

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING/LESSONS LEARNED

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022

9:32 a.m.

Reported by:

Peter Petty

APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

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

STAFF

Alvaro E. Hernandez, Executive Director  
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:32 a.m.

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2  
3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good morning, California,  
4 and welcome to day 4 of our Lessons Learned exercise. I  
5 will call this meeting back to order and ask Director  
6 Hernandez to call the roll, please.

7 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair.

8 Commissioner Kennedy.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

13 Commissioner Sinay.

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor.

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Presente.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

18 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner. I see you.

20 You look -- there -- can you repeat that?

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. I am here.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Vazquez.

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'm here, finally.

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Welcome back.

1 Commissioner Yee.

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm in a different here, but  
3 here.

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Presente.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Fornaciari.

13 CHAIR FORNACIARI: I am here.

14 Before we get started, I have a few discussions  
15 about the run of show, but I want to open it up to any of  
16 the commissioners for any update.

17 Commissioner Sinay.

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Chair.

19 A couple things. I forgot to mention that when  
20 Commissioner Yee and I met with (indiscernible) voters,  
21 they did let us know that they have received funding to  
22 do an analysis on the 2020 Redistricting Commission and  
23 the proc -- the redistricting process. It'll be similar  
24 to the report that was done last time; so they will have  
25 someone else write it -- you know, they'll hire someone

1 to do the research, do the interviews. It's going to be  
2 a year-long process, where they'll meet with  
3 commissioners, groups, and others, and so I just want to  
4 give you all the heads up because we knew -- you know, we  
5 received the great comments from the collaborative -- you  
6 know, everybody thought really -- you know, their quick  
7 thoughts on the collaborative, but that's not their  
8 analysis; there will be analysis coming, and they'll, you  
9 know, as they move forward on that, they'll -- it's --  
10 they'll tell us more. Right now they just wanted us to  
11 know that piece.

12       Second, we have worked really diligently on the  
13 PowerPoints since people needed it for Tuesday; so we  
14 have been working during breaks and afterwards and all  
15 that type of stuff. But one question I had -- I know  
16 that last -- okay. So one thing we learned by doing the  
17 PowerPoint is that you do forget details. There was  
18 really some silly mistakes that you would think that --  
19 okay, I'll take it, it's me -- I would remember  
20 everything, but there's -- so we do want to give you all  
21 cheat -- a cheat sheet so that -- you know, with bullets.

22       My question is, I always took -- when we had the  
23 separate script from the PowerPoint, to me, I didn't like  
24 having the two. I always cut and paste and put  
25 everything into the notes section of the PowerPoint. And

1 when you run PowerPoint, it actually does split it out,  
2 and it works really nice once you get to use it -- once  
3 you understand how to use it, it's really simple. But I  
4 wanted to check with you all if you'd prefer a script or  
5 you prefer the notes? I would like to say both, but  
6 again, please remember that most of this work is being  
7 done by your colleagues, that we can't use staff to help  
8 us, and so updating it and all that is going to be a lot  
9 of work so it'd be better to just have it in one -- you  
10 know, just have either the script or the notes. Thanks.

11 Thoughts on scripted --

12 CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Turner.

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, I'd like to thank you  
14 for doing either; they both work, but my preference would  
15 be the notes.

16 CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Andersen.

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry, I got to ask: what  
18 notes? I only saw a script.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, when you do PowerPoint,  
20 there's a notes section that you can put the whole script  
21 in there, and so then when you're --

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- going through the PowerPoint  
24 virtually, the notes section will pop up, or you can  
25 print it up so it has it -- and we can show you how to do

1 all of that -- but it's one document versus having two  
2 documents.

3 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, okay. I didn't do it  
4 that way. I must admit, I also rearranged -- I didn't --  
5 I never felt -- followed the way it exactly was; I kind  
6 of rearranged the slides and modified stuff, so. I would  
7 have to do -- I would have to change my own anyway, so  
8 either is -- but thank you very much for doing all that.

9 CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, you have to -- the notes go  
10 with the slide, so if you change the order of the slides,  
11 the notes will be with the slides.

12 Commissioner Fernandez.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Actually, I put my hand up  
14 and then I was going to take it down, but you called on  
15 me too fast. I don't have a preference either way. I  
16 liked having both only because oftentimes I did not use  
17 the PowerPoint, so then I could just take the script with  
18 me. So either way, I'm good. And thank you so much for  
19 doing that for us.

20 CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Le Mons.

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I would just recommend  
22 having both; like, include the notes and then have the  
23 script as a separate -- same content, right, just  
24 packaged differently.

25 CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay.

1           COMMISSIONER SINAY: And one just last request. If  
2 you have any pictures of us in action, can you send them  
3 to Martin? Oh, actually, forget it. Don't send them to  
4 Martin; send them to me. And we're trying to use live  
5 pictures of all of us engaged within the PowerPoint. So  
6 if you took pictures during the meetings and stuff,  
7 please send them in. It's hard -- you know, in -- if it  
8 wasn't for COVID, we would have tons of pictures of  
9 groups talking and all that stuff, and we, you know -- a  
10 picture of a -- a screenshot of a Zoom call is not that  
11 exciting. So if you have any, please send them to me  
12 today; so it gives you something to do. Thank you so  
13 much.

14           CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

15           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: All right. One last thing.  
16 Actually, yes, we do need the script as well, because I  
17 realized one time there was a whole glitch, and I did not  
18 get to use slides at all. So if all the notes are on the  
19 slides and there's a glitch, then I don't have anything  
20 to work with, so having the script as well would be quite  
21 handy. Thank you.

22           CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, you've gotten  
23 various feedback, so I hope that helps. Either way for  
24 me is fine.

25           Okay. Just a note for the public. The last three

1 days we've taken public comment at 4 o'clock. Today we  
2 are ahead of schedule. I don't know where -- we don't  
3 know when we'll end, but we'll take public comment when  
4 we're finished today; so it will likely be before 4  
5 o'clock, but we don't know exactly what time. So I just  
6 want to give you all -- the public a heads up for that.

7 And with that, unless there are any other  
8 announcements, I will turn it over to Commissioner  
9 Kennedy.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. And thank  
11 you to all the colleagues for your active participation  
12 in this exercise. As Commissioner Yee said yesterday,  
13 we're really happy with the level of participation,  
14 engagement, input, thought. People are, you know,  
15 pulling together threads that might not otherwise be  
16 pulled together. I think we've come up with some really  
17 exciting ideas through this process and really looking  
18 forward to next week when we go into cross-cutting issues  
19 and reviewing recommendations.

20 Today we're starting out with Data Management, and  
21 obviously, that is an incredibly important part of the  
22 work of the Commission. So I'm looking forward to a  
23 robust conversation on this. In the prompts, we have the  
24 partnership with the Statewide Database use of  
25 Airtable -- and I might add to that, you know, how we

1 came to find Airtable, how we -- the process that we had  
2 to go through to procure the software, the staff role in  
3 receiving, processing, uploading, analyzing, coding --  
4 all of that, the range and nature of public  
5 submissions -- the various formats, the various channels,  
6 what worked, what didn't work, what could work better.  
7 And I would also add the topic of the long-term  
8 management of the data. You know, what does our Airtable  
9 license -- how long is that for, what does it allow, are  
10 there alternatives for maintaining the data? We've said  
11 on a number of occasions that, you know, it's important  
12 that the people in general and researchers in particular,  
13 who have an interest in this topic, have continuing  
14 access to all of the documentation from the 2020  
15 redistricting cycle, and that would include access to  
16 the -- all of the input that we received through these  
17 various channels.

18 So that is -- that's what we have as far as prompts  
19 on this first topic for today. And I don't know, maybe  
20 the Data Manage --

21 Commissioner Fernandez.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Or if you want to go with  
23 the Data Management Subcommittee first, that would be  
24 great, too.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I might have to go with you

1 first.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, then.

3 Yesterday, Renee Westa-Lusk -- I'm just going to  
4 start, you know, quoting her; but I did agree with her,  
5 it would be very beneficial to make this one of the  
6 priorities. It would have been great if we would have  
7 started earlier. Our subcommittee did a wonderful job.  
8 I'm just, you know, very amazed at what they were able to  
9 do. But being able to, one, be forward-thinking in terms  
10 of what you just brought up, Commissioner Kennedy,  
11 picking something that will have long-term -- you can  
12 support it long-term, and taking all of that into  
13 consideration when you pick whatever system it is that  
14 you're going to pick, or the consultant -- one, doing it  
15 earlier.

16 Two, in terms of staffing, I would recommend highly  
17 that you hire the students or the entry or whoever's  
18 going to do the tagging and the posting, hire that  
19 earlier, because from what I gathered is we were actually  
20 doing some of the clean-up tagging after we drew the  
21 maps, which is not a good thing. So more staffing up  
22 front to keep up with it, to keep up with all of the  
23 input so there isn't a lag in terms of the input being  
24 added to our database as soon as possible.

25 For me, it was the sorting was a little difficult

1 for me. I even -- bless Toni -- awesome, wonderful --  
2 and she even -- I had some one-on-one, and I still would  
3 get stuck with the sorting. So just realize that maybe  
4 not all of us are as tech savvy as some others, and  
5 easier sorting functions would be great. Let me see.  
6 And include additional sorting fields in terms of -- I  
7 put "note which districts"; I'm thinking maybe which  
8 counties or which districts that they belong to. I'm not  
9 sure. I'll have to come back to see what I'm talking  
10 about there.

11       It would have been helpful also if there was some  
12 way to overly -- overlay the communities of interest into  
13 our maps so that -- into our draft map -- so that we  
14 could see -- you can instantly pop up, oh, there's some  
15 communities of interest in this specific proposed  
16 district; what does it say? Or if we're breaking up  
17 communities of interest, we could readily bring that up  
18 instead of having to go into our Airtable to find some of  
19 the community of interest that were in that area.

20       I think what would have been helpful with the  
21 Statewide Database, and even with our database, is if  
22 there would have been a box that would say, how did you  
23 hear about our -- the community of interest tool?  
24 Because I think that would help for outreach and  
25 education not only for the 2030, but for future in terms

1 of some the outreach efforts to see what were -- maybe  
2 were more successful than others. And I think that's all  
3 I had.

4 And in terms of with the Statewide Database and the  
5 COI tool, it was pretty much done by the time we came on.  
6 We were able to provide some feedback. But I don't know,  
7 maybe that's something that the 20 -- our Commission can  
8 be more involved in the building of that with the  
9 Statewide Database to provide more feedback instead of  
10 providing kind of feedback when it's done. But I think  
11 that's all I have for now. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
13 Fernandez.

14 Yeah, I'll take the opportunity to say it was -- I  
15 remember at one point being surprised to find out  
16 suddenly that Statewide Database was developing something  
17 that they had gotten funding for from the legislature.  
18 And we didn't know that they had gotten funding from the  
19 legislature for that, and we didn't know that they were  
20 that far along in developing it. So yeah, having a  
21 fuller understanding of the role of Statewide Database in  
22 this process, any previous arrangements that had been  
23 made that, you know, aren't part of the Redistricting  
24 Commission directly would certainly be helpful.

25 Commissioner Sinay.

1           COMMISSIONER SINAY: I -- I'm -- I believe that we  
2 need the database -- whatever we call it -- you know, the  
3 data -- where we put everything up ASAP. And that the --  
4 a critical audience for it is really the commissioners.  
5 I understand that things might have been ready to go up  
6 earlier, but we were waiting on hiring the line drawers,  
7 but I think it's really critical to have it up early.

8           There's some messages that we -- that there -- we  
9 received information from the community that the early  
10 comments weren't in the database, and I don't think that  
11 that's accurate. I think we did put everything in there  
12 from the very beginning, including the hundred-plus  
13 videos and -- I think it was a hundred-plus videos and  
14 such -- that we received. So everything is in there, and  
15 it was an amazing tool; it could be tough to use, but  
16 once you got the hang of it, it was good. But just  
17 having it really early would have really been helpful.

18           And I think that might have helped us also during  
19 the COI input phase if people -- all the way through, if  
20 people could see their COI as quickly as -- you know,  
21 that they submitted a COI and they could see it the next  
22 day that it was in the database, I think that that would  
23 have increase the excitement about submitting and  
24 engaging, so. Thank you.

25           COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner

1 Sinay.

2 Can I call on the -- thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.  
3 I was going to call on the Data Management Subcommittee.  
4 So Commissioner Ahmad.

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair.

6 I have thoughts, but I'll try to narrow it down  
7 specifically regarding the process of the flow of the  
8 data. So since we, the Commission, did not own the COI  
9 tool, you can imagine someone from the public submitting  
10 their comment to the COI tool, where then we, the  
11 Commission, had to get that information from the COI  
12 tool. So there is this intermediary between ourselves  
13 and the members of the public to get that input.

14 I think we are in a space now from a technological  
15 lens, where such a tool can be open source, can be fully  
16 publicly available, and we don't necessarily need to rely  
17 on proprietary information from a research institution,  
18 such as UC Berkeley, to, you know, own that piece,  
19 particularly because the funding did come from the  
20 legislature. So I personally had some questions about  
21 that piece in and of itself, so I would hope that, come  
22 2030, such a tool, which was amazing, would exist,  
23 probably be significantly better because of the  
24 advancements in technology, and be fully open source so  
25 members of the public can see exactly how their comments

1 are being translated to the Commission. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
3 Ahmad.

4 Commissioner Turner.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you, Commissioner  
6 Kennedy.

7 First of all, I can't say enough good about USDR.  
8 So we're really grateful for your early recommendation  
9 there. They were phenomenal in every aspect from the  
10 beginning interview of trying to pull out of us what  
11 exactly we needed when we really were still trying to  
12 figure out what all did we need and what does this need  
13 to look like. We, of course, spoke with multiple  
14 entities, multiple organizations, and what have you,  
15 trying to determine what -- you know, it's almost like  
16 how do you eat an elephant? One bite a time. It was  
17 huge; it was bigger than a bread basket. But once we  
18 landed there with all of their expertise, they asked  
19 enough questions that allowed us to kind of bring some  
20 shape to what it was we wanted to have happen. USDR is  
21 like, the best kept secret, I think. They were amazing:  
22 every analyst, every person that they assigned to it that  
23 gave it its fullest attention. So I wanted to name that.

24 There were difficulties for sure. There was an  
25 ambiguous relationship between the legislators and

1 Statewide Database, and as Commissioner Ahmad mentioned,  
2 as far as the who owned the data. And there got to be a  
3 couple of sticky points early on as we were trying to  
4 provide enough information to USDR so that they were able  
5 to provide us with the tool that we need, and as far as  
6 what was proprietary and what -- it got strange for a  
7 minute, for me, as far as, wait, do -- is this is doing  
8 this or someone else is doing it? And if we're only  
9 receiving information that's fed to us from someone else,  
10 is it -- you know, is it manipulated data? Is it good  
11 data? You know, so I think going into 2030, those are  
12 right questions to ask, and to ensure that there are  
13 tools and systems available to the Commission that  
14 doesn't feel handled before we get it, perhaps. And  
15 maybe that's a little too strong, but it was wonky; it  
16 got a little strange in that relationship.

17 And yes, I think as part of our -- it's coming up  
18 for me now under data management, but maybe even part of  
19 training is to understand what is that relationship  
20 between Statewide Database and legislators as far as what  
21 happens before we ever come on the scene? I'm never  
22 really clear with the full relationship, the reporting  
23 authority in that process.

24 Now, having said that, Airtable, the ultimate tool  
25 that came out, I think -- I think what's more time that

1 was needed with it. I think it did exactly what we  
2 intended for it to do. The information that it was able  
3 to hold and the fact that we were able -- I can't imagine  
4 doing what 2010 did trying to find it in Excel -- or  
5 spreadsheet -- I don't even know that that looks like,  
6 because it was a challenge with Airtable and everything  
7 was there at our fingertips. So that was, I think, a  
8 huge win for this Commission in being able to get the  
9 information.

