

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

MEETING TO APPROVE AND CERTIFY FINAL MAPS AND REPORT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

11:01 a.m.

Reported by:

Peter Petty



APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

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

STAFF

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

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

ALSO PRESENTPublic Comment

Edward Barsumian
Tracy Stone, Elysian Arts Counsel
Alice Manukian
Tony Maldonado
Renee Westa-Luck
Lori Shellenberger, Common Cause
Lucy Patrosian
Dan Ichinose, Orange County Civic Engagement Table
John Copp
Robb Clom
Angel

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P R O C E E D I N G S

December 26, 2021

11:01 a.m.

CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome, everyone, to our final business meeting of 2021. We will start off today on December 26th with roll call.

Ravi.

MR. SINGH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Present.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner La Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: (In Spanish).

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: (In Spanish).

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I am present.

1 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

2 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: (In Spanish).

3 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Turner.

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

5 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez.

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

7 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee.

8 VICE CHAIR YEE: (In foreign language) here.

9 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Ahmad.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Here. Thank you so --

11 MR. SINGH: Roll call -- you're welcome.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Ravi. With that, we will
13 jump right into our agenda. During the preparation of
14 this agenda, I have learned that we have two items for
15 today. One will be brought forward by the Line Drawer
16 Subcommittee, which is a possible action to certify and
17 approve the statewide maps of the Congressional, State
18 Senate, State Assembly, and the State Board of
19 Equalization Districts as well as an item from the
20 Materials Development Subcommittee on the possible action
21 to approve the final report.

22 Any comments on our agenda for today? No? Okay. I
23 will pass it over to the Line Drawer Subcommittee.

24 Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner Anderson.

25 Okay. We can do either first, so we can go with the

1 report first. So I will bump it back to the Materials
2 Development Subcommittee.

3 Commissioners Fernandez, and Commissioner Kennedy.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. Everyone
5 should have -- had received the link to the handout
6 today; it is posted. It's for our final report. And I
7 want to thank Julia (ph.), who helped us so much on
8 writing this report. So thank you so much. It --
9 we're -- reads so much better than our starting point, so
10 thank you for all your hard work.

11 And also for our community -- outreach team. Marcy
12 and her team have just done an awesome -- they're --
13 they've been up every single night and I don't even know
14 if they've slept in the last week or so. But thank you
15 so much for your hard work -- hard work on this.

16 And so with that, are there any comments on the
17 report -- and so the purpose of today is to approve this
18 report and to have motion. So is there any discussion
19 before we move forward?

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. I apologize. I
22 didn't realize I was unmuted this whole time. I -- I
23 just wanted to check a few things. I did send some
24 comments to Anthony. I thought the report was excellent.
25 It's hard to go over the whole entire report, but I -- I

1 have looked at it in -- in -- at the different -- at the
2 different times that parts were sent to us. And thank
3 you, everybody who took all -- took time to put this
4 together because it's really a reflection of amazing
5 work. Thank you, everybody.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

7 Commissioner Fornaciari, and then Turner.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, just two things.
9 The -- the paragraph on page 53 about the Board of
10 Equalization. So the Board of Equalization doesn't
11 collect taxes; they oversee -- their main role is to
12 oversee you -- ensure uniformity in the application of
13 property-tax assessment. So we -- we should get that
14 straightened out. So I'm going to -- I'll -- I'll send
15 over the fact sheet to Anthony, so we can clarify that
16 paragraph.

17 And then on the -- I don't know what page it is, but
18 CD -- the -- it's on page 81. CD-3 -- the description of
19 CD-3 and CD-4 got stuck together, so we need a paragraph
20 on -- to separate CD-3 and CD-4. But otherwise, I mean,
21 yeah, wow, what a ton of work. Thank you all so much.
22 It's just an incredible, incredible job, an incredible
23 amount of work. So -- so thanks, everyone.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

25 Commissioner Turner, and then Vice Chair Yee.

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I
2 just wanted to say, reading the report, I thought the
3 report was phenomenal. I saw a couple of the things
4 that's already been mentioned. I only had one small
5 suggestion that I sent through but was just thoroughly
6 impressed by the report.

7 And then it dawned on me, this is work we did. You
8 also, to my fellow commissioners, I mean, going through
9 all of it, time went by so fast and going back over the
10 report, I feel so incredibly proud of the work that we
11 did, the thorough job that we did, and it reflect in the
12 report in the manner in which it did, I was like, this is
13 amazing work. And so I just am excited about that. And
14 as soon as we receive any other suggestions or upgrades
15 that commissioners have, I want to move that we approve
16 the report with any minor upgrades.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. Is --
18 do we have a second on that motion?

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Second.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll second it.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Battle it out.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Give it to Angela.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Commissioner Vasquez is a
24 second. We will continue this discussion with Vice Chair
25 Yee, and then Commissioner Fernandez, and then

1 Commissioner Akutagawa, and then Sinay.

2 VICE CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Chair. Yes, phenomenal
3 report. I mean, I just felt like it was above, and
4 above, and above, and beyond what was required, and will
5 be such a great resource for not only the next ten years,
6 but for the next commission to refer to.

7 I was curious how we decided to go into such detail,
8 you know, it's such exhaustive analysis and charts. I'm
9 just curious how we decided to -- to go into quite that
10 detail. Two observations, though, before maybe somebody
11 can respond that. One typo that I did tell Anthony
12 about, Appendix 4, one of the lists of counties is
13 sorted -- is missorted in case any of you caught that.
14 It was sorted 110, 11, 12, 18, 19, 220, so it sorted on
15 the first digit, so the information is correct, but the
16 sorting is off.

17 Also, the other thing is I was looking at the
18 information on descriptions about our handling of those
19 incarcerated in federal institutions. And of course, we
20 were unable to reallocate them. But I believe we further
21 decided, in fact, that -- to not count them in their
22 places of incarceration as well. Therefore, the adjusted
23 census numbers that we used -- but I'm not sure that's
24 mentioned anywhere that we actually made that decision.
25 It -- was that somewhere; did I just miss it? Oh, okay.

1 Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Vice Chair Yee.

3 Commissioner Fernandez, and then Akutagawa.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sorry. I forgot to
5 thank my -- let's see, my partner in this, Commissioner
6 Kennedy. He spent countless, countless, countless hours
7 on this. And in terms of why we went through so much
8 detail, we actually used as a base, the 2010, and then we
9 built on that. And we built on it based on what we felt
10 was important to the Commission as we went on this
11 journey of a year-and-a-half. We also obtained
12 information from our communications director and outreach
13 director. And I've got to tell you, we actually pared it
14 down, so it could have been longer than this in more
15 detail. But I'm just really grateful that everyone did
16 such a wonderful job. And I'm glad that you all like it.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

18 Commissioner Akutagawa, and then Commissioner Sinay,
19 and then I see Commissioner Le Mons, and Kennedy.

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I also want to just
21 say both my thanks to those who worked on this report.
22 It is actually really fantastic. And -- and reading
23 through all of it, it was a nice, I'll call it trip down
24 memory lane, of all of the things that we did. And I
25 think towards the end we had so much, and we were moving

1 so fast, it was hard to take that kind of brief pause to
2 just appreciate all the work that did go on to get us to
3 the point where we you know, got to in terms of the line
4 drawing.

5 And so I thought that the level of detail that was
6 included is appropriate in the sense that it gives not
7 only those who are interested in -- in the process that
8 we went through, and I know that at times it felt a
9 little, as I -- I had seen, messy. But I think this
10 really gives better clarity and just structure to -- to
11 what we did do. And for those who will be following us
12 in 2030, hopefully, it'll serve as also additional
13 information that could help guide them in terms of the
14 process that they will establish for themselves. So
15 Commissioner Fernandez, and Kennedy, and to the whole
16 team that -- that worked on this, I just want to say
17 thank you to -- to all of you.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you, Commissioner
19 Akutagawa.

20 Commissioner Sinay. Oh, you put your hand up and
21 down, so you got out of order.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, it -- yeah, I don't know
23 what's going on with my hand. Do you want me to go --
24 yeah, I never put it down, but I am out of order, so I
25 can wait.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Sure.

2 Commissioner La Mons, and then Commissioner Kennedy.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I just want to say thank you
4 to Commissioners Kennedy, and Commissioners Fernandez,
5 and everyone who supported this. I was really excited
6 that a member from the Lessons Learned Committee was a
7 part of this. And I think it shows there was a certain
8 lens put to the final report. And I think not only does
9 it capture what we went through and what our experience
10 was, but it really looks at it from a way that those that
11 come behind can benefit.

12 So special thanks to Commissioner Kennedy, who has
13 always had an eye for 2030 since the very beginning, and
14 really appreciate that. Also -- it also is one of those
15 moments in reading it where you realize that when you're
16 participating in a process, you're having your experience
17 in the process. And so to read it, you get to see all of
18 these different -- what we did collectively together,
19 sort of like, history being a part of it and it happening
20 very quickly. So thank you, again, to that team. Thank
21 you, Chair.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Kennedy. And then Commissioner Sinay,
24 and Turner. You're on mute, Commissioner Kennedy.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It sounded really good.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah, it sounded awesome.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I thank
3 you, Chair. And thank you for that, Commissioner Le
4 Mons. You know, in -- in response to Commissioner Yee,
5 you know, I wanted to say that you know, one of the main
6 differences, of course, between the 2010 report and the
7 2020 report is we had a lot more time to do actual
8 education and outreach. And so the fact that our report
9 goes into you know, pretty significant detail on those to
10 me is -- is more a reflection of the fact that we had so
11 much more time to do that sort of work. And we -- we
12 felt that it was important for anyone who would read the
13 report, and un -- in order to understand how we reached
14 the point that we did last week in approving the final
15 map. It was important to understand all of the
16 education, outreach, and engagement work that we did.

