I was -- I thought some of you guys were taller and  
7 some of you guys were shorter. And, you know, the results  
8 were a little bit shocking to me for some of you, and for  
9 some of you, not so much.

10 So I don't know if anyone wants to talk about --  
11 and in terms of just what we're talking about, we had a --  
12 what I'm talking about is, we had a little game that we  
13 were playing, just because the Commissioners haven't all  
14 met each other in person. And so we had a little  
15 icebreaker over email. And so -- and one of the questions  
16 was, how tall are -- was guessing how tall we were,  
17 apparently.

18 Commissioner Fernandez, and then Sinay.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That was a very fun  
20 game, and I didn't really have a chance to really get into  
21 it. But I'm going to admit that Commissioner Sinay and Le  
22 Mons were taller, much taller than I thought they were.  
23 So, I was totally off, which is actually kind of fun,  
24 because if you're -- I guess if I would have guessed it  
25 right, there would be no surprises. So that was actually

1 kind of fun. So, thank you, Commissioner Yee, for putting  
2 that together for us.

3 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I found it really  
5 interesting that none of us are an only child. That's what  
6 jumped out at me first versus the height, I guess because I  
7 was one of the tallest. But the first (indiscernible) that  
8 -- to Commissioner Yee was, we're all -- we all have  
9 siblings, so I wonder if that kind of contributes to the  
10 whole working as a team thing.

11 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Very interesting. Yeah, I  
12 hadn't thought about that, but you're right.

13 Anyone else have any comments about the --  
14 Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Taylor.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I wanted some little  
16 helpful hints as to how Commissioner Andersen did so great,  
17 so great at -- (indiscernible) guesses.

18 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Taylor.

19 CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Yeah. I wanted to ask,  
20 Russell. Who guessed the most and who guessed the least?

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: Good question.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Who has guessed correctly the  
23 most and who has guessed correctly the least. I don't have  
24 statistics on that. I would have to run a multiple  
25 regression to do that.

1           COMMISSIONER SINAY: But Jane, Jane got 11  
2 correct, and Neal got nine correct. And then bronze went  
3 to Pedro, Sara, Patricia, and Linda got eight correct.

4           COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. But in terms of which  
5 individual Commissioners were guessed correctly, I'd have  
6 to look at that more closely.

7           One interesting thing you don't see is that of  
8 the people who respond -- who gave me their trivia items,  
9 overwhelmingly the first four or five were the youngest  
10 children for some reason. I don't know, are youngest  
11 children more gregarious or more willing to share their  
12 info on it. They feel known because they have older  
13 siblings.

14          CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Fernandez, I think  
15 you had your hand up.

16          COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm pretty sure I was  
17 probably guessed the most, because seven out of eight  
18 children, I don't think anyone else has eight in their  
19 family. And I've been saying that all along. I didn't  
20 realize it was going to be question at some point,  
21 Commissioner Yee, so -- but it was fun. Yeah. I and I  
22 guess I didn't realize that we weren't only children. I  
23 was just more amazed at the heights and some of the other  
24 characters. And it was actually the fun facts at the end  
25 that you added that was -- that was fun.

1 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Andersen, how did  
2 you guess so many?

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I will say, actually it  
4 was the little things people said just -- and I just kind  
5 of took note.

6 The one who threw me was Commissioner Akutagawa.  
7 If anyone's listened they've heard her dogs, and I know she  
8 has two dogs. And I actually -- I'm pretty sure I know a  
9 couple of the names. And as a pet she put down hamster.  
10 So I assumed that she was the one who did not submit  
11 someone, which caused my other three to be rearranged.

12 So, that's -- which was unfortunate -- Patricia  
13 and Ray are the ones I missed because of, you know,  
14 basically I have seen a few people, and I know how tall,  
15 you know, Ray is, and I know how tall a few people are.  
16 And then -- and then some other guesses, other comments  
17 just here and there that I just guessed.

18 But I really enjoyed -- one of the things, one of  
19 the questions was, what food's your favorite if you go out  
20 to eat, and what food do you not like? And it was quite --  
21 it was quite a range. It was very interesting I thought.  
22 But there were a lot of other, other things which are fun.

