

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2022

9:31 a.m.

Reported by:

Jacqueline Denlinger



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
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
Trena Turner, Commissioner

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

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

Also PresentPUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Hutchison

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Friday, January 7, 2022

9:31 a.m.

CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome, everyone, to our January 7th, CRC Business Meeting. And Happy New Year to all. Before we begin with our agenda, we'll jump into roll call.

Ravi will you be helping us with roll call this morning?

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

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Anderson?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez? Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani? Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor? Commission Toledo? Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Holding it down for the Ts.

1 I'm here.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez? Commissioner Yee?

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

4 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Ahmad?

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Here.

6 MR. SINGH: You have a quorum.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you so much, Ravi. Before we
8 begin, I just wanted to draw everyone's attention to the
9 handouts page labeled 1/7/22. There you will find the
10 run of show for today as well as a few handouts that will
11 be discussed during our report-outs.

12 I've only heard from two subcommittees in terms of
13 having items to discuss, which are the Finance and Admin
14 subcommittee as well as the Lessons Learned subcommittee.

15 So we will take the first portion of our day to go
16 over directors' reports and subcommittee updates. And
17 then we will break. And when we return from break, we
18 will hop into closed session under the pending litigation
19 exception as well as the personnel-related exception. So
20 that's just a brief overview of today. I am anticipating
21 that we will meet for about half the day, but if things
22 change, obviously you all will be the first to know.

23 Are there any announcements before we go to
24 directors' reports? Seeing none, I will pass it over to
25 Alvaro.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good morning, and Happy New Year,
2 commissioners. How are you? I'm doing well. I'm here
3 in the office practically by myself. As you know, we've
4 kind of limited staff attending the in-office operation
5 because of the COVID notifications we've received from
6 the building here. Although it's not on our floor, we
7 just want to make sure that staff is safe and taking any
8 necessary precautions to avoid --

9 MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) --

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: -- getting that. I wanted to
11 mention that we have lost two of our outreach staff. Our
12 outreach Coordinator Sulma Hernandez has taken a job.
13 Her last day was December 31st. So she's no longer with
14 the commission.

15 And then Ashleigh Howick is also no longer with the
16 commission as of January 3rd. She's decided to return
17 back to school. So those two are no longer with us.

18 And we still have the outreach staff, the remainder
19 of the staff with us, that are going to be working on a
20 number of different activities including a lot of our
21 data tagging for our outreach database that we have to
22 make sure that we have all the tags in there. So we're
23 shifting them to do some of that workload.

24 I'll be working with the subcommittee, the Finance
25 and Admin subcommittee, to put together a plan, a

1 post-map operations plan for this next year, six months,
2 year. We're going to look at the different options.

3 It's going to include our staffing for the future,
4 also a listing of the future staff meetings, closing out
5 operation activities, what those are, what they look
6 like. So there's more to come in the upcoming meetings.
7 And the subcommittee and I will be working on putting
8 together that for you so you can take a look at that.

9 I wanted to address the budgets. Our budget officer
10 and staff are processing end-of-the-year invoices. As
11 you can imagine, a lot of things have come in, so we're
12 processing them, including the TECs (ph.) that many of
13 you are submitting. We're reconciling and reviewing just
14 to make sure that they're correct before we enter them
15 into the FI\$Cal system. We're doing our due diligence to
16 make sure that the accuracy and information is correct
17 before it goes into the system. Otherwise it gets kicked
18 back at any number of different points of review with the
19 other agencies.

20 And the reason that we're doing this, this will give
21 us a much better picture of our overall budget as we
22 reconcile all these different invoices that are coming in
23 to show actually what we've spent. And so it'll give us
24 a much better picture for then. And I'll defer to the
25 subcommittee to add any additional information there.

1 I wanted to mention about our data management. As
2 you can tell by our database, it seems that there are
3 much fewer entries going into the database at this point.

4 After the 27th it kind of died down. We're getting
5 maybe ten a day, if that. Correspondence has pretty much
6 stopped. Emails have also pretty much stopped up until
7 this point. So there hasn't been a lot of activity in
8 that regard since the 27th. I just wanted to make you
9 aware of that.

10 That will conclude my information unless there are
11 any specific questions I can answer.

12 Commissioner Sinay? Sorry.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Just two. One is,
14 how can we support staff who are transitioning? I know
15 that we've shared with them to connect with us on
16 LinkedIn so they can see who our networks are and such.
17 But is there anything else that you would recommend that
18 we as Commissioners can do to help staff as they
19 transition? Because they have been critical, and we want
20 to support them in this.

21 And second is, are we responding to folks who are
22 asking questions? There's a lot of going through the
23 database even when people were just submitting the form
24 as what we would expect to be an input, it was actually a
25 question; where can I find the maps? There's just a lot

1 of different questions in there.

2 And some of them I've copied and sent to Fredy if
3 they were a press question or something. But who is
4 looking at that and actually responding to the public?
5 Because I think it's still important to respond.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: That is definitely something that we
7 can utilize our outreach staff to look at and respond to
8 those individuals or organizations that are asking
9 questions. Thank you for uplifting that so we'll look at
10 that more closely. I know that Fredy's continued to
11 respond to media requests for information, so that's been
12 ongoing, but for individuals, we'll take a look at that
13 for sure.

14 In regards to how we can help staff with the
15 transition, we provided them information in regards to
16 questions they had asked earlier on. We had had an
17 all-staff meeting early in December just to kind of go
18 over what we had to do through December and to let them
19 know that after December, we would be addressing some of
20 the transitions for them.

21 We worked with the office of DGS to answer some of
22 the questions. There were a lot of questions in regards
23 to the (indiscernible) balance and in regards to what
24 rights they have as a state employee and so forth. So we
25 have that information. I have sent that out to them.

1 From the commission side, I would just encourage
2 them to reach out to you. And if they do, maybe they
3 will be asking for a letter of recommendation or
4 something to that effect. I don't know if you have
5 contacts, but you're more than happy to share those with
6 them. I would encourage that if you can.

7 It depends on what it is that they want to do. And
8 that's one of the big questions that we ask them. Moving
9 forward, you can go this path, which is public entities,
10 state service, also cities and counties. And then you
11 also have the nonprofit world. And any of those, we know
12 that Commissioners have experience in all of those areas,
13 so please reach out to the commissioners when your
14 interest is in that area.

15 So we've extended that offer to them. But anything
16 that you can do when you do speak to them, that would be
17 greatly appreciated. Thank you.

18 Commissioner Yee?

19 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, I was going to change the
20 subject to the chair rotation, but maybe Marcy wants to
21 get on this current subject.

22 MS. KAPLAN: Yeah. And just, I'm happy to
23 facilitate if there's Commissioners that are willing to
24 provide additional support that want to direct staff to
25 other entities regionally, I know, given some of you are

1 in similar areas where staff are.

2 I've also shared some openings just having other
3 colleagues with state agencies. I've passed along stuff
4 with the labor commissioner in December and some other
5 state agencies that may be looking this way.

6 So just echoing what Alvaro said, we have
7 extended -- I've extended my network and really
8 encouraged staff as they have been looking to connect
9 with all of you on LinkedIn and with me and other staff
10 to look at our networks as well to be able to provide
11 recommendations and introductions.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Back to you, Commissioner Yee.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Okay. So with
14 the new year and with our post-maps phase, we should
15 revisit the chair rotation. Two questions. One is, who
16 wants to stay on in the rotation? And the second
17 question, what terms to go to?

18 Of course, in the near term, the litigation phase is
19 still open until mid-February or so. I don't know how
20 extra busy that may or may not be. And after that things
21 should quiet down a lot.

22 So at this point, Chair Ahmad is open and planning
23 to stay on for January. And then I would be on for
24 February. That's just penciled in at this point. So I
25 want to open it to discussion on what anyone thinks we

1 should do going forward.

2 So maybe first question: Does anybody want to drop
3 out of the chair rotation?

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy and then Turner.

5 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. My sense
6 on this since the very beginning has been that we should
7 probably go for longer rather than shorter. It just
8 seems to me that it's been confusing for those outside of
9 the commission to keep track of who's chair.

10 We could even consider splitting chairing from
11 meeting facilitation if there's any interest in that.
12 But I would say quarterly is probably good, and I would
13 think that even after the litigation phase, we'd probably
14 be meeting at least quarterly. So that's where I am on
15 this. Thanks.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Turner?

17 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. My suggestion
18 would be that we go with the monthly through the
19 litigation phase and then move to something further out,
20 at least until we get a sense of how frequently we'll be
21 meeting. So yeah, monthly and then perhaps quarterly
22 when things start to slow down.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Commissioner Anderson and
24 then Fernandez.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. I

1 agree with Commissioner Turner. I like the monthly. And
2 I know we're talking about the litigation phase. There's
3 also then that pending referendum, so that would take us
4 three months.

5 So I would recommend that we do at least, say, the
6 first three or four months monthly and then consider, do
7 we go to -- at that point, we'll have a better idea of
8 how often we'd want to have meetings. And at that point,
9 I would suggest we revisit deciding on quarterly or
10 exactly how we would do that. And I would even go ahead
11 and propose that we go monthly until at least four months
12 in.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Anderson.
14 Commissioner Fernandez, has your hand been lowered now?

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, I didn't want to be
16 repetitive --

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- but I agree with
19 Commissioner Turner. Thanks.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Thanks. Back to you,
21 Commissioner Yee. Looks like we have no other hands on
22 this topic.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Oh, very good. So nobody wants
24 to drop out? I believe, actually, we have an addition,
25 which is Commissioner Sinay, mentioned to me. She would

1 like to come into the rotation. And then I can
2 double-check with Commissioners Sadhwani and Vazquez.

3 Since we're keeping pretty much the same rotation, I
4 think we can just continue to operate on consensus. We
5 don't need a new vote on a motion since it'll be the same
6 basic rotation that we approved long ago.

7 But this sounds good. So we can just plan on
8 monthly for now until things die down and probably go
9 quarterly from there. Yeah, oh, yeah, and Pedro as well.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Yee. I think
11 it would be helpful if you're willing and able to draw up
12 a calendar maybe until the end of the litigation period
13 just so everyone has an idea of when their name will come
14 up in that rotation and can mark their calendars
15 accordingly, if you're willing.

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: We'll do that.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Awesome.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. Absolutely. Yeah. And of
19 course, the litigation -- I mean, people can file up
20 until early mid-February, but who knows how long any
21 actual cases may go?

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Right. Right. Good point. All
23 right. Then --

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. Thank you.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah. Thank you.

1 Alvaro, is there anything left for your executive
2 director report?

3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Not really. And no additional
4 information. But in regards to the rotation of the
5 chairs, given that the subcommittee, the Finance and
6 Admin subcommittee's going to be proposing a plan moving
7 forward, I think that will tie into the rotation, and we
8 can definitely insert the names on a monthly basis for
9 now. And then thereafter, quarterly, and look and see
10 how that's going to look moving forward. So thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Seeing no other hands on
12 executive director report let's move onto communications
13 director report. So that's you, Fredy.

14 MR. CEJA: Thank you, so much, Chair. Hello,
15 commissioners. Good seeing your faces again. Happy
16 Holidays to everyone. Happy New Year.

17 Giving you some updates for the new year. We had a
18 successful press conference in Sacramento. I wanted to
19 thank Commissioners for both being professional and for
20 holding your own during those grueling questions in the
21 room. The actual reporter that was grilling us ended up
22 writing a very favorable piece, so I was happy with that
23 outcome.

24 We did see a spike in stories. I'll go over that
25 report in a bit. But I wanted to tell you that all

1 advertising contracts have now ended. So we're waiting
2 for final reports, and then I'll compile a master
3 advertising report so you have an idea of the influence
4 those efforts had on our outreach and our engagement.

5 Like the outreach team, the comms team is
6 determining staff needs for the rest of the month and to
7 see if what our staffing needs are going to look like for
8 this month and the remainder of the months that we have
9 together. So we'll be working on that and hopefully get
10 more direction from the commission today.

11 We will continue sending out daily media alerts. I
12 know during the holidays, that slowed down a little. So
13 we caught up with that, and we're going to continue to
14 send those daily media monitoring reports so that you
15 have an idea of what the media is saying about
16 redistricting.

17 And then finally, I'm compiling a year-end media
18 report to capture media hits and quantify the value of
19 our earned media. So I'll give you a snapshot of the
20 entire year.

21 I'm hoping to, like I said before, capture where the
22 stories are coming from. So putting together a heat map
23 of all the media hits that we got so you have an idea of
24 where those stories came from or what coverage they got.
25 So that'll take us a week or two to put together.

1 As far as interviews, we interviewed, since the last
2 time we met November 29th, with LA Times, KESQ, Coachella
3 Valley, The Independent in Livermore, Sac Bee a few
4 times, LA Times, The Recorder (sic), Sac Bee, Bakersfield
5 Californian, The Daily Journal, Telemundo 15, KESQ News
6 Channel 3, San Diego Tribune, CalMatters a few times,
7 Desert Sun, LA Times, ABC 8 San Diego, RealClearPolitics,
8 Winter Express, San Diego Union-Tribune again, Monterey
9 County Weekly, CNN, GV Wire Fresno, Northern California
10 Record, San Jose Spotlight, LA Times a few times,
11 Fullerton Observer, San Francisco Chronicle, Northern
12 California Record, LA Times, (indiscernible) NBC,
13 Bloomberg, San Jose Spotlight, Washington Post,
14 CalMatters, The AP, LA Times, Southern California News
15 Group, Sac Bee, CalMatters, SD Tribune, Desert Sun,
16 Mercury News, Coast News, the BenitoLink; and just
17 yesterday, 91.9 KVCR and the Desert.