17 And on that note, I also want to recognize Marcy and
18 her staff. They did an enormous amount of work. Those
19 district descriptions do not happen on their own, and
20 they take an enormous amount of work to get all of that
21 information compiled, to get it right. And so I just --
22 I really want to thank Marcy, her team, as well as the
23 legal team who, you know, Commissioner Fernandez and I
24 realized at a certain point that you know, while we -- we
25 did a lot of the work on the -- on the introduction,

1 the -- the part describing the process in general, that
2 we were going to need to be focused on the maps. And so
3 we turned the -- the heavy editing of -- of the document
4 over to the legal team. And I just want to thank them as
5 well. Thanks, everyone.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

7 Commissioner Sinay, and then Turner. And then we
8 will revisit the motion on the floor.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. I -- you know,
10 the -- the descriptions of all the different districts
11 were really -- were really good. I did find that they
12 weren't always consistent. And -- and so that -- that
13 was kind of tough, just playing back and saying, okay,
14 wait, this is a -- you know, whatever. But I did notice
15 that we highlighted the LGBTQ communities in those areas
16 that there were strong LGBTQ communities, but we didn't
17 necessarily highlight other ethnic, and cultural, and
18 social communities. And I did try to go back to some of
19 them and highlight those areas becau -- highlight those
20 communities as well, because I think it need -- we need
21 to be consistent on when we heard from diverse
22 communities and their communities of interest and not
23 just the one. And I did change some of the times we said
24 issues when it was really issues and opportunities
25 because for instance, military bases don't want to be

1 considered an issue in places. I know it's -- issues is
2 used in different ways, but those are just little things
3 I caught. But I just -- I did want to check on the -- if
4 we're highlighting LGBTQ communities, we should also be
5 highlighting the other ethnic, cultural, and social
6 communities that really did participate strongly in this
7 effort.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.
9 Commissioner Turner.

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. I just
11 wanted Commissioner Yee, page 20 talked about setting
12 policy to reallocate the incarcerated populations, so
13 just wanted to draw your attention there to see if that
14 answered the other piece in the comments when you
15 mentioned earlier about how we chose to allocate. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you.

18 Commissioner Le Mons and Kennedy, do you also have
19 another comment? I see your hands are still -- okay.
20 Yes.

21 Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm so sorry. I -- I have
23 no idea how I forgot our awesome line drawers that
24 supported us on this report. All of the appendices is a
25 result from their work. So thank you so much for going

1 down this journey and making sure that it was all
2 included in the report.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes. Thank you to everyone who helped
4 with this final report. With that, I will ask for the
5 motion to be displayed on the screen.

6 And Commissioner Turner, you were the one who made
7 the motion. So I know the conversation may have prompted
8 some minor edits to the motion that you made, so we would
9 like to include that in the language. So once it is up
10 on the screen, I will ask you to reconfirm if the motion
11 accurately reflects what your thought process is, and
12 then as well as the seconder, Commissioner Vazquez, to
13 also confirm that the motion accurately reflects what you
14 seconded.

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: It is brief and sweet motion
16 to approve the final report. Maybe we want to title the
17 report. Let's see what our first page of it says, but
18 that does accurately reflect the motion.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you.

20 Commissioner Vazquez. Do you still second the
21 motion as it reads?

22 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Great.

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, I still second.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. With that, we will call

1 for public comment on this motion on the floor.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You got it, Chair. Just
3 a moment.

4 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I -- I agree with
5 Commissioner Turner. I think that the motion should say
6 that it's the report on final maps, just so that it's
7 very clear as to what we're referring to. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Are we ready to invite
9 public comment?

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, we are.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sounds good. In order to
12 maximize transparency and public participation in our
13 process, the commissioners will be taking public comment
14 by phone. To dial -- just a moment. Sorry for the
15 interruption. Please stand by.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I was just going to say on
18 the motion, it should read final report on final maps
19 with edits, not amendments, because we're not making an
20 amendment to the report. We're making edits to the
21 report.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner. Do you still
23 agree with that friendly suggestion?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. And Commissioner Vazquez?

1 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Alvaro, we can change
3 amendments to edits, and then call for public comment.
4 It's the last meeting of 2021.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: In true form.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: In true form, the 2020 Citizens
7 Redistricting Commission.

8 Commissioner Fornaciari.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'm going to channel my
10 inner Alicia Fernandez and ask if we should get rid of
11 the first final, because the title is Report on Final
12 Maps.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner, your motion.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: But isn't that what the
15 report -- okay.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. I see Commissioner Turner
17 nodding her head in agreement, and Commissioner Vasquez
18 as well. So Alvaro, you can go ahead and erase that
19 word. And then we can ask for public comment on the
20 motion on the floor.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Third time's a charm,
22 Chair. In order to maximize transparency and public
23 participation in our process, the commissioners will be
24 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
25 telephone number provided on the livestream feed; it is

1 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
2 provided on the livestream feed; it is 87908151544. When
3 prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the
4 pound.

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

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

18 Again, the Commission is taking public comment on
19 the motion on the floor. We do have several callers
20 called in. I'm going to lower your hands and if you want
21 to give comment on the motion on the floor, you'll be
22 invited to raise your hands again. All hands are lowered
23 now. If you'd like to give comment on the motion on the
24 floor, please press star 9. We do have some hands. Just
25 a moment.

1 We will be enforcing a one-minute-and-thirty-second
2 time limit with a warning at thirty seconds and fifteen
3 seconds remaining. Our first caller will be Caller 6232,
4 and after that will be Caller 2010. Caller 6232, please
5 follow the prompts. Go ahead.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Happy Holidays, all of you,
7 and thanks for all of your service. I'm speaking to the
8 motion because of its relation to the map. I really beg
9 your attention. I know it's last minute, but I'm going
10 to do it anyhow to Elysian Valley, a section of --
11 adjacent to the Los Angeles River near Dodger Stadium.
12 It is probably one of the most clearly defined in
13 geographical boundaries you find in Los Angeles, bounded
14 on two sides north and south river bridges and east and
15 west with Riverside Drive and the Los Angeles River.

16 This map for the first time that I could ever see in
17 Congressional representation, reaches across the river
18 into this neighborhood known as Frogtown. Very unique
19 area because of the natural bottom section of the river
20 where a lot of attention has been paid due to the kind of
21 naturalized conditions there that have spurned
22 redevelopment efforts, investment, and public monies for
23 parks. The concern here is that especially where our
24 commercial district --

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- has been pulled into
2 another district and -- and that commercial district
3 holds many of the key community assets. That includes
4 our rec center, local arts collective, a riverside
5 gathering place for edu -- ecological education, a at-
6 risk youth high school, popular coffee shop, emerging and
7 older food --

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Ten seconds.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- establishments. It is a
10 bizarre crossing of the boundary which also crosses a
11 community interest. I do not believe that this
12 rearrangement --

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Up next,
14 we've got Caller 2010. And after that'll be Caller 6884.
15 Caller 2010, please follow the prompts. The floor is
16 yours.

17 MR. BARSUMIAN: Hi there. This is Edward Barsumian
18 calling on behalf of the Armenian National Committee of
19 America Western Region. And like the previous caller,
20 I'd like to comment and say that it's premature to adopt
21 the final report when there have been so many pieces of
22 input from our community, the Armenian community alone,
23 saying that the -- the community has been dramatically
24 impacted negatively by the map drafts. You've had
25 roughly 10,000 Armenian community members individually

1 reach out to you saying that you need to reunite all of
2 Glendale, Burbank, and La Crescenta under one Assembly
3 and Senate district as well as the arbitrary split that
4 you placed across La Crescenta. And now East La
5 Crescenta is in one Congressional district and West La
6 Crescenta is in another even though they are one
7 contiguous city.

8 So ultimately, again, it's premature to adopt a
9 final map when there are so -- a final report when there
10 are so many issues with the final map. So please go back
11 to the drawing board, make a few of those changes, and
12 then return again to this conversation about the final
13 report. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Up next,
15 we've got Caller 6884. And ne -- after that will be
16 Caller 8871. Caller 6004, please follow the prompts.
17 The floor is yours.

18 MS. STONE: Good morning. This is Tracy Stone. I
19 represent the Elysian Valley Arts Collective. And I'm
20 also calling to -- with my concerns about the last minute
21 switch of the commercial areas in Elysian Valley to --
22 into CD-34. I think this is kind of a bizarre move.
23 There is almost no population impact. Most of this area
24 is uninhabited. It is mostly commercial, and it can't
25 possibly have any impact on the population distribution

1 any district. But what it does do is split a very
2 clearly defined neighborhood into two Congressional
3 districts and it makes it much more difficult for
4 neighbors to handle areas -- issues of concern especially
5 related to the L.A. River which is our front door, our
6 main sidewalk, our main cultural asset. It's already
7 covered by a bewildering array of jurisdictions and
8 agencies. And now to have to deal with two Congressional
9 districts when we have similar issues of concern makes --

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

11 MS. STONE: -- everything so much more difficult.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You have twenty
13 seconds --

14 MS. STONE: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- remaining.

16 MS. STONE: Oh, oh, so I -- I implore you, implore
17 you to please make this small change and move this little
18 area of Elysian Valley back into what will now be, I
19 guess, Congressional District 30. It will just make life
20 so much easier for all of us and it is such a clearly
21 well-defined neighborhood that I -- this is really worth
22 your time. It's such a small move. And it would make
23 the world of difference to all of us. Thank --

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Up next,
25 we've got Caller 8871. And after that'll be Caller 5150.



1 Caller 8871, please follow the prompts. Go ahead.

2 MS. MANUKIAN: Hi. Good morning. My name is Alice
3 Manukian (ph.). I'm reaching out as an outraged Armenian
4 community member to express the strongest -- in the
5 strongest terms, my deep objection to the report because
6 of the final map configurations in Glendale, Burbank, and
7 La Crescenta. The Commission has received thousands of
8 pieces of communication from the Armenian community
9 expresses our desire to be kept together as a community
10 of interest. And so we think that this protected status
11 requires the Commission to exhaust every and all efforts
12 to keep our Armenian community unified. So we're asking
13 the Co -- the Commission to reunite Glendale, Burbank,
14 and La Crescenta under one Assembly and Senate district.
15 And on the Congressional level. Repair the arbitrary
16 split that has been created, and return all of La
17 Crescenta and La Quinta under one Congressional district
18 with Glendale and Burbank. Thank you very much.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

20 Up next we've got caller 5150, and after that will
21 be caller 2829. Caller 5150, please follow the prompts.
22 Go ahead.