10 The team -- Marcy's team, Alvaro's team -- the team  
11 that came and then actually started working with  
12 Airtable, I think, again, did an excellent job in being  
13 able to tag; it just came a little bit later in the game  
14 than what, I think, we initially would have liked. There  
15 was something else I wanted to say about that. The data,  
16 the flow. Oh, shoot, don't lose it.

17 Oh, yeah. This Commission, it was really important  
18 for us to pay attention to every public comment, every  
19 COI testimony that was received. And I remember us  
20 having conversation about its not the volume, and we  
21 wanted to treat the same input whether it was received by  
22 one or two people or from a whole bunch of people. I  
23 think that was naïve. I think it was naïve at best.  
24 Because at the end, when you're looking at volumes of  
25 data, I did try and weed through and re -- pay careful

1 attention to just one comment in a particular area, one  
2 community of interest that did -- was not -- you know,  
3 that didn't come with hundreds of others, and I tried to  
4 remember that place, that city, that interest, whatever  
5 it was, but it was very difficult when you had volumes of  
6 prepared information that came from other sources, or  
7 whether it was prepared or whether there just was a lot  
8 of interest in any particular city, to balance that with  
9 what one person said.

10       And we had a whole conversation that that was going  
11 to be treated equally, but should it be treated equally?  
12 I don't know. Maybe equally wasn't the right word. But  
13 we had this conversation struggling through what that was  
14 going to look like. I think the reality of it is -- and  
15 maybe I'm not at odds with it -- if it's one person's  
16 community of interest, it is extremely important and we  
17 want to give it air, we want to be able to hear it and  
18 see it, but perhaps one shouldn't be balanced against  
19 what another hundred people said about the same area.  
20 But anyway, I just name that because in reality, once the  
21 tool came out and you're reading a whole bunch, I don't  
22 know, realistically, that we really had a way to give  
23 equal weight to one comment as opposed to bunches of  
24 comments.

25       But anyway, the tool in itself, from a data

1 management standpoint, had it all out there for us to  
2 see: we were able to put in by geography, we were able  
3 to put in by interest of water. Everything that we  
4 thought we wanted the tool to do, I believe that it did  
5 that. And if anything, we needed more time to  
6 collectively talk through what was in the tool as opposed  
7 to having the tool and now needing to make quick  
8 decisions and do line drawing. So we need to be able to  
9 just sit with the community of interest with the data  
10 that was received, and then kind of decipher what it  
11 meant for us, and then be able to draw lines. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
13 Turner.

14 Commissioner Andersen.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, I'm going to give some  
16 little background on all this because it all sort of  
17 blurs together who did what and why. And the -- in  
18 terms, you know, our charge is, of course, to draw the  
19 lines. The legislature was charged with getting public  
20 access to us; and that's where, in 2010, they, you know,  
21 how did that actually happen? The line drawers. Of all  
22 these -- you know, the community of interest, that the  
23 line drawers were wildly doing all this stuff: they had  
24 notes, they came up with a -- essentially, like, a  
25 little, you know, mini database of their own because --

1 and they were -- when commissioners would say, hey, well,  
2 didn't we hear something about this area? And they'd  
3 flip through their stuff, and say, yeah, it was at --  
4 when we went over to, you know, Dixon, that's when we  
5 heard about, you know, the areas, you know, around the  
6 delta there, and you know, that's -- they did that. And  
7 so they went and said, okay, legislature, this is --  
8 because they were also, you know -- and Q2 was also  
9 Statewide Database -- and the legislature went, okay,  
10 that really didn't work, and said, why don't we contract  
11 from the Statewide Database, who has all the data, to  
12 provide public access? That was the beginning of the COI  
13 tool.

14 And it was also then, which, I think -- which is  
15 what Commissioner Kennedy was referring to is public  
16 access to draw their own maps, which is how we got the  
17 access centers. Those -- all that happened -- I don't  
18 know if the 2010 Commission knew about that -- you know,  
19 the -- how that was going -- but that was being really  
20 worked out by the time we got together. And then we did  
21 have pretty good input on, you know, what labels do we  
22 want, how do we want to write the COI -- all those  
23 questions. That was up to us. Although, I don't think  
24 any of us at the point really realized quite -- we did  
25 our best about, okay, we need to find out this, this, and

1 this, but we didn't quite understand it until it was  
2 functioning.

3       And then -- and because again, the mappers, you  
4 know, the -- our actual line drawers -- in the Statewide  
5 Database there was a connection that we happened to have.  
6 That is not true, necessarily, and probably never will be  
7 again; and those two have to work hand in hand. And  
8 Sarah and I went to -- Commissioner Sadhwani and I --  
9 went to great lengths to include the working with the  
10 database, working with the other tools, and the line  
11 drawers in the contract. Because otherwise, there would  
12 have been no reason why our line drawers -- they would  
13 have said, well, I don't know, whatever you're doing, but  
14 you know, give us the data; and that would really destroy  
15 the -- another Commission, which is -- I think I'm really  
16 going to make sure we have that in -- this is -- it's a  
17 crossover, so right now between data management and  
18 mapping.

19       But in terms of -- we did have the line drawers on  
20 board before we had the database lined up and it -- and  
21 that -- actually, it helped in terms of there was a go-  
22 between in terms of, okay, this isn't working out. There  
23 were issues and it helped -- USDR was absolutely  
24 fantastic; like, I cannot agree with Commissioner Turner  
25 more on that. They really helped us in terms of when

1 there's this, there's that, you don't have to -- at one  
2 point, I remember we thought we would have to devise it  
3 all ourselves, and they said, no, there's an open source.  
4 I was like, oh, thank God, okay.

5 But in open source, there's also sometimes security  
6 issues, which are not the same level as -- Statewide  
7 Database has very, very high security requirements  
8 because you know, they give information to all the  
9 counties and cities, as well as us, and those were not  
10 compatible. And that was where the glitch was -- it was  
11 kind of a little bit, pointing, you know, you and you,  
12 no, no, no, until basically, I think, the nontechnical  
13 people backed out of it, got the technical people from  
14 both sides working together, and then they worked out it  
15 wasn't that big a deal. But it sounded like a big deal  
16 and -- because we didn't quite know exactly who was  
17 talking about it.

18 And that's how then, oh, okay, and all the -- and  
19 Statewide Database would give downloads and would come  
20 directly into the Airtable. But getting that to happen,  
21 there was a huge glitch in there, because all of a sudden  
22 it's like, we can't give you that information; and it had  
23 to do with security. It wasn't as secure as it needed to  
24 be just for a Statewide Database, because it almost gave  
25 them a back door into Statewide Database.

1           And once USR -- USDR -- understood what they were  
2 talking about, that we got the two technical people  
3 together, they went, oh, not a problem, we'll do it this  
4 way and this way, and so that's how -- and then it all  
5 clicked. And I think that's where there was some  
6 confusion going on.

7           And then, the other thing -- and again, this came  
8 back to, you know, our tags -- or how we wanted to sort  
9 it -- we were asked, you know, what about a list? The  
10 mappers gave a list of things that they knew they would  
11 need, and we tried to add to that as well because  
12 Airtable allowed us to do that to make further  
13 modifications, which Toni was working on at great lengths  
14 for how -- she'd make another change and made it easier  
15 and easier for us to use, which was the beauty of  
16 Airtable. I think that's what the subcommittee certainly  
17 brought forward. And it's -- it was growing pains is  
18 really what slowed us down, and timing of it all. And it  
19 literally was -- I would put -- I would reco -- make a  
20 recommendation that the mapping and data management --  
21 like, subcommittees, if they have to have a larger  
22 subcommittee, they need to be able to work together to  
23 make sure that there aren't any total miscommunications  
24 on this. And because we had the benefit of having our  
25 mappers and our -- and the Statewide Database having very

1 close relationship, where that won't be true, I don't  
2 believe, for 2030 and then moving forward. Now, also,  
3 technology will be very different, so it might not be an  
4 issue.

5       And but who owns that right now, my -- I don't know.  
6 My understanding is -- now the data (indiscernible) is  
7 us. But that tool, that was actually paid for by the  
8 legislature, so I don't know in terms of who actually  
9 technically owns it, and that's something we should  
10 really find out. And that also includes -- remember they  
11 created the mapping -- their mapping tool as well.  
12 That's another -- there were two distinctly different  
13 tools that Statewide Database built on contract from the  
14 legislature, and I don't know if those then become --  
15 they go to us or not. I don't know that. We should find  
16 something -- find that out.

17       But then -- oh, and then the one thing that  
18 Commissioner Fernandez said is, you know, wouldn't it be  
19 great to have our COIs overlap with the maps -- you know,  
20 our draft maps? And the only -- we did have that; the  
21 problem is time; because it's another layer. And each  
22 COI had its own layer, and so -- and they tried --  
23 state -- the mappers put some of those together that  
24 didn't interfere so they could pull up a full layer, but  
25 it literally would have taken -- remember how sometimes

1 we look at the map, it would take a long time and a long  
2 time? Well, if you try to pull up all the COIs on there  
3 as well, you know, you might as well take a coffee break,  
4 and then come back. And so that's why we didn't have  
5 those as often as we wanted.

6 Now, again, technology -- you know, would I  
7 recommend that same program for the 2030 Commission? No.  
8 And I don't believe -- and the mappers would also not.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Which program are you  
10 referring to?

11 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The -- oh, shoot. The GIS  
12 that we accessed -- the line drawers actually used. Oh,  
13 God, I can't remember the name, but.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Maptitude.

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Maptitude. Thank you.  
16 Maptitude.

17 They -- the company -- you know, that was a great  
18 product, but the company did not support them at all.  
19 When they had -- they needed requirements and changes,  
20 the company said, well, you know, get in line, you  
21 know -- or take a number, step aside, essentially. It  
22 did not evolve like some of the other software. And as  
23 2030 comes around, the software that the line drawers  
24 would actually be using, I would have a serious look at,  
25 and have that included in as we eval -- as they evaluate

1 what mappers they actually use.

2       So I'm going to stop on that because I brought up a  
3 lot of things which I'm sure people have some issues  
4 with, or. And there's a lot of different things about  
5 the interaction and it's -- it'll -- it's going to get  
6 easier and easier from here on out, I do believe. We're  
7 just the first time we tried it, and a lot of great tools  
8 were developed, a lot of things that -- we ended up in a  
9 really good place; it was rough getting there, but I  
10 think it's going to be smoother and smoother as the  
11 Commissions move on and technology improves, so. Thank  
12 you.

13       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
14 Andersen.

15       Commissioner Sinay.

16       COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

17       So I had -- you know, a question for us to think  
18 about or discuss is, how do we feel about the fact that  
19 the Statewide Database has such a close relationship with  
20 the legislature? And if there is something that we --  
21 you know, is that something that we need to include in  
22 our piece? I know I always felt a little uncomfortable  
23 about that relationship. And as Commissioner Turner was  
24 speaking, it became more evident. And also Commissioner  
25 Ahmad brought up some great points. Because if they have

1 that relationship with the legislature -- and this is not  
2 what they said -- but the question of who owns that data  
3 and if that's that an entity of the legislature, is  
4 there -- you know, does that go -- anyway. I think you  
5 all know what I'm trying to say.

6 The other piece, it kind of came up -- you know, we  
7 talked about the access centers. I never thought the  
8 access centers were a good idea in COVID or not COVID  
9 just because it would come to me versus come to us. And  
10 what I -- what would be good, I think, in the future, is  
11 if they do have that same funding, to hire individuals,  
12 you know, so there is that distance from us -- and so  
13 this goes counter to what I just said about the  
14 legislature, but maybe the Statewide Database just has to  
15 be separate from everybody -- but that there is someone  
16 who can go to the community groups and do the workshops,  
17 because hopefully, next time it will be in libraries with  
18 multiple computers and stuff like that, and so they could  
19 be a trainer that's in there and actually working with  
20 people. They're going to the people versus people having  
21 to go to them. And you could set up office hours at  
22 certain places, but really -- yeah, I mean, I just didn't  
23 like it because it was only in some places, it was always  
24 in downtown areas, it -- well, ours wasn't in downtown,  
25 but close enough. So those are just two thoughts. But

1 the main important one is this whole idea of how close  
2 the relationship is between the state legislature and the  
3 Statewide Database.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
5 Sinay.

6 Commissioner Turner.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you.

8 And thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

9 I had raised my hand because I wanted to make sure  
10 that I was really clear. If we were doing the old-  
11 fashioned (indiscernible), I actually see this as a  
12 threat area, potentially. So I think there for sure  
13 should be caution or wariness about any tool that is  
14 owned by Statewide Database that receives direction from  
15 legislators that is proprietary and not accessible to  
16 commissioners; and there was that element. And so to me,  
17 it is a potential -- I assume everyone did exactly what  
18 they should this go round, but I don't think it -- I  
19 think it's something that requires additional oversight  
20 or looking into, and I don't think it should be the  
21 common way to go.

22 I think if we're truly going to believe we have an  
23 independent redistricting Commission in mind to going to  
24 ultimately be drawn based on information that's received  
25 by the commissioners, I believe that commissioners should

1 have access. We've signed away everything and our first  
2 born to become commissioners, and then to get to a place  
3 and say that's proprietary, and you as a Commissioner  
4 can't know it, see it, or have access to it, and all of  
5 it was not truly open sourced. And so I just want to  
6 make sure that I'm clear.

7 I think that that is a weakness area or if not, a  
8 threat, and that beyond handing off to whoever in the  
9 Statewide Database to technical people that we did not  
10 have access to because we could not -- they should have  
11 explained it to us so that we can understand what's going  
12 on so that we can have oversight, vetted, say, yes, this  
13 is exactly what was received from the people of  
14 California and it translated -- it resulted in these  
15 particular districts that we drew. And so I understand  
16 the whys of what happened this go round; I don't think  
17 that we need to continue keeping any portion of it  
18 proprietary and away from commissioners. Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
20 Turner.

21 Commissioner Fornaciari.

22 CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, a couple things. I think  
23 what everyone is saying is we moved it -- we -- need to  
24 take some time to clarify roles, responsibilities, and  
25 expectations between us, the Statewide Database, and the

1 legislature and how those handoffs are going to be  
2 managed.

3 I think the other thing -- you know, a lot of what I  
4 was going to say has already been said, and I think it's  
5 been inferred, but I just want to be clear, we got a  
6 figure out a way to get faster turnaround on data getting  
7 in the database. You know, it got to a point where, you  
8 know, it was as fast as we could get it but was still  
9 days to -- between the time of the day it got and the  
10 time we were able to see it. And especially while we're  
11 mapping, you know, we don't -- we can't be -- take that  
12 long. So I just want to add that.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you for that,  
14 Commissioner Fornaciari.

15 Commissioner Akutagawa.

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And thanks for  
17 this conversation.

18 I guess, I'll just -- I just wrote down some notes  
19 and some of it, I guess, I'll just -- might end up  
20 restating some of the things, and I just wanted to maybe  
21 do that more to just uplift some certain things. I'll  
22 start with just the database. And I think it's been said  
23 that having the database early would be helpful, and I  
24 want to just lift this up because I realize that there's  
25 both the public input and also the comments -- the early

1 comments that we got, you know, just in terms of, you  
2 know, various comments that those who are following the  
3 process were sending us -- and what I noticed is that  
4 there were times when -- you know, the comments were not  
5 that numerous, so it was easy to just post up onto the  
6 website. But I noticed that there were some that got  
7 added after our meeting because of the timing that it  
8 came in, and unless you went back and looked at the  
9 previous meeting handouts, you may have missed some of  
10 those comments. When it got put into the database,  
11 everything was visible, but that was not until several  
12 months later.

13       And so this leads to one of my suggestions that,  
14 perhaps, as both the Lessons Learned, but also a  
15 suggestion for the future, which is, I think not only do  
16 we need to establish the database early, I think we  
17 should also seriously recommend that we hire, or the  
18 Commission hire as part of their staffing, a database  
19 manager and analyst. I think that the technology is such  
20 that we can't just kind of try to leave it to the  
21 commissioners. And I absolutely appreciate what  
22 Commissioner Turner and Ahmad did, and clearly, they  
23 learned quickly and knew, you know, what needed to be  
24 done, but I think that it would be better if we have  
25 someone who could be focused on it, working with the

1 commissioners, but somebody who understands this work.  
2 And I think that as the technology evolves, it's just  
3 going to continue to require that this is going to be one  
4 of those standard roles that we'll have to have. So I  
5 just wanted to just suggest that.