18 We got some really cool numbers. So if you look at
19 the report, our media mentions were up to 1,591. I just
20 updated that so I'll repost my report.

21 1,591 stories mentioned the commission, the CRC.
22 2,160 stories within the last month mentioned
23 redistricting altogether. And I will also shoot you over
24 where the spikes came from. I just found that on our
25 Meltwater report. 1,117 of those stories came from

1 December 20th when we actually announced the final maps
2 and we posted them. And then the second-largest hit was
3 the 27th when we did our press conference.

4 So naturally, those spikes correlate to the press
5 releases that we sent out regarding the final maps that
6 we had approved and then, finally, the press release that
7 we sent out for the press conference when we delivered
8 the information to the Secretary of State.

9 Our contacts in the database are now up to 21,677.
10 This is amazing. Our website views went up to 1.1
11 million during the last month. That's the highest we've
12 ever had. 437,000 of those clicks were to our home page.
13 219,000 were to our map viewer. So people were looking
14 for information.

15 As far as our e-blast, I won't go through all of
16 them. But most of them were up in the thirty percentile
17 open rate, which means that's the percentage of people
18 that actually clicked and looked at the information that
19 we're sending out in e-blasts. That is a killer
20 percentage to have. Anything over twenty percent is
21 ideal in the world of sending people e-blasts and
22 spamming their inbox.

23 So having a thirty percent rate -- our highest was
24 our court response when we sent out a statement regarding
25 the court citing with the CRC that got a thirty-five



1 percent open rate, which was pretty cool. And I think
2 the audience was pretty happy with the fact that we were
3 exonerated on those baseless claims.

4 Social media-wise, I did include last month's
5 numbers and this month's numbers so you can see how much
6 it jumped. Facebook jumped from 1,878 likes to 2,074.
7 Instagram jumped from 385 followers to 525. Twitter
8 jumped from 2,580 followers to 3,226. LinkedIn, from 333
9 followers to 377. And finally, YouTube jumped from 100
10 subscribers to 126.

11 Not major moves, but for the bubble and the universe
12 that we were communicating to this was pretty good. Any
13 jump in these numbers is amazing. So I'll post up the
14 updated report, and I'll take any questions if you have
15 any.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Fredy, there's a
18 lot we've learned from the beginning to the end. And in
19 the past, the 2010, the staff report, it wasn't really
20 focused on a lot of this stuff, and so a lot of it was
21 created as we went. And so I was wondering if it made
22 sense for your team maybe to meet with the Outreach and
23 Engagement subcommittee and just kind of think those
24 through and help you all. Maybe we ask the questions so
25 that you can just think about it and write something

1 together. Because I think there's a lot that a lot of
2 people can use of the great work that you all did.

3 I know we have the Lessons Learned document that's
4 coming, but just -- we as subcommittees are coming
5 together, but I think subcommittees with staff also makes
6 sense just to talk through some of these things.

7 MR. CEJA: Yeah. If I can respond to that. When we
8 were putting together the final report, we ended up
9 wanting to include all this information of how we went
10 about doing the work that we did, but that wasn't the
11 appropriate place to put it. So we are putting together
12 a staff report. We outline the mechanisms of how we
13 built this organization.

14 And surely communications was a large portion of
15 that from the first time we did media training to getting
16 into the groove of doing interviews and having our daily
17 media reports, our social media toolkit, and everything
18 else that encompass the communications program. So we
19 will do a deep dive, and I'll touch base with outreach.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Kennedy?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. And thank
22 you, Fredy, for the report and the good news.

23 I think at this point, I really would like to see
24 communications working with us to develop and pitch kind
25 of the bigger picture. I really think -- and I've seen

1 some comments from fellow commissioners -- what we
2 achieved was, in my mind, nothing short of amazing.

3 A unanimous vote on maps in a context where most
4 oddsmakers would have said that ain't going to happen.
5 And I think we really need to kind of get our thoughts
6 together on how that came about and really get that story
7 out there.

8 I've said since the beginning -- I know Commissioner
9 Yee has said, and others have said, we want to serve as a
10 model. And I think getting that bigger picture story out
11 there is important in that. So I would look forward --
12 doesn't have to be now, but I'd look forward to your
13 thoughts as to how we can kind of gather our thoughts on
14 this and put together something that could be pitched
15 more broadly. Thank you.

16 MR. CEJA: Yeah, definitely. If I can respond to that
17 too? Now that the map-drawing work is done, definitely
18 want to talk about what the legacy you want to leave
19 behind is, right, for this Commission, and if we can
20 replicate any of the work that we did through lessons
21 learned, and also not only in other states but also at
22 the local levels, right, countywide, citywide, for those
23 commissions that are interested in doing independent
24 work. Can we replicate the efforts that we had here at
25 the state level in California to other states to local

1 jurisdictions? There is definitely a model to follow
2 here, and that is going to be our next pitch is letting
3 the world know about that.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Great, thank you. Commissioner Sinay
5 and Commissioner Kennedy? I see your hand's up again?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Commissioner
7 Kennedy, did you want to respond to what he just said?

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: If I could, that'd be great.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, and I'll go after.
10 That's no problem.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Thank you. No. I
12 just wanted to say, yes, but we want to take advantage of
13 the crest of this wave, and there's going to be attention
14 on redistricting for not much longer. And I think that
15 before we get overwhelmed by other items in the news and
16 so forth, that we really need to kind of prioritize this
17 and get it out sooner rather than later. I mean, maybe
18 not too soon, but soon, before interest in redistricting
19 really does drop off, I think, pretty precipitously.
20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. Kind of on that note, I
22 was thinking -- well, there's multiple stories, right?
23 And we can think through the stories. The story that I
24 think we all get asked often when we're interviewing is,
25 how did we do this by a multi-partisan? I don't even

1 want to say bipartisan.

2 And so that's a story that we can keep bringing up
3 at different times and with different examples. And I
4 think it's something important for all of us to think
5 about, and maybe we even need to talk about it
6 collectively. How did we do this? Especially in the
7 time of Zoom.

8 Because I can tell you people did not expect us to
9 get along and build relationships and get to where we
10 were. I mean, people bluntly have said that on Twitter,
11 as well as to me, as well as -- and so I think that
12 that's an important story that we need to figure out at
13 some point.

14 But I think the other piece -- and I don't know if
15 we want to get involved right now. But there's a lot
16 going on at the congressional level right now around
17 voting rights and around redistricting. And even just
18 creating a piece from the Chair and whatnot to be in The
19 Washington Post and New York Times on if we support it or
20 not, we'd collectively have to decide that. But I just
21 wanted to put it out there that right now there is that
22 opportunity.

23 And then there's also stories to be had -- there's
24 all these misinformation obviously. There's a lot of
25 people who are not happy, and most of the people who

1 critique us are people who wish they had done the maps
2 themselves or think they could have done it quicker and
3 faster and whatnot. But there is comparing us to a lot
4 of other states, which I found interesting because
5 everyone has different models. So at some point, it
6 would be interesting to sit with some of those other
7 states and have those conversations.

8 But I do want to say that it's not just the story of
9 redistricting. It's really the story of working
10 collectively to a common end.

11 And the other one that's a really big story for me,
12 just because I work a lot around systems change, is this
13 whole piece of -- this wasn't a change of the system.
14 This was a recreation of the system. And maybe it's time
15 we quit talking about system change and just say, if you
16 want something new, you've got to build it differently.

17 And so that's another big story that I think -- it
18 took me a while, but it hit me as I was doing some
19 systems change research for some clients, I'm like, wait.
20 I am in the middle of a huge systems reform.

21 And so those are things that are pretty -- yeah, I'm
22 getting tingles just saying that right now -- but are
23 pretty big, and so I don't want us to think that we're
24 just about redistricting. It's a lot of great things.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

1 Commissioner Turner?

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum. Thank you, Chair.

3 I love that. I love the conversation that we're
4 having now. And what it makes me think of is just
5 exactly who do we want to be and become, and how broad do
6 we want to be able to continue serving California? What
7 roles do we want to engage in?

8 And so I love the discussion and the direction that
9 it's taking. And I also wanted to lift -- I received a
10 few calls from people that said, that's great. I'm still
11 getting my mind wrapped around redistricting. I see you
12 all in the news. Now tell me again, I know I can look
13 it. What is it that a senator does? Why do I care about
14 what these different --

15 Do we want to play a role even in education looking
16 to an even greater participation level in 2030? People
17 will participate when they understand the difference that
18 it makes. And I'm wondering if there's even an appetite
19 for us to do some sort of education video that's not the
20 sterile words that you can just pull up on Google but one
21 that we're talking about. And at the end, not "who the"
22 senator, "who the" congressional party. Not that. Just
23 this is what this role does for you, and this is why it
24 was important for us to hear your voices and get it right
25 to ensure that -- people who serve at this level of

1 government. This is what they do. And at this level.

2 So I just really want to test to see if there's even
3 an appetite for us to continue to educate California from
4 that perspective. I think it would be pretty cool.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. And
6 it seems like the conversation's stemming a little bit
7 into Lessons learned. I know Commissioner Kennedy and I
8 have had these conversations, and there's an exhaustive
9 list of different ideas we can explore.

10 So with that, I'll jump to Commissioner Yee, then
11 Kennedy, and then Anderson.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I love
13 all these ideas. The 2010 Commission got that 2017 Ash
14 Grant at Harvard Center -- the Ash Center at Harvard.
15 And like a six-figure grant, but I don't know anything
16 about what they did with that or who's doing what with
17 that money or any of that. Does anyone know? Can we tie
18 into that somehow?

19 CHAIR AHMAD: I'm sure that's something we can look
20 into outside of the communications director's report.
21 Maybe we can circle back to that at the latter part of
22 our subcommittee report-outs.

23 Commissioner Kennedy and Anderson, do you all have
24 comments related to Fredy's report, or is it more related
25 to lessons learned?

1 Commissioner Kennedy?

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, it was more in relation
3 to Commissioner Turner's proposal. And then I wanted to
4 briefly respond to Commissioner Yee. Or actually, I'll
5 respond briefly to Commissioner Yee first and then turn
6 to responding to Commissioner Turner.

7 As the first eight were beginning our work, I at
8 least, and perhaps others, became aware that there was an
9 unexpended balance on the Ash Grant even as we were
10 assuming office. And I sought information from staff
11 about that and even sought at least a little bit of legal
12 advice as to whether those funds should remain with the
13 members of the 2010 Commission who ceased being
14 Commissioners on the date that the first eight were
15 chosen or whether those funds should come to the 2020
16 Commission.

17 And I can say that I did not receive satisfactory
18 answers to that. But that at this point, is water under
19 the bridge.

20 As far as Commissioner Turner's thoughts go, I would
21 certainly be very supportive of us being engaged in
22 broader civic education, which is at least what we call
23 it in my line of work. I've said on a number of
24 occasions that as many people as we reached with
25 California redistricting basics, there were millions that

1 we didn't reach. And I would see it as a significant
2 contribution of this Commission if we -- and maybe not
3 immediately now but certainly before the 2030 Commission
4 is seated, updated the redistricting basics presentation
5 and really did make an effort to go out and reach more of
6 those millions that we didn't reach the first time
7 around.

8 I think it is vitally important information. I
9 think that are people now who wish they had paid more
10 attention to it when we were in the education phase. And
11 so yeah, I'm very supportive of us continuing to play an
12 important role in getting the word out about the
13 importance of redistricting, the importance of these
14 offices that we have redistricted for, and ensuring that
15 people are well-prepared to engage with the 2030
16 Commission once it assumes office. Thank you.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you.

18 Commissioner Anderson and then Fernandez. And then
19 I'll ask for any last questions or comments related to
20 Fredy's report-out.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I'm
22 also on the essentially civic engagement, and I see that
23 as absolutely crucial for what we've done and what we
24 continue to do for the 2030 Commission.

25 It's basically paved the way for them. And I see

1 that as approaching it with school education,
2 continuation of the census, and also the communications.
3 I think now is a time to use our communications team to
4 really kind of push what redistricting is, how it affects
5 everybody, and sort of start integrating it into how that
6 helped with the next election, how that helped with
7 the -- essentially, all of the political marks that come
8 up in continuing on.

9 I think we could we put a little, how redistricting
10 affected this as far as general public education because
11 I think it's a three-pronged approach, that you get the
12 young people who will be ten years older, and then the
13 natural is for mixing with the census. And then also
14 just the general public who are not being educated in
15 classrooms anymore. And I think if we do that we will
16 have done our jobs and certainly paving the way for 2030.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you, Commissioner
18 Anderson.

19 Commissioner Fernandez, you put your hand down. I'm
20 assuming repetitive, slash -- okay. Awesome.

21 Commissioner Sinay and then Turner. And then we
22 will be moving on to the outreach director's report.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Just something to
24 think about when we're talking about subcommittees. This
25 piece on kind of civic education and what role can we

1 play? There's a lot of conversation right now around the
2 only way to strengthen our democracy and those who think
3 that our democracy is in a decline is really around civic
4 education, civic engagement. And that's an area that
5 I've been working in for twenty-plus years, so I know a
6 lot of the national philanthropic funders and such.