23 MS. MALDONADO: Hi, can you hear me?

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

25 MS. MALDONADO: Hi, Merry Christmas, Commissioners.



1 This is Tony Maldonado from Santa Clarita, and I'm
2 calling from London, England at the moment. The
3 Commiss -- the Commission urges everyone to accept and
4 support the resulting mass that we're creating
5 collaboration with the public; however, the biggest
6 fallacy of this entire process is that it seems that the
7 Commission appears to have listened more to several
8 organized political groups that represent minor subsets
9 of communities, rather than the larger portion of voters
10 and residents around. That appears to be a lack of
11 consistency in terms of application criteria where --
12 where upon one group may get much favored interest while
13 others are left dangling in the wind. So I believe that
14 these maps and this report should not be considered final
15 without either revisit of various Assembly maps, where a
16 thorough presentation on the methodology behind dividing
17 COIs and forcing various communities with nothing in
18 common to be adjoined.

19 For example, the fiasco of Los Angeles County and
20 the counties of Northern California. I think those need
21 to be revisited, to be quite honest, because, again, it
22 leaves a lot of doubt of fairness regarding the process
23 that would --

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

25 MR. MALDONADO: -- later supposed to deliver

1 something positive. So again, please reconsider this
2 again. Don't consider this as final. And present some
3 kind of methodology behind the reasoning as to why you
4 created each particular Assembly map --

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Fifteen.

6 MR. MALDONADO: -- because that's very important for
7 us. Thank you, again, for everything. Enjoy your
8 holiday.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

10 Up next we've got caller 2829, if you'll please
11 follow the prompts. The floor is yours.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Good morning,
13 Commissioners. I just need clarification on the ac --
14 actual motion. As I understood it, Commissioner
15 Akutagawa made an amendment to add with edits, but I was
16 understood -- to me it was understood that it was just
17 for the report to do edits and not the maps. Are -- are
18 you intending to edit both the final report and the maps?
19 I just want some clarification. Thank you.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for that question, and this
21 motion is specific to the reports, not the maps.

22 Kristian, back to you.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And one more time, if
24 anybody who has called in has a comment for the motion on
25 the floor, and has not already spoke, please press star

1 nine.

2 There are no further comments at this time, Chair.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you so much, Kristian.

4 With that, we will go to the vote.

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, Chair. So the motion to
6 approve the report on final maps with edits will be in
7 the roll call here.

8 Commissioner Akutagawa?

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari?

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani?

21 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor?

25 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

2 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez?

6 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

9 MR. HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Ahmad?

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

11 MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Great, thank you so much, everyone.

13 And thank you, Alvaro, for taking that vote.

14 With that, I'll pass it over to the line drawing
15 subcommittee. Commissioners Andersen and Sadhwani.

16 MS. SADHWANI: Sure. Thank you so much. I think it
17 is our distinct honor to offer a motion to certify the
18 approved statewide maps of the Congressional State
19 Senatorial, State Assembly, and the State Board of
20 Equalization districts.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second --

22 MS. ANDERSEN: Second -- and I second that motion.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think I got her.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: So the motion was made by Commission
25 Sadhwani, seconded by Commissioner Andersen. With that,

1 I will open the floor up for discussion, and in this time
2 period, I would also like to invite my fellow
3 Commissioners to make any closing remarks that they may
4 want to. So with that, I'll just go in alphabetical
5 order, if that is okay with folks.

6 I will turn it over to Commissioner Akutagawa.

7 COMMISSION AKUTAGAWA: I was afraid that it was
8 going to start with me when you said that. All right.
9 Well, I just want to say -- first off, I just want to say
10 thank you to everybody whose been involved in this
11 process. My fellow Commissioners, all of the staff, the
12 line drawers, the video team, and of course, all the
13 Californians who called in, wrote in, and engaged in this
14 process.

15 I -- for me personally, this has been an incredible
16 experience and sometimes I'm still just amazed that I was
17 able to be selected to participate in this process. And
18 just learned a lot about just -- something that I knew of
19 a little bit but didn't really understand, and I think
20 along with -- at least several hundred thousands of
21 Californians -- I'm going to say it, I'm going to be
22 hopeful and say hundred thousands, but we got at least
23 over 30,000 inputs. I think -- I feel like we all
24 learned along with them.

25 And I'm incredibly proud of where we ended up with

1 our maps. I think we heard Californians and we created
2 new maps that really reflected, as best as we could,
3 within the criteria that we were obligated to follow,
4 maps that are fair and reflective of California
5 communities.

6 And I just want to also, lastly, say, you know,
7 change does happen, and this change happens every ten
8 years. And in that interim ten years, additional change
9 happens. And so by the time 2030 comes around, you know,
10 new change will happen again. But thank you for the
11 opportunity to serve all of you and to serve with all of
12 you. Thank you.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.
14 Commissioner Andersen.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you to all. I was not
16 expected to actually go second. I was hoping to be able
17 to say that -- like, we were told that try to be additive
18 and not repetitive. So I'm going to actually thank my
19 fellow Commissioners for all of your thoughtful -- deeply
20 thoughtful and considerate comments that you have made,
21 not just that you're going to make today, but that you've
22 made all throughout this entire process. It's been a
23 pleasure and a privilege to work with you.

24 I want to thank all those who have been involved in
25 this great activity, our staff, our contractors, our

1 wonderful videographers, and the public. Without you, we
2 could not have done this process.

3 And I just want to say because, again, you will all
4 be saying things more eloquently than I, but I want
5 everyone to consider that while these maps are not
6 necessarily the maps that any one of us or any individual
7 public member would create, because you're always
8 thinking from one perspective, this is the joint
9 Commissions -- these are the joint Commissions maps, all
10 of them.

11 We've considered things. We have followed with
12 great dedication all of our criteria. We've gone back to
13 our criteria. When we've been conflicted, we've gone
14 back to the criteria over and over again. And that's why
15 we feel unanimously that these are wonderful maps.

16 And again, we appreciate if everyone in the public
17 would consider if this group of diverse fourteen people
18 can come together and do this work in a short period of
19 time, think what all of California can do if we come
20 together, put our minds to our tasks, and we can get
21 anything done. Thank you very much for this privilege,
22 and this has been my honor.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.
24 Commissioner Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. I'm

1 really impressed that you guys can do it without writing
2 something down, but you know. And in terms of additive
3 and not repetitive, I don't think that's a reflection of
4 the Commission or the Commissioners so far. Which I'm
5 not saying that is a bad thing, it's just that we like to
6 say what we like to say.

7 Anyway, so colleagues, we made history today. In
8 2008, California voters decided to abolish the old ways
9 of redrawing districts. Taking it from being conducted
10 behind closed doors to a new model of transparency and
11 accountability.

12 It's good government efforts like these that make
13 California a leader in many respects. Our tireless
14 efforts and countless hours devoted to this process have
15 proven it belongs to us, the people of California. We
16 have created maps that we can all be proud of.

17 Sacrifices were made in every part of California to
18 produce fair and equitable maps.

19 Serving on the Commission, I saw this as an
20 opportunity to give back to my small bubble. As a first
21 generation Californian of parents that immigrated from
22 Mexico many years ago, I am proud to have uplifted --

23 You know, stepping on my toe does not help, Jane.

24 That's what she told me.

25 -- I am proud to have uplifted the voices of so many

1 that previously were underrepresented in this process. I
2 have lived the struggles of being an immigrant, not
3 having time to get involved with anything beyond
4 surviving and providing for your family, living day by
5 day.

6 As a Commissioner I hope to build trust with my
7 fellow Californians so they felt heard and were moved to
8 participate in this process because I once, again, fell
9 in love with the diversity of California.

10 I am blessed to have been a part of this nonpartisan
11 effort. Californians voted to have an independent
12 process, and I personally feel it's my civic
13 responsibility to continue the legacy of independent
14 redistricting so it expands and flourishes to other
15 states, counties, and cities. People need to feel that
16 their voices are heard and that they had a part in
17 helping us redraw the boundaries.

18 As I mentioned last Monday, I'm particularly proud
19 of the VRA districts we created to ensure representation
20 for those that have not had a voice in the past. I am
21 proud that for the first time some residents in
22 California will have the opportunity to select their
23 representatives, as opposed to having representatives
24 selecting their constituency. So we've done the first
25 part. So Californians, please get out to vote.

1 Thank you to our wonderful staff, our line drawers,
2 our legal team, our videographer team, our captioners,
3 our court reporters, ASL interpreters, and the various
4 language interpreters throughout our meetings.

5 Through this process, we were able to make an impact
6 by involving Californians throughout the state. Being
7 able to connect with many of the communities and becoming
8 more familiar with our state. We have created
9 opportunities for representation and I'm very honored.
10 Thank you, California.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.
12 Commissioner Fornaciari.

13 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, yeah. Thanks to
14 everyone who went before me. Well, said. You know, I've
15 been reflecting on this journey. It's a lot longer road
16 than I think any of us had thought it would be. You
17 know, we had hoped to get out there and meet our fellow
18 Californians to see the state. We weren't able to do
19 that, unfortunately, but I think we were able to hear
20 from a lot more Californians going the way we went than
21 we would have. And so that's a bonus.

22 You know, for me, I got to learn a lot. Made some
23 great new friends along the way. We heard from Arnold
24 (ph.) the other day, and he thought we did a great job.
25 So that's awesome. Never expected that to happen.

1 You know, I do want to thank everyone. I want to
2 start with thanking Alvaro. I mean, he stepped up, you
3 know, in a tough time for the Commission and did a great
4 job helping us lay on this plane.

5 You know, Anthony, Fredy, Marcy, and all the staff,
6 you've heard today, you know, the tireless amount of work
7 that they all put in to help us get to where we are and
8 get this done, and I just want to acknowledge their
9 commitment to the Commission, to California, and the
10 redistricting process.

