

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Transcription By:

eScribers, LLC

APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

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

STAFF

Alvaro Hernandez, Deputy Executive Director  
Anthony Pane, Chief Counsel  
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant  
Sulma Hernandez, Outreach Coordinator

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator  
Katy Manoff, Comment Moderator

LINE DRAWING TEAM

Karin MacDonald, Q2 Data & Research, LLC  
Jaime Clark, Q2 Data & Research, LLC

INTERPRETERS

ASL Interpreter  
Captioner

ALSO PRESENTPUBLIC COMMENT

Aaron Pellerin, Zone F, Lodi  
Robin Walters, East Bakersfield  
Gloria Hernandez, Mothers Helping Mothers, Fresno  
Clarissa Vivian, Fresno  
Ryan Yang, Fresno  
Claire Fitiausi, Hanford, Kings County  
Cecilio Barrera, Fresno, South Valley  
Aaron Anguiano, Latino Community Roundtable, Stanislaus  
Santos Garcia, City of Madera  
Susan Martin, Clovis, Fresno  
David Pruitt, Visalia, Tulare County

**PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)**

Anna Albiar, Association of Realtors, Kern County  
Leticia Perez, City Council, Central Valley  
Eric Payne, Central Valley Urban Institute  
Kaya Herron, Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce  
Jesus Martinez, CIVIIC, Fresno  
Nick Hill, Kern County Black COC, re SE Bakersfield  
Jessica Drew, Fresno County  
Westa-Lusk, Ridgecrest, Kern  
Marta, Northeast Fresno and Clovis  
Felipe Perez, Firebaugh, Fresno County  
Emily Timm, Northeast Fresno, Clovis  
Stuart Wilde, Fresno  
Grace Vallejo, City Council, Kern County  
Eric Bruen, Kern County, Council  
Virginia Medrano, Riverbank, Stanislaus  
Barbara Collins, Merced County  
Maile Melkonian, Visalia  
Marla Livengood, San Joaquin, County AAC  
Jim, Northeast Fresno  
Karen, Fresno County  
Vong Mouanoutoua, Clovis, City Council  
Dale, Tulare County  
Patricia Ramos-Anderson, Merced County  
Solomon Rajaratnam, City Council, Ridgecrest, Kern  
Lucia Vasquez, Tulare County  
Martha, North Fresno and Clovis  
Zingo, Tulare City  
Inés Ruiz-Huston, El Concillio, Stockton  
Ellen, Visalia  
Espí Sandoval, Western Fresno County  
Nichole Trujillo Rice, NVLF,  
Deene Souza, Tulare County  
Dee, Sanger, South Fresno  
Deborah Howard  
Will Kelly, NVLF, Northern San Joaquin Valley

Alexis Costales, Tulare County  
Andres Gamia, Fresno  
Various Unidentified Speakers

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P R O C E E D I N G S

10:00 a.m.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Good morning, California. Good  
2 morning, everyone. Welcome. And thank you for tuning in  
3 to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
4 Communities of Interest, COI, Input Meeting.  
5

6 I'm Commissioner Turner, and I will be co-chairing  
7 today's meeting with Commissioner Vázquez.  
8

9 Ravi, if you would take a roll call, please.

10 MR. SINGH: Yes. Commissioner Vázquez.

11 VICE CHAIR VÁZQUEZ: Here.

12 MR. SINGH: Thank you. Commissioner Yee.

13 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

14 MR. SINGH: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad.

15 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

16 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

17 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

18 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen.

19 Commissioner Fernández.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Here.

21 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

23 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

25 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

4 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

6 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

8 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

10 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Turner.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

12 MR. SINGH: Roll call is complete.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Beautiful. Thank you.

14 Thank you so much.

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

22 In 2008, California's voters authorized the creation  
23 of the Commission when they passed the Voter's FIRST Act.  
24 It authorized the Commission to draw the new district  
25 lines for State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board

1 of Equalization Districts. Then in 2010, the  
2 Congressional Voter's FIRST Act added the responsibility  
3 of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.

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

11 What we receive -- or when we receive census data,  
12 the Commission begins drawing maps using six line-drawing  
13 criteria as outlined in the California Constitution. One  
14 of these six is minimizing the division of counties,  
15 cities, neighborhoods, and communities of interest to the  
16 extent possible.

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

24 If you would rather submit community of input over  
25 the internet, you can do so from our website or by



1 visiting, DrawMyCACommunity.org. Skip the Line. Go  
2 Online.

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

8 Please follow the California Citizens Redistricting  
9 Commission on social media. You can find us on Facebook,  
10 on Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube,  
11 @WeDrawTheLinesCA, WeDrawTheLinesCA. There you will find  
12 a lot of useful information about redistricting and  
13 updates from the California Commission.

14 So we're going to begin with my co-chair today,  
15 Commissioner Vázquez.

16 VICE CHAIR VÁZQUEZ: Good morning, everyone. Good  
17 morning, California. I'm very excited today to hear  
18 about the Central Valley. The Vázquez family has deep  
19 roots in the Central Valley. My dad grew up in Shafter,  
20 California. So I'm very excited to hear about your  
21 communities of interest today. Thanks so much.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, beautiful. Thank you. Thank  
23 you. Commissioner Akutagawa.

24 Commissioner Anderson.

25 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Sorry. I couldn't unmute

1 myself quickly enough.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Oh. There you go. There you go.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Good morning, California.

4 I'm Linda Akutagawa. I reside in Huntington Beach,  
5 California, which is Orange County. However, I am happy  
6 to say that my nephew and his wife are both E.R. doctors  
7 in the Central Valley. They are located in Visalia. So  
8 I have a particular interest in hearing from all of you.  
9 So look forward to hearing what you have to say about  
10 your communities of interest.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Good. And I am so excited about our  
12 day today. I skipped right past Commissioner Ahmad.  
13 Please go.

14 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Commissioner Turner;  
15 and good morning, California. I am very excited to hear  
16 about the Central Valley. My family has ties to the  
17 Central Valley, and I'm really eager to learn more about  
18 your communities.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Commissioner Anderson. I  
20 don't see her just yet.

21 Commissioner Fernández.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Buenos dias, California.

23 (In Spanish, not translated)

24 Good morning, California, especially those in  
25 Central California. I'm Alicia Fernández from Yolo

1 County, your neighbor. I'm very excited to hear about  
2 your communities because my small agricultural community  
3 is very similar to many of the communities in Central  
4 California. So welcome, everyone.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Fornaciari.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good morning, California,  
7 in the Central Valley. I'm Neal Fornaciari. I'm coming  
8 to you from Tracy in San Joaquin County. So I have very,  
9 very close ties to all of you. And I'm really, really  
10 looking forward to hearing what you have to say today.  
11 Thanks for joining us.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Commissioner Kennedy.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Good morning, California.  
14 I'm Ray Kennedy. I live in Morongo Valley, which is a  
15 rural Joshua Tree Gateway community in San Bernardino  
16 County. I'm looking forward to hearing all of your input  
17 about Central Valley.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Commissioner Le Mons.

19 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Buenos dias. Good morning,  
20 California. I'm Commissioner Le Mons, and I'm looking  
21 forward to hearing from all of you today. Welcome.  
22 Let's get this started.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah. Yeah. Commissioner Sadhwani.

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I like that, Commissioner Le  
25 Mons. Good morning, everybody. Good morning,

1 California. My name is Sarah Sadhwani. I am a resident  
2 of La Canada, Flintridge, in the foothills of the Angeles  
3 National Forest. I'm looking forward to hearing more  
4 about the Central Valley communities today.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Commissioner Sinay.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Buenos dias. Good morning.

7 (In Spanish, not translated)

8 I'm very excited to be here today and hear your  
9 stories from your community. Thank you.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful.

11 Commissioner Taylor.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good morning, everyone. My  
13 name is Derric Taylor. I'm joining you from a pleasant  
14 Los Angeles. I'm looking forward to hearing your stories  
15 and getting information input from my community members  
16 about the Central Valley. Thank you.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo.

18 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Good morning, California.  
19 Buenos dias. My name is Pedro Toledo, and I'm coming to  
20 you from Petaluma, California, in Wine Country. I'm  
21 looking forward to hearing all about your communities.  
22 And hope you have a wonderful, a wonderful day. Thank  
23 you.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Commissioner Yee.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Good morning, California, and

1 good morning to the Central Valley, food basket to the  
2 state, the nation, and the world. I'm here in my  
3 hometown of Oakland. And our connection to the Central  
4 Valley is our port, where so many of the agricultural  
5 exports from the Valley ship out to points distant.  
6 Yeah.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

8 COMMISSIONER YEE: So I'm glad for that connection  
9 to you and looking forward to hearing from you today.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Thank you. Thank you.  
11 Thank you, Commissioners.

12 And I am Commissioner Trena Turner and this is my  
13 home area, I'm so glad to say. I originally was born in  
14 San Francisco and spent the first years of my life in the  
15 Bay Area in Oakland, and in Richmond, and what have you.  
16 But for the last twenty-six years, I've been here in the  
17 Central Valley. I get an opportunity to work, play, and  
18 live in the Central Valley, from Bakersfield, Kern  
19 County, I spent some time through Fresno, through Merced,  
20 through Stanislaus. And I live in Stockton.

21 And so I am excited about those of you that have  
22 signed up today, those of you that are leaned in, to be  
23 able to talk about our beautiful San Joaquin, Central  
24 Valley, just rich in agriculture, but also rich in just  
25 families and love. And I'm excited to hear from you

1 today. So we're going to get into it.

2 A couple of housekeeping rules, you've got to have  
3 them, right? So wanting you to know that this meeting is  
4 primarily for communities of interest testimony that's  
5 focused on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San  
6 Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties and surrounding  
7 areas. However, anyone in California can call in to  
8 provide input. General public comment will take place at  
9 the end of the meeting.

10 So today we are joined by our line-drawing team,  
11 Haystaq DNA, and Q2 Data & Research, who will be  
12 displaying a map of the area that attendees describe. So  
13 please start with the area that you'd like to discuss.  
14 You want to situate us in the right area before you begin  
15 talking, and then be as specific as possible about the  
16 boundaries of where your community is located.

17 And just kind of a tip for you, you don't want to  
18 just say, "north of", we want to know what you think  
19 north is. So where you can give us street names, that  
20 will be most beneficial, or boundaries, or just kind of  
21 landmarks, or what have you.

22 So it's our goal to find the area on the map that  
23 you want to discuss, before your testimony. So if you're  
24 within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please  
25 mention it by name. And then once we're able to locate

1 your area, then your three-minute testimony will begin.

2 So attendees will not be able to share their screen.

3 We are also joined by Katy, the lovely and talented  
4 Katy, our comment moderator who will be introducing  
5 attendees when it's their turn to speak. When you join  
6 the meeting, please use the raise hand button -- it's at  
7 the bottom of your screen -- to be able to enter the  
8 queue.

9 Now, if you've registered for a time slot, we  
10 encourage you to call in during your appointment time  
11 slot, and then when it's your turn to speak, Katy, the  
12 comment moderator will be identifying you by your  
13 assigned, unique ID number. You'll be reconnected to the  
14 session with the ability to enable your own video and/or  
15 audio, and I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you in  
16 person.