6 And in fact, not that I want to put more work on us,  
7 but you know, I'm realizing that there are certain things  
8 that do take longer and require a longer runway to get  
9 established and put in place so that it becomes useful,  
10 and that just the thought is that, again, along with some  
11 of the other things we talked about maybe trying to do in  
12 '28 and '29 -- 2028/'29 -- you know, maybe this is part  
13 of one of those things that we start to look at, is what  
14 does the technology look at in that time frame, and are  
15 there things that we can do to help establish some of  
16 these things so that something is in place.

17 Because I understand absolutely with what  
18 Commissioner Turner said. I guess at the same time, is a  
19 several-month delay going to be worth it versus us trying  
20 to also, as an independent body, you know, can we set  
21 this up so that they walk in -- the next Commission walks  
22 in -- and has a useable database that, yes, is not going  
23 to be used -- you know, is not going to be fully  
24 populated right away, but at least then there's something  
25 there and they can, you know, at least not -- one less

1 thing to have to worry about that, I think, kind of falls  
2 under an administrative thing that is going to be  
3 important, but also one that maybe doesn't make sense for  
4 them to take their focus away. So I thought I'd just  
5 share that.

6 I did find, and I know this was also said, that the  
7 search function was hard no matter what; it should just  
8 be simple. We should just be able to put in a keyword  
9 and find it and it was just not quite as simple as that.  
10 Although, I do really, really appreciate having it, and I  
11 finally figured out how to make it work, but it -- it  
12 took a moment.

13 I also want to just note, this is just another  
14 thing. I think because we were rushing to put things in  
15 instead of trying to do it early and keep up with it,  
16 there were -- some of the tags were incorrect, I noticed.  
17 I tried to send those that were incorrect over to Toni,  
18 but you know, in the scheme of things, I got overwhelmed,  
19 and I'm sure that the team was overwhelmed. It just made  
20 the search a little bit more challenging.

21 And I think, too, what Commissioner Turner had said  
22 about one versus the many, there were several that, I  
23 mean, they were just cut and paste of the same thing, so  
24 you know. I understand that that's about volume. I also  
25 did try to look for those single ones that, you know,

1 what is it that they're saying? Trying to write down  
2 those notes that, towards the end, it's like, okay, let's  
3 just at least raise this and lift it and just try to  
4 address it; but it did get overwhelming, and if there's a  
5 better way to try to sort, that would be good.

6 I'm also -- maybe this is hopeful thinking, but  
7 maybe by the time 2030 comes around, there will be other  
8 functions that could integrate all of the website and all  
9 these other things -- you know, the documents and  
10 everything. Who knows, that's maybe a little wishful  
11 thinking there.

12 I really liked what Commissioner Ahmad said about an  
13 open source COI tool. The only thing on the COI tool  
14 that I want to just remind everybody is that we did have  
15 it available in multiple languages, so whatever is going  
16 to be done, I want to make sure that that's also going to  
17 be available as well, too.

18 I think, again, on the access centers, you know, it  
19 depends -- I think there's going to be -- it depends on  
20 what the tech is going to be in 2030. I do like the idea  
21 of maybe going to the individual organizations to do the  
22 teaching. I think the value of having the access centers  
23 was that sometimes it's just easier to just have somebody  
24 there to walk you through it, but the -- but you know, it  
25 was limited in scope because there can only be so many

1 places, but. Even just trying to do it on the phone can  
2 sometimes be a little hard no matter what the positive  
3 intents may be, so. You know, I don't know if there's  
4 really a solution to it. And then by the time 2030 comes  
5 around, I mean, we're going to have native -- digital  
6 natives, I think -- digital natives that we're going to  
7 be much more tech savvy, so you know, the use of the  
8 access centers may not be as necessary.

9 Last thing I just want to note, I also want to  
10 appreciate USDR and all the work that they did on our  
11 behalf as well, too. And you know, again, just thanking  
12 Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Ahmad for all the  
13 work that they did, and I'm sure, you know, in addition  
14 to everything else that they were doing trying to learn  
15 all the technology, so. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
17 Akutagawa.

18 Commissioner Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. You know, I want to  
20 clarify a few things, and also that I've got a really  
21 good thought. But the data was always ours in the COI  
22 tool and all this stuff. All the data was ours. And the  
23 Statewide Database, they created the tool. Never -- you  
24 know, they probably have a backup -- I'm hoping they have  
25 a backup of it -- but no, it was never theirs.

1           The tool itself -- they were the contractor from the  
2 legislature. I -- you know, the idea -- I mean, they  
3 could have been -- they could have contracted with  
4 anybody, except Statewide Database made the most sense  
5 because they are very independent, you know, they have  
6 all the election data. They have -- you know, that's --  
7 they're kind of -- you know, it's like called -- you  
8 know, going to the library -- something, as opposed to  
9 a -- you know -- they don't have a particular -- you  
10 know, that's kind of what they do is they do data, so it  
11 sort of made sense for them -- for the legislature to ask  
12 them -- or to contract with them. But no, it was always  
13 going to be: and we're handing the data over to you;  
14 what you guys do with it, you know, whatever; if you want  
15 to throw it away, great. It was never, like, their data  
16 or anything even remotely like that.

17           And the access center -- and actually, it's because  
18 these ideas -- you know, as I said, the legislature was  
19 charged with this -- and I don't know if they talked with  
20 the 2010 -- but they kind of came up with, well, hey,  
21 here's an idea to do it, why don't we try contacting  
22 these guys? And like, the access centers, I know, came  
23 about, again, because you know, 2010 -- it was all done  
24 there, and then once the Commission moved on, it's like,  
25 well, how do people get their information to the

1 Commission? And they said, well, you know, we found  
2 having little areas where people -- where they could go  
3 and submit their information worked, and that's my  
4 understanding is where the access centers came from.

5 But an idea I have -- and these are all things we'd  
6 like, and we're mentioning all these ideas -- it's not  
7 our charge; it's the legislature's charge. So we should  
8 actually say, hey, legislature, you know, there -- they  
9 have to pay for that. That's not out of -- that's like a  
10 separate -- an addition -- money -- additional money from  
11 our budget. If we take on that -- you know, hey, why  
12 don't we have it this way, this way, and this way, we  
13 either have to give our ideas to the legislature or  
14 get -- ask the legislature to allow us to fund it, and do  
15 these things, like, say, in '28, '29, really put these  
16 things together for the 2030 Commission. Because  
17 that's -- again, that's not our charge to draw the lines  
18 and to work with the people, but providing access to us  
19 is actually charge of the legislature.

20 So you know, I know -- and that's, you know, and  
21 maybe that's something we want to change in our -- you  
22 know, in the -- I don't know if that's in -- I think  
23 that's in government code as opposed to the Constitution,  
24 but I'd have to look that up. But that is something  
25 where -- because you know, maybe we don't have to pay to

1 update the tool. Maybe, you know, the COI tool or  
2 however it looks in the next ten years -- eight to ten  
3 years -- when we look at it in 2028 and '29, you know,  
4 maybe that's not funding that has to come out of our  
5 budget, is an idea.

6 And then on the -- oh, and the other -- in the  
7 downloading -- that data into our Airtable from the COI  
8 tool from the state legis -- from the Statewide Database  
9 came directly in; it was Bing, it was there. The parts  
10 that took more time were the ones that, from our --  
11 anything that we ha -- that our office staff had to  
12 code -- had to separately code, that's what took time,  
13 and that's what we didn't see right away. So you know,  
14 and that's why all of a sudden you get a -- you know,  
15 every time Toni would update, there'd be an enormous  
16 amount of info, and then others would trickle in. Any  
17 public comment, that had to be totally done by the staff.

18 And we might actually get even Alvaro to -- or Marcy  
19 or somebody to tell us -- walk us through what the staff  
20 actually ended up doing, because you know, we're making a  
21 lot of going, well, this, that, and the other. And you  
22 know, I know -- I only followed some of it when there  
23 were glitches, so I don't know the full amount, but I  
24 think that would really help us in evaluating this  
25 analysis input.

1 Oh, and then the analysis of the input. That was  
2 something that we thought about and would really kind of  
3 liked to have done, and we -- it was -- things got so  
4 rushed towards the end, we didn't have the luxury of  
5 really doing that very much. And I think if we started  
6 the data management -- you know, getting all that  
7 earlier, we would have had time to -- like, the analyzing  
8 in -- you know, analyzing the input, which might have  
9 helped with the issue of this comment came at us a  
10 hundred times; this comment came at us once. You know,  
11 in terms of our trying to search through it and have it  
12 like that, it might -- we might have been able to have  
13 our analyst really help us do that, which I think would  
14 have saved commissioners quite a bit of time in reviewing  
15 it all, so. That's just the nature of the range of the  
16 public submissions. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
18 Andersen.

19 Commissioner Taylor.

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good Saturday morning to  
21 everyone. I think I, without being redundant, sort of  
22 agree with what Commissioner Andersen just said. I think  
23 having a dedicated data analyst would benefit -- would  
24 have benefited us and definitely benefit the next  
25 Commission. Perhaps having a daily briefing that lets us

1 know what came in overnight, what's coming in, the  
2 current status of the data that's in the tables would  
3 have been helpful.

4       And again, I also think it's imperative that the  
5 data component is set up early, because it almost  
6 feels -- even though we know that was put in there, it  
7 almost feels like some of those earlier comments are  
8 lost. We know that they're put into the tables, but it  
9 almost feels lost with the abundance of the information  
10 that comes in latter (sic). So I would stress that we  
11 have to get it in early and that a data analyst is  
12 imperative, perhaps with a daily briefing with what's in  
13 the tables. Thank you.

14       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
15 Taylor.

16       Commissioner Fernandez.

17       COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

18       And I might be repetitive.

19       Jane, I tried to keep up with everything that you  
20 were saying, but I ran out of ink. But anyway. I'm just  
21 kidding.

22       I think Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Ahmad  
23 and maybe Anthony, I think there might have been an -- I  
24 know --

25       Commissioner Andersen, I know what you're saying is

1 the data is ours, but there also had to be, like, some  
2 contract or some agreement in terms of the ability to  
3 bring in the data from the Statewide Database to ours,  
4 and that was kind of like, towards the end, and like,  
5 really, now you tell us about it, that there's some sort  
6 of agreement that we have to research or agree to? And  
7 so I just wanted to flag that so that the 2030 Commission  
8 has it on their list; like, this is something else that  
9 needs to happen in order to import the data from the  
10 Statewide Database, there's this agreement that had to be  
11 signed by us -- by the Commission. And in terms of the  
12 relationship between the Statewide Database and the  
13 legislature, I guess part of me is I'm glad someone else  
14 is taking care of that, and has that tool, and is  
15 upkeeping the tool, and having to do that. I think at  
16 the end of the day, out of the 30,000-plus input, the  
17 majority was directly to us, I believe. Maybe I'm  
18 incorrect in that, but -- so most of it was ours, which  
19 is great.

20 I'm not sure if Commissioner Akutagawa said this or  
21 not, but as we know the statewide database was in  
22 multiple languages, I believe fourteen. I would also  
23 like ours to be in multiple languages, so that  
24 individuals can -- and I really love the feature that the  
25 public could review the data that was coming in, which is

1 great. But I would like ours to also have that  
2 capability.

3 And Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Andersen, I  
4 believe, talked about this, but -- and I had talked about  
5 it, I believe, maybe the first day, but definitely need  
6 help sorting and analyzing the data. Yes, the intention  
7 was for us to, you know, take a breather, like, the first  
8 whatever, hour of the day, to review the data, but as we  
9 all know, our meetings were long and they were daily, and  
10 we just had to keep moving.

11 And in terms of Statewide Database, the team, for me  
12 personally, I think they were great; I think they were  
13 responsive whenever we had a question, so I did want to  
14 make sure that I did a shout out to them, thanking them  
15 for their response, their responsiveness and willing to  
16 help us out in different issues and different questions  
17 that we had throughout our year-and-a-half. And I'm not  
18 sure if Commissioner Kennedy was going to do this, and  
19 Commissioner Yee, if we were going to receive feedback  
20 from the Statewide Database, in terms of how it went on  
21 their side, but maybe that's not even in our scope.  
22 Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
24 Fernandez.

25 Commissioner Taylor, I'm guessing your hand is just

1 still up, rather than raised again? Okay, thanks.

2 Director Kaplan? We're not hearing you.

3 MS. KAPLAN: Sorry, I was at a basketball game this  
4 morning; I forgot my hat was still on till just now.

5 I just wanted to highlight what Commissioner  
6 Fernandez just said. I think it would be helpful,  
7 whether it's at a pending Commission meeting or off-line  
8 to go over some of these concerns with Statewide  
9 Database, to see what could be improved for 2030 as well,  
10 particularly some of the data processing also, the  
11 prisoner reallocation, other efforts that went on, to see  
12 what, you know, what worked, didn't work, and the other  
13 work that Statewide Database does throughout the years  
14 leading up to 2030 to support with that effort, it may be  
15 helpful to have them come back to share more about that  
16 as well.

17 And then, I don't know if you wanted -- I know  
18 Commissioner Andersen had asked about what staff were  
19 doing in terms of tagging, if that's helpful for me to go  
20 over.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes, yes.

22 MS. KAPLAN: So from an outreach staff perspective,  
23 I can get into a bit more detail on that. So starting  
24 from the COI input meetings, staff were taking notes on  
25 the input that the public were providing during those

1 meetings, kind of like more of a summary analysis, and  
2 that's what ended up going into the database.

3 As we continued with public input, we were using the  
4 closed captioning text, and then just going through and  
5 reviewing that, so that saved staff a bit of time.

6 And then later in the fall, we were shared -- I  
7 think that's when we were given the tags for data that,  
8 I'm not sure at what point those were finalized, and so  
9 staff were -- as they were inputting public comment that  
10 was happening during input meetings or Commission  
11 meetings, they were tagging for additional -- tagging the  
12 data with those additional codes also.

13 And also tagging location, tagging whether there was  
14 non-English input, so then outreach team was also then  
15 supporting at the end with other data that came in --  
16 other input that came in, written input, to tag those  
17 also. So additionally tagging when there was non-English  
18 input.

19 I think Alvaro can go into more detail in terms of  
20 the data team -- data team's role in some of that tagging  
21 or other support with that, but I know that one --  
22 another key piece that was happening was the review of  
23 input for any personal identifying information, so we  
24 tried to set up the feedback form so that people wouldn't  
25 be putting their personal information in there, but the

1 data team eventually was set up every few hours to go in  
2 and review and then release the input that was submitted,  
3 so that it could be seen on the public page.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Director Kaplan.  
5 Commissioner Akutagawa?

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I thought I just -- I  
7 realized it's like, I don't want to leave out the  
8 Statewide Database, in terms of a -- just some accolades  
9 for them as well, too.

10 I do want to just note that a couple things: one, I  
11 know that the Statewide Database staff were very careful  
12 when we were talking about different things, whether it  
13 was related to the COI tool, or other things, to make  
14 sure that they were not making the decisions; they always  
15 deferred to us and asked us or ensured that we were  
16 making the decisions. So I do want to just acknowledge  
17 that, that they, you know, they were not making decisions  
18 on their own; it was really in deference to us and what,  
19 as the Commission, that we wanted, especially when we  
20 were working with them on the COI tool.

21 I also -- I know I said this yesterday, but I  
22 thought I'd say it again. The QGI -- the Access Center  
23 staff were playing multiple roles, so they were  
24 oftentimes the people, when a phone call was made to  
25 their help line, they are the ones that were answering.