23 And just, you know, for all the public who's  
24 listening, going, what are they talking about. There are  
25 very subtle things that you get when you actually meet in

1 person. And -- which I don't believe most people realize,  
2 we haven't. We've all done -- all this has been remote,  
3 and it's hard. It's much harder to do remotely. And we  
4 all look forward to when we can actually get together and  
5 see each other and catch the little mannerisms. So, I  
6 really appreciate the little the little get-to-know-you  
7 sort of type of games that Commissioner Yee put together  
8 for us. Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Absolutely.

10 Commissioner Akutagawa.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA (via Zoom): I thought I  
12 would mention this, since Commissioner Andersen brought  
13 this up. Everybody I think in California must know about  
14 my dogs. You just can't help but hear. I think I even got  
15 called out by Commissioner Taylor at one point -- or Enzo  
16 did, my dog Enzo.

17 So, I will say that on a technicality,  
18 Commissioner Yee did say what have you had, not what do you  
19 currently have. So, technically, I could say that I did  
20 have a hamster at one point. And I knew that if I put dogs  
21 it would make it way too easy to figure out who I was. So  
22 I did purposely throw people off by saying I did have a  
23 hamster.

24 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Yee.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Besides being bi- and



1 nonpartisan, there's dog people and cat people on this  
2 Commission. It's pretty evenly split.

3 I wondering, Commissioner Ahmad, is now the time  
4 to hear the story? If not --

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Well, which story --

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: -- that's fine.

7 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: -- I might ask?

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: The story of how you came to  
9 love sushi. No, no, the story of you coming into the  
10 world.

11 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah. So, I was born in a  
12 car and my dad delivered me. So, yeah, apparently the  
13 story is that my mom's water broke, and at the time they  
14 just thought they could make it to the hospital. So my dad  
15 drove and they got to the parking lot, and I was already on  
16 my way out, because, you know, a lot of stuff to do in this  
17 world. So, they recommended not moving her at that point,  
18 and my dad was there and so he delivered me, and I was born  
19 in a car. My birth certificate says "auto" as place of  
20 birth. I would try to fight for free gas, but we should  
21 probably move towards electric vehicles eventually.

22 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: That was a great story.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: There was a baby born on BART  
24 who got a lifetime BART ticket.

25 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: That's awesome.

1           It looks like we have a caller. I think our  
2 conversation has inspired a caller.

3           Katy, can you please invite them in?

4           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I sure can. Caller  
5 1164, if you'll please follow the prompts to unmute by  
6 pressing star-six. Caller 1164, your speaker order number  
7 will be number 36, if you'll please make note of that for  
8 future reference. And if you have an area you would like  
9 to discuss, please let the mapper know what it is. The  
10 floor is yours.

11          SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Can you guys hear me?

12          PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can. Go  
13 ahead.

14          SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Well, I don't have nearly as  
15 exciting an introduction story as I just heard. I wasn't  
16 born in a car. But I was born in California, and I now  
17 live up in Del Norte County, in small, unincorporated  
18 community called Fort Dix, which is just north of Crescent  
19 City. So, I don't know if you need me to correspond to  
20 some area of the map, but I assume that you all know where  
21 that is more or less. Yes? No?

22          PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, thank you. Yes,  
23 we do. Thank you. Go ahead with your comment, please.

24          SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Okay, great. So, I would  
25 just like to speak to the coastal community of influence,

1 because as a lifelong, third generation Californian, I  
2 think it's not presumptuous to say that California's most  
3 defining geography is its coastline. It's the only part of  
4 the State that has a, you know, both a statewide commission  
5 and a conservancy devoted to its preservation and  
6 conservation. And it's the last of our coastal commons.  
7 It's the last part of California that still belongs to all  
8 the people. Which makes it important not only for the  
9 people who live along the coast, but it's also those folks'  
10 obligation to maintain that coastline and access to that  
11 coastline for all the people of California.

12           And so to that end, I would just like to make the  
13 point that keeping those coastal communities contiguously  
14 represented to the extent possible, is in the best interest  
15 not only of the communities that live there, but the  
16 communities who either realize or don't realize they depend  
17 on those communities and the representation of those  
18 communities to protect that coastline.

19           We're linked by Highway 101. Transportation in  
20 and out of these rural areas is a very real issue. I'm  
21 sure you've heard a lot about Last Chance Grade in Del  
22 Norte County being the main lifeline to and from this  
23 community. And I would say, you know, in a word, ain't  
24 broke, don't fix it. So, the way these -- this  
25 Congressional District and this Senate and Assembly

1 District -- Districts are currently configured are working  
2 well. And if they were configured in a different way that  
3 extended their representation more inland, we've seen what  
4 that looked like. Ten years ago that was the case, and  
5 representation for this area was -- was deep in an inland  
6 community represented by --

7 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

8 SPEAKER NUMBER 36: -- perspectives that knew  
9 nothing about the coast, and didn't particularly, you know,  
10 care to represent them.