17 The comment moderator will assign you a speaker  
18 order number before you begin speaking, and please make a  
19 note of this for future reference. You will be able to  
20 use this number to identify your COI testimony on our  
21 website at a future date.

22 The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time  
23 limit warning -- will be reinforcing a three-minute time  
24 limit and will give you a warning at thirty seconds and  
25 fifteen seconds. At the beginning of your input, you're

1 going to see a map on the screen. You're going to remind  
2 the mapper of what area you want to see on that screen.  
3 And then again, be specific as possible, using street  
4 names where you can, about the boundaries of where your  
5 community is located.

6 I want you to know that registration is not required  
7 to participate in this public meeting -- input meeting.  
8 The public has the option of calling in during this  
9 meeting to get in the queue to speak. The call-in  
10 information and the access code is listed on the live  
11 stream. Okay.

12 So let me talk just a little bit more about the  
13 communities of interest tool. As you've seen perhaps on  
14 our website or heard us say on previous meetings, while  
15 there are no clear rules, no specific rules on how to  
16 define a community of interest, we've identified ways for  
17 you to describe your community. So when you call in  
18 start with your county or city. Then details, as you  
19 see, it's going to be important; mention the street names  
20 and significant locations in your neighborhood to help us  
21 identify the parameters of your community. My north  
22 might not be your north. I want to know what's important  
23 for you.

24 What are your shared interests when you're talking  
25 about your community of interest? What brings you



1 together? What's important to your community? We want  
2 to know, are there nearby areas that you want to be in a  
3 district with? Are there nearby areas that you do not  
4 want to be in a district with? Why or why not? Tell us.  
5 And then, has your community come together to advocate  
6 for important services, better schools, better roads? Or  
7 have they come together around health centers in your  
8 neighborhood?

9       Also, we invite you to use the community of interest  
10 tool to draw a map and describe your community by  
11 visiting [DrawMyCACommunity.org](http://DrawMyCACommunity.org).

12       We have a tagline. I hope you've picked it up by  
13 now. It says: Skip the Line. Go Online. Submit your  
14 COI input today.

15       So with all of that said and stated, we will now  
16 begin our public input session. I'm going to pass this  
17 over to Ms. Katy, our comment moderator. We're going to  
18 start with people who are registered, and then we'll open  
19 the phone lines, if there is enough time before the next  
20 session.

21       Katy, if we finish -- you take it away, Katy, from  
22 here.

23       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Good morning, Chair.  
24 Thank you. You're so kind.

25       Welcome to the public input session. Please use the

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

9       The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time  
10 limit with a warning at thirty seconds and fifteen  
11 seconds remaining. At the end of your public input or at  
12 the end of your time, you will be reconnected in a  
13 listen- and view-only mode. At the beginning of your  
14 input, please remind the mapper of what area you would  
15 like to see on the screen.

16       And I see lots of hands raised. Good morning to you  
17 all.

18       So right now will be 005. And then up next in the  
19 queue will be 001. Right now we will -- 005. And up  
20 next will be 001. 005, your speaker order number will be  
21 number 1, if you will please make note of that for future  
22 reference. You can now enable audio and video in the  
23 lower-left corner of your screen. If you will please  
24 remind the mapper of what area you would like to discuss  
25 today. With that, the floor is yours. 005, you can

1 now -- there you are.

2 MR. PELLERIN: Yes, here I am. Thank you.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right.

4 MR. PELLERIN: Good morning, Commissioners. My name  
5 is Aaron Pellerin (ph.), and I am a resident and business  
6 owner in Commissioner Turner's hometown of Stockton. And  
7 I would like to speak today in regard to Zone F and more  
8 specifically about the City of Lodi. I'll let you get  
9 there. Okay.

10 So Lodi, I feel that the City of Lodi, along with  
11 the people of this area, should have representation that  
12 aligns with their cultural and economic values. Lodi is  
13 a rural community where agricultural -- agriculture is  
14 still an important part of the economy.

15 The Lodi area has become the grape and wine capital  
16 of the Central Valley and almost all of California. The  
17 citizens of Lodi, and their community, are basically an  
18 agricultural-based community. The citizens of Lodi are  
19 concerned about the California Delta. They're concerned  
20 about their water rights issues. And I feel that they're  
21 probably less concerned about freeway congestion and  
22 housing densities.

23 And I feel that they should be -- that that area  
24 should be more aligned with the Central Valley of  
25 California and less aligned with the communities of Elk

1 Grove and Sacramento. Yeah. And so the Lodi community  
2 has long-standing ties with the Central Valley due to  
3 their agricultural economy. And I think they would be  
4 best served to be aligned with the Central Valley and the  
5 San Joaquin County.

6 And then just to wrap this up. I understand that  
7 politics play a role in the decision making of  
8 redistricting. But at some point, I think that the  
9 interests of the community and the voters of the  
10 community have to take precedence over politics. So I  
11 just feel that the area of Lodi should be more aligned  
12 with the Central Valley.

13 So I just want to thank you for allowing me to  
14 express my opinion. And I also want to thank all the  
15 Commissioners for their service on this important  
16 (indiscernible, audio skip). Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. Thank you so  
19 much. Right now we will have 001. And then up next in  
20 the queue will be 018. Right now will be 001. And up  
21 next in the queue will be 018. 018, I will promote  
22 you -- right, hold on. I apologize.

23 001, did you mean to lower your hand? 001, if you  
24 are ready to make your comment at this time and you  
25 accidentally lowered your hand, please raise your hand at

1 this time. Aha. All right. We will be going to 001.

2 001, I promoted you now. 001 your speaker order  
3 number will be number 2, if you will please make note of  
4 that for future reference. You can now enable your audio  
5 and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If  
6 you'll please remind the mapper of what area you would  
7 like to see today. With that, the floor is yours.

8 MS. WALTERS: Hello? Can you hear me? This is 001.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. And your  
10 speaker order number will be number 2, if you'll please  
11 make note of that.

12 MS. WALTERS: Okay.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And remind the mapper of  
14 what area you would like to see. And with that, the  
15 floor is yours.

16 MS. WALTERS: I am in Bakersfield, California, most  
17 specifically in East Bakersfield, in the area of Oswell  
18 and College Avenue. My name is Robin Walters (ph.), and  
19 I currently live in CA23. CA23, and most specifically,  
20 East Bakersfield, in the Bakersfield Country Club, East  
21 Bakersfield High School area where I live, it's currently  
22 one of the most cracked and gerrymandered districts in  
23 California.

24 I believe the only way to adequately represent my  
25 community is to do a Kern West House District, which I'll

1 describe. Bakersfield itself is a city of 400,000 people  
2 and is the ninth largest city in -- is the ninth largest  
3 city. I'm sorry. As I indicated, I live in East  
4 Bakersfield and truly, across the street my neighbor is  
5 in CA21, and I am in CA23. This is despite the fact that  
6 we are truly a community of interest, we share the same  
7 utilities, the same schools, the same Nextdoor app, where  
8 we share all our neighborhood concerns, and all of the  
9 concerns that we have.

10 It is just stunning to me that my neighbor across  
11 the street has a different Congressional representative  
12 than I do, despite the fact that we are both considered  
13 neighbors and residents of East Bakersfield. I think the  
14 way to adequately address this community of interest is,  
15 as I indicated, a district that I would call the Kern  
16 West House District.

17 This would comprise a total population roughly equal  
18 to the anticipated average House district population, and  
19 would include Arvin, Bakersfield, Delano, Frazier Park  
20 and surrounding communities, Lake Isabella and  
21 surrounding communities, Lost Hills and Surrounding  
22 Communities, the Taft area, the Tehachapi area, Shafter,  
23 and Wasco.

24 This would include the communities with the same  
25 interests as identified by the designated media market.

1 We all share the same newspapers. We all share the same  
2 radio stations. And we all share the same broadcast  
3 television. We also share the same basics of economy.  
4 Agriculture and oil are the two biggest industries in --

5 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

6 MS. WALTERS: -- Kern County, and almost all the  
7 jobs are created here. The median household income for  
8 these communities is 40- to 60,000, and is compared to  
9 Santa Clarita if you were to go south. Santa Clarita  
10 does not have the same community of interest.

11 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

12 MS. WALTERS: We share water, we share an airport,  
13 we share educational districts, and we share a geographic  
14 continuity. I would ask that you consider the boundaries  
15 for Kern West to be, essentially, the boundaries of Kern  
16 County --

17 MR. MANOFF: Time.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Ms. Robin.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now  
20 will be 018. And up next in the queue will be 039.  
21 Right now will be 018. And up next will be 039. And I  
22 invite those who have joined with appointments to please  
23 use the raise your hand button at the bottom of your  
24 screen to enter the comment queue line. But right now  
25 will be 018. And up next will be 039.

1           018, you'll be promoted now. 018, your speaker  
2 order number will be number 3, if you will please make  
3 note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
4 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
5 screen. If you'll please remind the mapper what area you  
6 would like to discuss today. With that, the floor is  
7 yours.

8           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning. Good morning.  
9 I am from the City of Tulare. And I am calling this  
10 morning to urge the Commissioners when you begin to  
11 redistrict to leave the City of Tulare intact. We share  
12 a commonality of schools, newspaper, media, and other  
13 things that come into our area. We request that you  
14 leave our city intact so that we can remain a city of  
15 interest, without pitting us against each other. Thank  
16 you so much for your consideration.

17           CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

18           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
19 now will be 039. And up next will be 010. Right now  
20 will be 039. And up next will be 010. 039 you'll be  
21 promoted now. 039 --

22           MS. G. HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, we have got -- Can you  
23 hear me?

24           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I can. I have a couple  
25 of brief instructions for you.



1 MS. G. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Your speaker order number  
3 will be number 4, if you will please make note of that  
4 for future reference. And then if you'll please let the  
5 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
6 With that, the floor is yours.

7 MS. G. HERNANDEZ: Okay. My name is Gloria  
8 Hernandez. I'm a resident of Fresno County. I live in  
9 the southeast corner of the City of Fresno. However, the  
10 group I am representing is Mothers Helping Mothers. We  
11 are a group of mothers, grandmothers, and our kids that  
12 go out and service the rural communities, and the south  
13 communities of the City of Fresno, providing personal  
14 need items during the droughts.

15 I'm really concerned about the agriculture areas in  
16 my city. I don't believe that where I live at, which is  
17 near 1st and Olive, represents the northern part of  
18 Fresno. I think the northern part of Fresno is so  
19 different from, let's say, Calwa and Malaga. Many of my  
20 neighbors are farm workers that go out to agriculture,  
21 whether they're in the packing house, picking, or  
22 packing, or transporting, to market the agriculture  
23 products.

24 We're also the ones that have a bad infrastructure  
25 here in the urban area, as well as the rural areas.

1 We're also the ones that have worst pollution, worst lack  
2 of trees, we're the older infrastructure, we don't have  
3 that much green space, and there's more poverty and air  
4 pollution, and we have to rely on -- for clinics for  
5 health care, and we need more educational investment.