11 The video team, especially Kristian, whose
12 innovations, you know, helped us reach Californians in
13 ways. Very innovative ways that, you know, we would not
14 have been able to with our input meetings and that.

15 And I want to acknowledge, Katy -- the calming voice
16 of Katy, who is the MVP of the process, apparently. Just
17 a wonderful job keeping everything at a even keel.

18 I -- you know, the legal team, I just want to call
19 out Julia in particular for her work on this report.
20 What a lift. And just the legal team in general. Thank
21 you for your help. And the expected teacher help.

22 The line drawing team, I think they're probably
23 still catching up on their sleep, but what an amazing
24 job. Can't thank them enough.

25 And I want to thank my wife for putting up with all

1 this work. I think we all need to thank our families,
2 because it has been a lot, lot, lot of work.

3 I want to thank my thirteen new great friends. What
4 an honor to meet you all and work with you all and learn
5 from you all. Fourteen different perspectives, I think,
6 made for a great outcome. And I think my colleagues
7 before me have said it really, really well, in that, you
8 know, the outcome that we got to -- you know, we got some
9 criticism that it was messy, but you put fourteen people
10 who don't know each other together to do an incredibly
11 complex project that they've never done before, and it
12 gets a little bit messy, but you know, we had an open and
13 transparent process that -- you know, and that had to
14 balance a lot of different things. And I think the
15 outcome that we came to is great.

16 There are three particular people I want to thank.
17 I want to thank Rosalind Gold. I think she's like our --
18 I referred -- you know, I hope this isn't offensive, but
19 I referred to you as our mother, because you would call
20 in the beginning and kind of give us a little nudge in
21 the direction when we were sort of spinning at the
22 beginning of this process.

23 And Lori Shellenberger, you had some great ideas on
24 how to make this a transparent and open process for
25 everyone.

1 And then, finally, Renee Westa-Lusk. I want to
2 thank you for following along the whole way, even today,
3 and calling in when you felt -- with questions that you
4 felt needed to be clarified. Not just for you, but for
5 everyone. And thank you so much for your input.

6 And I guess that's it. I just really, really,
7 really, you know, hope that the people of California
8 recognize the care and commitment that all of the
9 Commissioners had to make to make this come out to be as
10 fair as possible. So thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.
12 Commissioner Kennedy.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. You know,
14 I've spent much of my career telling leaders around the
15 world that there's no such thing as a perfect election
16 anywhere any time. We're humans. Humans run elections
17 and humans are fallible.

18 And I can say after this experience that no map is
19 perfect. We are fourteen humans. We're fallible.
20 There's just never going to be such thing as a perfect
21 map, especially in times like these with the pandemic and
22 the census delays.

23 But for me perhaps the most notable aspect of this
24 process is that the fourteen of us came together, we
25 focused on our objectives, and we were able to complete

1 the process in a collaborative manner. We treated each
2 other with respect despite differing priorities and
3 approaches. I believe that this is the type of
4 redistricting process that most Californians, and indeed,
5 most Americans, want to see in the future.

6 Just like a jury, we had to seek the truth amidst
7 everything that we heard. The Commission sought to
8 listen to communities throughout the state and balance to
9 the greatest extent possible the enormous amount of
10 competing demands. We've endeavored to distinguish
11 between those seeking to tailor a district to an
12 incumbent or potential candidate, and those seeking to
13 help us better understand our state.

14 The time pressures to undertake such a complicated
15 process are simply crushing. We would have wanted more
16 time in the calendar between the delivery of census data
17 and the deadline to submit our maps, but we also had to
18 accept that further time could jeopardize the 2022
19 election calendar.

20 So I'm proud to vote to certify these maps and hope
21 that our efforts will provide fair, even if imperfect,
22 representation to Californians for the coming decade.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.
25 Commissioner Le Mons.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Chair. What do
2 you get when you bring fourteen individuals from the
3 great State of California together, all different, as far
4 as different experiences, age, perspectives, you get this
5 incredible 2020 California Redistricting Commission.
6 It's been an absolute honor to serve side-by-side with
7 each and every one of you. So I wanted to first thank
8 each of you.

9 We had to come together, find a path that we could
10 all support from a process point of view. And we labor
11 for that process. We had ideas about how we wanted to be
12 different and how we wanted to be bold and how we wanted
13 to be innovative and how we wanted to be fair, and I
14 think that we achieved all of those things in our
15 process.

16 We had to build -- not only fly a plane, we had to
17 build it, we had to build fly it while we were building
18 it, and we figured out how to do that as well, with the
19 backdrop of a pandemic that was shaking the world. So
20 that wasn't just something happening here locally, all
21 over the world.

22 We pulled together a staff that has proved to be
23 incredible, while Katy was the calm, Ravi was definitely
24 the sunshine. And it was always a pleasure for me,
25 personally, to hear his voice when he'd do roll call.

1 And we've come to this place where I too feel very
2 proud to be able to cast a yes vote in certifying these
3 maps. I hope that as Californians adjust to the change
4 that some of these maps will have on some communities
5 more than others, that they'll lean into that change and
6 forge new opportunities. I hope that they'll be able to
7 understand and reflect on what our goal was and what our
8 challenges were, and while the maps may not be -- the
9 maps, in my opinion, are as good as -- there's this old
10 saying that says, don't let perfect be the killer of
11 good. And so that's something that I'm leaning on as I
12 think about how we got here.

13 And for me, you know, some of the tense moments
14 along the way were equally as exciting with some of my
15 fellow Commissioners. I can be a lightning rod, I know
16 that. And I've appreciated the off-line discussions
17 about some of those moments that I've had with specific
18 Commissioners that have helped us forge a closer
19 relationship and understand how to navigate complex
20 situations together. So in those ways, I've grown, and I
21 really appreciate the impact that each of you have had on
22 me in your own way.

23 I want to thank the videographers, and legal team,
24 and everyone also as well, because we know that we could
25 not have done this without all of you.

1 So in closing, I just want to say, good morning,
2 California. Well, I guess it's afternoon -- no, it's
3 still morning. Good morning, California, and thank you
4 for going on this ride with us. And hopefully we have
5 set a bar that the 2030 Commission can meet and exceed.

6 Thank you, Chair.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.
8 Commissioner Sadhwani.

9 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Chair.

10 Commissioners, colleagues, friends, we are about to
11 do something pretty incredibly here today, certifying
12 redistricting maps in the largest, the most diverse state
13 in the nation, by an independent and bipartisan group of
14 ordinary Californians. It is democracy in action, and
15 this is a remarkable thing that other states are actually
16 failing to do.

17 Despite this, nationally, our democracy is in peril.
18 Over the last several years, I've been watching with
19 alarm as local election officials are harassed and
20 bullied out of their jobs for not overturning the
21 election results. And as voting rights come under
22 attack, with what appears to be express purpose of
23 undermining the ability of diverse communities to access
24 the ballot, the partisan vitriol that we see nationally
25 is toxic.

1 Yet here in the great State of California, the
2 Golden State, we deliberated, we debated, we weighed
3 conflicting testimony from communities. We worked to
4 leave no stone unturned. And we came to decisions
5 jointly and with severity, acknowledging the compromises
6 that had to be made along the way. More importantly, we
7 put the people first. We relied on the wisdom of
8 communities on the ground to guide our decision-making,
9 not simply the narrow interests of career politicians.
10 And we did so in a fair process that was transparent and
11 open to all.

12 Underlying our great experiment in democracy is the
13 profound diversity that each of us brought to the table,
14 and which is reflective of our state.

15 When the Founding Fathers came together to draft the
16 nation's Constitution, they did so as highly educated
17 land owning men, some of whom were slave owning white
18 men. Now, redistricting, of course, is not a
19 constitutional convention, but the process of
20 deliberation and compromise do strike a similar
21 resemblance. What's uniquely different, of course, is
22 that each of us, Democrats, Republicans, and
23 Independents, brought to the table our own set of values,
24 beliefs, our knowledge of California, and our lived
25 experiences.

1 With a set of fourteen different individuals, these
2 maps would no doubt look very different. And while I'm
3 incredibly proud of what we have accomplished here today,
4 after the last year and a half, I have to admit that I am
5 not entirely convinced that redistricting by independent
6 Commissions, as set forth by the current laws of the
7 State of California, is the best way to engage in this
8 decennial process. I look forward to our future
9 conversations on how to continue to improve upon this
10 process as we move forward.

11 Nevertheless, I carry with me a deep and unwavering
12 belief that the right to vote, for people to access the
13 ballot, and for communities to elect the candidates of
14 their choice, particularly those that have been
15 historically and systematically excluded from the
16 franchise, is essential to our nation's democracy. And
17 our national commitment to voting rights should not only
18 be upheld, but should be strengthened in all fifty
19 states. I believe that we have done our part here to
20 uphold those rights in California.

21 My deepest gratitude to my fellow Commissioners, to
22 the Commission staff, to all of our consultants, and most
23 importantly to all Californians who engaged in this
24 process and who entrusted us with this responsibility.

25 Thank you, Chair.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.
2 Commissioner Sinay.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Chair.

4 There's a story about a beach that's full of
5 starfish, and an old man is picking them up and tossing
6 them back into the ocean. And a young boy walks up to
7 him and says, dude, what are you doing, you're not going
8 to save them all? And as the old man picks up a starfish
9 and he throws it in, he says, tell it to that starfish.

10 The first time I heard that story, I got goosebumps.
11 I just thought it was amazing and how powerful. But I'll
12 be honest, as I started driving home, I got angry. I
13 started asking, why are those starfish on the beach; why
14 couldn't they live in the ocean. And my questions kept
15 coming, my whys, my whys. And then I realized, you know
16 what, I'm not about one starfish, I'm about changing the
17 system so all starfish can live healthy and productive
18 lives.

19 I thank you, Californians, for reminding me that the
20 real change, the whys, the answers to those whys, comes
21 from we, the people. It's a result of hard work. It is
22 not just tinkering at the edges and trying to change a
23 system; it's about creating a whole new system. And
24 that's what redistricting was about.