11 So I would say the coast is definitely one of the  
12 strongest communities of interest in this State.

13 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

14 SPEAKER NUMBER 36: The North Coast in particular  
15 needs to be maintained in its current configuration. Thank  
16 you very much for considering my perspective.

17 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And I have a quick  
18 question.

19 MR. MANOFF: Caller 1164, if you could please  
20 press star-six to unmute. Thank you. The Chair had a  
21 couple questions for you.

22 SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Sure.

23 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Just I'm curious how you define  
24 coastal communities. Which communities would you include  
25 in that, or which -- well, which communities would you

1 include in that?

2 SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Well, currently its coastal  
3 counties, or -- and the coastal -- particularly the coastal  
4 portions of those counties. So right now I'm referring to  
5 Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin.

6 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That's helpful.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was all of  
8 our callers at this time, Chair.

9 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: So with that, can you do a --  
10 we will be adjourning at 6:30 if there are no other  
11 callers. So, we're -- I was wondering if Katy can just  
12 read the instructions one last time to see if there's any  
13 callers. And, if not, we will be adjourning for the day.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

15 In order to maximize transparency and public  
16 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
17 taking community-of-interest input and general public  
18 comment for items not on the agenda by phone.

19 To call in dial the telephone number provided on  
20 the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted  
21 to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live  
22 stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When  
23 prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the  
24 pound key.

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

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

13 And at this time, Chair, we do not have any  
14 callers in the queue.

15 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So that was the  
16 last call for public input. I thank you for joining our  
17 Community of Interest Input Meeting today. This week we  
18 have three additional Community of Interest Meetings  
19 scheduled.

20 The first is on August the 24<sup>th</sup>, tomorrow, at 3:00  
21 p.m., focused on Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San  
22 Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano Counties and  
23 their surrounding areas. And we'll have Spanish, Mandarin,  
24 Cantonese and Russian listening lines and interpretation  
25 available.

1           The second meeting this week will be on  
2 Wednesday, August the 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., focused on Fresno,  
3 Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus,  
4 Tulare Counties and the surrounding areas. And we will  
5 also have Spanish listening line and a Spanish  
6 interpretation available.

7           And then on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.,  
8 focused on Monterey, San Benicia, San Luis Obispo, Santa  
9 Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura and their surrounding areas.  
10 And this meeting will have a Spanish line and Spanish  
11 interpretation available.

12           Registration for each meeting closes two calendar  
13 days before at 5:00 p.m. The next Commission business  
14 meeting will be on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 p.m. -- or a.m.

15           I see that we have some callers on the line. Can  
16 you check to see if they are wanting to give public input  
17 before we adjourn?

18           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

19           CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Given that they called before  
20 6:30.

21           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

22           For those that have called in, if you would  
23 please press star-nine to raise your hand indicating you  
24 wish to give comment.

25           For caller 9796, if you will please follow the

1 prompts to unmute at this time. Caller 9796, unique I.D.  
2 010, if you will be let the mapper know what area you would  
3 like to discuss, you are speaker order number 36, and the  
4 floor is yours -- no, you are speaker number 37.

5 SPEAKER NUMBER 37: Hi.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sorry, 37.

7 SPEAKER NUMBER 37: No worries. Hi. Can you  
8 hear me?

9 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes, absolutely.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

11 MS. CHIGAW (phonetic): Okay. Wonderful.

12 Thanks. Hi. My name's Mathilda Chigaw, and my community  
13 is located in southern coastal Mendocino County, just over  
14 the county line. So it starts in Walhalla, just to orient  
15 you a little bit.

16 I have lived there on and off for the past 22  
17 years, and have lived between there and the Bay Area for  
18 the past five attending NOLS College (phonetic). It's the  
19 area that I grew up in.