6 One of my friends works for AT&T, and a lot of the kids  
7 could not get on during the stay-at-home quarantine  
8 because the infrastructure for the internet is not there.

9 Right now, the Kern District lines made in 2011 were  
10 by the Independent Commission, which I testified before,  
11 should be maintained. But I do want to talk about the  
12 concerns of my district, and that's the water concerns.  
13 There are two canals that service our areas, it's the  
14 Friant Canal, which is a state-mandated canal, and the  
15 Federal canal which gives water to the big growers on the  
16 west side.

17 Many of my communities are going without water.  
18 There was a couple of newspaper articles both in The New  
19 York Times, and The Guardian that indicate that our  
20 water -- our land is sinking because the growers are  
21 digging wells and selling the water to private  
22 developers. My recommendation is that if we break -- if  
23 we keep the current lines as they are, dividing the South  
24 from the North Fresno, we can address those issues more  
25 equitably for our people in the agriculture area.

1           Transportation is a problem. Access to health care,  
2 even just access to better --

3           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

4           MS. G. HERNANDEZ: -- market to be able to buy good  
5 food instead of the rotten food at the ninety-nine cent  
6 store. Banks are very important, and we are lacking  
7 banks in our area. So I just want you to take into  
8 consideration --

9           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

10          MS. G. HERNANDEZ: -- that what you all did in 2010  
11 was good, and it should continue that way. Thank you so  
12 much.

13          PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And  
14 right now we will have 010. And up next in the queue  
15 will be 004. Right now will be 010. And up next will be  
16 004. 010, I will be promoting you now. 010, your  
17 speaker order number will be number 5, if you will please  
18 make note of that for future reference. You can now  
19 enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of  
20 your screen. Please remind the mapper of what area you  
21 would like to discuss today. And with that, the floor is  
22 yours.

23          MS. VIVIAN: Thank you. Good morning. Yes, I would  
24 like to talk about the Fresno area on the north, please.  
25 And first -- good morning, all. First, I would like to

1 thank the members of the Committee on Redistricting for  
2 your time and commitment to this process.

3 My name is Clarissa Vivian, and I'm a special  
4 project coordinator for a nonprofit organization. And I  
5 have lived in Fresno for almost ten years. I am  
6 comforted in knowing that this Committee's leadership  
7 will ensure a transparent, fair, and equitable process.

8 While I was thinking about my upcoming testimony, I  
9 thought about how delicate this process is, because we  
10 are redistricting communities using data collected during  
11 a pandemic, in a time when communities of color,  
12 immigrant, and low-income families were  
13 disproportionately impacted. Additionally, data  
14 collection occurred during a time when undocumented  
15 individuals were intimidated.

16 Since I moved to Fresno City, I have lived in the  
17 Fresno County Second District that encompasses a diverse  
18 mosaic, where I personally love to live. I value my  
19 community's diversity because I enjoy the things as  
20 trivial as trying a new food, to things as serious as  
21 human rights.

22 Our community strives for safe and family-oriented  
23 events, like River Parks Farmers Market, and 5K runs in  
24 River Park. My home and district is an urban area. The  
25 people who live in my community include many immigrants

1 and essential workers in fields ranging from agriculture  
2 to health care. I do my grocery shopping at Sprouts on  
3 Blackstone, between Alluvial and Minarets, and I am lucky  
4 enough to have found a daycare that I am very happy with  
5 that is only one mile from my apartment.

6 I work in Clovis on Villa, between Sierra and  
7 Bullard. In Clovis the median household income is 77,904  
8 dollars, while in Fresno it's 49,813 dollars. Clovis can  
9 be broke down racially as being 53.2 percent White, 16.5  
10 percent Hispanic, and 10.8 Asian. English and Spanish  
11 are the most spoken languages in the district, and I'm  
12 happy to hear and speak Spanish nearly anywhere I go in  
13 my community. My language is part of my cultural  
14 identity, and I look forward to sharing that with my  
15 daughter as I have with my husband.

16 I know that not all residents are as lucky as I am  
17 to have childcare, schools, green areas, grocery stores,  
18 et cetera, as close as we do. And that is --

19 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

20 MS. VIVIAN: -- and that is why I would like to ask  
21 the Commission to keep an open public dialog between  
22 communities' members, and Redistricting Committee, so we  
23 can work together to accomplish our goals, which is to  
24 ensure a better life for everyone. That's why I would  
25 like to --

1 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

2 MS. VIVIAN: -- request that the City of Fresno  
3 stays as one district and doesn't share with Clovis, so  
4 we can work on the other districts together. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now  
7 will be 004. And up next will be 009. And I invite  
8 those who have joined to please use the raise your hand  
9 button at the bottom of your screen to join the comment  
10 queue. For right now will be 004. And up next in the  
11 queue will be 009. 004, I am promoting you now. 004,  
12 I'm promoting your now. 004, your speaker order number  
13 will be number 6, if you will, please make note of that  
14 for future reference. You can now enable your audio and  
15 video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you'll  
16 please remind the mapper of what area you would like to  
17 discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello. I would like to  
19 discuss Kings County. I live in Lemoore, and I'm very  
20 active in the community, especially with young people,  
21 and particularly with Girl Scouts. And I have a wide-  
22 ranging involvement with the Girl Scouts in our  
23 community, but my biggest concern right now is that we --  
24 can you hear me?

25 MR. MANOFF: Yes, we can. Please go ahead.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. All right. The clock  
2 wasn't moving, so I was checking it. I'd like Kings  
3 County to not be divided. We're small, we have no real  
4 large cities within our community -- or within our  
5 county. And Kings County, as a whole, should be the  
6 community of interest. Kings County was actually one of  
7 the two counties in California that were under the old  
8 Voting RIGHTS Act rules because there were attempts to  
9 divide it up, and you know, diminish a lot of community  
10 voices within our community.

11 And I personally believe that we should continue to  
12 monitor what is going on in Kings County. And you know,  
13 the Nonpartisan Commission who looked at this ten years  
14 ago, I believe that the issues were there that we needed  
15 to keep Kings County as one -- this is one district, and  
16 it would make Kings County part of a competitive  
17 district.

18 We specifically don't want to be part of Tulare  
19 County. This would create an extremely partisan district  
20 that would in no way be competitive. The Voting Rights  
21 Act of 1965, and I don't have to go into a bunch of  
22 education on that for you, but it did help -- it did help  
23 us fend for ourselves, instead of being splintered up  
24 into little bits, and sectioned off, and absorbed into  
25 other counties, and not having any say in our community,

1 or what was going on. It really helped us.

2 And so that's where I'm at. And that's -- I just  
3 would hope that you would keep Kings County intact as  
4 a -- as part of a district. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now, we will have  
7 009. And up next will be 016. Right now, we'll be 009.  
8 And up next will be 016. 009, we are promoting you now.  
9 009, your speaker order number will be number 7, if  
10 you'll please make note of that for future reference.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. Can you hear me?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. I have a  
13 couple of brief instructions for you.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. Sure.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Your speaker order number  
16 will be number 7, if you'll make note of that for future  
17 reference. And if you'll let the mapper know what area  
18 you would like to discuss today. With that, the floor is  
19 yours.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. I'm from Clovis. So  
21 that's the area I will be speaking about. Anyway, I feel  
22 like Clovis has a quaint, small-town feel. It is a  
23 tight-knit community. We have great schools, and Clovis  
24 is known for being very safe. I would ask that you  
25 please keep the City of Clovis all in one district like



1 it always has been. I feel like Clovis has represented  
2 its community's values very well, and I think that's why  
3 Clovis has thrived so much.

4       Anyway, again, I appreciate your time and I just ask  
5 that you please keep Clovis all in one district. And  
6 thank you so much.

7       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now we  
8 will have 016. And up next to the queue will be 002.  
9 Right now will be 016. And up next will be 002. 016,  
10 we'll be promoting you now. 016, your speaker order  
11 number will be number 8, if you will please make note of  
12 that for future reference. You can now enable audio and  
13 video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you  
14 will please remind the mapper of what area you would like  
15 to discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

16       MR. YANG: Good morning. Thank you. I would like  
17 to discuss Fresno County, the northern section, and then  
18 going into Clovis. All righty, thank you.

19       Good morning. My name is Ryan Yang. I've lived in  
20 Fresno my whole life. I've been around all of Fresno,  
21 for the other half of my life I've been living in Clovis,  
22 but I've also explored other parts of the country. I've  
23 been to New York, Florida, North Carolina, Oregon,  
24 Nevada, Arizona, just a handful. But I've seen almost  
25 half of all the fifty states and been with them for quite

1 some time.

2 I can say without a doubt that Clovis is the only  
3 place of its kind in the country. There really is no  
4 place like it. Clovis, in and of itself, has its own  
5 problems, it has its own unique people, and it also has  
6 its own unique solutions to those problems, that are  
7 very, very different from the Fresno metropolitan area.

8 From the farmers and ranchers that I know really  
9 well, to the small business owners who make downtown --  
10 Old Town Clovis, I should say, really what it is. That's  
11 really the uniqueness of Clovis, and why Clovis, as a  
12 small community, is really beautiful, and you'll never  
13 find anywhere like Clovis anywhere in the fifty states.

14 And because of its unique atmosphere and its unique  
15 problems, these are people that need to be represented in  
16 one district. They can't be split up. It's going to be  
17 too hard on them, and it's going to be hard on us as a  
18 community to represent ourselves and to get our problems  
19 voiced out in the Legislature.

20 And even more so for myself as an Asian-American,  
21 despite over the past year, the increased reporting of  
22 Asian violence, I always loved and appreciated Clovis for  
23 having the kind of community where they don't judge you  
24 by your skin color, but by judging you by the merit of  
25 your work. And that really was what made Clovis really

1 home for me, is that even though I stuck out as an  
2 individual, I look different, but everybody treating me  
3 the same, as long as I worked hard, and I made sure that  
4 I treat everybody with respect. And that really was the  
5 beauty of Clovis for me.

6 So again, I just ask that you keep Clovis in one  
7 district, that you keep our community united. This is a  
8 place that I really would love to come back to, because  
9 I'm going out for some schooling out of the States. But  
10 I really, I'm going to love coming back here to Clovis,  
11 because this will always be my home. So thank you for  
12 your time, and I really appreciate it.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now we  
14 will have 002. And up next will be 003. Right now we  
15 have 002, up next 003. 002, I will be promoting you now.  
16 002, your speaker order number will be number 9, if you  
17 please make note of that for future reference. You can  
18 now enable the audio and video in the lower-left corner  
19 of your screen. If you will please remind the mapper of  
20 what area you would like to discuss today. With that,  
21 the floor is yours.

22 MS. FITIAUSI: Good morning. My name is Claire  
23 Fitiausi (ph.). And I live in Hanford, located in Kings  
24 County. Kings County is my area of interest. Kings  
25 County is an agricultural, rural community, and we don't

1 have any large cities located. Hanford is the county  
2 seat. My history here is, I've lived in Kings County for  
3 the last twenty years, and before that I was in the Bay  
4 Area, but I had lived in Kings County for ten years  
5 prior, so a total of thirty years here in Hanford, based  
6 in Kings County.