1 They were very responsive in answering questions. When  
2 it came time to use of the QGIS, they were also very  
3 helpful, and spent a lot of time -- spent quite a bit of  
4 time on the phone with me in helping me to walk through  
5 and troubleshoot, and to really figure out what the  
6 issues were, to the point where then I know for me, I was  
7 able to do it, and for anybody else who wanted it, they  
8 were willing -- you know, I know that they were doing  
9 that as well, too.

10 I will note that the -- it would be good, maybe in  
11 the future, and I don't know, again, this goes to the --  
12 what the technology in the future will allow, but if  
13 there is going to be a COI tool, whether it's open source  
14 or not, having an open source kind of mapping tool would  
15 also be helpful.

16 And I'm saying this in the context of the database,  
17 so that we can include that. I know that we're going to  
18 talk about mapping a little bit later, but I thought I'd  
19 preempt that by making that, you know -- that note about  
20 having something that is all integrated together, so that  
21 then again, as we continue to get input, the public will  
22 be able to still go to a single website to provide input,  
23 and then later on, when it transitions to doing mapping,  
24 being able to then submit maps and not having to go to a  
25 completely different site, because I think the Statewide

1 Database, they also incorporated a mapping tool as well,  
2 too, along with the COI tool, but I think it was a  
3 different website, so it -- it would probably just make  
4 things simpler if it could all be one website, so.

5 And then again, anything else that would be possible  
6 so that it is direct to the Commission, if it can, so  
7 then that way, then, you know, we'll have access to that  
8 same data. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
10 Akutagawa.

11 Commissioner Andersen?

12 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you. I was  
13 looking something up on the website there for a minute.

14 One thing, oh, I wanted to say is, you know, I  
15 really do like the idea of getting a review from  
16 Statewide Database in terms of hey, you know, what do you  
17 think, you know, what would you propose to the 2030  
18 Commission.

19 And also, though, if we could get, and I don't know  
20 if we'd have to contract with her, or if it is in a  
21 report, but say Toni, who was our data manager, if we  
22 could get her to come in and give us a report about, you  
23 know, what she thinks went well, and how she would really  
24 make recommendations for, you know, it would've been  
25 easier if we did this, and this, and this. I think that

1 would actually really help us, as far as, you know,  
2 Lessons Learned, just in terms of we would learn, I  
3 believe there, is things that we didn't even know  
4 happened, and that were problems for us, which she just  
5 handled, and you know, good and bad things, again,  
6 strengths and weaknesses. I think Marcy wouldn't be  
7 saying there is a bit of a report, which there probably  
8 is a full report.

9       And the other idea was -- the database, the -- oh,  
10 in terms of, you know, I really like -- thank you,  
11 Commissioner Akutagawa, for bringing up the point of the  
12 COI tool and their -- the, you know, the 3 GIS -- 2QGIS  
13 mapping tool that the Statewide Database, you know, put  
14 together for us. That is an open source.

15       I didn't realize that it was two different websites,  
16 and I was trying to find that. Right now, I don't see  
17 either on our website, though I couldn't find that. And  
18 I was just wondering.

19       I'm going to turn it over to Marcy right now. Thank  
20 you.

21       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
22 Andersen.

23       Director Kaplan?

24       MS. KAPLAN: Yeah, I just wanted to jump on to say  
25 that there was the -- they did create an open source

1 mapping software, and all three of those, so the Draw My  
2 CA Community tool, the COI tool, the Draw My CA Districts  
3 tool, and then the Draw My CA, which was the open source  
4 GIS platform, QGIS; they were all on the website, and  
5 they still are DrawMyCalifornia.org. Those are all on  
6 our website. Also on the participate page, we just  
7 updated the text on their recently, just to -- it's more  
8 past tense. These were tools that were available during  
9 the redistricting cycle.

10 But that was the training that staff did all fall,  
11 was going through all three of these tools, and that was  
12 always included in how to participate, so there was a  
13 centralized location for all of that as well.

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Director Kaplan.

15 A few things on my part at this point. I'm  
16 wondering if Commissioner Turner and/or Commissioner  
17 Ahmad could remind us, how many folks they ended up  
18 interacting with from USDR, just wondering what USDR's  
19 overall level of effort was.

20 I certainly agree with the need for some data  
21 analysts or research staff, however we want to call it,  
22 someone who can go through, you know, thousands of pieces  
23 of input coming in each day that aren't -- whose  
24 attention is not demanded by mapping because certainly  
25 once we got into mapping, I tried to go through as many

1 inputs as I could, but you know, with sitting in the  
2 meetings, there was only so much data review that could  
3 go on outside of those.

4 And finally, I'm wondering, maybe from Director  
5 Kaplan, or from Director Hernandez, just wanting to have  
6 a better understanding of how much training staff  
7 received in their -- in the various tasks that they were  
8 assigned in the data management stream. Thank you.

9 Director Kaplan, is your hand still up, or is it a  
10 new? Okay. No, it's Commissioner Andersen's.

11 MS. KAPLAN: It was still up, but I can answer that  
12 question, if you want.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Oh, okay, go ahead.

14 MS. KAPLAN: So we did do a bunch of training  
15 because staff were also using Airtable to track outreach  
16 efforts, so there was training on that.

17 We did have Vanessa on our team, one of the field  
18 support staff, that really got into the database quite a  
19 bit more, and she was kind of like the support for staff  
20 around, if there were issues around that.

21 On the other side, in terms of data tagging, there  
22 were several trainings that Toni held with the outreach  
23 team to begin some of the data tagging, and then ongoing  
24 questions around it.

25 And then, in the last month when they were focused

1 specifically on doing a lot of the tagging, Toni had  
2 daily, just like her -- the data team had their daily  
3 meeting that was open to anyone, and outreach if there  
4 were questions.

5         So Toni and her team were extremely accessible,  
6 particularly for me and Fredy, in coordination, if there  
7 were, you know, documents we couldn't find or needed to  
8 get uploaded, or you know, she was really supportive with  
9 the final report, to ensure that we were getting the  
10 accurate data for -- to include in the final report as  
11 well.

12         COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Great, thank you for that.

13         Commissioner Andersen?

14         COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, thank you,  
15 Commissioner Kennedy and thank you, Director Kaplan,  
16 because that training that the staff got, I'd really like  
17 to recommend that the commissioners also get that, even  
18 if it's just Reader's Digest version, because -- and  
19 that, you know, the -- then we would be well aware of  
20 what goes into the data, how it gets sorted, and in terms  
21 of if we find that there's other information that we  
22 really need, it would be a smoother transition to getting  
23 that corrected.

24         And the other part is, just as Commissioner Kennedy  
25 might not realize how he was sort of fumbling with, is it

1 data manager, is it data analyst; it turns out we went  
2 around quite a bit in discussions about that, more from  
3 the technical perspective, because it turns out that  
4 those titles in tech -- in the world of tech, have huge  
5 difference meanings. And what we kind of ended up with,  
6 I never was quite sure exactly what -- we ended up  
7 getting the right people, but not necessarily in the  
8 right categories as we thought them.

9       And so I would really say, like, you know, when  
10 Marcy -- you know, the data team, that's really what  
11 you're needing, data team, because -- and I can't even  
12 imagine how different this will look in 2030. So I  
13 wouldn't necessarily, you know how we have -- we have  
14 executive director, and we have exec -- you know, these  
15 labels; what that ends up looking like for the data  
16 management, I have no idea, and I don't think we can  
17 anticipate that. So in '28 -- 2028, 2029, we should  
18 revisit that with people in the field who understand it,  
19 and then incorporate those titles in terms of what the  
20 CRC is looking.

21       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
22 Andersen.

23       Commissioner Turner?

24       COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum, thank you. To answer  
25 your question, as far as the number of USDR people that

1 were supporting the project, initially there was about --  
2 on our initial consultation, there was the one -- and I  
3 don't have my notes back, so I don't do -- I don't  
4 remember the names exactly at this point -- my notes back  
5 yet, that we had to turn in.

6       So there was initially three online, just to hear  
7 what we need and kind of talk about it, and then they did  
8 kind of an internal assessment and assigned the key  
9 staff. Phil was the name that stands out for me right  
10 now, Phil Zigoris, I think it was, but at any given time,  
11 there were at least, I believe there was the one main  
12 person assigned, and then two others that supported. So  
13 I think consistently three people, a couple of in and out  
14 throughout the process. But yeah, I'd say about three  
15 consistently.

16       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Great, thank you,  
17 Commissioner Turner.

18       COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum.

19       COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Fornaciari?

20       VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, just listening to this  
21 conversation just reminds me what a heavy, heavy, heavy  
22 lift this was for everyone, and I just -- I want to  
23 personally thank our data management subcommittee, our  
24 data team, USDR, all the outreach staff, Marcy and team,  
25 everyone in -- and Fredy and team, and everyone who

1 worked on this.

2 I mean, you know, we're talking about Lessons  
3 Learned and how we can improve it. What a phenomenal  
4 outcome and tool that we had, though I mean, the tool was  
5 relatively easy to use, easy to get in there. The data  
6 was there at our, you know, at our hands for us to use,  
7 and it just was great. It turned out great.

8 And I want to thank the Statewide Database, too. I  
9 mean, they did a ton of work in order to support us.  
10 Now, we need to clarify the relationship and the  
11 understanding between the organizations, but the work  
12 that the Statewide Database did was amazing.

13 You know, Commissioner Akutagawa reminded me, you  
14 know, how many -- how much time we spent on the phone  
15 with the guys from the access center, getting QGIS up and  
16 running, you know, they had to do updates on the  
17 installer for us to get that fixed. You know, we were  
18 doing some troubleshooting with them and helping them  
19 out, but you know, the tools that they ended up building  
20 for the public, I'm looking at the page again, you know,  
21 they had the, you know, the COI input tool, then a web-  
22 based mapping tool, then you could download a mapping  
23 tool. I mean, they did a lot of work, too, on our behalf  
24 and I just want to make sure that I personally, you know,  
25 thank them all.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
2 Fornaciari.

3 Commissioner Turner?

4 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I remembered that  
5 I also -- I don't believe I mentioned Alvaro -- Director  
6 Alvaro, that played a huge role in facilitating a lot of  
7 the conversations and supported with work of USDR as  
8 well. So I wanted to just thank him also.

9 And I don't know if we mentioned before that USDR  
10 also helped with all of the job descriptions as it  
11 related to data and what needed to be implemented, and  
12 which piece part, workflows, et cetera, so I wanted to  
13 name all of that, because it was truly phenomenal work  
14 that they did.

15 Thank you, and thank you, Alvaro.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner  
17 Turner.

18 Anyone else on this? Commissioner Andersen?

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you for that,  
20 Commissioner Turner, because that triggered something.

21 For, you know, if it's us looking to '28/'29,  
22 looking at, you know, how do things go from now on, in  
23 terms of technology. If USDR is still around, we should  
24 definitely contact them, because they would be, you know,  
25 up to date on how things have evolved, and they would be

1 a source for us, in terms of writing our contracts, in  
2 terms of getting our titles proper, if they still are  
3 around. And if not -- I sort of assume they would be, or  
4 someone like that, so let's put that in our notes for  
5 later on, or to recommend to 2030. They were phenomenal.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Very good, Commissioner  
7 Andersen.

8 Commissioner Yee?

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: I just wanted to mention, great  
10 idea to reach out to Statewide Database and to Toni and  
11 maybe USDR, and get their suggestions, you know, whether  
12 they could still appear in person in the short couple of  
13 days we have left in this process, or maybe just give us  
14 some written feedback. We'll certainly reach out to  
15 them.

16 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, I'm thinking that this  
17 might be something that we schedule after the 18th. We  
18 can figure that out with Director Hernandez, but yeah, I  
19 see great value in it, I just don't want to take time  
20 away from the other discussions that we already have  
21 scheduled for next week.

22 Anything else at this point on data management?

23 Okay, Chair, I might suggest that we proceed to  
24 break and come back at 11:15 on mapping.

25 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, sounds great. We'll

1 do that. We'll return at 11:15. Thanks, everyone.

2 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 10:52 a.m.  
3 until 11:15 a.m.)

4 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Welcome back, and we will  
5 jump right into our next topic for Lessons Learned. I  
6 believe Commissioner Yee is up?

7 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, please. Thank you, Chair.

8 And so we move on to our final topic for today,  
9 we'll see if we can finish this before lunch, is mapping.  
10 So the whole mapping process, the mapping playbook we put  
11 together, the way we approached things first with  
12 visualizations, and then had one draft map, did not have  
13 a second one. Then moved on to our final maps, work with  
14 mappers, our effort with VRA districts, revisions, the  
15 extreme workload at times for their mappers.

16 We've already talked about the Draw My tools; Draw  
17 My California Community, Draw My California District, and  
18 some -- a little bit about QGIS. I've already gotten  
19 some feedback. You know, hopefully we can get a more  
20 consistent naming convention going for draft districts  
21 than just the whole final push at the end for adoption,  
22 certification, and delivery.

23 So mapping is the topic for this segment. Your  
24 thoughts? Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll just get us started

1 here.

2 To you, Commissioner Yee and Commissioner Turner, I  
3 absolutely love the playbook. It was so helpful,  
4 especially when, you know, that little light goes off  
5 that it's like, I really need to know how I can make this  
6 change, right, from one population to another population.  
7 So very super helpful, and thank you for all of that  
8 information.

9 I think most of us, if not all of us, have already  
10 stated the VRA districts need to be solidified early,  
11 early, early, early, early, before we do the rest,  
12 because it just felt like we would get some really good  
13 traction, and then we'd have to go back, and that was  
14 just frustrating. It just felt like there was so much do  
15 over.

16 Ideally, I would love to be able to do a second  
17 draft map, but I don't know if the timing actually allows  
18 for it, because once you have your first draft map, you  
19 can't touch it for two weeks. So I don't think that  
20 allows for a second draft map, unless you know, the  
21 deadline gets changed.

22 Less visualizations and more live line drawing. I  
23 think maybe one, the initial visualization, and then  
24 after that, I feel that -- and maybe it was a combination  
25 of the two because since we didn't have our VRA districts

1 and we were doing visualizations, it just really changed  
2 too much -- too drastically from week to week.

3 And I have -- I put some notes here, and it said --  
4 oh, and one thing that we didn't do, and intentionally we  
5 didn't do, you know, our sixth criteria is the nesting of  
6 Assembly versus Senate, and I agree with the way we did  
7 it, in terms of build each one separately, but it's just,  
8 I guess, maybe a flag for the 2030. If nesting is  
9 something you're going to want to do, then you have to  
10 build your assemblies for that purpose as well. But I  
11 actually prefer the way we did it.

12 And I have a note here, and I have no idea what I  
13 meant by it, so I'm just going to log off right now.  
14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: Maybe you could say just a bit  
16 more about how we did the nesting, from your perspective;  
17 what was (indiscernible)?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, we didn't do the  
19 nesting. We -- so the --

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: We didn't.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So the sixth criteria is  
22 to, you know, ideally nest ten Assembly into one Senate,  
23 and --

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: Two, two.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I mean, two. Yes, I'm

1 sorry. Two and two, yeah. See, I've already forgotten.

2 But we -- what we did is we intentionally did each  
3 one separately and as we -- I thought it was very  
4 thoughtful of us, where if we couldn't -- oh, gosh, see,  
5 I'm -- now my language is -- has left me. But if we  
6 couldn't honor a COI or a community of interest in the  
7 Assembly, we would try to do that in the Senate. And if  
8 you look at it from a nesting point of view, that would  
9 be -- that could've been difficult. So I did like how we  
10 just -- we never really thought of nesting when we built  
11 the Assembly, and I believe that's a good way to do it,  
12 to keep them separate.

13 Did that make sense, Commissioner Yee?

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, thank you.

17 Commissioner Sinay?

18 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to share some of  
19 the thoughts that came from the community in the report  
20 that they sent us that I thought it was worth our  
21 conversation -- worth conversations.

22 The -- one of the things was CRC should allocate  
23 mapping discussion time based on population or complexity  
24 of the region. We kept saying we were going to do that,  
25 and I don't think we -- we spent a lot of time in some

1 areas.