25 Some folks will tinker, and that's okay, we need

1 someone to work that one starfish. We need some people
2 in the front lines because that one starfish appreciates
3 it and needs it, but we also need folks to be bold, to be
4 brave, and to make those big changes.

5 So every time I display a starfish, either I wear it
6 as a charm, I have it on my logos, or I just see one
7 somewhere, know that it's a reminder to me that what is
8 possible and what we did here, we envisioned and we built
9 a more perfect and equitable union.

10 I want to say gracias to my familia, to my fellow
11 Commissioners who are now my friends, to the staff,
12 consultants, and Californians for inspiring me, for your
13 hard work.

14 And I want to ask you all, don't stop. This isn't
15 it. We need all of you to please continue to be engaged.
16 To run, to lead, to volunteer, to vote, whatever it takes
17 to make a more collective, equitable and beautiful
18 California, United States world. Thank you so much for
19 this opportunity. Gracias (in Spanish, not transcribed).

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.
21 Commissioner Taylor.

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good morning, everyone. Good
23 morning. Thank you, Chair.

24 I don't know that there's much that I could add that
25 my colleagues have not already put in such wonderful

1 terms, but I'll take a few moments, nonetheless, in true
2 2020 fashion. We are the second iteration of the
3 California Citizens Redistricting Commission. I'm not
4 sure what our header for this second iteration would be,
5 (indiscernible) Diego, LA Valley, Valley, or Tracy to the
6 High Desert, but I do believe that this process, the
7 process of using an independent redistricting Commission
8 to draw district maps, is a fair and appropriate process
9 to empower the people to elect a candidate of their
10 choosing. I acknowledge in using this process that it
11 can be messy at times, much like our democracy. We were
12 not perfect but we were perfect in our intention.

13 As the listening public may have learned, and my
14 fellow Commissioners have no doubt about, I'm a fan of
15 California, skateboards, and specifically the Los Angeles
16 Dodgers. That being said, I would like to stay in the
17 baseball world for a few moments. In 1975, the Houston
18 Astros introduced their rainbow jerseys. These jerseys
19 had hues of red and orange and yellow, an ombre of
20 colors. For the most part, they were widely held as
21 ugly. I even wore a version of that jersey in high
22 school, and I cannot wait to promote the varsity to leave
23 that jersey behind.

24 However, as I look at the Houston Astros jersey, or
25 the jersey I wore as a freshman player, through a

1 different lens, I can see a different image. I can see
2 how the colors next to each blend and compliment while
3 the streams of those colors, specifically the red to the
4 yellow, the Asto jerseys may not seem to match, when
5 using that different lens, you see that they have
6 connective tissue. It's not a perfect Astros jersey, but
7 there's beauty in that jersey. And this is how I view
8 maps.

9 So as we scrutinized these maps, there's more
10 connective tissue that binds these communities and
11 districts together and separates one from the other. I'm
12 truly humbled and will forever be somewhat restless
13 regarding my experience with the CRC, and probably other
14 Commissioners may feel the same. It's not because there
15 are deficiencies in the work, but the impossibilities of
16 satisfying over thirty-nine million Californians.

17 How do you choose a favorite child? High Zowie
18 (ph.), and the other two. I can rest assured, however,
19 having been in the room, decisions were made with the
20 interest of the people at heart. And as a community
21 member, I could not have asked for much more.

22 Going forward, I am forever vested in this
23 Commission. I hope to continually be of service. I
24 challenge all Californians to participate in this
25 process. I look forward to the 2030 Commission and its

1 improved and optimal operation, along with the
2 visualizations that result from that process. And
3 lastly, let's all hold our elected officials to tasks in
4 each and every district.

5 I can't thank you guys enough. I can't thank the
6 staff enough. Can't thank California enough, and I hope
7 I treated you all kindly. Thank you.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.
9 Commissioner Toledo.

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair Ahmad.

11 I'm so proud of the work that together we have
12 completed to serve all Californians. Our individual
13 contributions have led to our collective success. And
14 accomplishing that was only possible by leaving our own
15 interests and wants at the door. By listening to the
16 voices and needs of Californians, and then working
17 together to fairly meet those needs, in the most
18 equitable manner possible.

19 As the son of a farmworker, (indiscernible), I feel
20 so honored and privileged to have been able to serve
21 on -- to serve California and its people alongside a
22 group of committed leaders and -- that are committed to
23 ensuring fair maps for all Californians. And I cannot --
24 I can't stop but to think what would have happened if the
25 first eight Commissioners hadn't selected a group of

1 people that was a more diverse and worked towards getting
2 a more diverse Commission. I mean, that, to me, I think,
3 added a layer of equity to this Commission that had the
4 Commission, the first eight Commissioners, not
5 prioritized equity, diversity, and representation, we may
6 not have achieved the goals that we succeeded. And so
7 for me, I am very thankful to the first eight for
8 selecting myself and my fellow colleagues who helped to
9 better reflect the State of California.

10 Serving on the Commission has allowed us to work to
11 expand the circles of opportunity for more and more
12 people across California. Our communities are changing
13 and changing faster than ever. We all work to ensure
14 that all communities have fair, just, and equitable
15 representation, and we did so in a transparent manner,
16 while working hard to engage all communities, especially
17 voices who have been historically excluded.

18 Representation matters, and representation is only
19 truly possible if all communities actively engage and
20 participate. Thank you for your engagement in this
21 process and for helping us to make a more just, fair, and
22 equitable society. Thank you.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.
24 Commissioner Turner.

25 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair.

1 To my fellow Commissioners, and to all of the almost
2 forty million Californians, for me, it has been an
3 extreme honor to serve on this 2020 California Citizens
4 Redistricting Commission in the task of drawing new
5 district lines. We came from different backgrounds and
6 different experiences, but we came with the same desire
7 and determination to serve California by drawing fair and
8 equitable maps.

9 We could not have completed our task without the
10 support and guidance of many, many different groups and
11 individuals. Thank you.

12 We could not have completed our task without staff,
13 the line drawers, ESL, our COMS team, the AV team, and
14 many others. Thank you all.

15 Listen, this work has been tough. It's been messy.
16 It was indeed a challenge. We know that in order to
17 please and honor the desires of some, we've disappointed
18 others. And for me, that's been heartbreaking. We are
19 imperfect people trying to draw for you perfect lines for
20 perfect districts.

21 It would have been so easy if our state was square.
22 If we didn't lose a congressional seat. It would have
23 been so easy if you all wanted the same things, but that
24 didn't happen. Nevertheless, with our required and given
25 criteria, I am proud. I'm proud of the ultimate product

1 that we created.

2 This is only our second cycle, and I'm incredibly
3 blessed and proud to be part of a state that allows such
4 a rich and rewarding process that's accessible and
5 available to all. And so for this, I'm grateful.

6 And I'd like to say thank you, Commissioners. I
7 appreciate each and every one of you that just eighteen
8 months ago I did not know. It's been a blessing to serve
9 with you. I respect each and every one of you for all of
10 your different thoughts and opinions, you get to be you,
11 and you brought your best self, as did I, and for this,
12 again, I thank you.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
14 Commissioner Vasquez.

15 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Thanks so much, Chair.

16 So a little bit of my family's history is I believe
17 our ancestors' journeys, we honor our ancestors' journeys
18 by weaving their narrative into our own. Immigrant
19 communities intimately know that borders, lines,
20 boundaries are important. My own dad's family has been
21 in the Central Valley since before the Mexican American
22 War. The border crossed us like it did so many of us.

23 My mom's family came here many decades ago with her
24 dad. The first to arrive, head of the family. He walked
25 in disintegrating leather shoes across the desert of Palm

1 Springs, having made the journey from Michoacan with
2 nothing but a canteen and a traveling companion.

3 Most of my known family history is in California.
4 It is here where I draw inspiration for my work as an
5 advocate, organizer, and public servant. My parents are
6 educators, and we were taught early that to engage with
7 public systems meant to keep one's head down and do the
8 work. This may resonate with many of you.

9 My parents, both born in the States, experienced
10 tremendous amount of discrimination, particularly in
11 school. My dad's Spanish is minimal because my
12 grandmother didn't want him to have an accent.

13 My family wasn't especially politically active, with
14 the exception of my dad's dad, my grandfather, whom I'm
15 proud and honored to say marched with Cesar Chavez in the
16 Central Valley when he was a farmworker working the grape
17 fields. And he once ran for city council in Shafter,
18 California.

19 Reflecting on my own political journey, I realized
20 that it's not my grandfather and I are anomalies in our
21 family's story, it was that we found a policy issue that
22 was deeply personal and relevant, and there were
23 community leaders present and focused on building power
24 amongst each other around those issues.

25 Since becoming disabled after getting COVID-19 in

1 March 2020, I, along with at least fifteen million others
2 in the United States, including undocumented people and
3 children, are grappling with a fractured and inadequate
4 healthcare system in the wake of long-term symptoms known
5 as lung Covid. While these last eighteen months have
6 been the most painful and challenging of my life, it has
7 been an honor to serve California during this
8 unprecedented time, and my advocacy has only deepened by
9 all that I have learned.

10 What I've learned is that we are more intimately
11 connected than we could ever realize. Thank you to our
12 staff, our contractors, my colleagues on the Commission,
13 and to the community.

14 Thank you most of all to my spouse, Tony, who kept
15 me alive, not only during those awful weeks in the summer
16 of 2020, when emergency rooms were not accepting
17 patients, but also for keeping me alive the last eighteen
18 months while I pushed through symptoms and then crashed
19 in bed unable to talk after each long day. You are
20 unimaginable generous with your love for me and my love
21 for California.

22 I see a similar story for Black, Latinos, Asian,
23 Indigenous, Immigrant, and other historically
24 marginalized communities across California. We must
25 continue to make the case for redistricting in all types

1 of civic engagement to be about building community power
2 for issues that are deeply personal and relevant.
3 Communities of interest is an abstract concept, but being
4 able to collaborate with this team on what I called the
5 most complicated art project has helped me understand
6 that shared interests are what make up the strong
7 connective tissue of our state.