7 I would see Kings County as a whole, as a community  
8 of interest, even though I only live in kind of the  
9 northern part. Our community is crossed by Highway 198,  
10 and in the lower southern -- southwest corner through  
11 Interstate 5. I'm involved in several community  
12 organizations, and I appreciate the opportunity to  
13 interact throughout the county, all the way to Avenal,  
14 Kettleman City. We are surrounded by four different  
15 counties, Fresno County to the north, Tulare to the east,  
16 Kern to the south, and I forget -- is it Monterey  
17 County -- over on the west.

18 So my concern or request is that Kings County, in  
19 its entirety, be considered a community of interest. Our  
20 rural population generally is funded by agriculture. We  
21 are heavily Hispanic and there's a good proportion of our  
22 community that is Spanish-English bilingual, and we have  
23 a lot of Spanish-only speakers. And I believe that the  
24 benefit of keeping Kings County together encourages  
25 activity within our county.

1           So as a resident of Hanford, I don't just  
2 participate in things in Hanford. I have expanded my  
3 community activity to include the whole county. And so I  
4 request that you maintain Kings County as a community of  
5 interest. Thank you so much.

6           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. I invite  
7 those in the queue that have joined via their Zoom link  
8 to use the raise your hand button at the bottom of your  
9 screen to join the line for the comment queue. I invite  
10 those who have joined via their Zoom link to use the  
11 raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen.

12           013 will be right now. 003 will be up next. 013  
13 right now, 003 will be up next. 013, I will be promoting  
14 you now. 013, your speaker order number is number 10, if  
15 you will please make note of that for future reference.  
16 You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left  
17 corner of your screen. If you will please remind the  
18 mapper of what area you would like to discuss today.  
19 With that, the floor is yours.

20           MR. BARRERA: Thank you. My name is Cecilio Barrera  
21 (ph.). I live in Fresno County. But I want to talk a  
22 little bit about the South Valley. I work and education  
23 and public relations across the whole entire area that I  
24 just mentioned, working with the communities in rural  
25 Fresno and rural Kern County. And they might be miles

1 away from each other, but they face similar issues. They  
2 have unique needs regarding K-12 education. Rural school  
3 districts face challenges that require representation who  
4 understands these issues.

5 Many of these communities are families working in  
6 agriculture or have immigrant backgrounds. Many families  
7 rely on ESL programs that encourage young students to  
8 consider work outside of farm labor, young people that  
9 are looking into, maybe, college education to further  
10 their education. These communities have been  
11 historically underinvested and require strong State and  
12 Federal representation.

13 The current districts were made by the 2011  
14 Independent Commission to fill the community of  
15 interests, in my opinion, specifically, the small, rural  
16 farm worker communities are kept -- it's important that  
17 they're kept together and can all work together to face  
18 these issues. I ask that you maintain the current  
19 districts in the South Valley as best as you can, linking  
20 rural Fresno County and rural Kern County. Thank you.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Barrera, before you leave. Would  
22 you please define for me what are you seeing as South  
23 Valley? Can you give a little bit more detail of what  
24 either, counties, city, or streets; what's South Valley  
25 for you?

1 MR. BARRERA: Absolutely. It will be if --

2 CHAIR TURNER: And if you would include what are you  
3 actually wanting to stay together?

4 MR. BARRERA: Yes. So when I say South Valley; and  
5 the areas I work in is if you're looking from south to  
6 north, Kern County, all the way up to Fresno County.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

8 MR. BARRERA: And so there're several districts in  
9 there, if you look at the State Legislation, Legislator  
10 side --

11 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

12 MR. BARRERA: -- that I think have been doing a good  
13 job as far as representation. And so when I say kept  
14 together, I mean all of the districts within that area.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

16 MR. BARRERA: From the State, Assembly, to the  
17 Senate, even at the Federal side, and Congressional  
18 districts, I think are really well-drawn to represent  
19 those communities.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So you're including Fresno.  
21 Okay.

22 MR. BARRERA: Absolutely. Yeah.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Beautiful. Thank you.

24 MR. BARRERA: Yeah. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now, we

1 have 003. Up next, we have 048. Right now we have 003.  
2 Up next we will have 048. 003, I'll be promoting you  
3 now. 003, your speaker order number will be number 11,  
4 if you will please make note of that for future  
5 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in  
6 the lower-left corner of your screen. If you will please  
7 remind the mapper of what area you would like to discuss  
8 today. With that, the floor is yours.

9 MR. ANGUIANO: Hello? Can you hear me?

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can.

11 MR. ANGUIANO: Hi, my name is Aaron Anguiano. I'm  
12 the president of the Latino Community Roundtable here in  
13 Stanislaus County. And I was looking at District 8, and  
14 what it seems like is that we had the Towns of Turlock,  
15 Hughson, Waterford, and Oakdale in District A. And I  
16 think those communities are more like the Valley people,  
17 whereas, we have District A that goes all the way to the  
18 border with Nevada, up and down from Fresno to  
19 Sacramento.

20 And so I was thinking that those communities that  
21 have a lot of Latino people, like me, that live in  
22 Modesto should be more in a district that is in the  
23 valley, not in the mountains. And that's my only  
24 concern. Thank you.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So would you just, before you



1 get off, you've got a little bit more time; thank you for  
2 that. So you want which counties together?

3 MR. ANGUIANO: Stanislaus County.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

5 MR. ANGUIANO: So the eastern portion of Stanislaus  
6 County has District 8, whereas we have the other two  
7 Senate districts that are also part of Stanislaus County.  
8 You see, in Stanislaus County we have three Senate  
9 districts and I -- I'm still okay with the other two  
10 Senate districts, but I think that the eastern part of  
11 the county that even has Turlock, which is like our -- I  
12 think is our second largest city.

13 And then we have the towns of Hughson, Waterford,  
14 and Oakdale, they're part of District A, which is like  
15 all the way to Nevada. And I think it's some effort to  
16 get population for that district, to have to come up with  
17 the one million, almost one million people for the  
18 district, but I think it's taking away from the community  
19 of interest of the Valley --

20 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

21 MR. ANGUIANO: -- that are ways of living, and jobs,  
22 and all the things going on here in the Valley it's  
23 different than the people that live all the way to the  
24 border in Nevada, and from Fresno to Sacramento County --

25 CHAIR TURNER: Sure.

1 MR. ANGUIANO: -- so a little more up.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Sure. So we just want to be clear.  
3 And what are you suggesting? What do you want together?

4 MR. ANGUIANO: I think that the eastern part of  
5 Stanislaus County should be taken out of District 8.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

7 MR. ANGUIANO: Should not be part of the District 8,  
8 because I think the people don't share the same  
9 interests, or the same ways of living, which is Turlock,  
10 Hughson, Oakdale, and Waterford.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah.

12 MR. ANGUIANO: That should be kept more to the  
13 districts that -- the Senate districts that -- the other  
14 two Senate districts, divided among them, or to make it  
15 one Senate district. I don't know what it is.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

17 MR. ANGUIANO: But I think the county has something  
18 like half-a-million people. So I know it's not going to  
19 be just our county as one district, but --

20 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

21 MR. ANGUIANO: -- I think we need to take those  
22 cities out and put them --

23 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. That was very helpful. Thank  
24 you.

25 MR. ANGUIANO: Thank you so much.

1 CHAIR TURNER: All right.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
3 now will be 048. And up next will be 012. Right now  
4 will be 048. And up next in the queue will be 012. 048,  
5 I will be promoting you now. 048, your speaker order  
6 number will be number 12, if you'll please make note of  
7 that for a future reference. You can now enable your  
8 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
9 If you'll please remind the mapper of what area you would  
10 like to discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

11 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. And very much, thank you to  
12 the Commission for --

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: If you could please speak  
14 up, or get a little closer to your microphone?

15 MR. GARCIA: I apologize. Good morning. And thank  
16 you to the Commission for allowing public input to this  
17 very important issue regarding redistricting. My name is  
18 Santos Garcia (ph.). I live in the City of Madera, in  
19 Madera, California. So I will be speaking regarding  
20 Madera, and specifically the City of Madera, and the  
21 County of Madera.

22 To begin with, if you go to the City of Madera and  
23 you look at District 5 City Council. While you're  
24 looking for the District 5 map for the city -- of City  
25 Council of the City of Madera, you will notice that the

1 majority of the district is in Navarro.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Garcia?

3 MR. GARCIA: Yes.

4 CHAIR TURNER: We won't have City Council districts.  
5 The information is more at a county and state level.

6 MR. GARCIA: Okay. So let's look at Madera County  
7 then.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

9 MR. GARCIA: The Madera County Board of Supervisors.  
10 And that does beg the question, when will you be  
11 discussing City Council districts, or will you?

12 CHAIR TURNER: Right. We will not be discussing  
13 City Council districts. That's taken care of more  
14 locally. This body will take care of our -- just at a  
15 state level, Assembly districts, so you may have to check  
16 with your local districts -- local city to determine  
17 where those sessions are.

18 MR. GARCIA: Okay then. Thank you. Thank you very  
19 much. So let's move into, what concerns me about my  
20 Assembly district, if you will, because you really want  
21 to talk about the Assembly districts, and the Senate  
22 district; what concerns me about my district, we have a  
23 representative who takes in portions of Madera and then  
24 links us up to the mountain areas where they really are  
25 not part of my community.

1           These are two distinct areas, two distinct  
2 communities, the Lower Valley, the lower end of the  
3 county is represented by rural districts down in the  
4 Valley. And then the upper portion is totally  
5 disconnected from us where we don't have any connections  
6 any -- unless we're going up to Bass Lake, or going to  
7 Yosemite up in Mariposa, we don't have any connection.

8           So they're two distinct communities, and I would  
9 like to see them divided or separated into a mountain  
10 Assembly district, linked with others, and then a more --

11           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12           MR. GARCIA: -- a city, down in the City of Madera  
13 District. Because I don't feel that the City of Madera  
14 and the county down at the -- are represented by one --

15           MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

16           MR. GARCIA: -- Assembly member that goes all the  
17 way up to, close to the border with Nevada.

18           CHAIR TURNER: So right before we run out of time  
19 and let me ask you quickly; where do you want to see the  
20 split? You said mountain from valley. Is there any more  
21 specificity you can provide of what you'd like to see for  
22 your community of interest, or where you'd like to see  
23 your split occur?

24           MR. GARCIA: Well, that would depend on numbers and  
25 the different types of communities, because we have

1 Chowchilla, the City of Chowchilla down here, the City of  
2 Madera, we have the Madera Ranchos. That is all a little  
3 bit more urbanized than the -- up in the northern  
4 mountainous area, so somewhere regarding Yosemite Lakes,  
5 maybe, somewhere along those lines.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MR. GARCIA: And if we move on to -- because I know  
8 we're nearly out of time, as far as Madera County Board  
9 of Supervisors, I feel that the Latino people of color  
10 population are underrepresented by the Board of  
11 Supervisors. I think that there are -- there's only one  
12 Latina on the Board of Supervisors, and the other  
13 supervisor retired. He was a Latino. But I feel that  
14 our numbers should show that we should have more members  
15 on the Board of Supervisors who are people of color, and  
16 because --

17 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

18 MR. GARCIA: -- because of the way that the  
19 districts are divided.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Okay. Thank you for your  
21 testimony today.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
23 now, we will have 012. And up next will be caller 7250,  
24 unique ID number 036. Right now it will be 012. And up  
25 next will be caller 7250. I will be promoting you, 012.