2       And then the other one was not to map late at night  
3 because you make mistakes or because not everybody's as  
4 engaged. That came up a few times in the report, and  
5 other people's comments.

6       And the final one that I thought was interesting,  
7 and I'm not sure how we could do it. So kind of how we  
8 have the report, we talk about each district, you know,  
9 what came -- you know, how we created those districts. I  
10 kind of agree that I -- it would've been great to have  
11 throughout the process to be able to go back to a  
12 district and remind ourselves what COIs we brought in  
13 there, what our thinking was on that. It might've just  
14 been some bullets.

15       But we kept moving things and changing things, and  
16 we would forget why we did things. And so I think it  
17 would've been nice to have summaries that were started  
18 from -- written summaries -- that were started from the  
19 very beginning, so when we pulled up a district, we could  
20 also look at, okay, this was our thinking the last time  
21 we looked at this district, because it's almost 200  
22 districts, and it's a lot.

23       And especially when we have one set of thinking for  
24 Assembly versus a different set of thinking for Senate,  
25 and I think it would've helped in the long run on the

1 report, you know, we're drafting the report would've been  
2 more -- there was -- in reading it, it was accurate, but  
3 there was pieces that were missing because it just  
4 captured the last conversations we had; it didn't capture  
5 the earlier COIs that we took into consideration.

6 And I'll leave it at that. I'm sure I'll have more  
7 as we keep sharing. But I did want to -- yeah, those  
8 mid -- I actually -- those are some of my favorite  
9 memories are those midnight meetings, but I do  
10 understand, you know, it was true, it wasn't -- it was  
11 not the most productive time sometimes.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

13 Commissioner Fornaciari?

14 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, a few things. Just to  
15 go a little bit deeper into the feedback we got from the  
16 community groups with regard to -- they made some  
17 comments on RPV analysis, and they talked about the maps  
18 that the -- the maps that were produced, the RPV maps  
19 that we published. You know, those should be out  
20 earlier, and if there is -- if there are changes, we  
21 should be -- the Commission should be really explicit  
22 that things have changed, and update that information for  
23 the public.

24 They also commented that it's -- they said the CRC  
25 was more productive when one or two commissioners work

1 with mappers on potential proposals and presented the  
2 proposals to the full CRC for discussion. I think that  
3 was the -- I would agree with that. I thought, you know,  
4 when there was -- you know, when we got to places where  
5 things were getting sticky, and tricky, and difficult,  
6 when we sent off one or two of the commissioners with the  
7 mappers to work on them and came back, I thought that was  
8 effective, and led us to some, I think, creative  
9 outcomes.

10 Just want to reiterate and echo, the playbook was  
11 super, super well done and helpful, so thank you for  
12 that.

13 As far as visualizations go, yeah, I mean maybe one,  
14 maybe two, but I think that we all need to be clear on  
15 the -- it needs to very explicitly clear what the  
16 directions are to the line drawers because it was  
17 ambiguous at times, and there was conflicting direction.  
18 And so, you know, with visualizations, I think it needs  
19 to be very, very clear, and everyone know what the  
20 direction to the line drawer was. And I'll just stop at  
21 that point.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Fernandez?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, I figured out  
25 what my sloppy writing said.

1           Just from the point that we -- that's when I was  
2 Chair. The point where we felt okay, all the maps are  
3 done, we're good, these are the ones that we're going to  
4 vote on, I think -- I don't think -- there needs to be  
5 more time allowed for our line drawers to go back and  
6 ensure that all of the lines that are accurate, there  
7 aren't any missing areas, or whatever the case may be. I  
8 felt that it was -- we were rushing them too much. So  
9 you know, maybe build in an extra day to allow the line  
10 drawers a day to go back, and then bring forward any sort  
11 of clarifying direction. So I think that's very  
12 important.

13           The other piece of it, I don't know if Commissioner  
14 Yee was going to bring this up, this whole issue with the  
15 counties, in terms of whatever support they may need.  
16 That is not -- we can't just give -- apparently, the  
17 Secretary of State can't just give them whatever maps we  
18 have; they needed additional information. I'm not sure  
19 if it's for precinct level or whatever the case may be,  
20 but maybe nail that down a little bit more, in terms of  
21 what that need is, and who's responsible for providing  
22 that support to them.

23           I did, as Commissioner Fornaciari mentioned, the  
24 feedback that we received with having the commissioners  
25 work off-line with the mappers, one or two commissioners

1 at a time. I do think that was critically important,  
2 because we saw how long it can take to go on a journey,  
3 and Commissioner Turner and I think we spent a couple of  
4 really long sessions with Kennedy, our mapper, who was  
5 awesome, and one was likely a three-hour, another was a  
6 two-hour, and to do that and open, it wouldn't have been  
7 efficient use of our work.

8       And having the ability of the QGIS was wonderful.  
9 And again, the Statewide Database did a wonderful job  
10 supporting us, and supporting me specifically, because  
11 you know that I'm technically challenged. But did a  
12 wonderful job of calling me, making sure it was set up,  
13 and helping me navigate, and I think it was helpful, very  
14 helpful in terms of my being able to provide better  
15 feedback, and better input in terms of where to move the  
16 lines.

17       And in terms of the naming conventions, I know that  
18 was also one of the feedback from communities. Yeah,  
19 maybe more generic names would be better, so that when  
20 they do move -- when the lines do eventually get moved  
21 and it's not San Gabriel Valley, it's somewhere else, it  
22 won't throw us off as much, or throw off the public as  
23 much. Thank you.

24       COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. As long as we  
25 still -- always have a Santa Ana Ana, if that's a word.

1 I'll throw myself in line here. You know, with the  
2 parcel splits post-maps, so at this point, the plan is to  
3 include a recommendation in lessons -- a prominent  
4 recommendation in Lessons Learned that 2030 include in  
5 its line drawing, contract some provision for post-maps  
6 consulting counties, the fraction of counties that need  
7 help resolving parcel splits.

8 A couple other things that were mentioned, access to  
9 mappers. Yes, you know, actually when commissioners were  
10 able to work off-line with mappers, develop proposals;  
11 that just made things so much easier. Sometimes that was  
12 done on direction of the whole Commission. We were sent  
13 off to -- you know, Commissioner Ahmad and I were sent  
14 off to figure out San Jose one more time.

15 Other times, we just took initiative on our own, and  
16 my impression was that access to mappers was uneven, you  
17 know, it was in an on available basis, or it was kind of  
18 up to mappers whether or not they would say they had that  
19 time or accessibility. And that's not good, you know. I  
20 mean, all commissioners should've had equal access to  
21 mappers to develop proposals and maybe even be assigned  
22 mappers, you know. Of course, that was eight more  
23 mappers, and here, we had the biggest mapping team of any  
24 redistricting effort in the nation, so you know, to add  
25 even more mappers, I don't know. But that made a big

1 difference.

2       And some of us developed QGIS skills. I remember  
3 especially Commissioner Fornaciari burning the midnight  
4 oil to figure out how to move 17,000 folks from north to  
5 south, you know, which, you know, that untied the Gordian  
6 knot, right? And -- but just the fact that he had picked  
7 up those skills and put in the effort to do that.

8       Others didn't; you know, I never learned QGIS  
9 fluently, so not sure that's an issue, not sure if  
10 everyone had to have those skills, but access to some  
11 mapping skills, whether you learn on your own or whether  
12 it's from mappers that, you know -- that seemed key.

13       The workload on the mappers, you know, at times  
14 became extreme, and we just depended on their good will  
15 and their dedication, you know, to go above and beyond  
16 the call of duty. And you know, you can't always count  
17 on that, right? I mean, we benefitted from it, we were  
18 so grateful for it, but you can't depend on that always,  
19 so I'm not sure what can be done about that, how to make  
20 that a more manageable workload.

21       And then on the mapping playbook -- of course there  
22 were two documents, the mapping playbook, which kind of  
23 was our -- we hashed out all those different policies  
24 about how we would handle mapping decisions and  
25 documented it. Then there was the ready reference that

1 had all the populations and stuff.

2       The mapping playbook itself, I mean, we put a lot of  
3 time into making those decisions on our criteria, exactly  
4 how we would apply them, all of that. And in the end,  
5 I'm not sure we've really followed it that closely, you  
6 know. And in particular, I remember several times when  
7 we would make decisions based on other criteria and we  
8 had not agreed on. For instance, often looking at lower  
9 income communities of interest and giving them special  
10 consideration, feeling that they needed political  
11 representation at a level that higher income, more  
12 resource communities might not need. You know, that was  
13 not a documented criteria, and yet, we did apply it  
14 numerous times, I think.

15       So I mean, you know, you have to put something on  
16 paper, but actually applying it in real time while  
17 getting, you know, comment -- real-time public comments  
18 and you know, trying to apply those is quite the dance.  
19 And you know, I'm happy how things turned out in the end,  
20 but you know, that wasn't a completely consistent  
21 process.

22       Commissioner Turner?

23       COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, thank you. Ooh, the  
24 mapping, okay.

25       So an easy one. The -- as the draft maps were -- as

1 we were working on them and we would see visualizations,  
2 sometimes maps had specific names that was included of  
3 cities that were included, and sometimes it was just an  
4 area. And so for consistency, I think that all of the  
5 visualizations, the drafts, whatever it is, I think this  
6 is not -- I'm not speaking about the naming convention,  
7 I'm talking about the actual shape, what was included  
8 within it. Sometimes it was not clearly defined  
9 specifically as it related to the Central Valley. And so  
10 anyone that was looking at that visualization from the  
11 public did not necessarily know what was included in  
12 those bordered lines, and so I wanted to name that that's  
13 important that there's consistency there, that there is  
14 always the same level of detail in each map that's shown.

15 For those mapping for the playbook, I thought,  
16 Commissioner Yee, perhaps maybe -- I kept thinking, maybe  
17 if we had a designated couple of spaces, we could -- it  
18 almost had, like, a war room approach, with stuff on the  
19 wall that can be pointed to and referred back to.

20 Commissioner Kennedy, you talked about something  
21 that you ordered and you had it up on the wall. I'm a  
22 visual person like that, too. I like whiteboard. I like  
23 things as reminders that as I'm trying to formulate my  
24 thought, I can look up and see what I said I was going to  
25 do. And so again, much like those banners running for

1 the public, I think rules, playbook rules, any of that on  
2 the walls where we can keep referring back to it. Other  
3 than that, it's easy in the heat of the moment to get  
4 caught up into what you want right now, as opposed to  
5 being disciplined about what we said we would do.

6 And with that, if there's a shift or a change, or  
7 something we want to add to it, we can always throw that  
8 into the rules, but in the meantime, we can just make  
9 sure that we're following them.

10 On the naming conventions, I totally believe that it  
11 should be Senate 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or you know,  
12 Assembly or letters, or whatever it is going to be,  
13 regardless about the confusion later. There was  
14 confusion in the game, as far as trying to move cities  
15 out and was still calling something by the prior city.  
16 So I think naming conventions should be -- we should  
17 change how we do that.

18 I thought our mappers were wonderful, all of them.  
19 I thought they were very valuable to the process, patient  
20 with us, and or conflicting, sometime, direction that we  
21 were giving, and their willingness to draw and redraw, as  
22 far as the direction that was being given.

23 I was trying to think through, and I don't have this  
24 fully formulated, but I recall that oftentimes, we would  
25 give a lot of direction, one particular -- one

1 Commissioner give a lot of information, and not  
2 necessarily know where the person was going. And then  
3 later on, we'd come back and we'd change what that person  
4 worked really hard to do.

5       And so it feels like we have to figure out, is it  
6 just naming up front? Ultimately, what I'd like to do is  
7 to shift, you know, these people around here, and I want  
8 to take something out, and this is how I want to step  
9 through it and then give direction for the process. I  
10 think we tried that a couple of times as well. But for  
11 me, I still kind of walk away from the situation thinking  
12 sometimes there was an awful lot of thought and intent  
13 put into a map that then got switched, and depending on  
14 timing, maybe it got a chance to be corrected again, or  
15 fixed back, or I don't know, it felt like that moved  
16 around maybe at a level we were comfortable with, maybe  
17 not.

18       Also, the pairing of commissioners to work --  
19 working with line drawers off-line. I thought that was  
20 excellent. I thought it helped move the process along,  
21 and also I think it important in doing that, that there  
22 are commissioners with perhaps maybe divergent thoughts  
23 of what should happen so that as you were -- I think  
24 we're a good team. We are, coming from all the  
25 backgrounds that we did, we wanted to hear each other; we

1 wanted to understand what it was you were trying to do.  
2 And even if it wasn't -- I don't know if I want to do  
3 that, but you want to do it and you're recalling  
4 something that you received from California. And so I  
5 thought that we did a stellar job at trying to hear, and  
6 honor, and respect each other in what we were trying to  
7 do.

8       But even with that, sometimes I think it was pretty  
9 clear that, you know, different ones of us wanted  
10 something different. And for me, it never made me want  
11 to attack the person that wanted me to understand them.  
12 And I think when you can have people with different  
13 thought processes having to work together off-line with  
14 line drawers, it gives you an opportunity to see, if I  
15 get this exactly the way I think it should be, and if  
16 it's contrary to what you think it should be, what is  
17 that going to cost you, and where can we, between the two  
18 of us, find a win-win in it for the constituents that  
19 we're trying to support and represent. So by the time we  
20 bring it back, even if we have to say we have a version 1  
21 and a version 2, you know, at least we've worked through  
22 all of that and we don't have to have the frustration in  
23 the moment of line drawing, like I'm not being heard, or  
24 they didn't understand what I was trying to do.

25       I think that served us well, to be able to work

1 through some of that and know that some things, even if  
2 we wanted to have it happen, based on the rules that we  
3 have to follow, in the order that we have to follow them,  
4 it's not that I was being denied something that I  
5 personally wanted; it couldn't happen with our geography.  
6 It couldn't happen with the public comment that we  
7 received in the community of interest.

8       And I think it was important that off-line and  
9 sometimes in this, too, with two commissioners working  
10 together, you're able to see that play out in front of  
11 you. So now you don't sit with the full Commission  
12 feeling like, ah, I'm going to just say no to everything  
13 he says, she said. It's like, no, we tried that, it just  
14 doesn't work. So I think that was good. So I like the  
15 pairing.

16       This says naming conventions, mapping rules; mappers  
17 were excellent. I think that's it.

18       Oh, the QGIS. Yeah. Yikes. It was -- QGIS was  
19 difficult. It was hard to follow, to -- I think I tried  
20 it twice and I'm like, you know what, yeah, that's not --  
21 it just didn't work for me.

22       There -- we talked about that when we were talk --  
23 in the area of training, if we're going to use a QGIS or  
24 anything similar, we have to not just receive the  
25 training, we need the time to practice that and try it

1 on, and to ensure that we have comfort with it, because  
2 it was taking way too long and not yielding the results  
3 that we wanted it to.

4 So I think for some of us, it just got discarded in  
5 the end and we went to what was easier, as far as relying  
6 on some of our fellow commissioners, which, god bless you  
7 all that did learn how to do it. Thank you for that.

8 That's it, thanks.

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.  
10 Commissioner Toledo?

11 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I would agree with everything  
12 Commissioner Turner said, and just in terms of  
13 nomenclature and -- I think it would've been helpful for  
14 us to learn a lot of the GIS terminology and to -- so  
15 that we could all be speaking the same language; things  
16 like rotating populations, we all learned what that was,  
17 mostly by just doing it. But other terminology like  
18 that, and you learn it by doing, so yes, practicing and  
19 getting additional training and -- would've helped all of  
20 us a little bit more if we had gotten it earlier.

21 Just thinking about a process, I mean, I think we  
22 did make a good team. We are a good team, and certainly  
23 we used the collaborative, the general consensus  
24 approach, and most of what we had done traditionally has  
25 been through consensus to some sense -- in some regards.

1           But general consensus didn't seem to work for this  
2 group at that particular point in time, given the task,  
3 and given the amount of time, and given the circumstances  
4 we were in and the dynamics.