8 I look forward to continuing to build power with our
9 communities to ensure this process continues to reflect
10 the diverse and dynamic communities, interests, and
11 stories of all Californians. If you have come here to
12 help me, you are wasting your time, but if have come here
13 because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let
14 us work together. Lilla Watson, Aboriginal elder and
15 activist. Thank you.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Vasquez.
17 Vice Chair Yee?

18 VICE CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Chair Ahmad.

19 Well, it feels like the end of summer camp. It's
20 time to go home but some part of me wishes it would just
21 go on forever. We've been through so much together. So
22 many highs and lows, so much hard work. So many tough
23 decisions and so many obstacles to overcome, but we
24 persevered through it all. Along with our staff and
25 consultants, who are our essential workers, we were able

1 to conduct the most open and most publicly participatory
2 redistricting effort in the nation, and probably in all
3 history. We unanimously redistricted the most populous,
4 most geographically and demographically complicated state
5 in the nation, and now we're ready to certify our maps.

6 Two thanks to mention in additive fashion. On top
7 of everything else everyone has mentioned, thank you to
8 Ingenious Californians, whose unseated ancestral lands we
9 have now divided into what we hope are fair and equitable
10 election districts. We have tried our best to respect
11 and honor today's tribal lands and to do what is good and
12 right for you and for all Californians.

13 And thank you to those who took time and effort to
14 tell us how unhappy you are with our new maps, including
15 just this morning. Unfortunately, redistricting is often
16 unavoidably zero some (ph.). I can guarantee you that
17 maps you might draw would certainly disappoint others one
18 hundred percent as much as these maps disappoint you.

19 We made hard choices and we tried to spread the pain
20 and the gain as thoughtfully as we could. I hope you
21 will still believe in the system and be open-minded with
22 these new districts.

23 And to those who are happy with these maps, please
24 remember the needs and cares of your disappointed
25 neighbors, and please choose to seek their well-being

1 alongside your own.

2 When I applied to this Commission, my goal was to
3 help California lead the nation in independent
4 redistricting, and I believe our process and our maps
5 fulfil that goal. But we had a larger goal beyond
6 independent redistricting. It was the goal we vowed to
7 keep, a goal of supporting and defending the U.S. and
8 California Constitutions, which is to say supporting and
9 defending democracy itself against all enemies foreign
10 and domestic. Unfortunately, there are such enemies, and
11 I'm afraid many of them are in high positions in my own
12 political party. Yes, I said it, the elephant in the
13 room, literally.

14 Early in our Commission work, a violent insurrection
15 sought to overturn a lawful election. Partisan interests
16 have run completely outside any notion of the common
17 good. Needful but unwritten political customs and
18 virtues have been abandoned. And I have been heartsick
19 at the part of personal and fiscal responsibility and
20 respect for institutions and traditions has become some
21 mendacious and reckless and destructive.

22 And so our ability to work together successfully and
23 indeed so very enjoyably has been a welcome comfort and
24 encouragement to me, and hopefully to many others. I
25 wanted to do something about the present political crisis

1 and together we did do something, something important and
2 visible and lasting for our state and for our nation.
3 And for that, and for each of you, I'm deeply grateful.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Vice Chair Yee.

5 Woo, I cannot believe that we are here. It was just
6 yesterday that a lucky bingo ball drawing put me in this
7 seat. Through this process I got to learn more about
8 California from Californians directly than I had ever
9 thought imaginable. Californians shared their stories
10 with us to make sure their voice was heard in this
11 decades redistricting process.

12 This Commission spent months building up our
13 organization from the bottom up, and spent many more
14 months listening to public testimony, creating map
15 visualizations and revisiting and revisiting and
16 revisiting and editing our map iterations to create maps
17 that will ensure Californians have a fair chance to elect
18 the candidates of their choice. We spent hours upon
19 hours in deliberation and discussion, handling public
20 testimony with great care.

21 This Commission is a success because of the
22 unwavering support from our team, from our contractors,
23 our legal counsels, and lastly, but certainly not least,
24 all of our fellow Californians.

25 Thank you to the thirteen other Commissioners for

1 joining me on this journey of a life time. I am humbled,
2 inspired, and motivated by your selflessness and
3 sacrifice for the people of California. Watching this
4 decades redistricting process firsthand, I'm confident
5 that this independent Commission crafted these maps with
6 great care and delicacy.

7 I'll close with a quote from one of the most
8 inspirational leaders of my time, Councilwoman Leslie
9 Knope from Pawnee, Indiana. Now, go find your team, get
10 to work. Whatever that work is that you find worth
11 doing, do it, and find some people to love who will do it
12 with you.

13 With that, Kristian, can we call for public comment
14 on the motion on the floor.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

16 The Commission will now take public comment on the
17 motion on the floor. To give comment, please call 877-
18 853-5247, and enter meeting ID number 87908151544. Once
19 you've dialed in, please press star nine to enter the
20 comment cue. The full call-in instructions are read at
21 the beginning of the meeting and are provided on the
22 livestream landing page.

23 And again, we are taking public comment on the
24 motion on the floor. We are going to lower all hands.
25 All hands are lowered now. If you'd like to give comment



1 on the motion on the floor, please press star nine.

2 Again, if you are calling in to give comment on the
3 motion on the floor, the motion to certify the statewide
4 maps of the Congressional, State Senatorial, State
5 Assembly and the State Board of Equalization districts,
6 please press star nine.

7 Just a moment while we organize the cue. Okay. We
8 do have some hands raised. Up first will be caller 2010,
9 and after that will be caller 8871. Caller 2010, please
10 follow the prompts. Go ahead.

11 MR. BARSIMION: Hi there. This is Edward Barsimion
12 (ph.) again calling on behalf of the Armenian National
13 Committee and America Western Region, and I would really
14 like to reiterate that we're advocating here is that this
15 map not be submitted; it not be adopted as is. The
16 outrage of our community isn't about a perfect map. It's
17 about the Commission's constitutional responsibility to
18 produce a map that doesn't dissect communities of
19 interest and retains the integrity of cities. We've seen
20 that the Armenian community has been sidelined throughout
21 this entire process, and again, you've received tens of
22 thousands of communications from us, and yet, those
23 changes had not been made which reflected the unity of
24 the Armenian community and communities like Glendale,
25 Burbank, and La Crescenta.

1 So please, I implore -- we implore you as a
2 community that the Commission not adopt this final map,
3 and make a few minor changes that will have tremendous
4 impact that continues to speak to the Commission's
5 responsibility to preserve communities of interest and
6 cities.

7 Furthermore, I also implore that the Commission make
8 whole communities, like --

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

10 MR. BARSIMION: -- La Canada-Flintridge and La
11 Crescenta that are split in half across different
12 Congressional districts. Please make those changes.
13 Thank you very much. Bye-bye.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

15 Up next, we've got caller 8871, and after that will
16 be caller 5233. 8871, please follow the prompts. The
17 floor is yours.

18 MS. ANUKIN: Oh hi, Commissioners. With regard to
19 your very, very beautiful rhetoric and the fact that you
20 folks have undergone a huge process -- my name is -- by
21 the way, my name is Alison Anukin (ph.). I'm calling
22 regarding the Armenian community. And in the words of --
23 of the other Commission, the four -- one of the other
24 fourteen Commissioners, there has -- you have tried to
25 spread the pain and gain among the different map

1 districts. I think in the case of the Armenian
2 community, there has been only pain and no gain.

3 We asked that the map be re -- reconfigured to unite
4 Glendale, Burbank, and La Crescenta under one Assembly
5 and Senate district, as it has been for decades. And
6 also, on the Congressional level, repair the split that
7 has been created between La Crescenta and La Quinta and
8 put those communities --

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

10 MS. ANUKIN: -- under the Congressional district
11 with Glendale and Burbank. Thank you very much.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 Up next we've got caller 5233, and after that will
14 be caller 0514. Caller 5233, please follow the prompts.
15 The floor is yours.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon. I'm calling
17 in as an outraged Armenian community member to express in
18 the strongest of terms my deep objection with the final
19 map configurations of Glendale, Burbank, and La Crescenta
20 at all levels of government. This Commission received
21 thousands of responses from Armenian community members
22 who called in during hearings, emailed, written, public
23 comments, and sent map feedback forms expressing our need
24 to remain together. Instead, Commissioners ignored our
25 community's request to stay together, making increasingly

1 harmful decisions with every map release.

2 Now, at the end of this frustrating process, our
3 community input has been totally ignored and we demand
4 that the Commission make the following adjustments to the
5 California Assembly and Senate maps, including reuniting
6 all of Glendale, Burbank, and La Crescenta under one
7 Assembly and Senate district, as they have been for
8 decades.

9 On the Congressional level, repair the arbitrary
10 split that you created and return all of La Crescenta and
11 La Canda-Flintridge under one Congressional district with
12 Glendale and Burbank. So please stop separating the
13 Armenian community. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

15 Up next we've got caller 0514, and then after that
16 will be caller 5580. Caller 0514, please follow the
17 prompts. Go ahead.

18 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
19 This is Lori Shellenberger, redistricting consultant to
20 Common Cause one of the proponents of independent
21 redistricting Commissions across the county. And I'm
22 calling on behalf of Common Cause today to congratulate
23 you on the certification of the final maps and to express
24 deep gratitude for your incredible dedication and work
25 toward a more fair and inclusive redistricting process,

1 for your responsiveness to the public input from a cross-
2 section of Californians and from diverse perspectives,
3 and also gratitude for your drive to explore and
4 implement new technologies to make the process more
5 acceptable. I know it was far from easy and it's hard
6 for many to imagine the personal and the professional
7 sacrifices you have made to get to the finish line under
8 unprecedented circumstances.

9 My work with Common Cause lines down with your vote
10 today, but Common Cause will remain engaged through the
11 next decade, and in particular as you move to the next
12 stage of reflection and as you formulate recommendations
13 for improvements to the process. That work is thankfully
14 not on a deadline, but I know --

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. SHELLENBERGER: -- they are anxious to learn
17 about your plans for archiving your work and staffing the
18 important work you still have ahead, including your
19 contracts to provide transcripts of your meetings and so
20 forth.