1 (Pause)

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 012, it appears you  
3 may be having a connectivity issue. I am unable to  
4 promote you, which is a signal of low bandwidth on your  
5 internet connection. So I will advise you to please call  
6 the phone number that is on your invite, and join via the  
7 phone call with -- from your invite. I will try one more  
8 time.

9 Let me try allowing you to talk this way. Hold  
10 on one second. Rather than having to call. 012, if  
11 you'll follow the prompt to unmute, on your screen --  
12 it's looking like, 012 we will have to move on to the  
13 next one at this time.

14 So right now we will be at 032. And up next  
15 will be 014. Right it'll be 932. And up next will be  
16 014. 032, your speaker order number -- one moment --  
17 your speaker order number will be number 13, if you will  
18 please make note of that for future reference. If you'll  
19 please let the mapper know what area you would like to  
20 discuss today. With that, the floor will be yours. You  
21 are currently muted. You have to unmute yourself, ma'am.  
22 It should be in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
23 There you are.

24 MS. MARTIN: Okay. Hello.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Hello.

1 MS. MARTIN: I'm from Clovis, California, in Fresno  
2 County. My name is Susan Martin (ph.). And I have been  
3 a resident of Clovis for close to thirty years. We're a  
4 unique community. Can you hear me now?

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

6 MS. MARTIN: Okay. We're a very unique community.  
7 We have very high ratings with our school district, and I  
8 think most residents here in Clovis, we're all happy.  
9 And I feel that we have adequate representation, and we  
10 have an excellent police force. And we're doing well  
11 with excellent representation. And that's all I needed  
12 to say. Thank you.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now. We will have  
15 a caller 5944. And then up next, it looks like 012 has  
16 rejoined us. We will attempt that one more time. But  
17 right now will be caller 5944. 5944, if you will please  
18 follow the prompts to unmute yourself by pressing star 6.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello? Can you hear me?

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. I have a  
21 couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker order  
22 number will be number 14, if you will please make note of  
23 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
24 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
25 With that, the floor is yours.



1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. Thanks, Commissioners,  
2 for taking the time, and thanks everybody who's called in  
3 to give input. It's been very interesting. I am  
4 concerned with -- I'm in Bakersfield, California, and  
5 concerned primarily with Kern County. And I think if you  
6 want to zoom in, it would be really the western part of  
7 Kern County, so from Tehachapi all the way to the western  
8 border. So we currently are represented in that area by  
9 two Congressional districts, both of which sort of snake  
10 around each other, and cut East Bakersfield, Arvin, and  
11 Delano out of this area.

12 It seems like kind of an unnatural boundary. I  
13 understand the need to have communities like Delano and  
14 Arvin represented in -- as part of the valley. However,  
15 you know, this really is one community of interest. I  
16 think what a lot of us are concerned about is that one or  
17 both of these districts, is really going to be extended  
18 south or to the west, to areas that really are not  
19 connected, have no cultural or economic connection to us  
20 at all.

21 I mean the median household income in places like  
22 Santa Clarita is nearly twice what it is here in  
23 Bakersfield, Delano, Arvin, all those places, and same  
24 thing if you head west out into San Luis Obispo. We  
25 haven't had a Congressional representative in CA21 from

1 Bakersfield for at least two decades. So the last, you  
2 know, two times it's been cut that way, our  
3 representatives have been up in Fresno and Hanford, and I  
4 think that's had a real impact down here.

5 The biggest infrastructure project that we've had  
6 here in a couple of decades is called the Thomas Roads  
7 Improvement project, it's a 700-million-dollar project to  
8 redo all of our highways, and a lot of our surface  
9 streets. And almost all of that money went to the 23rd  
10 District next door, and virtually none of it went to the  
11 21st, as far as I can tell. And I think that's really  
12 representative of the fact that we don't --

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- have representation for  
15 that part of town down here. It's unusual to have our  
16 city sort of cut in half because --

17 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- those districts really,  
19 you know, they chop up a lot of our communities of  
20 interest, including our school districts, and a lot of  
21 our services and what not. So I'd just like you to  
22 consider the fact that we really are one single community  
23 of interest here, especially in Western Kern County --

24 MR. MANOFF: Time.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, sir. If you would hold on

1 there, please; I'd like for you to just clarify what  
2 should be in your district. What should be? You said  
3 don't go west or south, but can you give a little bit  
4 more detail about what you're requesting stay together?

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 5944, if you'll press  
6 star 6 and unmute yourself one more time.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me again?

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Yeah. I mean, there's  
11 a mountain range that extends from Tehachapi -- to  
12 Tehachapi, Kernville. It's a shared mountain range that  
13 is -- that separates the desert communities of Kern  
14 County, which really culturally and economically are  
15 totally disconnected from the rest of the county.

16 It separates that area from the rest of the county,  
17 and a district from that mountain range all the way to  
18 the western border of Kern County would probably be about  
19 the size of a Congressional district that would keep  
20 Bakersfield and the Bakersfield Metro Area all intact  
21 together. That entire area is serviced by the same  
22 school districts --

23 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- the same utilities and  
25 everything.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And three sides of that  
3 district would actually just be drawn by an existing  
4 county line, so it seems like --

5 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. That's very helpful.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- if you wanted to --

7 CHAIR TURNER: But no, that's helpful. Thank you.  
8 Thank you for clarifying. I just wanted to make sure we  
9 captured what you were requesting stay together. Thanks  
10 so much, sir.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now we  
12 will have 012. I'll try this one more time. 012, and up  
13 next in the queue will be caller 7250. I would like to  
14 invite those in the queue that have joined and have  
15 appointments, to please use the raise your hand button at  
16 the bottom of your screen. I invite those in the queue  
17 that have appointments to please use the raise your hand  
18 button at the bottom of your screen.

19 Thank you so much. Right now will be 012, I will be  
20 promoting you now. 012, it looks like we are having the  
21 same connectivity issue as we had previously. I invite  
22 you to please call in and use the telephone number that  
23 is in your Zoom invite, will bring you to the same  
24 meeting. And enter your input that way.

25 So right now we have caller 7250 -- oh. Wait, one

1 second. 012 is here. 012, it looks like we've got you  
2 promoted. Your speaker order number will be number 15,  
3 if you'll please make note of that. You can now enable  
4 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
5 screen. And if you'll please remind the mapper of what  
6 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
7 floor is yours. 012, if you'll please unmute yourself in  
8 the lower-left corner of your screen, the floor will be  
9 yours. 012, you can use the unmute option in the lower-  
10 left corner of your screen, and follow the prompt that is  
11 in the center of your screen.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that me?

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That is you, sir.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. I'm so sorry. I thought  
15 you were going to call me by my name.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh. I don't have your  
17 name, but for you I have 012.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. All right. I  
19 thought (indiscernible).

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay. Your  
21 speaker order number, if you'll please make note of it,  
22 will be number 15. And if you'll please remind the  
23 mapper of what area you would like to discuss today.  
24 With that, the floor is yours.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Very well. Thank you. I am

1 Wasco Mayor, for the City of Wasco in Kern County. And  
2 we are -- our perimeters, our State Highways 46, as well  
3 as State Highway 43, surface roads, Central Avenue, and  
4 Filburn Avenue. What makes our communities unique is  
5 that we are very rural, and like a lot of our sister  
6 communities in rural West Kern, our shared interests are  
7 high -- excuse me, high poverty, high unemployment, as  
8 well as distance to resources. We, all in rural West  
9 Kern as well as the City of Wasco, have to drive a  
10 minimum of thirty miles, or minutes, to receive any  
11 services, i.e. the City of Bakersfield. Those are the  
12 most nearby -- that's the most -- nearest services.

13 Other communities that we lean into are McFarland,  
14 Delano, and Shafter for quick services, and such things  
15 as that, as well as some employment, as well as our  
16 health services. North Kern is a community of interest,  
17 especially the City of Wasco, because we have a lot of  
18 shared similarities, a lot of our similar culture,  
19 economic background.

20 We are a farm working community, a largely farm  
21 working community, a large prison population of prison  
22 workers because of the Wasco -- or the three prisons in  
23 our northwestern area of Kern. These communities are  
24 heavily Latino, as I mentioned, and working class, many  
25 families are of immigrant backgrounds, or farm-working

1 backgrounds, or both.

2 Kern is one of the largest AG producers in the  
3 country. I think the AG economy does fuel our farmers  
4 and farm workers alike. Many families in Arvin, Lamont,  
5 work in harvesting carrots. Many families in Delano  
6 harvest table grapes. And Wasco, we have a long history  
7 of harvesting roses, as well as other nuts now. We rely  
8 heavily, as I mentioned, on CDCR for our jobs, as well as  
9 energy sector for jobs, employment for our residents.

10 These communities are intricately tied together, not  
11 just by demographics, but by region and culture, as I  
12 alluded to. Many families have strong Catholic faith  
13 backgrounds, and celebrate traditional --

14 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- holidays. So I urge that  
16 we keep the lines as they are. The best thing that we  
17 can do is keep our rural communities together. Tehachapi  
18 and Delano and Arvin are not the same. These are --

19 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: These are Lower Valley-based  
21 communities need to stay the same, need to stay together,  
22 and that includes East Bakersfield, Arvin, Lamont,  
23 Shafter, Wasco, Delano, and McFarland. Please consider  
24 that. Thank you, Commissioners, for your work.

25 MR. MANOFF: Time.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Much appreciated. Have a --

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
3 now we have caller 7250. And then up next in the queue  
4 will be 028. I do invite those in the queue that have  
5 joined, that have appointments, to be 014, 033, and 034,  
6 to please use the raise your hand button at the bottom of  
7 your screen to join the comment queue line. That is 014,  
8 033, and 034, if you wish to comment during this session,  
9 if you will please use the raise your hand button at the  
10 bottom of your screen, it will allow you to join the  
11 comment queue line.

12 Thank you so much, 014, I see your hand. Right now  
13 will be caller 7250, and then up next will be 028, and  
14 then we will move on down the line. 7250, if you will  
15 please follow the prompts to unmute yourself by pressing  
16 star 6.

17 Thank you so much, caller 7250. You are unmuted. I  
18 have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your  
19 speaker order number will be number 16, if you will,  
20 please make note of that for future reference. If you'll  
21 please remind the mapper what area you would like to  
22 discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

23 MR. PRUITT: Hello. My name is David Pruitt (ph.).  
24 And the community of interest I wish to speak about is  
25 Visalia in the County of Tulare. The City of Visalia has



1 many shared interests, as a number of other speakers  
2 spoke on. A common interest in economic development of  
3 the city, both in terms of AG-related, and non-AG-related  
4 jobs, we have a diverse city in terms of ethnicity, but  
5 we have a common interest in every young person having a  
6 good start in life in terms of education in order to  
7 fight the poverty that we deal with.