5           I think where it worked best is where we kind of  
6 took a step back and said these are -- what are our  
7 goals, overarching goals, and then -- which allowed us to  
8 ask certain groups to move forward with map drawing, and  
9 to create -- to help us through some of these troubled --  
10 with some of the more difficult areas of the state.

11           I do think that the maps are so dynamic, and the way  
12 that they're being developed, and it's -- when map  
13 drawing is drawn on multiple maps and each line drawer  
14 has connected to one portion of the map and -- so which  
15 makes it difficult for us to -- it just -- it would've  
16 been, I think, a little bit -- I don't think I understood  
17 that until we were further along, and it did make it  
18 difficult because the line drawer assigned to that area  
19 was the line drawer you had to work with, right, and  
20 so -- and there's such a limited time frame, espec --  
21 resource -- such limited resources especially when you're  
22 in the last couple of days of line drawing, that it just  
23 makes it difficult for us to -- for that resource to be  
24 made available to all of us.

25           Although if we had had a little bit more training,

1 we would've been -- all been able to do a little bit more  
2 on our own. It's just we'd be working on different -- we  
3 could potentially not be working on the latest map, which  
4 is what happened with some of the public, right; the  
5 public was reacting to old maps at some times, and that  
6 was problematic. I mean, I think we -- some of us were  
7 working on old maps sometimes, too, because it was the  
8 best map that we had and we -- and we were trying to  
9 figure out the dynamics, and how to structure situations.

10 I think ultimately it worked out, but it was a  
11 little bit frustrating, and it just has to do with how  
12 the software that we used and the process.

13 That being said, I think it was the right process  
14 for us. I think it may not be the right process for  
15 other Commissions, right. General consensus worked  
16 because we had built the trust, we had had the time, we  
17 had worked through some of these things. But initially,  
18 it was pretty frustrating and until we got a little bit,  
19 you know, further along, and kind of -- we ended up  
20 trusting each other more and more.

21 And then in terms of workload for the line drawers,  
22 the Chairs -- I know when I was Chair, I worked very  
23 closely with the line drawers to allocate time for the  
24 committees that were working off-line and my  
25 understanding is that that was continuing on after, so

1 that the line drawers had enough time. I mean, there is  
2 never enough time, but they were allocating enough time  
3 to -- well, so that somebody was allocating time.

4 And I thought, you know, certainly some  
5 subcommittees had a little bit more access because of  
6 their role, line drawing and VRA certainly, but --  
7 because of their situation, but we tried to make it as  
8 fair as possible. The whole Commission would set the  
9 goals and I think it worked out at the end -- in the end,  
10 but you know, it was -- we made it work by doing it,  
11 right. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo.

13 Yeah, the consensus decision-making, I mean, in my  
14 mind, was rather extraordinary, you know, that not one  
15 line ever came down to a hard vote. I mean, that was  
16 always a possibility, if we really, really got stuck, but  
17 we never got there, and it's really quite amazing.

18 Commissioner Kennedy?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

20 First of all, I finally remembered my second I  
21 forgot to mention from several days ago. So that I  
22 forgot to mention item is I think it would've been very  
23 useful for us to, in our series of briefings in the fall  
24 of 2020 or very early in 2021, to have had a briefing  
25 from some of the local election offices in relation to

1 the use to which they would eventually put the maps, and  
2 obviously Commissioner Yee's mention of the -- of putting  
3 post-map technical support to counties in the mapping  
4 contract is what reminded me that yeah, I think it would  
5 be very helpful for future Commissions to have local  
6 election officials come in and explain, kind of step-by-  
7 step, okay, we'll get your map and then this is what  
8 we're going to do with it.

9       And you know, this relates to, you know, the point  
10 that I made at several points in the process about the  
11 importance of spheres of influence and those sorts of  
12 things, so we can -- when I sort all of the input, this  
13 will go back into the training topic.

14       On the visualizations, I found them useful. I don't  
15 think I fully understood how determinative they would be.  
16 I mean, if you look at the final maps and you look back  
17 to the visualizations, yes, there are lots of  
18 differences, but you know, in some cases, there are some  
19 pretty fundamental similarities. So I think it's going  
20 to be important for future Commissions to understand how  
21 determinative a visualization can be in some ways.

22       Given that we weren't trying to meet population  
23 targets with the visualizations, I really wonder if we  
24 could've started the visualizations a good bit earlier.  
25 You know, if we weren't caring what the populations were,

1 then we didn't really need to wait for census data, or we  
2 could've used ACS data or something to -- as a basis or  
3 as a resource when we were doing the visualizations.

4 I like -- I really liked Commissioner Turner's war  
5 room concept, and you know, we did have some maps up in  
6 the room, particularly in San Diego, I guess, less so in  
7 Sacramento, but in San Diego, we had some maps up. And  
8 the maps that I always thought would be helpful, and  
9 this, you know, grew out of Commissioner Fornaciari's  
10 alert to us about how many people need to be moved, I  
11 think that finding a way to project or post maps showing  
12 district by district deviations on the side would be very  
13 helpful. You know, we were focusing on smaller areas,  
14 and I think we often lost track of kind of the bigger  
15 picture, you know, as Commissioner Fornaciari said.  
16 We've got 17,000 people that we need to move from south  
17 to north, or north to south, or whatever it was. But you  
18 know, it was hard for us to keep track of all of the  
19 deviations and particularly how, you know -- we could  
20 easily have found ourselves in a huge corner with limited  
21 ways of getting out of that corner, and so I really do  
22 think that working with the mappers to find a way to have  
23 a separate computer projecting a statewide map of  
24 deviations by district for each of the map types would've  
25 been very useful to us. And finally -- and I just came

1 across my copy of the playbook, and maybe I missed a  
2 later version of it, but in line drawing phases, there's  
3 detail under preliminary direction. There's detail under  
4 visualizations. But then -- at least, or maybe I printed  
5 it out wrong, but I seem to be missing something. In my  
6 mind, it never seemed like it was one hundred-percent  
7 complete. But again, I may have missed something or  
8 printed it out wrong. It was certainly, very, very  
9 helpful, perhaps could've gone into some greater detail  
10 about those later steps in the process. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.  
12 That's correct. We never did finish that out. We just  
13 moved on and never came back.

14 Commissioner Fornaciari?

15 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. A few more things.  
16 Let's see, Commissioner Kennedy, great idea regarding  
17 helping the Commission understand how the maps are used.  
18 I think that would be really helpful. And just a little  
19 footnote for everyone; if you want to learn a lot about  
20 LAFCO, special districts, spheres of influence, join your  
21 local civil grand jury. You'll learn all about that  
22 stuff.

23 Let's see. Oh, the letter that we've been referring  
24 to from the groups is in the handouts for the public if  
25 they don't know what we're speaking to, it's called

1 Common Cause Lessons Learned: Reflections and  
2 Recommendations. So that's the letter that we've been  
3 referring to.

4 Ready reference, great, outstanding, super, super,  
5 super helpful, especially when trying to trade off --  
6 sort of in your mind trying to think, we need to move  
7 these three districts around and I've got to trade this  
8 many people. How do I do it? I think critical -- and  
9 just reiterate a few things -- critical learning is how  
10 to map. I think learning the tools is important, too,  
11 but probably not everyone will use the tools, but how to  
12 map and the tradeoffs, rotating people and all that.

13 Let's see. The map viewer was invaluable. That  
14 came around later and it was invaluable. And how it  
15 evolved was super helpful. And the flexibility in  
16 getting that up and running. And then we could -- you  
17 could hover over the district and see the deviation and  
18 see the information there. Super helpful. So capturing  
19 what that ended up looking like for the next Commission.  
20 I love Commissioner Turner's open to hearing and honoring  
21 your colleagues -- super important that we all -- that  
22 the next Commission all be open to understanding what  
23 their colleagues have in mind. And I think that's what  
24 helped us be so effective.

25 Oh. And one more thing. When QGIS started out --

1 when we started out and we had the draft maps, I had QGIS  
2 upload the draft maps -- or I had the statewide database  
3 upload the draft maps into QGIS so they could be used.  
4 But as it went further and further down the road, the  
5 current maps were not available in QGIS. And the current  
6 maps need to be made available in the mapping tool if  
7 it's going to be effective.

8 And then I just reiterate, thank the mappers for all  
9 their hard work. It was crazy work for them.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. I especially remember that  
11 all-nighter that Jaime pulled one time to get us that  
12 L.A. Senate miracle map, right, that solved so many  
13 problems beyond what we thought was possible and got us  
14 past the point where we had gotten really stuck.

15 Commissioner Akutagawa?

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Thank you,  
17 Commissioner Fornaciari, for saying what you said about  
18 the QGIS and updated maps because that was my first thing  
19 that I wrote down as one of the things I wanted to  
20 mention. It was a little frustrating realizing that it  
21 was not being updated as quickly as I thought it was and  
22 then thinking that I'm working off the QGIS and current  
23 maps and then realizing it's not. And then it was  
24 just -- it made frustration even more frustrating. So I  
25 think that that's really important. I think whatever the

1 line drawers are using -- if we're going to try to use  
2 QGIS or whatever mapping software we are to try to -- to  
3 try to work through the possibilities just to understand  
4 the options using QGIS, it has to -- it has to align with  
5 what is being used; otherwise, it's just a big old waste  
6 of time. Yeah.

7       And that was important, because it gets to my next  
8 point which is about -- I think it might've been -- I  
9 don't know if it was Commissioner Turner that said this  
10 or if it was someone else, but something about, like, not  
11 being sure where someone is going with their directions  
12 for the line drawing. And I think as one of those people  
13 that's -- I just oftentimes just have to talk out loud to  
14 just kind of get to the point of where I need to go, and  
15 so sometimes I found myself doing that and then being  
16 told, where are you going with this? And then having to  
17 be forced to try to think about, okay, what do I want to  
18 try to do, but sometimes maybe not being fully clear.

19       And then I know it's frustrating for others. It's  
20 frustrating for me, too, because I was trying to explain  
21 it, but once I was able to -- thank you, Commissioner  
22 Fornaciari -- figure out how to use QGIS, I was able to  
23 work through those things so that then I could -- before  
24 even coming forward with an idea, I knew whether or not  
25 it was even remotely in the realm of possible. And I

1 think that just saved me a lot of frustration, probably  
2 saved all of you a lot of frustration, because some  
3 things were clearly not going to be possible.

4       And then, I think this is where it gets challenging,  
5 and I think this is maybe part of the tension is -- being  
6 told no all the time but not being told why. And I think  
7 that that is not helpful because then it feels like,  
8 well, am I just being shut down because you just don't  
9 want to do the work, or why is it not possible. And I  
10 think if we're to be independent and we're to be -- to  
11 try to explore all possibilities -- for the purposes of  
12 the public -- other people in the public sphere may also  
13 have similar ideas and questions.

14       And I think we have to be able to explain, okay, if  
15 something is a no, either we have to explain why -- and  
16 even with the explanations it might be hard -- but I  
17 think if we can bring it up and say, here's what I tried  
18 and here's why it didn't work. I think it will give more  
19 confidence in why we made some of the choices that we  
20 made. And so I think that that would be important.

21       Another one that I want to also just say, I think,  
22 too, what Commissioner Yee said about the uneven usage  
23 of -- or access to the line drawers. I mean, again,  
24 another tension in the sense of we had a fairly large  
25 team, but even then it was a little unclear whether or

1 not initially we could even do that. And then later on  
2 it became clear, okay, let's just start assigning out. I  
3 think if we know that ahead of time, then we can try to  
4 figure out, okay, how do we work through our ideas  
5 directly with the line drawers to save that time?

6 And I think what some of it resulted in is during  
7 the live line drawing, as we're trying to work through  
8 things -- and then we fell into a time crunch and we were  
9 in that November time frame where, okay, we got to get  
10 this done. It was late at night and then we can't do  
11 anything for two weeks. And I feel like there were a  
12 couple maps where it was just, like -- it was half done.  
13 And it just created a lot of angst with the public in  
14 that -- how can you do this? Why did you do this? But  
15 it was because we ran out of time. It wasn't because it  
16 was intentional that this is where we wanted to end up,  
17 but we ran out of time, and we were just kind of stuck  
18 with it until we could come back and make the fix.

19 So I think, again, being able to have been able to  
20 have maybe worked with the line drawers and knowing that  
21 we could've done that would've been a little bit more  
22 helpful in terms of not leaving it in some of those kind  
23 of places.

24 The other thing, too, around working with the line  
25 drawers is that as changes get made -- and this got

1 brought up, too -- we should remember and try to review  
2 why we made some of those changes, how some of the new  
3 changes may impact previously intended changes, and then  
4 as we go forward in terms of, okay, what are the things  
5 we want to try? Again, trying to balance the previous  
6 changes and the rationale to what the potential new  
7 changes people might want to make.

8 I also just want to say, having counsel -- and I saw  
9 this in the Lessons Learned that was sent over by the  
10 different community groups -- I think having counsel  
11 available for all the time that we're together during the  
12 meetings is important. There were times when we had to  
13 rush because counsel had to leave, and so I think that  
14 that was difficult, I think, to sometimes -- then we have  
15 to wait until counsel's available again or try to get in  
16 touch with counsel. As a night owl, I'll say that I  
17 didn't mind the late nights, but I do understand that it  
18 may not be for everybody, just like early mornings are  
19 not super great for some of us who are night owls. So I  
20 thought I'd just kind of put that shoutout there for the  
21 night owls.

22 I also absolutely love and agree with what  
23 Commissioner Turner said about being able to utilize the  
24 separate time with the line drawers with two  
25 commissioners that may have two different kinds of points

1 of views to just explore together the thinking and being  
2 open to those different points of views. I think that  
3 that helped us in our process in one in trusting each  
4 other but also, two, not getting to the point where it  
5 became so absolute of one against the other. I think we  
6 were all able to establish that kind of understanding and  
7 rationale. And I think we -- again, I think we all came  
8 into this with positive intent and really keeping that  
9 front of mind so that as we listened to different points  
10 of view we were able to think about, okay, I see what  
11 you're saying, and then to come to places where we were  
12 able to achieve consensus and end up with a unanimous  
13 vote on our maps. So thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner  
15 Akutagawa. Commissioner Andersen?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, thank you, everybody.  
17 This is a really good discussion. And as you can  
18 imagine, I probably have a lot to say about mapping. And  
19 I'm going to try to keep it -- I want to be absolutely  
20 positive and kind of point out things that need to get  
21 changed. So I don't mean for this to be negative at all,  
22 and if it comes across that way, I'm really going to try  
23 not to let that happen. I'm also going to try and be  
24 efficient with the time here.

25 The number 1 is training. We -- all commissioners

1 need to be trained on software that the mappers are  
2 actually going to use or if not that, a very similar  
3 which are compatible. And I don't mean just training  
4 like we had. I actually mean a full on blown, fake --  
5 we'll do a redistricting -- so we learn how to give  
6 direction, we learn what's involved in it. We learn  
7 how -- the terminology we can use. Because I think  
8 Commissioner Turner said it a long time ago -- it's one  
9 thing to be lectured at, it's a whole other to try and do  
10 it. And I am also a person who, once you do things, you  
11 go, ah, now, I understand. And I think that would've  
12 helped us in so many of the items that we've been  
13 discussing all the way down. So a full working session  
14 whether -- totally fake -- and whether how long -- that  
15 could take ten days or something. It needs to be a full  
16 on real thing, not just a short amount of time. And it  
17 could be any time. It doesn't have to be, we have data  
18 in. Because, make it safe data.

19 I still want to do the live sessions. There was an  
20 indication about, well, just do that and then present  
21 things because it was more efficient. Doing that live  
22 gives a process. People say, oh, so that's what's going  
23 on. Oh. Oh, I had no idea. And it really removes that  
24 behind closed doors, which we really want to be open and  
25 transparent about.