7 And I was going to, after a three-month period, kind
8 of reach out and talk to them a little bit about our
9 experience. But I'm wondering if it shouldn't be just me
10 talking about my experience with them but if we would
11 like to put this on the Outreach and Engagement committee
12 or create a different subcommittee to do it more
13 intentional and purposefully and so that we can report
14 back what we're learning and keep moving it forward.

15 So I just wanted to put that out there that I'm
16 willing to connect with my colleagues and have this
17 conversation on our behalf.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

19 Again, I'll ask if the comments are related to
20 Fredy's outreach -- or communication's director report.
21 Some of these ideas are great ideas. I'm super excited
22 here listening to these ideas and this conversation. I
23 don't want us to steal some of the thunder of
24 Commissioner's Kennedy's conversation with lessons
25 learned.

1 So Commissioner Turner and Akutagawa, related to
2 Fredy's communication director's report-out?

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. And this is
4 how -- I think I'm tying it into Fredy's report. And if
5 not, just stop me, and it'll be fine. I'll lift it
6 later.

7 But Fredy did a lot of the education pieces and
8 training and videos and things before, so this is why I'm
9 thinking about it from a communications standpoint. And
10 the only added piece I wanted to say is that I
11 mentioned -- and I see that the whole civic engagement is
12 crucially important to have more people engaged for 2030.
13 But I also think that there's an urgency around it now
14 because civic engagement is a cycle.

15 And we moved some lines. We change some districts,
16 and there are people that's throwing their hats in now to
17 run for different things. Wonderful. All of that's
18 great. But I think there is something to be said about
19 the timeliness of having people understand now while
20 they're leaned in, focused, paying attention. That's as
21 people are applying in the different areas and now
22 actually announcing where they're going to run, if indeed
23 Californians are really clear on what it is they should
24 do, it will help them engage even now in this process, as
25 opposed to learning about it just for 2030.

1 So 2030 has a benefit for people going in, but even
2 for right now, I think it's helpful, because if there's
3 not an interest; if there's not education or
4 understanding, people will continue not to engage in what
5 the whole cycle -- the point of it is we want more people
6 to be involved in the entire process. Thank you.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
8 Commissioner Akutagawa and then Kennedy on Fredy's
9 communications report-out?

10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I think this is
11 connected to what Commissioner Turner said, and I may
12 just say it a little bit differently. I think there's
13 been suggestions about taking what we've done, creating
14 stories about our process or about how we as a Commission
15 came together. I think what I'm hearing -- and maybe
16 this is part of a larger holistic kind of plan that
17 connects both communications as well as lessons learned
18 and perhaps even outreach.

19 I would say, Commissioner Sinay, I think a different
20 subcommittee would be warranted based on your last
21 comments about civic engagement. But with that said, I
22 just want to also say that from a lessons learned
23 perspective, I believe that, to what Commissioner Turner
24 just said, there are some suggested lessons learned not
25 only for us but more importantly, suggestions perhaps

1 that we may want to give communities in how to continue
2 to stay engaged and be better engaged when 2030 comes
3 around.

4 Thoughts on what communities can do when 2030 starts
5 up, suggestions for how they can be not better engaged,
6 but to just be engaged period. And ways in which making
7 sure that their communities' voices will also be heard
8 could be a good Lesson Learned as well as part of a
9 larger civic engagement education process. So anyways,
10 that's what I wanted to share. Thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

12 Commissioner Kennedy, you are the last in the queue
13 for this sub-agenda item, and then we will be moving on
14 to the outreach director.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I wanted
16 to remind Fredy of a conversation that we had in the
17 office last week, I think.

18 In my work, we usually go back after an election and
19 go out with a big push to encourage people to accept the
20 results, publicize the results, accept the results, and
21 so forth. So I think there is some work that
22 communications can continue to do to highlight the map
23 viewer places where people can familiarize themselves
24 with the maps.

25 And another item that I think really is timely and

1 is perhaps a good segue for us into some of this broader
2 work. There's clearly not a high enough level of
3 understanding of acceleration and deferral. And so I
4 think that is a topic that communications could really
5 push on now and help reduce some pieces, get the word
6 out, make sure that everybody in California understands
7 that one of the biproducts of this process is
8 acceleration and deferral and what that means. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

11 Fredy, do you have any closing statements on your
12 report-out?

13 MR. CEJA: Closing statement. Yes, lots of work to
14 be done under the lessons learned activity we had today.
15 I just wanted to end my report by stating that we did
16 receive individual PDFs for districts yesterday from the
17 line drawing team.

18 We've been getting tons of emails from the public
19 asking for these. So I'm happy that we have them,
20 reposting them online and shooting out an e-blast letting
21 folks (sic) we have those available on our website.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you so much, Fredy.

23 Moving on to outreach director, Marcy?

24 MS. KAPLAN: Hi, good morning, everyone. I just
25 want to reiterate all of the tremendous work that the

1 outreach team did in closing up our efforts in December.

2 Just really highlighting that a significant portion
3 of the outreach leads manager and coordinator's time in
4 December was focused on supporting with notetaking. And
5 the final report staff supported with the district
6 overview summaries to provide to the final report
7 subcommittee, which did require significant time
8 reviewing copious meeting notes and reviewing the public
9 input database.

10 I just really want to reiterate and highlight how
11 flexible and responsive the staff were throughout this
12 process, particularly the last week as the commission was
13 finalizing maps. So many staff that were available
14 working late into the night to support. And I did
15 continue to share, ongoing with them, how thankful the
16 commission was for their support and as we were able to
17 finalize the report. There was also a significant amount
18 of staff time spent on pulling from appendices from the
19 line drawers to include pulling country split and city
20 splits into the final overviews.

21 I also worked closely with the data team in order to
22 provide and compile numerous stats throughout the final
23 report. And I'd like to continue to work with the
24 various subcommittees that have overlapped with outreach
25 to identify other overviews that may be helpful as you

1 continue with your lessons learned.

2 This week I was out, but I asked staff to put
3 together just an initial summary of some of our language
4 access efforts that I'll be sharing with that
5 subcommittee and then looking forward with other
6 subcommittees to identify what may be helpful to compile.

7 I did also direct outreach staff, this last week, to
8 put together an expanded narrative of their regional and
9 statewide efforts, including highlighting best practices
10 in terms of their outreach and where they saw effective
11 outreach strategies. So these were kind of a
12 continuation of the summaries that they had provided to
13 you all in September when we began a COI overview.

14 As Alvaro mentioned, our outreach coordinator has
15 rolled off, but before she left, I also worked with her
16 to put together -- she was really critical in a lot of
17 the behind-the-scenes logistical efforts for a lot of our
18 public input meetings, particularly the COI meetings over
19 the summer and other public input meetings that the
20 commission held.

21 So I did have her put together an overview of those
22 efforts, including highlighting a lot of best practices
23 in terms of collaboration across the outreach team as
24 well as input for lessons learned for the commission as
25 well.

1 And just following up on a highlight from I think it
2 was one of our previous meetings, I did connect again
3 with the LA County Redistricting Commission. I had been
4 meeting with them and other local commissions ongoing
5 through this process, and we'll be meeting next week. So
6 I will connect with the Lessons Learned subcommittee if
7 there's any additional questions or particular lessons
8 learned they want to hear more about or want to also
9 highlight.

10 I'm also going to forward the LA County local
11 commission report that has a lessons learned section if
12 that's helpful as well as other local commissions that
13 may be providing these reports. So I'll work with, I'm
14 assuming, the Lessons Learned subcommittee on this to
15 share ongoing.

16 And I think that's it for right now. I know there's
17 a lot of discussion on items going forward, so looking
18 forward to the lessons learned conversation and next
19 steps on how we can support with that.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Marcy.

21 I'll jump to Alvaro first and then Commissioner
22 Sinay.

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: I just wanted to formally thank
24 Marcy. In addition to staff doing a lot of the work,
25 Marcy did a tremendous amount of work reviewing the

1 information I was provided, cleaning it up, adding
2 information. So I wanted to acknowledge that. She did
3 it up to the last minute, sleepless nights in many cases.
4 So I wanted to acknowledge that before of all of you.
5 That was it. Thank you.

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

7 MS. KAPLAN: Thank you.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: And Commissioner Sinay, any questions
9 or comments on Marcy's report-out?

10 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes. Thank you, Marcy. Great,
11 amazing work. This is more my fault, but where's the
12 final report housed? Is it easily found on our website
13 for the community? Okay.

14 MS. KAPLAN: Yeah --

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have -- go ahead.

16 MS. KAPLAN: We did create a final report page.
17 It's on --

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay.

19 MS. KAPLAN: It's across the tabs. And the final
20 report is there along with a lot of the attachments that
21 are referenced throughout the documents. So those are
22 all there as well.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Great. Thank you. I've tried
24 to stay off our website a little bit in the last few
25 weeks. So I apologize.

1 And then, is one of the attachments kind of our
2 final numbers on activation by counties? Because I think
3 that piece is really important.

4 To me, I keep reflecting back -- it's interesting
5 when people got activated, right, in the different
6 regions. And I'm not -- that would be interesting to do,
7 but that's a lot of work, I think, unless you pulled old
8 reports of what was the activation looked like during the
9 COI inputs, what counties got involved then versus during
10 whatever? There's, like, during the three phases.

11 But I say that because a lot of times people will
12 say, well, we're forgotten, or we don't participate. And
13 I think what the activation report shows is that we
14 really did get engagement from all throughout California.
15 And to me, every time I look at that, it just feels good.
16 And at first, it was frustrating because it was like,
17 okay, how come these aren't and those aren't? But in the
18 end, we really -- even if it was just that they cut and
19 paste an email that they had received from someone else,
20 that's still activation. We still had to motivate to
21 read that email originally and to feel like it was
22 important enough to then send it to us.

23 And so I just want to make sure that we do have an
24 activation report by county, summary for the whole, all
25 our efforts up to the approval.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Thank you, Commissioner
2 Sinay.

3 Marcy, do you want to respond to that?

4 MS. KAPLAN: Yeah. Thank you for highlighting that.
5 I was actually going to goal 1 for today's meeting, but I
6 wanted to meet with you and Commissioner Fornaciari to
7 kind of really go over what else, just to kind of take a
8 bit more of a thoughtful approach to what else you want
9 to highlight.

10 We are able to segregate by date, so if we want to
11 do something like that, we can. So happy to follow up
12 with the both of you offline so we can look at ways that
13 we may want to highlight that.

14 We did highlight in the final report, though, that
15 input was received from across California. And then that
16 was -- we made sure to include that as well.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you.

18 Commissioner Andersen?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

20 Marcy, I've got a quick question. You mentioned
21 about the splits in the counties and things like that.
22 Did you get a splits report from the line drawers?

23 MS. KAPLAN: Yeah. So it's in the appendices of the
24 final report.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

1 MS. KAPLAN: There's the splits by cities, counties.
2 And it also includes where there's, like, a zero
3 population spilt.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right.

5 MS. KAPLAN: So each of the narratives for every
6 district includes which cities and counties are whole.
7 And we also went through and also highlighted where there
8 was any zero population splits.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. And I just want
10 to say in front of the world and the commission here how
11 the outreach staff did phenomenal amounts of work towards
12 the end. All the additional pages from all the work that
13 we were kind of reviewing the drafts was next to, like,
14 almost forty pages the outreach staff put together. And
15 that was an amazing amount of work. It was very well
16 done, and Marcy, particularly, gets a huge shoutout and
17 kudos from all of us.

18 I just really want to highlight that and bring that
19 up because without you, Marcy, thank you, we would not
20 have gotten that done. And thank you. Thank you very
21 much.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

23 And thank you, Marcy, for your report-out.

24 Seeing no other hands, we will move right along to
25 our chief counsel's report.

1 MR. PANE: Thank you, Chair.

2 Good morning, commission. I don't really have
3 anything, any updates. Continuing to pursue negotiations
4 with Gibson and Dunn on the litigation contract. And
5 other than that, the legal affairs division is now
6 turning more towards dealing with administrative details
7 like public record act requests and that sort of thing.
8 So that will be occupying our time.

9 I'm happy to answer any questions.

10 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Yee?

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Thank you, Chief Counsel
12 Pane. I'm wondering if you could just refresh us on
13 Bagley-Keene and receiving redistricting input, and the
14 restrictions that we've lived under until the maps were
15 done, and whether those also apply in the same way, or
16 whether we can be more free chatting with each other or
17 not?

18 MR. PANE: Oh, that's a good question, Commissioner
19 Yee. Oh, actually, technically for Bagley-Keene and any
20 of the commission statutes that are obviously specific to
21 this commission on top of Bagley-Keene, those all apply,
22 even now. And they will apply through the end of this
23 commission.

24 So we did get a little bit of a reprieve from the
25 ten-day requirement, as you all know, from the California

1 Supreme Court, which was in the commission statutes,
2 allowed the three-day notice period for the final few
3 weeks of the maps. But on December 28th, we went back to
4 the good old Bagley-Keene.

5 So that's where we are going forward.

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

7 MR. PANE: Thank you.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

9 Commissioner Akutagawa?

10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I'm just curious,
11 Chief Counsel Pane. I know that the Bagley-Keene statute
12 around virtual meetings is going to be ending soon, I
13 believe this month.