8       And so what I would urge the Commission to consider  
9 is to try to maintain Visalia as a single entity within  
10 the Congressional district and the State districts in  
11 order to present the most clear communication to our  
12 State and Federal leaders of what our concerns are.

13       CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

14       MR. PRUITT: That's all I had.

15       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
16 now we have 028. And up next we will have 014.

17       CHAIR TURNER: And probably right after that, Ms.  
18 Katy, we'll be going to break.

19       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh.

20       CHAIR TURNER: Our required break at 11:30.

21       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's right. We have  
22 public comment through break. How exciting.

23       All right. So we will go with 028 and 014, and then  
24 we will go to a break. 028, though, I will be promoting  
25 you now. 028, your speaker order number will be 17, if

1 you'll please make note of that for future reference.  
2 You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left  
3 corner of your screen. If you'll please remind the  
4 mapper of what area you would like to discuss today.  
5 With that, the floor is yours.

6 MS. ALBIAR: Hello. My name is Anna Albiar. I am  
7 the president elect of the Bakersfield Association of  
8 Realtors. And I am speaking of the Kern County map. As  
9 a realtor, I need to be familiar with the differences  
10 between communities in Kern County, and I have some  
11 observations as to how this Commission can do better than  
12 the 2011 Commission.

13 I suggest this Commission eliminate what seems to be  
14 an unnecessary split of the northern portion of the  
15 county. Today, the Kern River Valley is an Assembly  
16 district whose population base is in Tulare County. The  
17 communities of Kernville, Lake Isabella, Weldon, Wofford  
18 Heights, Bodfish, and River Kern belong in a district  
19 whose population base is in Kern County, not as an  
20 appendage to Tulare County.

21 The Commission did a solid job on AD32, which is a  
22 Latino voting rights district. Obviously, this  
23 Commission needs to make any changes needed so that  
24 district retains its Latino character. To the south, I  
25 credit the 2011 Commission with keeping the Antelope

1 Valley together in the Assembly plan. The Valley  
2 includes California City and Rosemont in Kern County, as  
3 well as Lancaster and Palmdale in LA County.

4       However, the 2011 Commission missed their mark --  
5 missed their mark by not including the City of Ridgecrest  
6 with the Antelope Valley region in the Assembly district.  
7 Ridgecrest where the Naval Air Weapons Station, China  
8 Lake Station is located, that base provides the majority  
9 of employment in the city, about 8,000 jobs. It is the  
10 employer in that city.

11       For that reason, Ridgecrest belongs with the  
12 Antelope Valley's aerospace economy that includes Edwards  
13 Air Force Base in Southern Kern County and Plant 42 in  
14 Palmdale. Working together, these communities can ensure  
15 this region continues its leadership role in America's  
16 aerospace industry and bring more good jobs to the  
17 region.

18       I thank you so much for allowing me to speak. And I  
19 thank you for the great job that you are doing,  
20 Commission. So thank you so much. Have a great rest of  
21 your day.

22       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. We  
23 have time for one more comment during this session. 014,  
24 I will be promoting you now. 014, your speaker order  
25 number --

1 MS. PEREZ: Can you hear me?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I can hear you. I have a  
3 couple of brief instructions for you.

4 MS. PEREZ: Okay. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Your speaker order number  
6 will be number 18, if you'll please make note of that for  
7 future reference. And then if you'll please let the  
8 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
9 And with that, the floor is yours.

10 MS. PEREZ: Thank you so much. You're telling me  
11 you can hear me now, right?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. We can hear  
13 you just fabulously.

14 MS. PEREZ: Okay. Great. Yes. This Zoom world,  
15 you know, is so different. So thank you. I appreciate  
16 the privilege and the opportunity to speak to the folks  
17 that are the thought leaders on what democracy looks like  
18 moving forward in the Central Valley. It really is a  
19 privilege. I also had the great honor, while I didn't  
20 ask for it, I had the great honor and privilege of  
21 testifying in the MALDEF suit in Kern County about this  
22 very issue -- these very issues.

23 Like, what communities are of interest? How should  
24 we think about them? Who are the experts that should be  
25 able to speak to such ideas? You know, it's incredibly

1 complex, and I really appreciate the time you're putting  
2 in to hear from people and understand, you know, that  
3 communities really are sort of defined by local customs  
4 and norms, and that, you know, it's really local folks  
5 that have a good handle on that.

6       So I testified in MALDEF to really two main issues.  
7 One was the condition of the community, which for me in  
8 my supervisorial district -- I'm sorry, Leticia Perez,  
9 Kern County District 5 -- Kern County supervisor, thank  
10 you. And I -- you know, I spoke honestly about the  
11 condition of our community, which has the second-highest  
12 youth disconnected rate in the country, the poorest  
13 Congressional districts in the country, et cetera, et  
14 cetera. And all of the kind of reality that comes with  
15 that, and how consistent that is with so many communities  
16 in the Central Valley.

17       I was really blown away in 2013. I ran for Senate  
18 and I went to the Orange Blossom Festival, and the Fresno  
19 Gay Pride Festival, and et cetera, et cetera, et cetera,  
20 and every time I saw the same thing, essentially. Poor  
21 Latino families, you know, unprepared, huge skills gap,  
22 living in communities that were short on urban gutter, or  
23 short on sidewalks, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

24       So you know, really it was a great experience to be  
25 able to explain to the judge that so many, as it relates

1 to Latinos in the Central Valley, and their ability to  
2 elect a meaningful representative. You know, so many of  
3 our communities are really similar. They may be spread  
4 out because of the nature of farm working, and I  
5 explained that to the judge. Communities, families move  
6 along with the crops, and in so doing establish and form  
7 themselves, their relationships, and their cultural norms  
8 in different parts of the Central Valley.

9 But essentially the populations are very similar.  
10 They come from the same kind of really deeply  
11 impoverished farm worker roots, like they go to the same  
12 kind of underfunded schools. They live in the same  
13 underdeveloped neighborhoods. You know, and insofar as  
14 that voice is not uniform, or it is not collected within  
15 a geographic or --

16 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

17 MS. PEREZ: -- political boundary, as to make those  
18 conversations and those voices meaningful, then really it  
19 doesn't matter. So what we did in MALDEF, and I really  
20 commend my colleagues for sending myself, a person who  
21 testified against Kern County, along with my colleague,  
22 Zack Scrivner --

23 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

24 MS. PEREZ: -- to go and create maps that we thought  
25 were honestly built around what people do, in this case a

1 majority-minority district, the second one looking  
2 honestly at where Latinos are, how we have evolved in the  
3 Central Valley, you know, the challenges, the beauty,  
4 the --

5 MR. MANOFF: Time.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And I'm not certain we  
7 got what we needed from that caller. So I would ask  
8 Councilperson Leticia to call again and perhaps set a  
9 different appointment. We would love to hear -- oh, a  
10 minute, let's see. Okay.

11 MR. MANOFF: Would you like me --

12 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. I just want to make sure we're  
13 clear on what she's suggesting we keep together.

14 MR. MANOFF: Chair, would you like me to bring them  
15 back?

16 CHAIR TURNER: Just briefly, just real quick.

17 MR. MANOFF: Welcome back, 014.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. We ran out of time. I just  
19 wanted to ensure that you concluded by telling us what  
20 you thought should remain together.

21 MS. PEREZ: So can you hear me?

22 CHAIR TURNER: I can hear you. Yes.

23 MS. PEREZ: Okay. Thank you so much. So what we  
24 did in the MALDEF suit was really identify for the judge  
25 the ways in which Latino populations that originate in

1 the farms, if you will, farm worker families like my  
2 family, like my husband's family, we don't --

3 CHAIR TURNER: Ms. Perez, let me say this. You're  
4 out of time. So we don't have any more time.

5 MS. PEREZ: Okay.

6 CHAIR TURNER: So I just want to know, where did you  
7 want the lines? What did you want to be kept together?  
8 Is that a quick answer?

9 MS. PEREZ: Oh. I feel very strongly about the maps  
10 we created.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

12 MS. PEREZ: I think they are -- I think they are  
13 appropriate for the kind of CVAP compensation you need to  
14 actually be meaningful in an election.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

16 MS. PEREZ: I'd love to have that conversation at  
17 greater length, but I feel very strongly, and I have full  
18 confidence in the maps as we have created them. Thank  
19 you.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, wonderful. Thank you so much for  
21 that.

22 Okay. So we are at a break time now, everyone. And  
23 so we're going to take a fifteen-minute break. When we  
24 return from break, we will start with any individuals  
25 that are registered for an appointment time slot. And



1 should we have an opportunity, if there's time, we'll  
2 open up the phone lines as well.

3 But for now, we're going to take a fifteen-minute  
4 break. And I ask that you all indulge us, and we will be  
5 back at 11:48. Thank you so much.

6 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:33 a.m.  
7 until 11:48 a.m.)

8 CHAIR TURNER: All right. Well, welcome back to the  
9 best show in all of California. You have joined us at  
10 the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, COI,  
11 Input Meeting.

12 Now, we encourage you always to visit our  
13 communities of interest tool to draw a map and describe  
14 your community by visiting, [DrawMyCACommunity.org](http://DrawMyCACommunity.org). So we  
15 will continue at this point with this riveting show on  
16 today.

17 I'll pass it over to Katy, our comment moderator, to  
18 continue with our public input. And we're going to  
19 start, of course, with people that are registered, and  
20 then we will open the phone lines, if there's time,  
21 before our lunch break. Katy, take it away.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Chair.

23 Welcome to the public input session. Please use the  
24 raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen to  
25 enter the queue. When it is your turn to speak, you will

1 be identified by your assigned unique ID number. You'll  
2 be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable  
3 your own video and/or audio. You will then be assigned a  
4 speaker order number before you begin speaking. Please  
5 make a note of your speaker order number for future  
6 reference.

7       The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time  
8 limit with a warning at thirty seconds and fifteen  
9 seconds remaining. At the end of your public input, or  
10 at the end of your time, you'll be reconnected in a  
11 listen- and view-only mode. At the beginning of your  
12 input, please remind the mapper of what area you would  
13 like to see on the screen. And for those of you that  
14 have an appointment that have chose to call in, you can  
15 also press star 9 to raise your hand.

16       We'll be starting with caller 7644. And then up  
17 next in the queue will be 023. Caller 7644, unique ID  
18 number 27, we will be starting there. If you will please  
19 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller  
20 7644, you are currently unmuted. I have a couple of  
21 brief instructions for you. Your speaker order number  
22 will be number 19, if you'll please make note of that for  
23 future reference. If you'll please remind the mapper of  
24 what area you would like to discuss today. With that,  
25 the floor is yours.

1 MR. PAYNE: Good morning. My name is Eric Payne.  
2 I'm the executive director of the Central Valley Urban  
3 Institute. The Central Valley Urban Institute is a  
4 policy and advocacy organization representing the voices  
5 of hundreds of thousands of low-income residents, and the  
6 voice of disadvantaged communities throughout the Central  
7 Valley.

8 We look to uplift and build out policy resources  
9 focused on tracking and formulating effective strategies  
10 for policymakers to craft solutions within the African-  
11 American community, with a focus on mass incarceration,  
12 affordable housing, health equity, and Black wealth  
13 creation.