1           Then several different -- well, okay, then the VRA  
2 districts. Absolutely, we needed more information on  
3 that and they shifted. And part of that is, get the VRA  
4 attorney and the RPV analysis on early. And have that  
5 done ahead of the census data. Because there will be  
6 modifications as modified districts, which require  
7 reanalysis -- in that contract. We need to be specific  
8 about how we're planning on using it to make sure the RPV  
9 data -- the analysis, is done in a manner that they can  
10 quickly go precinct by precinct to gather it to read.  
11 Because as we redraw a district, the precincts that are  
12 in it change, and so the numbers change.

13           Then, the map viewer. Absolutely crucial. It needs  
14 to be updated with the current maps all the time. The  
15 PDFs were not useful. The JPG was really useful. And  
16 the JPG was the one that you blow up and you can see  
17 everything. That again, in the contract, as we modify it  
18 with the new technology, '28/'29 -- we really need to  
19 work on this contract in terms of the draft contract that  
20 we would give to the 2030 with explanations of what these  
21 sections mean, what the importance is of them.

22           I think what also would've helped us is a splits  
23 report. And a splits report is how many numbers of  
24 counties that got split, number of cities that got split.  
25 Because we considered things and later we kind of went

1 back, you know -- Sacramento County was cut up five  
2 times. Alameda County was cut up seven. Well, then they  
3 reduced to four. But oh, some of the counties weren't  
4 cut up at all. Things like that in terms of our  
5 reevaluating items would be very important, and we can do  
6 that along the way.

7 That's end of the year, A drafts. Two draft maps.  
8 We were planning on doing two draft maps, but because our  
9 deadline got shortened as opposed to just -- if we'd had  
10 a few more days to that January 3rd, we could've  
11 rearranged and done two draft maps. And I really think  
12 that -- I would strongly recommend for the 2030 to do two  
13 draft maps.

14 Did that one. Training. Closed doors. Oh, in the  
15 report writing, Commissioner Sinay brought up about the  
16 district -- descriptions of the districts. In the final  
17 report that goes in -- and we need to put in the contract  
18 for the mappers to help out with that and/or we need to  
19 have -- if we want to do that along the way, we need to  
20 indicate that and hire staffing to do that. To be  
21 following it to that detail so we can have those  
22 descriptions as we go.

23 The playbook. Oh, the reference document. Wow.  
24 Thank you, Commissioner Yee. That was phenomenal. That  
25 needs to be available -- if we have to put it up and

1 update it, absolutely do that. The playbook. It was  
2 really, really good. I really like the idea of  
3 Commissioner Turner -- the war room and the white board.  
4 I think that's very helpful. But I don't want it to be  
5 too prescriptive because -- remember there were areas  
6 where we were actually specifically told by  
7 communities -- I'll never forget when one of the cities  
8 said -- we were thinking of keeping cities together --  
9 one of the cities -- they all came in and said, don't  
10 put -- divide us. We've always been separate districts  
11 and keep us that way. And the whole city said that. And  
12 I was very taken aback by that, because it didn't occur  
13 to me that some cities really -- no, there's a big divide  
14 in our city and we want to keep it that way. So that was  
15 just an example of -- we need to make sure that we  
16 stay -- put all the data in there, but don't it has to be  
17 step 1, step 2, step 3 -- make that a little flexible.

18 Oh, as far -- well, that's a different description  
19 of districts. Then also, you already said support for  
20 counties. I didn't know that we needed to do that, and  
21 that should definitely be in the contract. Oh, the  
22 naming of the districts. That was funny because I was  
23 actually pushing to just go with letters just because  
24 that way I think that would've been easier. But what we  
25 do not want to use is the numbers. Anything close to

1 what really exists -- too confusing.

2 Oh. The other thing is -- and the reason why I  
3 really want to put us all being trained in how to use the  
4 software and come up with different ideas -- it's not for  
5 the commissioners to draw full maps so there are  
6 competing maps. It is to clarify things. But I really  
7 loved -- and Commissioner Turner put it -- that we got  
8 people to work on from opposing ideas so you can figure  
9 out well, what are you really going for and come  
10 together. There were some areas all over the state where  
11 I know there are commissioners who had really different  
12 ideas but because they were in the same party, they  
13 weren't officially allowed to work together. And that  
14 was a little detrimental. I know in one area I'm  
15 thinking of -- no, we worked through all this, but these  
16 are areas where I think all of those issues would be  
17 resolved if we had the proper training up ahead.

18 Watch out for the hard decisions. Oh, we have to  
19 make hard decisions. I cannot tell how many times other  
20 people said, you got to worry about those hard decisions.  
21 I've always seen that -- and this is where -- as you're  
22 not being creative enough. You can come up with a  
23 solution which is how we did that in our consensus  
24 building. And so that is -- watch out. I always felt  
25 when people were saying that is they were trying to pit

1 us against each other. And we said, no, we're more  
2 creative than that. We're going to come up with a  
3 solution that is going to work, and we did. Fourteen  
4 unanimous.

5 Oh, the visualizations. Whoever said that was  
6 absolutely right. That first visualization has a huge  
7 impact on what the maps ultimately look like. Now, I  
8 know that these were based on COIs, and following all the  
9 criteria. In terms of could we do those ahead of time  
10 without data, there was a discussion at the subcommittee  
11 level, and the reason why we did not do that is because  
12 if you don't start it with plus or minus -- whatever the  
13 percentage is -- it's really hard to get it that way.

14 Now, that also leads into the full maps with the  
15 percentages. The large maps, we know how to shift  
16 things. That was a really good point, because our line  
17 drawers had that in mind the entire time. But that does  
18 not mean the next line drawer would also have the same.  
19 California is a -- it's the biggest state. It has the  
20 most districts. And it is extremely complex. And most  
21 other states are not. And so we have to make sure that  
22 for the next Commission, if they don't have a team of  
23 line drawers -- a couple of different groups working  
24 together, that all of these ideas get across. Because we  
25 were lucky in that we had the line drawing team from the

1 first time around, and team up with another team for the  
2 second time around because of the difference that each of  
3 them brought to the table. And the variety of ideas that  
4 was brought to the table. And it could be -- as we went  
5 along, I realized that that really helped us -- not in  
6 every aspect, but we could've been seriously caught up  
7 in, like, oh, we've lost people in the corner and we  
8 don't know how to do anything about it. The line drawers  
9 could go say, well, what do you want us to do? And throw  
10 their hands up in the air because that wasn't something  
11 that they had ever done before, because no other states  
12 have the huge issue of oh, my God, we're way down here.  
13 You're eight districts, things like that -- much, much  
14 smaller.

15 Pictures. Hard decisions. I might stop on that. I  
16 definitely want to say, though, to everybody involved in  
17 this -- the amount of work the line drawers put in, the  
18 amount of work that we all put into this -- it was really  
19 phenomenal. And really the whole point of what we're  
20 doing here is to improve it, make it easier for everyone  
21 involved based on what we have learned, which is, I  
22 think, is also another just great idea that we're  
23 planning on doing. And yeah. I will stop there, but I  
24 believe that the '28/'29 years -- we come back to these  
25 issues specifically with the mapping and the data

1 management for updates and technology. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.  
3 And just a time check. We have a full half hour before  
4 our lunch break still, so plenty of time.

5 Commissioner Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks. I think the first  
7 thing I want to say is -- I know we've done this a  
8 million times, but wow. Congratulations, guys. We  
9 really did it. As you're all talking, I'm sure different  
10 feelings are coming through -- you're all being triggered  
11 in different ways, and I just wanted to remind you --  
12 remind us, remind me -- we did it and this was the team  
13 that did. So thank you so much to everybody who was a  
14 part of it.

15 I guess -- I read Twitter after the fact, and I  
16 guess I was the grumpy one the Commission, according to  
17 Twitter. So anyway, thank you for letting me be grumpy.  
18 And I didn't feel grumpy, but obviously all the Twitter  
19 world didn't know what I was going through during that  
20 with my dad, and so I want to thank you all again for  
21 your support during that time. I mean, it was -- that  
22 first week -- that first and second week of December were  
23 really -- I keep forgetting how awful it was just because  
24 my dad keeps fighting. He's still alive, and I told  
25 Russell that -- I'm sorry, I told Commissioner Yee the

1 other day he got annoyed with me and hung up on me. So  
2 he's okay.

3       So I really liked our week in San Diego, and not  
4 because it was in such a beautiful place -- that you all  
5 didn't get to see -- but I just liked the room, the  
6 atmosphere, the food, the camaraderie, that we were all  
7 in the same room. I had just envisioned that that's what  
8 the last couple of weeks would be like and it just  
9 felt -- it wasn't like that, so it felt a little off. I  
10 liked San Diego because we were in the room with the map  
11 drawers so we could tell when a colleague -- when two  
12 colleagues were working with the map drawers and such.

13       At first, when people started working with map  
14 drawers and we hadn't all been told we could do that, it  
15 felt a little like it was coming out of left field. And  
16 I was like, wait, why do some get this and others don't?  
17 This isn't necessarily fair to everybody, and it was just  
18 kind of -- it was a little bit tense. Not tense, but it  
19 was just -- it felt off, right? It didn't feel like we  
20 were -- because we didn't say it in public we could do  
21 it, and then all of a sudden people had done it, it felt  
22 like we weren't doing everything in public like we said  
23 we would be doing it. So it didn't feel transparent to  
24 me. I think that's -- and so that's why I'm still kind  
25 of torn on this -- should we work with line drawers when

1 we're not all together or not? It's that question of  
2 transparency.

3       Having said that, I did start doing that at the end  
4 and I would say, okay, this is what, ideally, would  
5 happen, according to what everybody wants. And then the  
6 line drawers would come back and say, okay, we tried all  
7 of your six wishes and only this one works and we would  
8 talk about it. I agree with Commissioner Akutagawa; it  
9 was hard when we weren't told why. And I have to say,  
10 most of the time when we were told that things  
11 couldn't -- we couldn't do something, it was by legal  
12 counsel. So I want to thank those in the public who were  
13 watching us at the time and would send us -- send  
14 notes -- especially there was one that said, Commissioner  
15 Sinay, you can create a VRA district in San Diego -- not  
16 under Senate, but others. And I was like, okay, I can?  
17 And it was just -- I don't know who sent it. I don't  
18 know anything else, but that gave me that extra  
19 confidence.

20       I liked the visualizations because it started giving  
21 us confidence. We had no clue what we were doing, but I  
22 think if we did a whole assimilation, we would get that  
23 confidence as well. Some were more confident than  
24 others.

25       And on the database, we all purposely chose one

1 source -- one place to get our information that was  
2 accessible to the whole public. And we were very clear  
3 on this is how you send information in to the Commission.  
4 We didn't follow that all the way through, and that  
5 was -- and I brought it up several times, and I'm going  
6 to -- so on Lessons Learned, there needs to be a fair,  
7 equitable way to -- that the public has to give us  
8 information. And it shouldn't be emails, it shouldn't be  
9 Twitters. It should be -- it should be straight.

10       And it's really important that data comes to us as  
11 quickly as possible because I know that's the frustration  
12 sometimes. And I have a -- I do believe in the one  
13 individual who submits something versus the organization.  
14 I think they should be weighed the same. There were  
15 times when the nonprofits -- that some groups sent us  
16 comments that weren't accurate. And now, some of the  
17 things are still coming up. As much as some of the  
18 groups said, hey, be careful, political -- I forgot what  
19 they called it in the letter -- it was happening on the  
20 other side. The organizations didn't take the politics  
21 out of it as well.

22       And so we have to be open and assess every piece of  
23 information coming in and not just react because one  
24 group sent it or another group sent it or one person sent  
25 it or another. I know we felt really pressured with

1 time, so we didn't take that time to reflect a lot of  
2 times that we should've.

3         And to that, I did talk to Andrew from Haystaq and  
4 just asked him some of his input, because I didn't know  
5 who was being contacted before and all that. But since  
6 we had worked closely with him in southern California, I  
7 thought it would be good. And he strongly encouraged us  
8 not to have necessarily a second draft map but to add a  
9 week between the first draft map and the final draft map.  
10 We were a little rushed and at the end of that last  
11 week -- and there were things that we wanted to change  
12 and fix that we couldn't fix. And maybe that's the same  
13 idea as a draft map where we let it sit for a little bit  
14 and we can come back and say, hey, let's look at this  
15 place or that place.

16         The changes of chairs was really difficult for the  
17 map drawers just getting the new beat -- the new mode.  
18 And I think we did talk about that a little bit. We need  
19 to think through or -- think through, like we're going to  
20 do it again -- we need to think through for next time,  
21 no -- but it is -- if you're having rotating chairs, we  
22 need to do honest assessments about our skill sets --  
23 what we bring to the table and what we don't bring to the  
24 table. And have conversations about which are the best  
25 chairs for certain parts of the work.

1 I wish we had done more facilitation versus just  
2 raise your hand just go bleh. I know, we didn't do  
3 that -- but if we would've said, hey, these are our areas  
4 that we're having a little bit of -- we need to think  
5 through. An example is when we talked about City  
6 Heights -- or I talked about City Heights -- and said,  
7 looking in San Diego, looking at City Heights, we've  
8 received different types of COI input, and we need to  
9 think through what we want to do with that. I didn't  
10 feel that we were getting that throughout the county, and  
11 that would've been helpful just to kind of understand  
12 where were the conflicting -- even though I had been  
13 reading them and following them, I didn't know them as  
14 well as some others, and so just being able to have some  
15 of those conversations. And that facilitation would've  
16 slowed us down and been able to say, okay, what is it  
17 that we're trying to do that other people were talking  
18 about?

19 The other thing that I thought was interesting that  
20 Andrew brought up that I hadn't thought about -- that  
21 there are different ways to set up staffing for mapping.  
22 One is the way we did by regions, and that staff is  
23 looking at all the different plans. And the plans were  
24 the Board of Equalization, State Senate and all that.  
25 The other is that a person is in charge of the whole

1 state on plans. And so I think that that's important to  
2 share as just with 2030 that there are different ways of  
3 doing it so that they can think about it and it's not  
4 just the line drawers coming to them with their ideas,  
5 but they can think about it in both ways.

6 Either way, I think the mappers did need more staff.  
7 They needed more folks in the background to be capturing  
8 some of this information. And that would mean a bigger  
9 budget as well. But that there really is that piece of  
10 just capturing what we're saying and what we're doing I  
11 think really should come from the mappers and not our  
12 staff, because the mapper -- they're all more  
13 connected -- to ask our outreach staff all of a sudden to  
14 do that piece was a little tough for them because it was  
15 kind of new. And even though they knew those areas and  
16 stuff, I thought it was still tough for them, and I thank  
17 them for jumping in.

18 Yeah. So those were -- those were some of the  
19 comments -- I'm sorry, I mixed up Andrew's comments with  
20 my thinking, but I did try to be very clear when it was  
21 his.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. Thank you. Excuse me.  
23 Commissioner Fernandez?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I'll try to be  
25 brief with this. But I think we all came away with the

1 key to successful mapping -- brownies and peanut butter.  
2 I'm pretty sure that was the key to it all. But  
3 seriously, I did want to do a quick thank you to Karin,  
4 Andrew, and all of the mappers. I was going to name them  
5 all, but I'm probably going to forget someone, so I'm not  
6 going to do that. I did like that they kept track of who  
7 was working, which group of -- one or two commissioners  
8 were working with what specific mapper, and so we would  
9 adjust in terms of what areas we were working on. So I  
10 really appreciate them keeping track of that, because as  
11 the chair, you had so many moving parts. So thank you  
12 for that.

13       The ripple effect. I don't think I really  
14 understood the ripple effect until we actually got in  
15 there, so just a reminder of the ripple effect and that  
16 you're representing forty million Californians. And you  
17 might think that moving seventeen thousand is something  
18 simple, but it's not. We can just ask Commissioner  
19 Fornaciari or the rest of us in terms of how easy that  
20 is.

21       And QGIS -- it is hard. We used, like, probably not  
22 even one percent of the features that you can -- you can  
23 get a certification in this QGIS. So yes, it would  
24 definitely be nice to have more training on that.