14 Can you tell me, have you heard anything? Given the
15 COVID surge that we're experiencing right now, is there
16 any indication that that's going to be extended again?

17 MR. PANE: So to your point, Commissioner Akutagawa,
18 I haven't heard of anything. And right now, the change,
19 as you say, is temporary through January 31st. That is
20 in statute. But it repeals on its own, February 1st.

21 So it is always a possibility that beginning
22 February 1st, the governor could choose to do an
23 executive order as has been done previously. I haven't
24 heard anything about that.

25 That's all I've heard as far as an actual -- on

1 meeting issues.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

3 Commissioner Kennedy?

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. And
5 following up on that, a couple of things. First of all,
6 is there any advocacy that we can or should engage in, in
7 that regard, as far as an extension of the current rules
8 for Zoom meetings?

9 Second of all, and very closely related to that, no
10 matter how we come down on that, I think we should do
11 some advocacy. We have a member who essentially would be
12 unable to participate in future meetings if her location
13 had to be open to the public. And I think, you know, we
14 need to approach this through a disability lens, and you
15 know, do what we can to ensure that we don't lose a very
16 good member because we get caught in a catch-22. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

19 Commissioner Fernandez?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. I just
21 wanted to remind everyone -- gosh, I can't remember --
22 the last business meeting, I think, was on the 21st. And
23 at that point, I believe the Government Affairs
24 Subcommittee was going to try to look into this further
25 in terms of extending the Bagley-Keene virtual versus in

1 person and having to disclose your place of where you're
2 meeting. Unfortunately, neither one of the subcommittee
3 members are here today, I don't think, not yet.

4 And then also, I'm not sure, Commissioner Kennedy,
5 if this could also be part of the other subcommittee with
6 you and Commissioner Vazquez, I believe.

7 Was it you, Commissioner Vazquez, on the ADA and
8 Bagley-Keene?

9 So that could be another area that -- another
10 subcommittee that could look into the future advocacy for
11 virtual meetings and not having to disclose where you're
12 meeting from, if you're meeting virtually. Thank you.

13 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.
14 Commissioner Andersen?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Following up on that
16 very same thing. I thought another subcommittee was
17 created with Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Vazquez, and I don't see
18 it on our -- specifically on our agenda. But I cannot
19 remember the name of that subcommittee. Does anyone
20 happen to have that? And I'd love to hear a report-out
21 from it.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen. And
23 we are not actually at the report-out for subcommittees
24 yet. So when we get to that portion, I'll definitely put
25 a call out for that.

1 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Correct. But do we know
2 what the name of it is?

3 CHAIR AHMAD: I do not recall, but once we get
4 there, I'm sure that the subcommittee will eagerly jump
5 up to make their name known.

6 Commissioner Akutagawa, on -- and this is
7 specifically to Chief Counsel Pane's report-out, or any
8 questions related to his area.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Yeah, so one more
10 question. And I don't know, Chief Counsel Pane, if this
11 is something you can answer, or if there's even interest
12 amongst the commissioners. Given the question that's
13 been raised about advocacy for Bagley-Keene and allowing
14 these virtual meetings, I'm sure we're not the only
15 commission that's grappling with this and that there may
16 be other commissions that may also be grappling with it.

17 Is this something that we can reach out to other
18 commissions to perhaps -- I don't know -- I don't want to
19 say coordinate, but actually at least have a conversation
20 to see if this is something that they're also interested
21 in advocating for as well, too?

22 Is that allowable under Bagley-Keene? And is that
23 something that we should just do on our own, and then if
24 others have -- if other commissions have the same, I
25 guess, interest, they'll do it on their own as well?

1 That's a question. Thank you.

2 MR. PANE: Sure. So actually, what you just
3 mentioned, Commissioner Akutagawa, is very similar to
4 what the, I believe it was the Government Affairs
5 Committee did the last time. I believe there was a
6 conversation with the Little Hoover Commission. I think
7 there was an effort reaching out to the governor's
8 office, just trying to see if there was any interest.
9 Also at the legislature, I think the letter was written
10 just to see if there was an interest in making these
11 legislative changes.

12 And I think in the midst of that, we were notified
13 publicly, everybody was in the public, that there was a
14 bill that was potentially going to make some changes to
15 Bagley-Keene. First it was on the local level, and then
16 it also included the state level, and then it was passed.

17 So it's a probably a little chicken and egg. I
18 don't know which came first because it all sort of
19 happened around the same time. But that's what this
20 commission chose to do the last time is to have a
21 particular subcommittee work on some particular advocacy
22 routes. If the commission wanted to, they could
23 certainly do that again. So I hope that answers your
24 question.

25 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

1 And thank you, Chief Counsel Pane, for your report-out.

2 Seeing no additional hands at this time, we have
3 concluded this agenda item, director's report. So we
4 will be calling for public comment on this agenda item.

5 Kristian, can we have the instructions read for
6 public comment?

7 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can.

8 In order to maximize transparency and public
9 participation in our process, the commissioners will be
10 taking public comment by phone.

11 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on
12 the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted,
13 enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream
14 feed. It is 84858374868 for this meeting. When prompted
15 to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

16 Once you've dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue.
17 To indicate you wish to comment, please press star, 9.
18 This will raise your hand for the moderator.

19 When it's your turn to speak, you'll hear a message
20 that says the host would like you to talk. Press star, 6
21 to speak. If you would like to give your name, please
22 state and spell it for the record. You are not required
23 to provide your name to give public comment.

24 And there is no one in the queue at this time,
25 Chair.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Kristian.

2 While we allow some time for folks to dial in, I
3 just wanted to go over our remaining agenda items. So
4 I've heard from two different subcommittees that they
5 have updates. That's the Finance and Admin and Lessons
6 Learned Subcommittee. And we have about twenty minutes
7 to get through as much as we can. We do have a mandatory
8 break at 11 o'clock to 11:15.

9 Upon returning from break, we will be jumping
10 straight into closed session, and that closed session
11 will be under the personnel-related and pending
12 litigation exceptions. We would be in closed session, I
13 anticipate, until about 12:40, right before lunch.

14 So if there are items related to the subcommittee
15 updates that we do not get to, we might have to come back
16 after lunch.

17 Do we have any callers in the queue at this time?

18 MR. MANOFF: There's no one in the queue at this
19 time, Chair.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. And just a reminder for
21 everyone that we will be taking general public comment
22 before the close of our meeting today. So there is
23 definitely additional opportunities for folks to chime in
24 on any of the agenda items that we have discussed.

25 So moving right along to subcommittee updates, I

1 will pass the baton over to finance and admin.

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I'll start. Let's
3 see. A couple things. Director Hernandez mentioned the
4 budget and all of the invoices coming in, and what we
5 call travel expenses and all that from the commission and
6 the staff.

7 So we met briefly yesterday with Alvaro and Terry to
8 talk about the budget and where we're at and going
9 forward. And so we'll have a report for you all next
10 time we get together, both looking backward and looking
11 forward. We aren't quite there yet with regard to
12 invoices and understanding where we're at for today, but
13 we'll get something for next time.

14 And so for this coming year, as I mentioned in our
15 last meeting, there's a demarcation point in our funding
16 occurred when the maps were released. We had pre-map
17 funding and post-map funding. So right now, we have
18 about a million, and we've been budgeted a million and a
19 half for the rest of this fiscal year to wrap things up.

20 And one of the things we need to think about and
21 we're also going to be speaking more deeply with Alvaro
22 about is, how do we wind down operations? We've got to
23 close the office down. We've got to return equipment,
24 all those kinds of things. And what does that look like?

25 So Alvaro and Raul are working on looking back at

1 what they did in 2010 and coming forward with a proposal
2 for how we handle that. Of course, there's some
3 uncertainty related to that because of litigation and
4 uncertainty about litigation and what that's going to
5 look like. But ultimately, we have to figure out how
6 we're going to wind operations down. And so we'll be
7 working on that.

8 Again, but our budget for next FY is -- our budget
9 proposal for next FY is due in February. And so we're
10 going to be working with Alvaro and the team to come
11 forward with a proposed budget, but that kind of -- well,
12 it's very much related to the conversation we were having
13 earlier.

14 And I think there's two conversations going on here,
15 not just one, right? We keep referring to lessons
16 learned and lessons learned, and that's an important
17 thing that we need to do. But I think that we have it
18 tied up with lessons learned is kind of forward, and
19 what's the path forward, and what are we going to be
20 doing as part of the path forward?

21 And so I don't know if the lessons learned work is
22 going to broaden into, what are the lessons we learned
23 and what's the plan moving forward, the path forward, or
24 if those are two separate conversations. But we need to
25 decide how we're going to manage those conversations.

1 But you know, there's a bit of an urgency for
2 figuring out what the path forward is for next year.
3 Because again, we have to put in a budget for next fiscal
4 year next month.

5 So I wanted to bring that up and just to say that we
6 have a meeting set up next Wednesday, right? Yeah. A
7 more in depth meeting with Alvaro to kind of hash out
8 part of what this looks like, but part of it also is
9 going to be, what do we, as a commission, want to propose
10 to do, and work with the legislature to see if we can get
11 some funding to do it, or work with outside organizations
12 to get some grant money to do it.

13 So I don't know if you have anything to add,
14 Commissioner Fernandez.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Fornaciari. And our meeting's on Tuesday. Yeah. So
17 we'll go into a little bit more in depth. And I think
18 you're absolutely right in terms of we need this path
19 forward discussion earlier than I believe the lessons
20 learned is going to be meeting, because I don't think
21 that's going to happen until February, and we need to
22 make sure that we have our budget information in prior to
23 that.

24 And then also, Commissioner Fornaciari mentioned
25 that we have 1.5 million. That's for administrative

1 costs. We do have over 4 million for litigation. So I
2 didn't want to -- I wanted to make sure that we had
3 funding for litigation as well.

4 And I think you pretty much covered everything else.
5 The only other thing is, as you mentioned, the invoices.
6 There are some that are fairly far behind where we
7 haven't received invoices since September from some of
8 our contractors. So what we're really trying to do, and
9 when I say we, I have nothing to do with it because it's
10 staff. So thank you very much staff for reaching out to
11 those contractors so that we can get a better handle on
12 what those expenditures look like.

13 And also, the more important piece of it is to
14 determine whether or not we have to have another request
15 to release additional funding. We do have funding, but
16 we have to go back and request that funding. Right now,
17 we're thinking we're going to be okay, but again, we're
18 working on that information, and we will come back at the
19 next meeting with a better picture of what our pre-map
20 budget and expenditures look like, and as well as our
21 post-map.

22 Back to you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

23 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I have something different
24 that I want to add. I'll defer to Commissioner Akutagawa
25 at this point.

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I was just going to build
2 on what you just said, Commissioner Fornaciari, about
3 whether or not it should be a separate committee or a
4 function that is part of lessons learned.

5 I have a different idea on it. Given the urgency,
6 my thought is either it has to be a separate subcommittee
7 which includes either one of you, Commissioner Fornaciari
8 or Commissioner Fernandez -- I hate to put more work on
9 you -- or it becomes a function more of finance and
10 administration, and so that the work is being done
11 simultaneously. Thank you.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you for that,
14 Commissioner Akutagawa.

15 I was thinking of Commissioner Fornaciari, and I
16 would just kind of continue to lead that effort, but if
17 you're volunteering to be on a subcommittee, but I don't
18 know how Commissioner Fornaciari feels about that. But I
19 thought that was going to be our -- thank you.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay and then
21 Commissioner Akutagawa.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Akutagawa, did you
23 want to follow up on what Commissioner Fernandez said?

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I was just going to
25 say, while I'm always happy to serve on a subcommittee, I

1 also feel like I think that it would be great if both you
2 and Commissioner Fornaciari were to continue this work
3 since you're both very familiar with the process. And I
4 think that that would be the best way. I just wanted to
5 give you an out in case you needed it.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I see it a little different in
7 that planning what activities is different than
8 administrative and finances. And so I do feel that we do
9 need a separate committee because you need to know what
10 you're planning for.

11 And so I just wanted to put that out there that I
12 think the activities is different. I mean, we can, and
13 it happens all the time, say, this is what you have; plan
14 within this budget. But sometimes, you need to see what
15 is the vision for next year and then figure out the
16 budget.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari?

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I think that's a
19 good point. I mean, either way, it's fine. I mean, we
20 can -- we can gather your thoughts on what the future
21 looks like and bring it together, or we can have a
22 separate subcommittee do that. Either way is fine.

23 I think we do -- I think you bring up a good point
24 about planning the work within the budget that we have.
25 You know, I think we have some ambitions. The

1 legislature last time around -- they had half an FTE
2 budget for the out years. And so whatever work they
3 wanted to do, they had to get external funding for it.

4 I don't know what the openness for the legislature
5 is to continue to support kind of the outreach we're
6 talking about, but I think that the conversation needs
7 to -- I think it needs to be thought through what we want
8 to do for the out years, and especially this coming
9 fiscal year, and have that conversation in the next
10 couple weeks. But either way, it's fine with me. I'm
11 happy to do it or defer.

12 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Separate is fine. I guess,
14 for me, either -- I don't know. I guess I just don't see
15 the need for another subcommittee, but I'm happy to be on
16 another subcommittee if that's what we want to do.