20 So my community includes Walhalla, Point Arena  
21 and Manchester. Those are three small towns -- well, Point  
22 Arena is a city located at the very southern end of  
23 Mendocino County. And these areas are located along  
24 Highway 1 within about 15 to 20 miles of each other. And  
25 although they're kind of spread out in that way, it's very



1 much one kind of big community. These towns share  
2 resources, they share schools, medical care, grocery  
3 stores. The only high school in that region is located in  
4 Point Arena, so it's very connected. People live and work  
5 and go to school between these spaces, and this connection  
6 means they share a lot of the same interests and  
7 challenges.

8           And like many of the coastal communities in this  
9 region, there are many tourist destinations and are very  
10 economically dependent on tourism. However, the people  
11 living and working there full-time also struggle to meet  
12 their basic needs, like housing and medical care. And  
13 those are two of the greatest shared interests in that  
14 area, and two of the most scarce resources.

15           Low- and middle-income housing for long-term rent  
16 (indiscernible) is expensive and scarce, in part of  
17 tourism. And medical care is extremely limited, meaning  
18 that people must travel either south or inland. And  
19 although the area itself is not very far from major cities,  
20 it is pretty cut off and -- from those places, because of  
21 very narrow, winding roads that are often not in great  
22 condition, and it can be very hard for people to move  
23 between their community and places with more resources, so  
24 that they're a very cut-off area.

25           Thank you. That's what I'd like to share.

1 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.  
2 Katy, could you check to see if anyone else has  
3 comments?

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, chair.

5 I'd like to invite those that have called in to  
6 please press star-nine to raise your hand if you wish to  
7 give comment at this time.

8 Those that have called are in the queue, if you  
9 wish to comment please press star-nine.

10 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Last call for comments. Our  
11 lines close at 6:30.

12 Katy, should we also translate that in Spanish,  
13 just in case?

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment, Chair.  
15 Two of the callers are regular listeners that have been  
16 here all day. We do have one new caller. I'm just going  
17 to go ahead and just try opening the line.

18 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate it, Katy.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 3034, if you  
20 wish to give comment, please press star-six at this time.

21 My only other option I guess would be to --  
22 caller 3034, if you are unique I.D. 032, is this Nate  
23 Madsen? If you could please press star-six if you wish to  
24 give comment. There we are. 3034, Nate Madsen, if that  
25 you?

1 MR. CRUZ: Hello. This is Randall Cruz.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Randall Cruz. All  
3 right. Well, you are speaker order number 37 -- 38, if you  
4 will please make note of that. And if you'll please let  
5 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the  
6 floor is yours.

7 MR. CRUZ: Yes. I'm talking about the American  
8 Canyon, Napa County and Solano County in Vallejo, and I  
9 want to talk about that. I have a few talking points I was  
10 interested in talking about.

11 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

12 MR. CRUZ: Yeah. I just want to say that there  
13 are strong ties between the Filipino communities in both  
14 the Napa and Solano Counties, particularly in American  
15 Canyon and Vallejo. I live in American Canyon. I live  
16 right at the border, and friends, family on both sides.  
17 And to communicate we have the Highway 29 transportation  
18 corridor there. Shopping and tourism both in Napa County  
19 and, of course, Vallejo, that transcends there.

20 And, again, I just -- that was my basic talking  
21 points. I'd like to talk about how interested I am in  
22 keeping Vallejo within this same district.

23 MR. MANOFF: Caller 3034 --

24 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you so much for your  
25 comment.

1 MR. MANOFF: -- does that conclude your comments?

2 MR. CRUZ: Yes, it does. Thank you very much for  
3 this opportunity to speak on that.

4 CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate it. Thank you for  
5 calling in.

6 And at this time, just a reminder we have the  
7 three Community of Interest Meetings this week. And any  
8 caller from California is welcome to call in to any of  
9 those meetings, even though they might be focused on a  
10 specific region.

11 Registration for each meeting does close two days  
12 prior to the meeting at 5:00 p.m., and the next  
13 Commission's business meeting will be on August 31<sup>st</sup> at  
14 9:30.

15 Callers at the Community of Interest Meetings are  
16 not limited to the specifically mentioned counties. And  
17 you can visit the meeting page at our website to see a list  
18 of additional upcoming Community of Interest Meetings at  
19 [wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings](http://wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings).

20 And with that we will be adjourning for today.

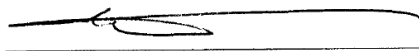
21 (Session recessed until August 24, 2021.)  
22  
23  
24  
25

**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.



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PETER PETTY  
CER\*\*D-493  
Notary Public

**TRANSCRIBER'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 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