21 I hope you get to -- to do more of that work in
22 person and under better conditions. In the meantime, I
23 hope you're able to enjoy the remainder of the holiday
24 season with your families and your loved ones --

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Ten seconds.

1 MS. SHELLENBERGER: -- and that you're not thinking
2 about maps and mapping.

3 Thank you, again, for your service to our democracy
4 and Happy New Year to you all, including to Katy and
5 Kristian, who we appreciated your -- your (indiscernible)
6 like approach to managing the public. Again, Happy New
7 Year, and thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

9 Up next we've got caller 5580. Please follow the
10 prompts. The floor is yours.

11 MS. PATROSIAN: Yes, hi. My name is Lucy Patrosian
12 (ph.). I'm reaching out as an outraged Armenian
13 community member to express in the strongest of terms my
14 deep objection with the final map Congressions of
15 Glendale, Burbank, and La Crescenda at all levels of
16 government.

17 This Commission received thousands of responses from
18 Armenian community members, who called in during
19 hearings, emails, written, public comments, and sent map
20 feedback form -- feedback forms expressing our need to
21 remain together. Is that Commissioner ignored our
22 community's request to stay together, making increasingly
23 harmful decisions with every map release.

24 Now, at the end of this frustrating process, our
25 community input has been totally ignored, and we demand

1 that the Commission make the following adjustments to the
2 California and Senate maps. Rene -- reunite of all
3 Glendale, Burbank, La Crescenta under one Assembly and
4 Senate district, as they have been for decades.

5 On the Congressional level, repair the arbitrary
6 split that you --

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

8 MS. PATROSIAN: -- created and return all of La
9 Crescenta, La Canada-Flintridge under one Congressional
10 district with Glendale and Burbank. Please stop
11 separating the Armenian community. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 And again, the Commission is taking public comment
14 on the motion on the floor to certify the approved
15 statewide maps. If you would like to give comment on the
16 motion on the floor, please press star nine.

17 There are no further comments at this time, Chair.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you so much, Kristian.

19 With that, I just want to do a final check. Any
20 last minute comments on the motion on the floor from the
21 public?

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have another hand,
23 Chair.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Great, thank you.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 7366, please

1 follow the prompts. Caller with the last four digits
2 7366, you can now unmute by pressing star six, please.
3 Go ahead.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry. (Indiscernible). I'm
5 calling from Glendale. First of all, I wanted to thank
6 you for all the work and for this opportunity to make my
7 voice heard.

8 I want to -- my voice repeating what other fellow
9 citizens in the area have already mentioned, I want to
10 keep it short. And I would like to reiterate that I
11 would like it to stop dividing the Armenian community and
12 reunite all of Glendale, Burbank, and La Crescenta in the
13 one Assembly and Senate district, as they have been for a
14 long time and for decades. And to repair this arbitrary
15 split that you created, and return all of La Crescenta,
16 La Canada-Flintridge under one Congressional district
17 with Glendale and Burbank. Thank you very -- very much
18 for the opportunity to speak, and I'll let someone speak
19 of this part.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

21 Up next we've got called 5150. Please follow the
22 prompts. Go ahead.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

25 MR. MALDONADO: I apologize. Commissioners, once

1 again, Merry Christmas. It's Tony Maldonado again. I
2 just wanted to point out a few things. Two Commissioners
3 today expressed quite interesting viewpoints which stand
4 out. Commissioner Sadhwani, who would desire for a
5 different process in drawing maps in the future, which I
6 wholly agree with, and Commissioner Yee, who interjected
7 a partisan viewpoint which marred the closing. That's
8 unfortunate.

9 While I strongly disagree with some of your choices,
10 including approval of your maps right now, I respect the
11 fact that we can now conclude with this and move towards
12 another prospect and reflect better on our decisions
13 moving forward.

14 I ask for those in the public to please respect the
15 privacy of the Commissioners, especially their families.
16 Yes, many of us are aggrieved and frustrated with -- with
17 much throughout, but let's save it for something more
18 fruitful and not personalize this process.

19 Thank you again to Kristian, Katy, the translators,
20 all the staff, and Commissioners. Once again, all of
21 you, please have a wonderful holiday. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 And there are no further comments in the cue at this
24 time, Chair.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Kristian.

1 I'll now pass it to Alvaro to call the roll for
2 vote.

3 Commissioner Sadhwani and Andersen, I just want to
4 confirm that the motion reads as you expect.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, it does indeed. Thank
6 you, Chair.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Great.

9 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Unless there's anyone that
10 has any editorial changes to make to it.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Are there any editorial changes to the
12 motion?

13 Yes, Commissioner Fernandez?

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, of course.

15 Equalization is one, it's singular; it's not
16 equalizations, or has it been corrected yet. Okay. And
17 then, I would just put the after certified. Thanks.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Once again, just confirmation.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Beautiful. Beautiful. Not
20 beautiful yet.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa?

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Sorry, I am -- I have to
23 follow-up on Commissioner Fernandez on this. I think
24 it -- should it not be the State Senate instead of State
25 Senatorial? I see Senatorial. I thought it was supposed

1 to be State Senate districts.

2 MR. PANE: Commissioner Akutagawa, in the section 2
3 of the California Constitution, it refers to boundary
4 lines for Congressional, Senatorial, Assembly, and State
5 Board of Equalization districts. So we could certainly
6 mirror that, but Senatorial would be acceptable. We
7 certainly could do a variation of that as well.

8 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. If they're
9 interchangeable. So okay. Just wanted to make sure.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Great, thank you, Commissioner
12 Akutagawa.

13 With that, I will pass it back to you, Alvaro, to
14 call roll for the vote.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: I will begin the vote now.
16 Commissioner Akutagawa?

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari?

23 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Qui, si, yes.

3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani?

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Si.

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor?

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Affirmative.

9 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

10 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez?

14 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Ahmad?

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: That was -- yeah. Thank you, Alvaro.

21 With that, we will call for general public comment.

22 Per our public comment policy, we have allotted three
23 hours at maximum for public comment, and we'll make sure
24 to reread the instructions to call in.

25 So Kristian I will pass it back over to you.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sure thing, Chair.

2 So we are starting 12:30. We do have a 15-minute
3 break scheduled for right now, so we'll read the
4 instructions and then we'll go to break and then we'll
5 come back to take calls. All right.

6 First the instructions. The Commission will now
7 take general public comment for items on the agenda or
8 not on the agenda. To give comment, please call 877-853-
9 5247, and enter meeting ID number 87908151544. Once
10 you've dialed in, please press star nine to enter the
11 comment cue. The full call-in instructions are read at
12 the beginning of the meeting and are provided on the
13 livestream landing page.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Kristian.

15 With that, we will take our required 15-minute
16 break. This will allow callers to call in and get in the
17 cue. We will return at 7 plus 45 -- 12:52. Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 12:37 p.m.
19 until 12:53 p.m.)

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back, everyone from our
21 mandatory break. We will jump right back into public
22 comment. So I will turn it over to Kristian.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

24 The Commission will now take general public comment
25 for items on the agenda or not on the agenda. To give

1 comment, please call 877-853-5247 and enter meeting ID
2 number 87908151544. Once you've dialed in, please press
3 star nine to enter the comment cue. The full call-in
4 instructions are read at the beginning of the meeting and
5 are provided on the livestream landing page.

6 For those who have called in, if you would like to
7 give general public comment, please press star nine. One
8 more time, for those who have called in, even if you have
9 spoken before on other items, you can give comment on the
10 general public comment section. And if you wish to do
11 so, please press star nine.

12 Just a moment. We do have several hands in the cue.
13 First up we've got caller 2829, and after that will be
14 caller 2010. We will be enforcing a minute and thirty
15 second time limit. Again, first up will be caller 2829,
16 and after that will be caller 2010. Caller 2829, please
17 follow those prompts. Go ahead.

18 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Good morning, again, Commissioners.
19 This is Renee Westa-Lusk, and I -- I want to express my
20 gratitude and thankfulness for the sacrifices you made
21 for each -- what each of you -- that you each made on
22 behalf of our state and our nation. I -- I think your
23 Commission can be very exemplary for other states to
24 follow, and I -- I thank you from the bottom of my heart
25 for everything you gave up to do this job. Thank you

1 very much and have a great New Year, and I hope you get
2 to spend time to relax and rejuvenate. If I ever get
3 lonely, I will just go to the website and replay the
4 video tapes to hear all your voices. And I want to say
5 thanks again. Bye.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

7 Up next we've got caller 2010, and after that will
8 be caller 8871. Caller 2010, please follow the prompts.
9 Go ahead.

10 MR. BARSIMION: Hi there, thank you. Edward
11 Barsimion again from the ANC Western Region. I just
12 wanted to say that, you know, I understand that this was
13 a monumental task. I know that it was extremely
14 difficult, but you know, I really wish that this
15 Commission had taken its -- its duties seriously in
16 preserving communities of interest, as it had been
17 constitutionally obligated. You know, so many people
18 from our community had reached out and yet our -- our
19 requests had been consistently ignored, even when they
20 didn't cross, you know, the path of other communities and
21 undermining their voices.

22 So I have to say, you know, the -- the Commission, I
23 know you -- you worked to equalize things but this --
24 unfortunately, the outcome of -- of this map does not
25 equalize the voices of all of the communities,

1 specifically in the Los Angeles area and others. So
2 please -- you know, I -- I really wish that, you know,
3 moving forward, we -- we address these issues, as we --
4 as we finalize this map and move on to the Secretary of
5 State.

6 But again, you know, I -- I -- I have to applaud
7 that you -- you did the best you could but again, it was
8 not -- it was not good enough, at least for our
9 communities.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

11 MR. BARSIMION: In any case, I wish you a Happy New
12 Year. I hope that your holidays were restful, and I wish
13 all of you all the best and every success in everything
14 you do in life. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

16 Up next we've got caller 8871, and after that will
17 be caller 5150. Caller 8871, please follow the prompts.
18 Go ahead.