17 I don't know if Commissioner Akutagawa would like to
18 do it with me. I'm going to call her our since she's the
19 one that --

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'm happy to help.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Because that's how I roll.
22 So just --

23 MR. PANE: Commissioner Fernandez, if I could just
24 maybe interject one maybe point of consideration. We
25 brought up Bagley-Keene earlier, and I want to make sure

1 that we don't run afoul of any sort of serial meetings.
2 So the lines would have to be very clear and different
3 and probably try to avoid having overlapping
4 commissioners, if possible.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Let me think. I think
6 there's been many subcommittees that, like, I've been on
7 for materials that impacts the budget. I mean, every
8 subcommittee I'm on is going to impact the finance. So I
9 don't know. I guess I would --

10 MR. PANE: Impacts are okay.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- know how to -- I would
12 know how to differentiate --

13 MR. PANE: No problem with impact.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- my roles, if that's what
15 you're asking.

16 MR. PANE: No. Maybe I can help with that.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

18 MR. PANE: Yeah.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: So what's the consensus here? Are we
20 going with the new subcommittee, or are we punting the
21 ball back to Commissioner Fernandez and Fornaciari?

22 If I see -- oh, Commissioner Andersen, I didn't see
23 your hand there.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. This is unusual, but
25 I agree with Commissioner Sinay that this is something

1 that you really need to think, what are we doing?

2 However, it needs to be done quickly because we have to
3 consider the budget impact and get it done in February.

4 So I do think there does need to be another
5 subcommittee, and I do think that Commissioner Fernandez
6 can clearly divide her roles. We're all big boys and
7 girls. We understand Bagley-Keene, and I think we can
8 handle that, and it's not going to be a serial meeting.

9 But I do think that we should have an additional
10 input on it, whether it be -- I'm not sure who, or even
11 if it's two other people. But there are a lot of things
12 that -- like one thing Commissioner Fornaciari said,
13 well, we should probably think about in our budget. I
14 think we need to think about what work we need to do and
15 then decide how much money we need to do it.

16 And one thing that we need to consider is litigation
17 that we're thinking -- not litigation -- legislation that
18 we're considering proposing, which is extremely
19 important, and that needs to be kind of thought through.
20 I have no idea what kind of money or outreach that
21 requires, but that's an item that we certainly need to
22 consider, as well as outreach.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

24 Commissioner Fernandez, do you have a suggestion one
25 way or the other?

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It's fine if you want to
2 separate subcommittee that's -- I mean, I feel that the
3 finance and admin can also plan, but if we want to do it
4 separate, that's fine. I guess I have no preference at
5 this point. Is that what you were asking, Chair?

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah, I'm just trying to get an answer
7 out from someone --

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. And I --

9 CHAIR AHMAD: -- on how to proceed.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And like I said, I don't
11 mind doing it, and I called out Commissioner Akutagawa.
12 And we are from different political parties, if you want
13 to put it that way.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Commissioner Sinay, before
15 I jump to you, can I ask Alvaro to interject his
16 thoughts?

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: I was just going to mention that a
18 lot of the planning part of it for beyond this year, this
19 fiscal year, was going to be dependent or partially
20 dependent on the conversation from the lessons learned.
21 So I would suggest not having a new subcommittee just yet
22 until we've had the lessons learned conversation to
23 figure out kind of where that might lead us.

24 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay and then
25 Commissioner Fernandez.

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: So how I'm kind of viewing this
2 is that for our next meeting, we may want just buckets,
3 like, of activities that we would like to do in the next
4 year and what costs may be related to it, so that we can
5 all have a conversation.

6 It's going to be hard, unless we want to say at the
7 next meeting -- well, we can't agendize it, is the
8 problem, for the next meeting since we have to move
9 quickly. But it's having that conversation of what the
10 plan -- I hear exactly what you're saying, Director
11 Hernandez, but as Commissioner Fernandez said, we need
12 the budget now versus later, and we all agree that we
13 wanted to wait on the lessons learned until later, that
14 we didn't want to do it right now because lessons learned
15 looks back at what happened, and we want to be able to --
16 we don't want to give any fodder out.

17 So the plan could be broad. And I also believe that
18 the plan, you create a budget. And we may not meet -- we
19 may not have enough funding, and we have to think of
20 creative ways of where we're going to get additional
21 funding, like the 2010 commission received a grant to do
22 additional work.

23 But I think at least having just a little bit of an
24 outline base on some of the conversations that have
25 happened and what some of the costs may be related to

1 that. It would be good to bring up a draft plan to our
2 next meeting.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

4 With that, I will form a new subcommittee with
5 Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Akutagawa.

6 You all can name yourselves however you choose.

7 Is that okay with you two taking on this task?

8 Okay. Great.

9 Is there anything else from finance and admin?

10 Yes, Fredy and then Commissioner Fornaciari.

11 MR. CEJA: Yeah. Can we get that name? Because we
12 have to update the agendas that are going to go up on the
13 website.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fernandez and Akutagawa,
15 do you all have a subcommittee name?

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm trying to be creative,
17 but I -- Fredy, you're the creative one. What do you
18 think?

19 Oh, wait. Maybe Commissioner Fornaciari. I'm going
20 to phone a friend. No, you're not helping?

21 He's not helping me. Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'm not creative.

23 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa?

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Since this is supposed to
25 be at least for 2022, I believe, planning, can we just

1 keep it simple and just call it the 2022 Planning
2 Subcommittee?

3 CHAIR AHMAD: There we go. Fredy, it's called the
4 2022 Planning Subcommittee.

5 Commissioner Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: How about Long-Term Planning
7 Subcommittee?

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Scratch that, Fredy.

9 Commissioner Akutagawa and Fernandez, I'll ask --
10 you all have some ideas now on the table, so I will ask
11 you all to solidify your name and state it out loud so
12 that Fredy can document it.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think Long-Term Planning
14 is fine, but that --

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- just sounds so long,
17 right?

18 CHAIR AHMAD: All right. Fredy, their subcommittee
19 is called Long-Term Planning Subcommittee.

20 Going back to finance and admin, I see your hand,
21 Commissioner Fornaciari.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I just have one
23 thing that was separate for the Bagley-Keene
24 Subcommittee. The Little Hoover Commission did a report.
25 The report is number 261 from June 2021 on -- it's

1 called, The Government of Tomorrow: Online Meetings. So
2 I didn't know if you all recall, but they had put that
3 report out, and I wanted to look it up and let you know.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you so much,
5 Commissioner Fornaciari.

6 With that, we are right up against break. Just a
7 reminder for everyone, we will be taking our fifteen-
8 minute mandatory break. And once we return from break,
9 we will be jumping directly into closed session under the
10 pending litigation exception, as well as the
11 personnel-related issues exception.

12 From there, once we finish, we will come back out
13 into open session. We will report out on any actions, if
14 any, that were taken in closed session. And then we will
15 continue our conversation with the Lessons Learned
16 Subcommittee update.

17 And at that point, I will also ask if there is any
18 other commissioners or any other subcommittees that would
19 like to provide an update that had not had the chance to
20 do so.

21 And once we run through that subcommittee list, we
22 will take public comment on the agenda item and then see
23 what remaining items we have left. But that is all I had
24 scheduled for today.

25 Sound good? Okay. It's 11 o'clock. See you all at

1 11:15 in closed session. Thank you.

2 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:00 a.m.
3 until 2:01 p.m.)

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Welcome back, everyone. So just a
5 quick recap. We went into closed session. We concluded
6 closed session around 1:15 and then took a forty-five-
7 minute lunch break, and now we are back at open session.

8 In closed session, under the pending litigation
9 exception, the commission took no action. Under the
10 personnel issues exception, the commission voted to
11 provide the executive director with the authority to
12 offboard the outreach and communications staff and to
13 provide the executive director with a 2.75 percent salary
14 increase.

15 Now we will continue with our agenda items. We left
16 off under the subcommittee updates. I just want to
17 circle back and make sure.

18 Finance and admin, did you all have anything else to
19 report, or did we conclude that conversation? Okay.
20 Great.

21 So now we will be moving on to lessons learned.

22 Commissioner Kennedy?

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I did
24 share with staff for posting the other day, the current
25 version of the outline of what Commissioner Ahmad and I

1 have been pulling together as far as topics for lessons
2 learned. I just want to clarify that the next step after
3 any further changes to the outline is actually developing
4 discussion questions that we could structure our
5 discussions around.

6 I think I mentioned at some point that in the past,
7 I have done this using kind of a modified SWOT diagram so
8 that instead of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and
9 threats, we discussed lessons learned in relation to
10 strengths, weaknesses, innovations, and recommendations.

11 So if we were to go forward along those lines,
12 strengths and weaknesses, pretty self-evident.
13 Innovations would be changes from the 2010 process to the
14 2020 process. And then recommendations would be what we
15 think should change between the 2020 process and the 2030
16 process.

17 My vision of this is that once we have these discussions,
18 Commissioner Ahmad and I would work together on drafting
19 a lessons learned report for the commission's
20 consideration. The commission, after considering it,
21 would then probably discuss and take action on
22 recommendations contained in that report and any other
23 recommendations that commissioners might have beyond what
24 is in the report, and that we would then take those
25 recommendations and move into the phase of working with

1 stakeholders and legislators to craft whatever
2 legislative proposals the commission wishes to put
3 forward.

4 We've discussed in the past, as I understand it, the
5 legislature is able to pass changes to the sections of
6 the government code relative to the Citizens
7 Redistricting Commission other than in years ending in 9,
8 0, and 1. But beyond that, they would basically take our
9 recommendations and vote them up or down. They don't
10 have the ability to take our recommendations and change
11 them.

12 So the work that we will be doing once we get to
13 that point is very important work. I look forward to
14 working with all of you, as well as stakeholders and
15 others, to make sure that this goes smoothly.

16 Before we get into any discussion of the outline
17 that was provided, I also wanted to circle back and say
18 that we had had a discussion previously. My initial
19 proposal was to do this not as a one-off, because we
20 recognized that we would need to circle back and have a
21 discussion after the litigation phase.

22 So the initial discussion was around the possibility
23 of a five to maybe seven-working-days event as step 1,
24 dealing with those topics that we could deal with before
25 the litigation phase was over, and then coming back later

1 and having a shorter, perhaps shorter, event focusing
2 mainly on the litigation phase, as well as the
3 recommendations.

4 I certainly am cognizant of the fact that the
5 colleagues have a number of demands on them. Some folks
6 were reticent to commit to a week or two-week-long
7 process, particularly this soon after finishing up our
8 work on the maps. And so we started talking about what
9 our other options might be.

10 And it seems to me that one option -- and I forget
11 if any other colleagues had brought this up -- but we
12 currently have meetings scheduled every Friday in January
13 on a kind of as-needed basis. And one thing that I had
14 said previously was, well, maybe we can start knocking
15 off topics from this outline one by one on a time-
16 available basis.

17 Rather than trying to do this all in one sitting or
18 all in two sittings, maybe we break this up, take on the
19 less sensitive topics first, get those out of the way,
20 and move forward on a time-available basis. That would
21 obviously be less demanding on staff. But we also
22 wouldn't have the benefit of really focusing our
23 attention on this.

24 So I did want to get thoughts from colleagues, both
25 on the outline itself as well as on their preferred path

1 forward, as I think Commissioner Fornaciari had earlier
2 today.

3 So I'll stop there and look forward to the
4 discussion.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

6 Any comments, thoughts, questions on what was just
7 shared?

8 Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Turner.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, both Chair and
10 Commissioner Kennedy, for all the work you've done on
11 this.

12 I was curious. Throughout the process we've been
13 sending emails and lessons learned, and I want to make
14 sure those are somewhere and we don't have to relook for
15 them or remember them because not all the topics are on
16 this outline. So I just wanted to touch base on that.

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay --

18 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thanks for that. I do
19 have -- sorry.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh, sorry. Go ahead. Go ahead.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I've gone all the way through
22 my emails in the process when I was going through for
23 Public Records Act request purposes, and I have flagged
24 all of them that are lessons-learned-related.

25 So in a keystroke or two, I'm able to pull all of

1 those up, and I would certainly envision consulting those
2 before coming up with discussion questions. And again,
3 always open to further input on the outline itself and,
4 eventually, on the discussion question. Thank you.

5 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Commissioner Turner,
6 Akutagawa, and then Yee.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. Thank you so much,
8 Chair, Commissioner Kennedy. The list, lessons learned
9 outline, is extensive, and I recall the conversation we
10 had before and was actually kind of on the fence about
11 the long session that would be required to have the
12 discussion and then even about just kind of splitting it
13 out. I think that for me, my preference would be to have
14 the longer session so that we're not losing any steam, so
15 that we're able to focus on it.

16 I feel like talking on it once every Friday, I feel
17 like I lose the connection to the previous conversations,
18 and it just -- to me, I'm hopeful that we still can have
19 maybe even two solid blocks of time, be it four or five
20 days, or whatever the case may be. I just think there
21 would be great value in having a session where we're all
22 in, focused on nothing but this, and being able to get it
23 done.

24 And then beyond that, putting it on -- yeah. I'll
25 just stop there. That's my preference would be the

1 longer blocks, looking at the list that's here, which is
2 very comprehensive. Thank you.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

4 Commissioner Akutagawa and then Commissioner Yee.

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I guess I'll start
6 with the time line. I was just thinking about what you
7 suggested about every Friday that we have scheduled right
8 now.