14 I'm the grandson of Haitian immigrants on my  
15 father's side, who called New Orleans home during the  
16 height of integration of public schools in the '60s and  
17 immediately fled to the Central Valley. And my mother's  
18 parents, who fled the Appalachian Mountains of rural  
19 Tennessee, for what they imagined would be a better life  
20 than the segregated Jim Crow South.

21 They started a restaurant that was a safe haven for  
22 Black families to eat and convene at, notably listed in  
23 the Green Book, "A Guide for California's Black residents  
24 Free from discrimination to identify a place to eat and  
25 sleep." They were lucky enough to buy a home in

1 Southwest Fresno and farm. The neighborhood where my  
2 grandfather bought his house was designated in the hood  
3 redlining map as yellow. The ledger on the map described  
4 this yellow area as under threat of infiltration by  
5 Negroes.

6 We were the Negroes they were worried about. The  
7 murder of George Floyd and the murder of countless Black  
8 men and women before and after him, the Movement for  
9 Black Lives has forced a reckoning with racism and White  
10 supremacy, as Black Americans in the Central Valley  
11 struggle to pay rent and mortgages, put food on the  
12 table, and face high unemployment. Black wealth creation  
13 has been impeded by systemic racism.

14 Hood Redlining maps are an example of the nation's  
15 Federal housing policy that declared that Black and  
16 foreign residents were high risk. Standards and loan  
17 products were written for lending that favored those who  
18 were deemed less risky, and deprived homeownership and  
19 wealth building opportunities to Black Americans, but  
20 placed significant barriers on Black folks in the Central  
21 Valley, in historically Black settled communities like  
22 Pixley, Tulare, Hanford, Lemoore, and Madera, Fairmead,  
23 Atwater, Chowchilla, Seaside, and Allensworth.

24 This is what we think of when we think of racism, a  
25 relic of the past that no longer impedes the economic

1 opportunities of Black Americans today. But the  
2 practices put in place within the housing market has set  
3 the stage for predetermining the socioeconomic status of  
4 Black families --

5 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

6 MR. PAYNE: -- for years to come. And these  
7 policies and practices within the housing market continue  
8 to compound the harm for generations past. As Black  
9 families in these communities continue to experience  
10 Black erasure --

11 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

12 MR. PAYNE: -- and racialized terror in California's  
13 New Jim Crow South. We're requesting equitable lines.  
14 Government created this problem, and it's going to take  
15 government to fix it. History, however, has taught us  
16 the road to justice is long and arduous, and it's clear  
17 that --

18 MR. MANOFF: Time.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. I think we have the  
20 cities. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. Right now will be  
22 023. And up next to be 021. Right now will be 023. And  
23 up next to be 021. 023, I will be promoting you now.  
24 023, your speaker order number will be number 20, if you  
25 will please make note of that for future reference. You

1 can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left  
2 corner of your screen. If you'll please remind the  
3 mapper of what area you would like to discuss today.  
4 With that, the floor is yours.

5 MS. HERRON: Thank you. I'd like to focus on  
6 Southwest Fresno. And does my time start now?

7 MR. MANOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

8 MS. HERRON: All righty. Thank you. Good morning,  
9 Commission. My name is Kaya Herron. I'm the deputy  
10 director for the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce.  
11 And the community of interest I'm representing today is  
12 West Fresno, with our southernmost boundary being West  
13 Central, our northernmost boundary being West Shaw, our  
14 western boundary being South Chateau Fresno, and our  
15 eastern boundary being of Highway 41 and 99.

16 Founded in 2001, the Fresno Metro Black Chamber of  
17 Commerce and Chamber Foundation is the primary champion  
18 for Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in the  
19 Greater Fresno region. Our mission is to engage,  
20 educate, and empower Black businesses through advocacy,  
21 technical assistance, and capacity building services.  
22 When we are successful, we remove social, political, and  
23 economic barriers to the financial success of Black  
24 people.

25 Our work includes entrepreneurship programming for

1 BIPOC men, women, and youth, community economic  
2 development, and integrated voter engagement. We  
3 conducted Census 2020 outreach, and in preparation for  
4 this, two COI sessions engaging twenty-two residents,  
5 ranging from local government leadership, small business  
6 owners, parents, and teachers.

7       We are uplifting our community today because  
8 redistricting is vital, vital for our community's  
9 development and our city's healing. Fresno has been  
10 racially, economically, and socially divided for  
11 generations, depriving Black neighborhoods and  
12 communities of investment and causing harm. Their lack  
13 of political power further exacerbates the problem. And  
14 we see redistricting, core to representation, as a  
15 powerful solution.

16       Now is the time to invest in healthy communities,  
17 parks, affordable housing, retail, state-of-the-art  
18 schools, and amenities in our communities by drawing  
19 equitable and representative lines.

20       In the 1950s, the construction of Highway 99, which  
21 today runs north and south through the Central Valley,  
22 created another physical barrier in addition to the  
23 railroad track between the Westside and the rest of  
24 Fresno, and destroyed more than twenty blocks of existing  
25 housing and businesses, housing primarily Black and

1 immigrant residents.

2       The continued removal of resources, landmarks, and  
3 access in Black communities in the 2000s, even in missed  
4 reinvestment and revitalization, is alarming. Black  
5 Fresnans, has experienced a significant loss of community  
6 and community identity. And today we have the  
7 opportunity to right those wrongs and give them  
8 representation and power. We need to keep our community  
9 together because it has already been broken up so many  
10 times before.

11       As I stated earlier, the construction of physical  
12 boundaries, including Highways 99 and 41, racially  
13 restrictive housing covenants in the north and east in  
14 the '80s, access to schools and resources in the central  
15 and western parts of the city in the '90s, have shaped  
16 where Black people can live and thrive in our city. The  
17 time is now for that to be no more.

18       MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

19       MS. HERRON: Black Fresnans' presence in the west  
20 deserve true political representation and power in order  
21 for our needs to be met and interest to be preserved.  
22 Thank you for the time to provide this opportunity to  
23 speak to the Commission on behalf of my community and  
24 considering our interests.

25       CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.



1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
2 now we will have 021. And up next will be 031. Right  
3 now it's 021. Up next will be 031. 021, I will be  
4 promoting your now. 021, your speaker order number will  
5 be number 21, if you'll please make note of that for  
6 future reference. If you'll please let the mapper know  
7 what area you would like to discuss today. With that,  
8 the floor is yours.

9 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
10 Commission members. My name is Jesus Martinez. I'm a  
11 Fresno County resident and the executive director of the  
12 Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative, or  
13 CIVIIC. I would like to speak with you today about  
14 Latino immigrant families, a community of interest that  
15 is of great numerical significance in Fresno County and  
16 the San Joaquin Valley as a whole.

17 As members of our national polity, Latino immigrant  
18 families are entitled to have their rights of  
19 representation upheld by bodies such as this.  
20 Unfortunately, due to a series of policies and other  
21 factors, the Latino immigrant community in our region was  
22 undercounted, perhaps by as much as fifteen percent, and  
23 as a consequence, their presence and representation in  
24 our democratic system have been harmed.

25 In a 2014 study prepared for my agency, scholar

1 Manuel Pastore wrote that in the San Joaquin Valley,  
2 there were an estimated 890,000 immigrants, and also  
3 506,000 children with at least one immigrant parent.  
4 Ninety-three percent of these immigrants were Latino and  
5 eighty-eight percent, in particular, were of Mexican  
6 origin.

7 I consider Latino immigrant families a community of  
8 interest because they have been treated and defined as  
9 such by governmental policies. This includes the Bracero  
10 Program, which from 1942 to '64 awarded over four-and-a-  
11 half million contracts for temporary labor to Mexican  
12 nationals, in the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act  
13 which, among other things, granted 1.1 million visas to  
14 special agricultural workers, in both cases greatly  
15 impacting San Joaquin Valley Latino immigrant families.

16 More recently, Latino immigrant families in Fresno  
17 and nearby counties were also targeted by a series of  
18 policies emanating from the Donald Trump administration.  
19 Trump sought to utilize the 2020 Census as a tool not to  
20 enumerate the totality of the people residing in our  
21 great nation, but to intimidate Latino immigrants and  
22 their U.S.-born children from participating in the  
23 enumeration process.

24 This included a failed attempt to include a  
25 citizenship question, and another attempt to not count

1 undocumented immigrants. He succeeded in creating an  
2 environment of fear among Latino-origin families in our  
3 region, driving down the interest in participating in the  
4 2020 Census. The 2020 Census enumeration process also  
5 had significant operational challenges due to the  
6 pandemic and the plan adopted by the Census Bureau.

7       For example, the Census Bureau's Update Leave  
8 Program in more rural areas was delayed by the pandemic,  
9 and census self-response rates in those tracts remained  
10 extremely low throughout the enumeration process. Also,  
11 despite the Census Bureau program of sending bilingual  
12 questionnaires to census tracts with more than twenty  
13 percent limited-English households, there are many census  
14 tracts in the San Joaquin Valley with five to nineteen  
15 percent limited-English households. They were to have  
16 support from Mobile Questionnaire --

17       MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

18       MR. MARTINEZ: -- Assistance teams, but it was not  
19 possible to implement that program. Informed  
20 researchers, such as Ed Kissam, argued that the Latino  
21 immigrant undercount in our region is probably around  
22 fifteen percent. This has serious consequences for the  
23 achievement of a fair --

24       MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

25       MR. MARTINEZ: -- and accurate political

1 representation of our community. As the California  
2 Citizens Redistricting Commission, you are in a position  
3 to ensure that the redistricting that takes place does  
4 not further harm to this community of interest that has  
5 taken place already. A representative democracy like  
6 ours needs to be truly representative. Thank you.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Mr. Martinez?

8 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment.

9 CHAIR TURNER: All right. Thank you.

10 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

12 MR. MANOFF: They were right at time. So hang  
13 tight, Mr. Martinez, we'll bring you back; just a moment.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I will be repromoting  
15 you; one moment, 021. There you are.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you for sharing. Just  
17 wondering if you can provide a little bit of more -- a  
18 little bit more specificity about the counties; you  
19 mentioned Fresno, San Joaquin Valley. Can you tell us --  
20 give us more detail about, just really briefly, since we  
21 are at time, what are you advocating is kept together?

22 MR. MARTINEZ: The eight San Joaquin Valley  
23 counties, so from Kern --

24 CHAIR TURNER: Oh. Eight, okay, got it. Okay.

25 MR. MARTINEZ: From Kern through San Joaquin up

1 in --

2 CHAIR TURNER: San Joaquin?

3 MR. MARTINEZ: Yeah.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you so much.

5 MR. MARTINEZ: My pleasure. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
7 now will be 031. And then up next will be 022. Right  
8 now will be 031. And right next -- up next will be 022.  
9 031, I will be promoting you now. 031, your speaker  
10 order number will be number 22, if you will please make  
11 note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
12 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
13 screen. If you'll please remind the mapper of what area  
14 you would like to discuss today. With that, the floor is  
15 yours.