19 MS. MANUTKIN: Hello. This is Alice Manutkin (ph.)
20 again. I want to be on the record for being very, very
21 dissatisfied with the map that has been drawn by the
22 Commission. I really appreciated the Commission's good
23 will toward each other and their great work ethic among
24 each other. Also, the notion of they're not able --
25 they're not being able to be a perfect map. Of course

1 there's nothing perfect. But again, the pain from the
2 Armenian community at -- at not being apportioned to
3 their greatest sort of ability was not at all a good
4 result. This process was about the result of having it
5 be truly equitable for the most number of Californians as
6 possible.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

8 MS. MANUTKIN: And ultimately this process was not
9 about the fourteen Commissioners, it was about a -- an
10 equitable result. Thank you very much.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

12 Up next we've got caller 5150, and after that will
13 be caller 4328. Caller 5150, you know what to do. The
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. MALDONADO: Good afternoon. This is Tony
16 Maldonado again from Santa Clarita, and calling you also
17 on Holiday in London. I apologize for calling in with
18 this public comment but I believe many of those who have
19 called and have listened to all these requests in public
20 would -- would agree with this public request I'm making.

21 Would Katy and Kristian please stand up and address
22 the public with a small bow as they have a strong
23 following. I believe they both should get agents and
24 pursue work in radio, voice over a podcast because they
25 have voices that many will listen to endlessly and have

1 demonstrated a large amount of patience and
2 understanding. I think the Commissioners would agree
3 with this.

4 If anything, I hope all the Commissioners will stand
5 up and applaud them because, honestly, they have done a
6 fantastic job. Thank you, everyone. Have a peaceful New
7 Year's, and please stay safe. Thank you. Good-bye.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

9 Up next we've got caller 4328, please follow the
10 prompts. The floor is yours.

11 MR. ICHINOSE: Thanks. My name is Dan Ichinose.
12 I'm a research director at the Orange County Civic
13 Engagement Table. Just wanted to call to say on behalf
14 of low income community of color and working families of
15 Orange County, I wanted to thank you for hearing the
16 voices of so many routinely left out of the political
17 process. You know, for the communities that we serve,
18 redistricting is not a political game but a deeply
19 impactful process that results in policy, programs, that
20 can quite literally mean life or death for those in deed.

21 On a personal level, this is my third redistricting
22 process, and (indiscernible) years ending in 7 and 8. I
23 ask myself whether this is something I -- I had and need
24 to do again. For as much time as -- as -- as community
25 folks like us put into this process, I can only imagine

1 how exhaustive you all must be. The amount of time and
2 thoughtfulness each and every one of you put into this
3 process is -- is simply astounding and much, much
4 appreciated by those of us who have been following you
5 since -- since the bingo ball fell.

6 Wanted to echo the sen -- the sentiment just shared
7 by Commissioner Yee --

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

9 MR. ICHINOSE: -- a few minutes ago on your work
10 together. It's been a breath of fresh air at a time of
11 crippling political divisiveness. You centered
12 California when our state needed it. So I -- I hope that
13 you'll be spending next week catching up on rest and
14 spending much needed time with family, although, I
15 imagine, more than a few of you have a bit of work to
16 catch up on. So thanks again for your dedication and
17 hard work, and -- and Happy Holidays.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

19 And again, for those calling in, we are in the
20 general public comment period. If you would like to give
21 comment, please press star nine to raise your hand. We
22 have a couple of callers who have called in but have not
23 chosen to raise their hand, and as is our custom, we are
24 going to give them an opportunity to speak.

25 Caller 3021, please follow the prompts. The floor

1 is yours.

2 MR. COPP: Thank you. My name is John Copp (ph.),
3 and I live in the City of Eastvale, California, and it's
4 in the northwest corner of Riverside County. It's a town
5 that's less than eleven years old. And it has been
6 bifurcated into two Assembly districts, 58 and 63, and
7 also into Congressional districts 35 and 41. And those
8 peop -- I would urge those people to consider their
9 districts -- their community of interest being bifurcated
10 into more than -- well, two or more districts.

11 To consider the fact that you should look as the
12 television celebrities have said, look on the bright side
13 of life. You will not be represented on any issue that
14 you want by more than one --

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

16 MR. COPP: -- Assembly member district -- Assembly
17 member or State Senate member or Congressional member.
18 They'll be on your -- in your corner fighting for you.
19 And so I would say, look at it from that standpoint
20 rather than be separated. You now have two or more
21 voices on your behalf. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

23 And up next we've got caller 4208, please follow the
24 prompts. The floor is yours.

25 MR. CLOM: Hey. This is Rob Clom with

1 (indiscernible), and I -- I haven't paid as close
2 attention to redistricting at a state level as I have
3 locally, but I -- I generally appreciate everything
4 you've done. There -- there was comfort knowing it was
5 being handled by an independent redistricting Commission.

6 There's been a lot of talk about messiness, and
7 redistricting is the most inherently messy thing that you
8 could ever do in politics. It's really raw. You have to
9 explore all kinds of past wrongs. And I -- I just think
10 it's -- it's only messy in the sense that we got to see
11 it. It was transparent. It was out there for us.

12 And I -- I think this -- a little bit too much focus
13 on just the map and its fairness there, and -- and you
14 know, here in LA, redistricting, there's all kinds of
15 political horse trading amongst our politicians. All
16 kinds of threats that can be levied. The chilling effect
17 you could see on our politics here in city council in the
18 year leading up to redistricting, and coming out of it --

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

20 MR. CLOM: -- is really profound. And I -- I just
21 think it's really important to remember, we didn't have
22 that in effecting the legislative process. We didn't
23 have that in effecting Sacramento. You weren't doing
24 their bidding. And that's really important that whatever
25 messiness happens --

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Fifteen.

2 MR. CLOM: -- was transparent, public and it was
3 proffered. It wasn't something happening behind closed
4 doors infecting our actual democratic process that goes
5 on and on. So thank you for your service, and I
6 appreciate your time.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

8 And Chair, at this time there are no more calls in
9 the cue.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Kristian. Can we have the
11 instructions read one more time.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

13 The Commission will now take public comment for
14 items on the agenda and items not on the agenda. To give
15 comment, please call 877-853-5247, and enter meeting ID
16 number 87908151544. Once you've dialed in, please press
17 star nine to enter the comment cue. The full call-in
18 instructions are read at the beginning of the meeting and
19 are provided on the livestream landing page.

20 And we'll let you know when the instructions are
21 complete on the stream, Chair.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Kristian.

23 While we wait for the instructions to catch up, just
24 a few reminders for our fellow Commissioners and the
25 public. We -- when I say we, myself and Commissioner

1 Yee, will be working with Alvaro to schedule our meetings
2 out in January. We're thinking of Fridays -- every
3 Friday in January. And as we discussed previously, we
4 may not need these meetings; however, we will be
5 scheduling them in the case that we do need them for
6 conversations related to litigation, as well as winding
7 down our operations as an organization.

8 Reminder to the Commissioners to please, please,
9 please turn in your TECs and your per diem forms. It
10 will be great to have a good clean snapshot of our
11 financial situation in January so we can allocate the
12 necessary resources for the next phase of this process.

13 And then a reminder for everyone to please join us
14 during our press conference that is scheduled tomorrow at
15 11 a.m. More information about the press conference can
16 be found on our website. It will be accessible in
17 person, as well as on Zoom.

18 Fredy, is there any other details about the press
19 conference that you would like to share at this moment?

20 MR CEJA: Yes, thank you, Chair. Just that we will
21 be broadcasting on Facebook Live. So if the public would
22 like to watch the ceremonial procedures for tomorrow,
23 follow us on our Facebook Channel, We Draw the Lines CA,
24 and you'll be able to watch with us.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you, Fredy.

1 Kristian, do we have any other callers?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have a new caller,
3 caller 7268. If you could please follow the prompts.
4 That's caller with the last four digits 7268, you can
5 unmute by pressing star six, please. The floor is yours.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, good afternoon. My name
7 is Angel. I'm calling from the Central Valley. Thank
8 you, Commissioners, for all the work you guys have done.
9 Thank you for representing the forty-nine million people
10 that live in the State of California. I know that the
11 map is not perfect. A few things, you know, that we need
12 to change, but I see it is an opportunity. I see it as
13 something that we can move forward and begin to organize
14 our people, begin to educate and begin to empower them.

15 In ten years from now I hope that this -- we have
16 more transparency, and one of those ways we can do that
17 is if we -- if you -- the Commission allow us to draw our
18 own maps. If we go (indiscernible) and we get the
19 network set up, where we, the people, can draw our own
20 maps, that will be more powerful in the next ten years.
21 That's an opportunity that we can all see, you know. And
22 anybody can draw their map and you guys can take that
23 into effect. I hope that -- that's something that we're
24 looking forward to do in the next ten years. Something
25 that, you know -- that will empower people.

1 So thank you, again, Commissioners, for great work.
2 I know, like I said before, the map is not perfect, but
3 you know, this is --

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- an opportunity for, you
6 know, great -- great things to come for the State of
7 California. On behalf of everybody in the State of
8 California, thank you, Commissioners, I appreciate it. I
9 appreciate all the transparency. I appreciate always
10 taking our calls at 12 o'clock at night and so on and so
11 forth. Thank you, Commissioners. I'm ready to start
12 working tomorrow morning and registering people to vote
13 and educating them and empower them. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And there are
15 no further calls in the cue at this time, Chair.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you so much, Kristian.

17 And it looks like we have addressed all of our
18 public comments in the cue regarding general public
19 comment. So with that, I will call this last meeting,
20 this 2020 CRC adjourned. Last meeting in 2021. We're
21 back in January; don't forget.

22 With that, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you all.

23 (Whereupon, the Meeting to Approve and Certify
24 Final Maps and Report meeting adjourned at 1:54
25 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 12th day of January, 2022.



PETER PETTY,
Court Reporter

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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.



LORI RAHTES, CDLT-108

January 12, 2022