9 My thought is, could we perhaps even look at -- I
10 know people don't want to lose a weekend, but perhaps we
11 use a Saturday and make it a Friday, Saturday so that we
12 have two solid blocks of days perhaps to focus on one, if
13 not two, of the, as you said, Commissioner Kennedy, some
14 of the easier ones to knock out.

15 And then for some of the ones that I think we know
16 are going to be a little bit more complicated and/or
17 going to just generate a lot more conversation, taking
18 what Commissioner Turner has said and maybe looking at
19 something that would be somewhere between a three-to-
20 five-day block, depending on what is possible for
21 everybody.

22 So it's kind of a best of both worlds. We don't try
23 to knock -- I don't think there's going to be any way
24 that we're going to be able to knock out this whole
25 entire list in one five-to-seven-day block. I think if

1 we try to take some of the shorter ones, the easier ones,
2 maybe do a two-day block every Friday, Saturday that we
3 have scheduled, those might be the easy ones, but just
4 allow us to have the conversation that you know that we
5 all like to have. And then at the same time, ensure that
6 we do justice to it.

7 And then the last question, or the last thing I have
8 is, is this the order in which you intend it to be, or is
9 it just -- it was just kind of stream of consciousness,
10 and you just put it down? Okay. Thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.
12 Commissioner Yee and then Commissioner Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. You
14 know, I love this exercise. I'm one to always -- one to
15 not reinvent the wheel and to always try to improve
16 things. At the same time, I think back to what we
17 inherited from 2010 and what was useful and what wasn't.
18 I mean, they produced a pretty solid report that went
19 over, point by point, their recommendations.

20 And it's not documenting that is the issue. It's
21 like, what you actually do. So it's like, one of our
22 experiences was we should've gotten on the VRA counsel
23 hiring sooner. Well, we were told that, and we read
24 that. We just didn't get to it. And it had turned out
25 to take longer than we thought.

1 So I think part of me is thinking on one hand, it's
2 good to document things in quite some detail, just to
3 document them because you never know what might be useful
4 to someone. On the other hand, if we're thinking that we
5 really want to focus on what is most useful to 2030,
6 which will be operating under very different
7 circumstances. Who knows what it would be like?

8 I don't think -- we can get -- I think we can get
9 eighty-five percent of it together in two days, two or
10 three days. The last fifteen percent might well be
11 worthwhile. It might take longer, but I don't want us to
12 feel like we just have to -- I mean, I realize we dragged
13 each other up such a dizzying learning curve to do all of
14 this, and we don't want to waste everything we learned,
15 for sure. I don't want to waste everything that we
16 learned.

17 Again, what's going to actually be useful to 2030?
18 Look at what we used and didn't use in 2010, and I feel
19 like we need a little reality check there if we're trying
20 to do every last thing that we could.

21 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

22 Commissioner Fernandez, Kennedy, and then Akutagawa.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. And
24 thank you Commissioners Kennedy and Ahmad for this list.
25 It's very comprehensive, and I appreciate it.

1 And thank you, Commissioner Yee, for saying that.
2 Because I will have to be honest, and the lessons learned
3 report from 2010, I only read a few parts of it. So
4 that's what we also have to remember, that the 2030 is
5 supposed to be an independent commission. So how much do
6 we want to lead them versus part of it is they need to be
7 independent?

8 But actually, that's not what I was going to comment
9 on. I agree with Commissioner Turner in terms of, like,
10 one or two longer blocks. And what I was thinking of is
11 maybe prioritize the list opposite of what you were
12 thinking, because you were thinking some of the simpler
13 things.

14 I was actually thinking of prioritizing maybe those
15 items that we think will require longer time to complete,
16 like legislation. So maybe we do those first so that we
17 can start the motion on that moving forward, and then we
18 can whittle down some of the other that won't require the
19 length of time to get that accomplished. But I think
20 that was it.

21 And then in terms of the report, kind of coming back
22 to Commissioner Yee, is maybe when we get to the report,
23 we prioritize in terms of what we feel you should really
24 look at or the VRA hire, or whatever the case may be.

25 But anyway, that's further down the road. And thank

1 you very much.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

3 Commissioner Kennedy, Akutagawa, and then Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Two

5 things. One, I want to return to Commissioner

6 Akutagawa's question. The order isn't entirely stream of

7 conscience. There is some -- or there was some attention

8 paid to kind of logic and chronology.

9 But what I want to say is it's not rigidly

10 determined that this is the order that these are going to

11 be done in. In fact, we've talked about doing some of

12 the easier ones first, and leaving some of the harder

13 ones for later, and that certainly would mean things

14 going out of order that they're presented here. But

15 there was some consideration of logic and chronology in

16 putting this together, but it's certainly not rigid.

17 Responding to Commissioner Fernandez, I think

18 that -- I mean, this is intended to be helpful for the

19 2030 commission, but it's also intended to be for public

20 consumption, for stakeholder consumption, as a basis for

21 whatever legislative changes we might end up making or

22 proposing. So it's not just for the 2030 commission

23 itself, and I think we need to be conscious of that as we

24 go through it.

25 I'll stop there. Thank you.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Akutagawa and then Sinay
2 and then Fornaciari.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

4 And again, Commissioner Kennedy and Chair Ahmad, I
5 do want to also say thank you to you. And I do see the
6 logic now. I think when I first took kind of the quick
7 glance through the list, I thought -- not that it was
8 random, but there were certain things that I wasn't sure
9 whether or not that was really the intended order, but as
10 you were speaking, I saw that.

11 You know, I wanted to come back to something that
12 Commissioner Yee said. And it got me thinking. I mean,
13 he's right in the sense that the 2030, and I think
14 Commissioner Fernandez said this, the 2030 Commission is
15 going to be independent. They're going to do what they
16 want to do.

17 But I have two feelings about it. One, there's
18 going to be probably people in 2030 that is going to
19 appreciate having the lessons learned that we have and
20 will be looking through it. And then there's going to be
21 others that are going to look through it very quickly.
22 But at that time, you're just really drinking from the
23 fire hose, and you're just trying to just kind of get up
24 to speed and to understand.

25 But one thought that did pop in my mind based on

1 what Commissioner Yee said, is that there are certain
2 things that 2010 did say that we've learned that I was
3 like, oh, wow, we should've listened to that. And I
4 think maybe that could be the very high level kind of
5 summary section where it says, if you don't look at
6 anything else, just look at these X number of things.
7 Hire your VRA counsel first, for example, right?

8 Is there anything else that 2010 told us that
9 perhaps, okay, we did, but maybe we didn't do it in the
10 time that we should've, and now we thought, okay, we
11 should've done that in a different kind of time? Maybe
12 those are the things that we have -- where we can add
13 value to 2030, to help them really, one, ramp up a little
14 bit more efficiently because now they'll have the benefit
15 of now three. They'll be the third commission.

16 I like what you also said, Commissioner Kennedy,
17 about this document is not only going to be for them but
18 for any other independent redistricting commissions that
19 are going to seek to do something similar to what we did
20 as well, too. And as much as possible where we can give
21 roadmaps, I think that that's going to be a really
22 important tool. And the more information that's out
23 there for truly independent commissions to consult, I
24 think that's where our legacy will also be as well, too.

25 Yes, many people said that our process was messy,

1 but at the end of the day, we came in on time. We
2 created maps that really honored, I think, the voices of
3 Californians, looking at it through a data lens. I think
4 sometimes that's forgotten is that we were looking at
5 data that also helped to guide us in terms of the maps
6 that we drew. And I think if we can also then pass on
7 those lessons learned to future commissions, both local,
8 as well as statewide, then I think that that's also part
9 of our gift and our legacy to those organized entities.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.
12 Commissioner Sinay and then Fornaciari.

13 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Chair. So I'm
14 probably on the complete opposite end of Commissioner
15 Fernandez, in that I read both the League of Women
16 Voters' report and the 2010 report multiple, multiple
17 times. Sometimes I found it helpful. Sometimes it
18 didn't have the answers that I was looking for. But I
19 did appreciate what's been said.

20 There are going to be different audiences for
21 different parts of this, and it may be that it's an
22 exercise that we do all the exercise at one time, and
23 then once we collect the data, we realize how we're going
24 to share it or how we're going to put it together.

25 But I think the one piece that would've been much

1 more helpful, and I think I would recommend we think
2 about on how we organize this, is why -- do it by the
3 same three phases that we did. And we may want to add
4 the first phase being buildup, but then buildup,
5 outreach, engagement, just using map phases.

6 Because you have administrative -- all these sets
7 are subsets of those three phases, and that's the part I
8 struggled with. And I mean, I read all the reports all
9 at once. And then it was like, okay, I need this
10 information; how did they do this? And obviously, they
11 called it something different, or theirs was a much
12 shorter period.

13 But if we put it in the phases and then kind of talk
14 about all the other things underneath it, I think it
15 might be more useful and helpful for all those who might
16 be wanting to use it at another time. Because it's been
17 helpful for me, when talking to folks, doing
18 presentations, or even writing about our work, going back
19 to the different phases and what we've learned at each of
20 those.

21 And then I was just going to give one concrete
22 thing. Under policies and procedures, one piece I'd
23 really like us, as a lesson learned, is you have to have
24 a place where to put it. Any time I'm looking for a
25 policy or procedure, I have to try to remember what

1 meeting, when we had it, and I know the public complains
2 about the same thing.

3 Oh, no, you guys know where it is? Okay, then
4 please tell us, because I have been trying to -- okay,
5 but it's -- obviously, it's not that easy if the public
6 and I -- yeah, maybe I'm -- yeah, we haven't found them.
7 So please do share.

8 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Fornaciari?

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, that's why I raised
10 my hand, just to make sure everyone knew where to find
11 that. It's actually in a shared folder called Commission
12 Documentation.

13 So let's see, a couple things. I want to follow up
14 on what Commissioner Sinay said. I think that's a good
15 way to look at it, but we have to frame it in the context
16 of the time frame that they will have, not the time frame
17 that we had, or that we expect they're going to have,
18 right? And so you know, we have to keep that in mind.

19 It was originally -- I raised my originally to
20 think -- because I thought, well, we need to do all these
21 things to figure out what kind of legislation we want to
22 propose. And we've got to be in a hurry to do that. And
23 I guess we don't have to be in a hurry because there's no
24 time line for that. Although, we have money now, and we
25 may not have money later. So that's just something to

1 think about. I like the idea of documentation.

2 And then I have a very specific question for
3 Commissioner Kennedy. Number 16(a), lessons learned from
4 other states, find or develop a comparison table. So I
5 already started kind of doing that just for fun. But
6 maybe we can talk offline about what -- did you have
7 something specific in mind that that table would look
8 like, or just kind of open-ended? Yeah, what were you
9 thinking?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It's really intended to be
11 the main legal parameters. How many members? How long
12 do they serve? How are they chosen? Along those lines.
13 Very concrete objective parameters on which we can
14 compare and contrast commissions. Thanks.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: If I can jump in, I was
16 also including outcomes, types of commission and what
17 kind of outcomes they had, partly for us to use to think
18 through -- have a comparison of what the other
19 commissions look like and how they're formed and whether
20 they're independent or dependent, what their level of
21 authority is, whether they -- I mean, we have one hundred
22 percent authority, right? Other commissions send maps to
23 the legislature, and they ignore them, and redraw.

24 And so if we're going to propose some changes just
25 as a way to understand what the ground work -- or what

1 the landscape looks like out there, and maybe there are
2 some ways to tweak our commission to be more effective in
3 other ways, or provide lessons for others, so anyway.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.
5 Commissioner Andersen?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair.

7 Yeah, I also like the idea of working on actually
8 little bits of it because I understand the whole idea of
9 let's work on a big chunk at a time. And quite frankly,
10 when we get together and we start working on things, we
11 need a larger chunk of time. But I don't want us to just
12 wait, and wait, and wait. And I think there are areas
13 where we do have ideas that we'll come back to, but there
14 are areas that we could kind of almost deal with right
15 now.

16 And so I kind of like the idea of maybe once a week.
17 I don't really like the ideas of Saturdays, though. We
18 just finally got our weekends back, and I'd really like
19 to hang onto those.

20 A couple of items, though. In terms of, one, great,
21 inclusive outline, but we don't have training in there,
22 in terms of how we all got trained ahead of time and what
23 we want to modify and what we found useful and what we
24 didn't find useful. So I'd like to add that in. Also,
25 website. That, I didn't find in anywhere. Then under

1 3B, ramp up consulting services contracts, big contracts,
2 needs to be there.

3 As far as legislation, there are several items that
4 we know right away that we want to talk about. And it is
5 specifically assuming that we don't have a crisis with
6 the census data and the August dates are the real dates.
7 We changed, and there's a month that's gone now from how
8 it was originally written until what we did. And that is
9 something that we have to do some legislation for, or
10 they really can't -- the 2030 Commission will not
11 succeed. That's during the present reallocation I'm
12 speaking of here.

13 And also, there are items here which are actually
14 for us, and they're not for the 2030, which is on
15 education, like the census, putting our redistricting
16 into the census as part of the -- part and parcel of the
17 census, and then redistricting goes next. That needs to
18 happen before the 2030 essentially is almost put
19 together, almost.