25       And in terms of -- I wasn't sure if maybe

1 Commissioner Andersen misunderstood me, but when I said  
2 that I did like the one or two -- or I don't know if it  
3 was Commissioner Andersen or Commissioner Sinay -- I  
4 can't remember now -- I still believe we need to do live  
5 line drawing. I do also believe it was helpful to have  
6 one or two commissioners work with the mappers, because  
7 that would've taken so much more time. And honestly, we  
8 were working every single day. So I'm not sure when  
9 we -- so it would've been well into midnight and early in  
10 the morning.

11       And then just my final thing is, once we start -- or  
12 once the 2030 starts the mapping process subcommittee  
13 work, you really need to minimize or eliminate that,  
14 because the commissioners just need to focus on the  
15 mapping. And Commissioner Kennedy and I were working on  
16 the final report, so right after we had approved the  
17 draft maps, the two-week period that we kind of had a  
18 break -- we didn't have a break. We were working on the  
19 draft report, where we should've spent most of our time  
20 thinking about from draft report to making changes and  
21 looking at some of the input that was coming in. So just  
22 really need to take all responsibilities away from the  
23 commissioners once you start drawing the lines.

24       So I think that was -- and then the final report;  
25 that was much more labor-intensive than I thought it was

1 going to be. Again, it was during the crucial time when  
2 we really needed to focus on drawing lines. So we need  
3 to -- either, as I think Commissioner Andersen said --  
4 hire staff to do that or make it more explicit. And I  
5 don't know if it's a line drawing function, because they  
6 need to be focused on what they're supposed to be doing,  
7 as well. Unless they hire other staff that that's what  
8 their sole focus is, which is fine. But we really need  
9 to solidify that so that it's not the commissioners'  
10 responsibility. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. Commissioner Vazquez?

12 CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Great. Thank you. I generally  
13 agree with what has been stated around our Lessons  
14 Learned around mapping. One thing I did want to  
15 reemphasize that has been on my mind is the need to  
16 visualize other data -- large statewide datasets,  
17 particularly ACS data. I believe we did ourselves a  
18 disservice when discussing non-VRA areas and really only  
19 being able to reference community of interest data. I  
20 mean, like, what else could we reference besides the  
21 input that we were getting? Which I then think -- I  
22 think narrows us into having to have discussions based  
23 on, well, here's what the community groups have submitted  
24 jointly. They've done organizing and have gotten,  
25 ostensibly, a critical mass of input, and they've

1 filtered and curated it and given it to us versus this  
2 one maybe potentially one or two dissenting or additional  
3 voices.

4       If we had had ACS data, which is a much broader,  
5 comprehensive dataset and much more frequently -- it's a  
6 more comprehensive dataset, particularly around income.  
7 We, in my opinion, could've had much more comprehensive  
8 discussions on particular non-VRA areas. We were  
9 challenged -- and I think what this resulted is in -- at  
10 least for me, so I'll speak from my experience -- for  
11 example, out in the Inland Empire -- I'm from the IE.  
12 I'm very familiar with those cities, those regions, those  
13 neighborhoods. It made it appear as if I was pulling  
14 things out of thin air when I would say, oh, well,  
15 actually this community doesn't really go with that  
16 community.

17       If I had had ACS data -- again, particularly around,  
18 honestly, just, like, median income for a city or a  
19 neighborhood or what have you -- my arguments, I think,  
20 would've appeared to the public much more grounded in  
21 data and reality and not like, Angela was drawing her  
22 personal version of what the IE should look like, which  
23 was not at all my intent or my objective. But without  
24 solid data, especially again, in non-VRA areas, I could  
25 only reference COI data, which again, is necessarily

1 qualitative.

2       We did our best to make it quantitative by asking  
3 people to give us maps, but I think it's essential. I  
4 think we were done a disservice by not having ACS data  
5 visualized. We were often bringing up -- asking folks  
6 to -- or asking the mappers to bring up the heat map on  
7 different race and ethnicities from census data. That  
8 got really -- again, that got really problematic in  
9 non-VRA areas, and we were cautioned by counsel about how  
10 much we could even discuss what we were seeing when folks  
11 brought up the heat map again.

12       So it just -- we need an additional dataset so that  
13 we can have more concrete discussions about what a region  
14 actually looks like and which communities are in where.  
15 Because it also -- if we didn't hear from a neighborhood  
16 through COI input, the only data we had to reference was  
17 census data. And that to me, again, it's just not --  
18 that's not fair to those communities, either. If we  
19 didn't reach them, and we didn't get COI input, we were  
20 flying blind in many of those regions and that's really  
21 just not fair. And again, especially with the problems  
22 that we have heard about undercounting in the census, we  
23 just need to be able to titrate a lot of this data with  
24 additional sources. Thanks.

25       COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. And just to add to

1 that, Commissioner Sinay has mentioned several times the  
2 need for making more of an effort to incorporate other  
3 non-U.S. Census Bureau data as well, reports, and locally  
4 generated studies that can help inform our understanding  
5 of different communities. Commissioner Akutagawa?

6 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I want to absolutely  
7 just emphasize what Commissioner Vazquez just said. I  
8 also felt similarly to her in some of the perspectives  
9 that I had in which perhaps, the community of interest  
10 testimony may not have been as quick to come in or,  
11 perhaps, was absent. And I think part of it was informed  
12 by just personal knowledge and experience having grown up  
13 in certain areas or living in certain areas. And I think  
14 that was maybe the same for some of the others.

15 I also would say that given that there's only  
16 fourteen of us -- and I say, only fourteen in the sense  
17 that getting any larger would've been rather interesting  
18 in trying to manage a really large group. But trying to  
19 cover the entire state -- there were other parts of the  
20 state where we've heard feedback that there was, I think,  
21 perspectives or perceptions that we were not truly as  
22 well versed in some areas. And I think additional  
23 information would've been helpful other than just the COI  
24 input and the census information. I think there are  
25 other things we each may know, but I will say that at

1 times it felt like we were being challenged if we were  
2 stating something other than what was relied upon from  
3 either census data or COI data. And so I would  
4 absolutely agree with, again, what Commissioner Vazquez  
5 said, and would just encourage that we do look at other  
6 sources as well, too.

7 I also wanted to just weigh in on the visualization  
8 question. Personally, for me it was -- it was a really  
9 weird transition going from three visualizations then to  
10 the live line drawing. Because in the visualizations, I  
11 don't know -- it was maybe meant to be practice, but  
12 since we didn't really look at the numbers in terms of  
13 the population numbers, I felt it was kind of weird  
14 because we went from, yeah, let's just group these areas  
15 together based on what we think we're reading in the COI  
16 testimony to now when it came to live line drawing, oh,  
17 no, we cannot include that because the numbers are off --  
18 the deviations are off. I think what would've been more  
19 helpful is one, be more strict around the deviations even  
20 on the visualizations.

21 I also felt like three rounds was a little much. I  
22 think we should've just gone straight into the line  
23 drawing -- the live line drawing. And I do agree, I  
24 think live line drawing is important. I think some of  
25 the direct work with the line drawers was helpful after

1 everybody kind of got the hang of what was supposed to --  
2 what was okay, but I think the visualizations were -- it  
3 took so long. They went, they came back, and sometimes  
4 they came back with stuff like, that wasn't what I said,  
5 or that wasn't what someone else said. It was something  
6 totally different, and I feel like we were losing time  
7 with each of those visualization iterations. Maybe the  
8 first one would be okay, but then after that I think it  
9 would've been better to just go to live line drawing.

10       The last thing I want to also say is, Commissioner  
11 Sinay mentioned that we should just use one source. I  
12 would say that any emails that, I think, any of us  
13 received were forwarded to the Voters First account, and  
14 so it was visible to everybody. I can't say that -- I  
15 mean, just because it was on Twitter didn't necessarily  
16 mean that it was something that we had to take into  
17 account unless it was something that was forwarded to the  
18 two-hour public input database. And not everybody was on  
19 Twitter. Not everybody was on social media.

20       So honestly, I think for me it wasn't something that  
21 I put a lot of weight into, because I felt like we made  
22 an agreement that -- and for transparency's sake, using  
23 the central database that we had was going to be our main  
24 source of understanding community input. And that  
25 anybody who was posting on social media should also be

1 sending an email to us so that it could be posted for all  
2 the public to see. And maybe that's an instruction that  
3 we can give for the future is to say, you're more than  
4 welcome to post on social media but also don't forget to  
5 send us an email with your same comment so that it can be  
6 captured and shared with the public at large as well,  
7 too, so. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner  
9 Akutagawa. We are down to our last few minutes. If we  
10 are to get public comment in before lunch, we'll need to  
11 wrap this up soon. But if we need to keep talking, then  
12 we'll just need to go until lunch and come back after  
13 lunch, so. Commissioner Andersen?

14 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you,  
15 Commissioner Yee. Oh, just quick about the live line  
16 drawing. That was reference to a public comment that  
17 came in. I totally understood what the commissioners  
18 were saying about the visualization and live is both a  
19 good thing.

20 I want to talk about the time frame. We had three  
21 days between -- we declared final and it's certified.  
22 Not nearly enough time because the line drawers needed  
23 time, the report needed time. And yes, it is helpful to  
24 the line drawers during that time should be putting all  
25 the maps together but also verifying that the district

1 descriptions are accurate. And so the three days we had  
2 in there that's technically -- we sort of went as close  
3 to possible as we could've, and that was not correct. We  
4 should really extend that.

5 And I agree with what Commissioner Sinay was saying  
6 about what Andrew had said, in terms of a little more  
7 space to get the comments in would -- was also needed.  
8 So I would revise in our new Gantt chart process, I have  
9 very definite ideas we have to give to Commissioner  
10 Kennedy and Commissioner Yee about how we should revise  
11 that.

12 I also agree with the other resources of, like, with  
13 our neighborhood maps. We were drawing before we knew  
14 that, oh, L.A. had neighborhood maps, and I knew about  
15 San Francisco. And that is, though, for purposes --  
16 those do clarify our COIs. And we would reference the  
17 heat maps -- it was because many areas said -- I'm  
18 thinking of in L.A. -- well, this area -- we all shop at  
19 the same markets, they're all -- it's this large Spanish-  
20 speaking area here -- and we pulled up the heat maps, it  
21 was to clarify our COIs.

22 And so we need to clarify our numbers and clarify  
23 our COIs, which is part of our six criteria. We do need  
24 these additional sources. We needed the tribal lands  
25 map, and that wasn't technically included in the census

1 data. But these maps are out there, and we should be  
2 using them -- the 2030 should be using them.

3 Neighborhood maps. The ACS data is from the Census  
4 Bureau, so we have school districts, water districts.

5 I believe we -- the Commission should be using those  
6 because they really are trying to clarify what are  
7 communities of interest? Because those are -- that's the  
8 criteria at our numbers -- and back to the number idea --  
9 our visualizations were based on percentages of numbers,  
10 and then we refined them from there.

11 But Commissioner Akutagawa is absolutely right.  
12 They, like, got completely revised, but it wasn't exactly  
13 what people had said. And doing one or two of those, I  
14 would say, would be absolutely the max that we ever  
15 really needed before. But I would do a visualization  
16 before we just jumped into live line drawing, because you  
17 need a basis to start, so.

18 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, Jane.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And everything else was  
20 great. Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. Thanks, Jane.  
22 Appreciate it. I'm going to go to Katy for public  
23 comment, please.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. In order to  
25 maximize transparency and public participation in our

1 process, the commissioners will be taking public comment  
2 by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided  
3 on the livestream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When  
4 prompted to enter the meeting ID number provided on the  
5 livestream feed, it is 85298300771, for this meeting.  
6 When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the  
7 pound key. Once you have dialed in, you will be placed  
8 in a queue.

9 To indicate you wish to comment, please press star  
10 nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When  
11 it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message that  
12 says, the host would like you to talk, and to press star  
13 six to speak. If you would like to give your name,  
14 please state and spell it for the record. You are not  
15 required to provide your name to give public comment.  
16 Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream  
17 audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your  
18 call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for  
19 when it is your turn to speak, and again, please turn  
20 down the livestream volume.

21 And we do not have anyone in the queue at this time,  
22 Chair.

23 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, Katy. Appreciate  
24 it. So while we're waiting to see if we get some  
25 callers, just want to thank Commissioners Yee and Kennedy

1 for putting this together. Thank all of you for all your  
2 hard work and input. I want to -- yeah, there's  
3 definitely an opportunity next week for all the "I  
4 forgot".

5 I want to tell Commissioner Vazquez that I'm a big  
6 fan of titration myself, so we should do some titrating.

7 And kind of my reaction to this -- there were a lot  
8 of comments we should use other data, but I never felt it  
9 was as explicit as we talked about it today. And so  
10 maybe we would should think about, in general -- maybe we  
11 should think about what other data would be valuable and  
12 maybe kind of line that out for the next Commission so  
13 that they can jump into it. I see Commissioner --  
14 Commissioner-Director Hernandez has his hand up.

15 COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I appreciate  
16 that, Commissioner. Some day. Maybe. I'll think about  
17 it. I did want to mention and make the recommendation  
18 that for the line drawers that it be included in the  
19 contract that they do provide printed maps of the --  
20 either the visualization or the draft maps for the  
21 Commission to be -- available to the commissioners to  
22 view, especially if we're in live meetings. I think  
23 those became extremely valuable in just seeing the  
24 specific areas that a particular commissioner was focused  
25 on, but then interpreting the entirety of the impacts for

1 any changes that might result as of discussions.

2       So having those maps and making sure that they are  
3 part of the contract would be ideal. This go around --  
4 Andrew, I believe, just went ahead and just had them for  
5 the L.A. when we met in L.A., and then also did that for  
6 San Diego. But it wasn't part of the original contract.  
7 I think it should be. I think it's a necessary tool for  
8 the Commission to be able to see the entirety -- and  
9 printed in that size in which he printed it was much  
10 better than trying to look at it in a PDF or printing it  
11 out yourself on a 8-1/2 x 11 piece of paper. It's just  
12 not helpful in that manner, but having it in the large  
13 visual, I think, is really helpful. Thank you.

14       COMMISSIONER YEE: Are you thinking of the wall  
15 maps, Director Hernandez?

16       COMMISSIONER HERNANDEZ: Yes, exactly.

17       COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay.

18       VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Vazquez? Chair  
19 Vazquez?

20       CHAIR VAZQUEZ: Yeah. Thank you. Building off of  
21 Director Hernandez's concrete recommendation, I do think  
22 we should put in the contracts -- and my recommendation  
23 is that we put in the contract, use of and provision of  
24 additional datasets in a GIS mapping format. Those  
25 absolutely exist. They exist from the Census Bureau. I

1 know because I've worked with those datafiles -- so they  
2 exist. And my understanding is that it was the mappers  
3 themselves who were resistant to pulling in that  
4 additional data. I'm not sure if it was a workload issue  
5 or a philosophical difference, but if we put it in the  
6 contract, then we will have it. So that would be my  
7 recommendation.

8 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Very good.

9 Commissioner Andersen, quickly?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick -- that was not  
11 in the contract which we got originally from the  
12 statewide database. It does specifically say the Census  
13 Bureau -- the information from the census data. And  
14 that's why they did have an issue with it. It's like,  
15 that wasn't in the contract. They pulled in some, but  
16 yeah, and it's a great recommendation. But in terms of  
17 as we look at going backwards, we go okay, make sure we  
18 don't -- make sure that area gets addressed in the  
19 RFP/RFQ .

20 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Thanks, everyone. We are  
21 overtime and we have no callers, so I'm sure the  
22 instructions have long been over. So I'm going to  
23 adjourn this meeting at this point, and we will regather  
24 on Thursday next week -- Thursday and Friday -- to  
25 continue this work. So thank you, all. Have a great

1 rest of your weekend, and we'll see you next week. Take  
2 care.

3 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting/Lessons  
4 Learned meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.)  
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**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 4th day of April, 2022.



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PETER PETTY, CER-493

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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.

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

*Lori Rahtes*

April 4, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
LORI RAHTES, CDLT-108