20 So there are a couple of items here I'd like to --
21 one, I just want to bring up right now just because I
22 thought of it, and I don't know if someone forwarded it
23 to you already -- I'm assuming someone has -- but a
24 buying authority. That's something we need to get on
25 board before the 2030 commission gets there. And I don't

1 know if that's the right terminology.

2 Mr. Fernandez, you can correct me on that.

3 The one other item I had. Oh, the most important
4 thing I think that we should save for -- now, what do we
5 present to the 2030? A big fat time line. This is your
6 final date. These are windows. If you don't start the
7 contracts by here, they're not going to get through DSA.
8 They're not going to be able to do da-da-da-da-da. And
9 you have to start them by here or you're not going make
10 it. Big fat time line is what I would put out there.

11 And the rest, I like the idea of an executive
12 summary. If you ignore everything else, don't ignore
13 this. And number on that would be a time line, like your
14 Gantt Chart thing.

15 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

16 Commissioner Kennedy, back to you.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. And yes,
18 if you recall, that was the discussion that we had when
19 we were talking about sunseting subcommittees, was that
20 the Gantt Chart would now come under the Lessons Learned
21 Subcommittee and be a prominent part of that.

22 And yes, the training element is number 9, and I
23 just slotted in the word curriculum, but that stands for
24 all of the different topics that we heard about from the
25 many panels that were organized for us. So yes, that

1 portion of the outline can certainly be expanded upon,
2 but it's there at least as a placeholder. Thanks.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry, Chair, could I
4 just -- back on training. I mean that how we were
5 trained in terms of what our job is, not in terms of once
6 the full commission was together and then we learned
7 about all of the different other components. I mean how
8 we found out about VRA. How we found -- how we all
9 learned about what our job is. And there are two
10 different phases of that. And that's what I was
11 specifically talking about.

12 And I guess that goes in formation, sort of, but I
13 think that was a very vital importance of -- remember, we
14 had to bring -- we had to bring it back because there
15 were ideas that we didn't quite learn and didn't --
16 thought we did, but didn't. In the training part there,
17 I would add a little bit of time line in that original
18 formation.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you, Commissioner
20 Andersen.

21 Are there any other comments right now on the
22 lessons learned item?

23 And I do have to give credit where it's due.
24 Commissioner Kennedy has been leading this effort, in
25 terms of consolidating all of the notes and putting

1 together this outline. So he's done a great job to put
2 everything together so that we can look at it all in one
3 place.

4 Commissioner Kennedy, do you need anything else from
5 the commission at this point to advance this objective?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I'm still
7 hearing a variety of preferences on whether we go with a
8 large, five-to-seven-day kind of initial event, with a
9 perhaps shorter, or at least not to exceed that, later on
10 after the litigation phase is over. Or do we start
11 knocking these off with the easier ones first on a time-
12 available basis? And particularly for the budget that
13 needs to be submitted next month, I think this is an
14 important decision point that I'm not yet comfortable
15 with. Thank you.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you for raising that,
17 Commissioner Kennedy.

18 So if we can help guide Commissioner Kennedy on
19 those questions that he just outlined, that would be
20 great. So I'll just go down the line. Commissioner
21 Akutagawa, Fernandez, Sinay, and then Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess I'll just say this.
23 I mean, I think you got 13 other people, Commissioner
24 Kennedy, with lots of opinions.

25 I think at this point -- I would just like -- I'll

1 go with whatever is decided. Sorry about that. But I
2 think we just need to determine what it is that we're
3 going to do so that we can get dates calendared,
4 especially if we're looking at a five-to-seven-day block
5 at some point, even if it's in February.

6 I think for those of us that are still working, I
7 think it'll be very helpful to have that time blocked out
8 so that we could also plan around it as well, too.

9 So whatever you think is going to work, given, like
10 you said, the budget kind of considerations that would be
11 helpful to have. So as you heard, my preference is let's
12 knock out some of the things that we can and then do the
13 big one. Thank you.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

15 Commissioner Fernandez, Sinay, and then Turner.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I enjoy my newfound freedom
17 of hours and day, and so having it every Friday, if there
18 isn't another need to have a business meeting, I'd rather
19 just have, like, a three-day session at the end of the
20 month, instead of every single Friday is now taken up in
21 January or February, however we do it.

22 I'd rather do it in chunks of two to three days
23 than, like, once a week for the next two months. And my
24 actual optimal preference would be to try to get it out
25 in one or two big chunks. Thanks.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Commissioner Sinay?

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm torn. If we were to do it,
3 two topics or one topic every Friday, and we were given
4 homework and the questions to ponder ahead of time, we
5 could come prepared to maybe go deeper. At the same time
6 getting it all done sounds good, and we won't forget
7 things. But I will make it work, whichever way works
8 best for folks.

9 I wanted to go back to what Neal -- I mean --
10 Commissioner Fornaciari, said. When he shared, if I
11 heard him correctly, the idea of looking at the other
12 commissions throughout the State, and then maybe even
13 inviting two commissioners from each of them just to ask
14 questions, would actually clarify some of the things that
15 maybe we want to do.

16 And maybe that's step 2. Maybe this step 1 is just
17 us doing our thinking, and then step 2 is learning from
18 our colleagues and them learning from us. But I do -- we
19 only know our own reality, and we don't know what the
20 possibility is of things being completely different by
21 hearing what others maybe have done or are doing.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.
23 Commissioner Turner?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, so ditto to what
25 Commissioner Fernandez said exactly would be my

1 preference.

2 I'm not certain on our selected days of Fridays; I'm
3 not sure how Fridays was selected. And I'm going to be
4 here as many Fridays as I can, but of any days, that
5 probably wasn't the best day for me. So if we plan these
6 meetings on Fridays, there's a good possibility that I
7 would miss being there. And of course, there's 14 other
8 commissioners, and that's always the answer, and it can
9 get done. I just want to name my preference because I'd
10 love to participate as I can.

11 So to me, putting calendared dates down, be it
12 three, four, or five days, be it a Saturday, a Sunday, a
13 whatever. If it's on, and we're talking perhaps two
14 sessions, I can make anything work with advanced notice,
15 calendar it, plan on being there for it, so that we can
16 have, hopefully, maximum participation. And from my
17 perspective, it just seems that it would work better than
18 taking up the Fridays indefinitely until we get done.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. And
20 these January dates were selected in case we needed them
21 for litigation purposes. So that's why we have those on
22 the calendar for January on Fridays.

23 And if we don't need these meetings on Fridays, we
24 intended to cancel them, but Commissioner Kennedy and I,
25 upon conversation, thought that, hey, if we already have

1 them calendared in and we already have the time there,
2 perhaps we could lose some of the time to tackle some of
3 the more smaller items on the list. But of course,
4 everything is still up for consideration.

5 Commissioner Kennedy, did you get additional clarity
6 on which way to go?

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I think I'm good at this
8 point. I think you and I can sit down or get on a call
9 with Director Hernandez and perhaps Chief Counsel Pane
10 and come up with a plan. And colleagues will -- we will
11 be sensitive to the input that we've received from
12 colleagues, and colleagues will do their best to
13 accommodate the plan that's presented.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you so much.

15 That is all I had on the agenda, run of show, in
16 terms of subcommittee updates. I just want to check with
17 my colleagues, however. Are there any other updates from
18 subcommittees that we need to visit?

19 Commissioner Kennedy?

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

21 This is in lieu of the Data Management Subcommittee,
22 which has been sunsetted. And I'll do this under the
23 Website Committee, even though we're really talking about
24 somebody else's website.

25 But I was approached probably because I was the

1 person who initially contacted USDR to begin with way,
2 way, way, way back when by Rebecca Heywood, Government's
3 team lead. And USDR puts out a newsletter occasionally.
4 They also have their website. They are interested in
5 featuring their work with us on their website. And so I
6 wanted to put that before the commission, get your sense.

7 I can read the two short paragraphs that they are
8 contemplating. I can certainly have this circulated
9 before next Friday's meeting or whenever we next meet, if
10 folks aren't ready to say yay or nay at this time.

11 USDR is U.S. Digital Response. These are the folks
12 that we reached out to and that helped us, I guess, pull
13 together our data management approach. And certainly
14 Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner Turner can speak to
15 us at great length about the great value that USDR
16 brought to this process. But I'll just read the two
17 short paragraphs, and then we can see what colleagues
18 what to do.

19 So they said a draft of what we would include is:

20 "The State of California reached out to USDR to
21 support their 2021 redistricting process, in
22 which a Citizens Redistricting Commission is
23 required to collect public input on coherent
24 communities with the goal of keeping them
25 together in new districts. The Commission had

1 a tool to collect geographic data from user-
2 drawn maps, but needed a way to digitize and
3 store the unstructured feedback mechanisms,
4 including public forums, email, and phone
5 calls.

6 The USDR volunteer team deployed a database for
7 digitized comments and a cloud storage system
8 to hold any images, maps, or other artifacts
9 associated with the inputs. By building the
10 back-end systems to ingest, hold, and show the
11 data, the commission was able to accept over
12 35,000 pieces of public input and make them
13 publicly available." And then on
14 wedrawthelines.ca.org/data.

15 So that's what they're proposing. They're certainly
16 open to edits from us. Again, I'm happy to distribute
17 this. We don't have to get back to them urgently. It's
18 for their website. So looking forward to comments.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy. And
21 thank you for responding to that. USDR certainly does
22 not have to reach out to the commission to get us to edit
23 what goes on their website, right? It's their content,
24 so they could publish whatever they want. So that's very
25 kind of them to make sure they're representing the work

1 accurately.

2 On that piece, on what Commissioner Kennedy brought
3 forward, does anyone have any super urgent comments right
4 now, or is that something that we can exchange over email
5 through staff?

6 Okay, I don't see anyone's human hand up. So
7 Commissioner Kennedy, perhaps what we can do is ask
8 commissioners to relay any comments or edits that they
9 have through staff to you, and then you can lead that
10 effort to get that information back to USDR. Does that
11 sound okay?

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Sounds okay to me if it's
13 okay with Chief Counsel.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay. Seeing that he has ---

15 MR. PANE: I am --

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh.

17 MR. PANE: I am completely in support of that,
18 Commissioner Kennedy, yes. Thank you.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay, awesome.

20 Commissioner Fernandez?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair.

22 And then also if Commissioner Kennedy can send
23 whatever that language was to Anthony so he can forward
24 it to us so we can edit as appropriate. But that wasn't
25 going to be my comment, but it's nice that they did reach

1 out.

2 My comment was we had talked about this earlier, I
3 think it was during either communications or executive
4 director report, we were talking about the virtual
5 meetings and the new subcommittee that was established,
6 the Bagley-Keene Access Subcommittee, with Commissioners
7 Kennedy and Vazquez. And I didn't want to lose this
8 piece, because as we noted earlier, come February 1st,
9 right now we would have to meet in person, or else
10 disclose where we're meeting from.

11 So I just want to, I guess, move forward with some
12 sort of action, in terms of if we're going to work with
13 the Governor's office, or whoever it may be to try to get
14 that Bagley-Keene exemption continued or what the process
15 is going to be to maybe permanently put some language in
16 there.

17 And that was it. I'm just kind of punting it, but I
18 don't want to lose it.

19 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

20 And that subcommittee name, Commissioner Andersen,
21 was that the name of the subcommittee you were looking
22 for earlier? Yeah? Okay. Okay, awesome.

23 Commissioner Turner?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. With that, Chair,
25 I'm just wondering, with ending certain positions and

1 starting to even sunset the office, I think I heard us
2 say, and equipment and all. I'm wondering how does
3 that -- what's the connection to continued meetings if we
4 have to come in person? Is there a connection, or what
5 does that look like?

6 CHAIR AHMAD: Is that question specifically for
7 someone or just to the ether?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: To the ether, for you, for
9 whoever knows the answer. I just recall in our earlier
10 conversation, we talked about ending office, turning in
11 equipment and all that other stuff. And if indeed the
12 Bagley-Keene is not extended where we're able to continue
13 to remotely work --

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Um-hum.

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: -- how does that come into
16 play, or is that something completely separate?

17 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah, that's a good question. I see
18 Alvaro's hand up, so maybe he has some insights into
19 this.

20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, and I think Chief Counsel Pane
21 will also chime in on this piece of it as well.

22 Once the Bagley-Keene exemption expires -- as far as
23 we know, it's going to expire on the 31st of January --
24 we are now required to post the location and have it open
25 for people to join the meetings, if they so choose. So

1 that being the case, any meetings that we have, have to
2 be open to the public and have to be agendized with the
3 location in which people can attend.

4 CHAIR AHMAD: Yes, Commissioner Turner?

5 MR. PANE: So just a quick -- just a quick follow-up
6 on -- oh, go ahead, Commissioner.

7 CHAIR AHMAD: Oh, go ahead, Anthony. You might
8 answer her question. Who knows?

9 COMMISSIONER TURNER: The piece I want to make sure
10 he answers also, though, is how does that relate to
11 shutting down the office? That's all.

12 MR. PANE: On the shutting down office piece, I
13 can't speak to that, Commissioner Turner. But Executive
14 Director Hernandez is probably more equipped to address
15 that piece.

16 But on the piece of the Bagley-Keene extension, so
17 the part that's exempted right now currently is the
18 requirement that on an agenda, we post the location or
19 locations. That exemption, to not have to post that on
20 the agendas, is what goes away after January 31st.

21 So it's not that we can't have meetings. It's that
22 where we have the meetings, we have to post the
23 locations. If we were to have one location at our
24 headquarters, for example, we would post that location.
25 But that would mean that people are there as a location.

1 And so that's the issue that frankly all state boards are
2 going to be up against if they are choosing to
3 teleconference or otherwise attend remotely, is that
4 teleconference location is going to have to be posted.

5 Now, that could be at a public library. That could
6 be in various public locations, but wherever they are,
7 they need to be posted as a location, unless the law
8 changes or an executive order extends that.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Does that answer your question,
10 Commissioner Turner? No?

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: No. I mean, that's good.
12 That adds to it. But the specifics of what I'm asking
13 about -- and maybe I misunderstood. I thought I heard --
14 and I'm not sure who, maybe Alvaro -- talk about shutting
15 down the office, returning equipment, and things like
16 that. And it seems that maybe it's different equipment.
17 I'm wondering how do -- is it the same -- is it different
18 equipment that would be required, whether it's at a
19 library, or at our headquarters, or wherever else.

20 If the meetings are going to continue, it looks like
21 there still needs to be office functions, people to be
22 able to facilitate the meetings, equipment that's needed
23 to have the meetings. And if on one hand, we're talking
24 about shutting all that down, but now we're talking about
25 coming back into the office with posted locations, I'm

1 just trying to get my mind wrapped around, how does that
2 work together?

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Yeah, I see Alvaro's hand up, so he
4 might be able to answer that.

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

6 So as we're winding up operations, we're not talking
7 about tomorrow or in the next six months. And that's
8 part of the plan that the Finance and Administration
9 Subcommittee will be putting together, will be working
10 on.

11 At some point, this commission, the staffing, the
12 office suite, the equipment, has to wind down. And so
13 it's going to be important to figure out when they're
14 going to meet and then how we're going to meet moving
15 forward. What kind of funding is going to be available?
16 What kind of support, administrative support, is going to
17 be available for the commission moving forward? And I'm
18 talking two years through, what is it, 2029, is what
19 we're talking about.

20 So how does that function? How does that work? So
21 we're still trying to figure out that piece. I know that
22 the previous commission had a PY (ph.). And what that PY
23 is a person. It's half a person, essentially, because
24 they base it on hours. And so that was equivalent to
25 half a person being available to administrate, processing

1 of TECs, scheduling of meetings, updating the website, a
2 number of different things.

3 Those are the conversations that we'll need to have
4 as part of the planning moving forward. What is it that
5 the commission's going to need if they want to maintain
6 the website, if they want to have administrative support
7 for other activities, and so forth? All of these things
8 need to be addressed, and that will be part of the
9 planning that we're going to be working on, and part of
10 the conversation that the commission will need to have
11 moving forward.

12 So hopefully I've answered your question (audio
13 interference).

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Alvaro.

15 Commissioner Fornaciari, Fernandez, Kennedy,
16 Akutagawa, and then Yee, all related to subcommittee
17 updates.

18 Go ahead, Commissioner Fornaciari.

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, just to follow up on
20 what Director Hernandez said. That's a big part of what
21 we're going to be working on figuring out. What is the
22 administrative support we're going to have going forward?

23 So in looking back, just to let you know what the
24 last commission did, in looking back, I'm looking right
25 now at an agenda they had from April 15, 2016. And they

1 listed eight locations for their meetings. Some look
2 like people's houses, homes. Some look like businesses
3 or foundations that they went to, foundation offices that
4 they went to and held their meetings.

5 I believe they had a contract, an ongoing contract
6 with a videographer team to broadcast their meetings on
7 the way. So these are all the things that we have to
8 work through and budget for.

9 CHAIR AHMAD: Great. Thank you for that insight,
10 Commissioner Fornaciari.

11 Commissioner Fernandez?

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair.

13 Just my other question, I think, piggyback off
14 Commissioner Turner is, okay, we're going to have a
15 Sacramento office probably for another year, but has the
16 office -- Alvaro, have you thought of what that's going
17 to look like when we have to start making accommodations
18 for the public?

19 So I mean, there's been room for us as
20 commissioners, but now we're also talking about making
21 room for potential individuals that are coming in that
22 want to sit in on our meetings. So that also has to be
23 taken into consideration with all the other COVID
24 restrictions that we have. So I just want to make sure
25 that that's also on your radar in terms of planning for

1 that and making sure that we do have accommodations for
2 that.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you for that, Commissioner
4 Fernandez.

5 Commissioner Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

7 Yes, Commissioner Vasquez and I will get to work as
8 the new subcommittee looking into Bagley-Keene issues. I
9 guess in the short-term, my question for counsel and
10 perhaps Executive Director Hernandez is what if, due to
11 COVID restrictions, whether from California Department of
12 Public Health or county departments of public health, or
13 even individual entities, we're not able to find
14 locations. And we've even been asked to stay away from
15 the main office as much as possible. We could have
16 problems having a quorum if we can't come up with enough
17 meeting places to actually facilitate our meetings.

18 The flip side of that is rather than residences and
19 businesses and so forth, I'm thinking we really need to
20 be looking at, okay, state offices or county offices.
21 Libraries could be, but I know, for example, that when
22 the statewide Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee
23 meets in Sacramento, that the registrar's office in
24 Riverside is one of the remote locations.

25 One of the staff at the Riverside Registrar's office

1 is on the state VACC (ph.). But I think even before
2 that, the Riverside Registrar's office was listed as a
3 remote location. And I would certainly be approaching
4 Riverside County Registrar's office, San Bernardino
5 County Registrar's office, et cetera.

6 But we also, when we had to take computers in
7 earlier this year, we know that Office of the Attorney
8 General has offices in various parts of the state. We
9 know that other relevant state entities have offices
10 around the state. So I would think that we would need to
11 be looking at and getting in contact with those to see if
12 we would be able to list them as meeting sites.

13 And maybe the main office is where the Northern
14 California folks are, and somewhere like Riverside or San
15 Bernardino, or something like that, is where the Southern
16 California members gather. Yeah, I'm just talking,
17 whatever. Thanks.

18 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy. And
19 I'm sure that Alvaro and team are actively monitoring
20 this and thinking about different options for us. We
21 still do have about three weeks until that order expires.
22 And who knows? There's a new order every day, so that
23 might get extended and resolve all of this, right?

24 So Commissioner Akutagawa, your hand went back down.
25 Okay.

1 Commissioner Yee, and then Andersen.

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Quick question
3 for Director Hernandez. What's our agreement with
4 Department of Rehab, and when does that run out?

5 MR. HERNANDEZ: I don't know the extent of the time
6 frame. We have maintained very good relationships up
7 until now, and we're hoping to continue those. I don't
8 think they have a specific time frame for us. I think
9 that's going to depend on, as we wind down, we
10 communicate with them and let them know what the time
11 frame is going to be.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Do we pay anything for the space?

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: No.

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: Staff, building use, nothing?

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: No. There are some costs,
16 obviously, that we can incur. We've made some decisions
17 not to incur certain costs because of the very limited
18 budget that we have. And so we don't have use of a lot
19 of the building itself because of that, and so we've been
20 very fortunate that there has not been any costs to the
21 conference room that we've used. And we're hoping to
22 continue that as well.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: So that's why we keep the
24 hallways dim, I guess, huh?

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, sure.

1 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

2 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you.

3 Commissioner Andersen, you are last in the queue.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, boy. Just a quick
5 thing. The one thing to consider in all of these
6 different locations is we have to allow the public in.
7 And like, I know at all the libraries around here, the
8 little "meeting rooms" are certainly not large enough to,
9 yes, you can be there, announce it, and then also
10 accommodate the public. Because you have to have a
11 microphone, that kind of stuff. And these are things
12 that I think we need to think of if any of us or all of
13 us are remote. It's not just us. It's the public. And
14 that's the one thing I wanted to mention.

15 And then when we're done, I have a different topic.

16 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen, for
17 that reminder.

18 So I see that we do not have any other hands up
19 regarding subcommittee updates at this time. So I just
20 wanted to do a quick recap and what I anticipate for next
21 week. So if you do have any subcommittee updates for
22 next week, please relay that to Alvaro and team so we can
23 make sure to allot the appropriate amount of time for
24 each of those updates.

25 We will keep next week on the calendar just in case,

1 as originally planned, in case we need the time for
2 closed-session, pending-litigation items. But if there
3 is no substantive updates that the commission is
4 requesting time for, there is a chance that we would
5 cancel next week's meeting.

6 So please make sure to bring forward any updates
7 that you need. I've already heard finance and admin is
8 expecting to bring something forward. Lessons learned, I
9 think Commissioner Kennedy may or may not bring something
10 forward by next week. I'll check in with Alvaro and team
11 to see if there's any number of director's reports.

12 And then the agenda for next week has already been
13 posted, so you have that for your reference. And if I am
14 seeing no other items regarding subcommittee updates, I
15 would like to call for public comment on subcommittee
16 updates.

17 Commissioner Andersen?

18 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, I have a different --
19 I guess it's not specifically related directly to
20 subcommittee, so should I wait until after public
21 comment?

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Do you have an agenda item which your
23 item falls under? Because it does have to be addressed.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, it is sort of under --
25 it sort of has to do with lessons learned, actually.

1 CHAIR AHMAD: Okay, go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

3 CHAIR AHMAD: Lessons learned is now, yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great, thank you. It's
5 actually -- it deals with our commission itself and how
6 we have performed -- we've thrown politics out the door
7 and performed together in our 14 unanimous decision.

8 And specifically the state auditor, Elaine Howle, is
9 retiring. And I want to specifically thank her for her
10 work over these many years, but specifically her role in
11 the formation of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.
12 And I believe we all know that our formation starts in
13 the State Auditor's Office.

14 And her essentially taking politics out of the State
15 Auditor's Office was certainly the tone that started
16 this. And I was -- probably dealt with the state
17 auditors more than anyone else on the commission, being
18 the chair of the first eight. And I just really want to
19 let the public know how that tone helped us.

20 Everyone there -- I later found out that all of
21 our -- the Application (sic) Review Panel, none of them
22 knew who was in what party until they actually had to
23 say, hey, we need three people, and each one of them has
24 to be a different parties. And then they kind of said,
25 oh, and they found out, well, who wants to apply? Well,

1 oh, yeah, I'm of this party. Oh, you are? And no one
2 knew. And that whole tone followed all the way through.
3 It was get the job done. Politics does not come into
4 this. What is the job?

5 And I just want to really sort of acknowledge that
6 in this time of great partisanship divide, how that
7 overall tone that starts from the top really follows
8 down. And I think that was -- even though we may not
9 acknowledge that outwardly, that wasn't something that I
10 think was ingrained into us, it was the example that we
11 saw.

12 And I really think that that's helped us come
13 together, and it's something that I think -- was the
14 first thing that struck me is, wow, this is an example of
15 good government. And I think that is the role and our
16 legacy that I believe that we should be continuing. This
17 is a good government, and good government doesn't
18 necessarily involve politics, even though it works with
19 politics.

20 So I just want to thank Elaine Howle for all her
21 work. And I think that helped us. Thank you, Chair.

22 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.
23 Beautifully said.

24 With that, I will actually be calling for public
25 comment on subcommittee updates as well as general public

1 comment.

2 So Kristian, would you please help us call for
3 public comment?

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sure thing.

5 The commission will now take general public comment
6 and comment on subcommittee items. To give comment,
7 please call 877-853-5247 and enter meeting ID number
8 84858374868.

9 Once you've dialed in, please press star nine to
10 enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions
11 are read at the beginning of the meeting, and are
12 provided on the livestream landing page.

13 And we do have a caller. And we'll be enforcing a
14 minute and a half.

15 We have Caller 6252, if you could please follow the
16 prompts to unmute. The floor is yours.

17 MS. HUTCHISON: Thank you very much, and good
18 afternoon, commissioners. This is Helen Hutchison with
19 the League of Women Voters of California, and I just had
20 a couple of quick comments.

21 Could -- is it possible to -- to make sure that your
22 policies and then also your -- the calendar of commission
23 chairs are accessible to the public? If you have them on
24 a shared drive, they're accessible to you, but they are
25 not accessible to the public, and we would very much like

1 to have that. And so if they could be on the website, it
2 would be helpful to all of us.

3 And then the second comment I had was, as you think
4 about where you go from here, and you're planning for
5 essentially the next nine years, think about really
6 engaging some of the 2010 commissioners, not just reading
7 their reports, but engage them to talk about their
8 planning process and how they moved forward. And they,
9 you know, they -- they're still around, and they're the
10 only other people that have been in the same position you
11 are. Thank you very much, and good afternoon.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you.

13 And that was all of our callers at this time, Chair.

14 CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Kristian.

15 So I think that concludes our agenda items for
16 today. Again, I ask all of my colleagues to please send
17 forward any items you would like to discuss next week, if
18 any, to Alvaro and team, and we can make sure to allot
19 appropriate time for next week's agenda.

20 Seeing that there's nothing else, I will call this
21 meeting adjourned.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Chair.
23 We are adjourned.

24 (Whereupon, the CRC business meeting adjourned
25 at 3:08 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 26th day of January, 2022.



JACQUELINE DENLINGER, CER-747
Court Reporter

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

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

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

Allison Sewell

ALLISON SEWELL

January 26, 2022