16 MR. HILL: Okay. I will be representing the Central  
17 Valley of California, and that would be Southeast  
18 Bakersfield, from California Avenue, to King Street, to  
19 Martin Luther King Park. And again, that is Southeast  
20 Bakersfield.

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

22 MR. HILL: Okay. Well, my name is Nick Hill. And  
23 again, we are introducing California Avenue here,  
24 Southeast Bakersfield. We are the Kern County Black  
25 Chamber of Commerce. We actually cover the entire

1 county, but today we're going to be focusing on the most  
2 impacted areas around Southeast Bakersfield, where  
3 there's an increased presence of poverty, crime, rundown  
4 parks, and a community of 7,000 people who are looking  
5 for ways to improve their community.

6 We have had two COI sessions with a total of  
7 eighteen participants and including parents of students  
8 who want to be more involved in the decisions surrounding  
9 their community, their political process, and ensuring  
10 that our schools are not impacted by unfair redistricting  
11 lines.

12 We have a personal stake in what happens in our  
13 community, and it is a direct reflection on our Chamber  
14 to uplift our communities as a whole. We are here to  
15 support, advocate, improve the African-American  
16 entrepreneur by increasing economic development  
17 opportunities, building stronger communities, ensuring  
18 that we are an intricate part of the decision-making  
19 process to continue to improve our parks, our housing,  
20 our schools, our economic standing, and our community as  
21 a whole in every way possible.

22 When you look at the area surrounding Martin Luther  
23 King Boulevard, California Avenue, over the last seven to  
24 nine years, there has been absolutely no upgrades, no  
25 additions in these areas, no improved construction, or

1 anything. So then you can actually see the need for the  
2 improvements. So with increased community involvement  
3 we -- looking at the mapper of Southeast Bakersfield it's  
4 easy to see that the neglect has been systemic, and it's  
5 up to us to improve our own surroundings.

6 Thank you again. My name is Nick Hill, Kern County  
7 Black Chamber of Commerce. And we hope that just -- with  
8 coming up with these things that we identify today, that  
9 we improve our situations as a whole. Thank you.

10 CHAIR TURNER: All right. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
12 now we have 022. And up next in the queue will be 038.  
13 Right now will be 022. And up next will be 038. 022, I  
14 will be promoting you now. 022, there appears to be some  
15 connectivity issues at this time. It is not -- oh.  
16 Wait. We got it. There you are.

17 You can now promote yourself -- oh, you can now  
18 promote yourself -- you can now enable your audio and  
19 video in the lower-left corner of your screen. Your  
20 speaker --

21 MS. DREW: (Indiscernible, simultaneous speech)

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- order number will be  
23 number 22 if you -- or no -- will be number 23, if you'll  
24 please make note of that for future reference. And with  
25 that, the floor is yours.

1 MS. DREW: All right. Thank you so much. Good  
2 morning. My name is Jessica Drew. I'm a teacher in  
3 Fresno, in Fresno County. I grew up in a rural Tulare  
4 County. The current district lines we have that were  
5 drawn by the Commission in 2011 are guidelines and really  
6 reflect the community of interest and criteria. I know  
7 criteria include keeping cities and counties whole, but  
8 in the Central Valley it is necessary to split some  
9 cities and counties so that we get fair representation.

10 Fresno County, for example, has two distinct sets of  
11 communities. The Valley communities are heavily  
12 agricultural and more diverse. Many of the small rural  
13 towns in West Fresno County and South Fresno County are  
14 heavily immigrant and are farm worker populations. The  
15 Foothill and Mountain communities in the east of Fresno  
16 County are less diverse and have recreation-based  
17 economy.

18 We also have beautiful national parks there that  
19 require representations focused on forest fire  
20 management, as obvious right now. The Valley  
21 communities -- sorry, similarly, the City of Fresno has  
22 two distinct sets of communities, North Fresno and South  
23 Fresno. Communities south of Shields Avenue in Fresno  
24 are more diverse, working class, and our neighborhoods  
25 are more historic. North Fresno is more aligned with



1 Clovis, as these neighborhoods are newer, more affluent,  
2 and deal with less issues than in South Fresno.

3 Again, it is okay to split some jurisdictions in  
4 order to respect communities of interest, and I encourage  
5 you to maintain the current lines as best you can. Thank  
6 you for your time today.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have  
9 038. And up next will be 029. Right now we will have  
10 038. And up next we'll have 029. And I invite 0 -- oh,  
11 what happened. I invite 034 to use the raise your hand  
12 button at the bottom of your screen.

13 038, if you are prepared to make your comment at  
14 this time and you did not mean to lower your hand, if you  
15 will please use the raise your hand button at this time  
16 indicating you wish to comment. All right. 038, I will  
17 be promoting you now. 038, your speaker order number  
18 will be number 24, if you will please make note of that  
19 for future reference. You can now enable your audio and  
20 video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you  
21 will please let the mapper of what area you would like to  
22 discuss today. And with that, the floor is yours. Go  
23 ahead.

24 Hello? Hello, can you hear me? 038, if you'd like  
25 to check your audio settings in the lower-left corner.

1 038, you are unmuted, if you can hear me. 038, can you  
2 hear me? 038, I'm going to have to -- whoa. Hold on one  
3 second. Okay. It looks like 038 is trying to rejoin;  
4 one moment. 038, it looks like there's some connectivity  
5 issues at this time. We invite you to call in. Please  
6 use the telephone number on your Zoom invite.

7 029 will be right now. 029, I will be promoting you  
8 now. I invite 034 to use the raise your hand button at  
9 the bottom of your screen. 034, I invite you to use the  
10 raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen if  
11 you are ready to comment at this time. 029, I will be  
12 promoting you now. Oh. Hold on one second.

13 038, one moment; 038 has rejoined at this time.  
14 038, you are currently unmuted and your camera is on.  
15 You are not present, 038 --

16 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yeah, I'm here.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi.

18 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Hi. Sorry. I had a connectivity  
19 issue. I don't know what happened.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay. If you  
21 could please remind the mapper of what area you would  
22 like to discuss today. And with that, the floor will be  
23 yours.

24 MS. WESTA-LUSK: Thanks. The name of the county is  
25 Kern County. The name of the city is Ridgecrest,

1 California, and the surrounding area. And the community  
2 of interest I want to discuss is the whole area of the  
3 23rd Congressional District that is contained in Kern  
4 County. Just that part in Kern County with all the  
5 cities in it, besides the Ridgecrest; it's got Mojave,  
6 Rosamond, California City.

7       There is the western part with Taft, Maricopa, goes  
8 up to Ridgecrest, it goes through North Edwards,  
9 California City, Johannesburg, then it goes west to the  
10 Kern River Valley, and then it goes into Northern  
11 Bakersfield, Rosedale Highway. It also includes King,  
12 Bear Valley Springs, Stallion Springs, Tehachapi. That's  
13 the community of interest I want to communicate about.  
14 Can I start now?

15       Okay. The Ridgecrest area includes the City of  
16 Ridgecrest in the town of Inyokern, which are adjacent to  
17 China Lake, Naval Air Weapons Station, a.k.a. China Lake  
18 NAWS, a research facility. We are a small, rural, remote  
19 Desert community, the thousands of workers doing the  
20 research employed by China Lake NAWS, live in Kern  
21 County. We want to continue to be districted with Kern  
22 County representatives as reflected by our current State  
23 and Federal district lines.

24       The Ridgecrest area is part of a community of  
25 interest of Kern County as we share similar life views,

1 mutual interests by working together in business  
2 development, labor, recreation, the Highway 178 Tourism  
3 Corridor and former -- forming rural alliances. We share  
4 with the rest of the communities countywide, the county  
5 services of public safety, government, education, public  
6 library availability, and health care access. Industry  
7 ties us to an aerospace corridor, all within Kern County,  
8 which includes China Lake NAWS, Edwards Air Force Base,  
9 and Mojave Air and Space Port.

10       China Lake NAWS, and Edwards Air Force Base have a  
11 unique primary research development test and evaluation  
12 mission relationship. They are sister bases, and share  
13 management of the R-2508 restricted airspace, which is  
14 one-eighth of all California airspace.

15       The China Lake NAWS and Edwards Air Force Base are  
16 currently represented by a single Congressional  
17 representative who clearly understands unique RDT&E and  
18 emissions compared to other bases. However, Ridgecrest  
19 does not want to be districted with neighboring  
20 representatives from Los Angeles or San Bernardino  
21 counties. These two counties have populations in the  
22 millions dominated by large metropolises and urban  
23 interest.

24       Our interests might not be understood, resulting in  
25 dilution, neglect, or being ignored because of our

1 remoteness, small rural population, and loss of cohesive  
2 representation from having Assembly, State, Senate, and  
3 Congressional representatives all from the same county.

4       If districted with San Bernardino County  
5 representation of China Lake would be disadvantaged,  
6 having to compete with three to four other military bases  
7 for representation during annual budgeting, and any  
8 future base realignment and closure process. What is  
9 important to our community, the ongoing critical timeline  
10 of rebuilding China Lake NAWS --

11       MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12       MS. WESTA-LUSK: -- over the next five to six years  
13 from earthquake damage done in 2019, the current funding  
14 for water infrastructure projects, strong, reliable,  
15 stable, steady, and continuous representation in  
16 Congress. Please keep Kern County --

17       MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

18       MS. WESTA-LUSK: -- together as we currently are.  
19 Please keep county -- Kern County whole. Thank you.

20       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Ms.  
21 Westa-Lusk.

22       Right now we have 029. I invite 030 and 037 to use  
23 the raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen.  
24 030 and 037, I invite you use the raise your hand button  
25 at the bottom of your screen indicating you wish to

1 comment. I see both of your hands at this time. 030  
2 went off again, but I've got you. 029 will be right now.  
3 037 will be up next.

4 029, I'll be promoting you now. 029, your speaker  
5 order number will be number 25, if you'll please make  
6 note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
7 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
8 screen. If you'll please remind the mapper of what area  
9 you would like to discuss today. With that, the floor is  
10 yours.

11 MARTA: Hello. My name is Marta (ph.), and I live  
12 in the Clovis area, surrounded by Northeast Fresno.  
13 Northeast Fresno, which includes parts of the City of  
14 Herndon Avenue, has a strong connection to the City of  
15 Clovis. Clovis Unified District School has been in  
16 Northeast Fresno, and many of us shop and work in Fresno  
17 and Clovis area. For the past ten years Northeast Fresno  
18 and Clovis has been in the same Congressional and State  
19 districts.

20 Because of the unique connection to each other,  
21 Northeast Fresno and Clovis should remain in the same  
22 district. They have the same needs, so it only makes  
23 sense that they share the same representatives in  
24 Washington as well as Sacramento area. I ask that  
25 Northeast Fresno and the City of Clovis are placed in the

1 same district in the new lines. Thank you so much for  
2 your time.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And I'll ask you to hold  
4 just a moment. I want to confirm our mappers got the  
5 description. Yeah. So in your, defining the area, what  
6 was the west border?

7 MARTA: I can give you the cross streets where we  
8 are.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Beautiful.

10 MARTA: Yeah. It would be Chestnut and Alluvial  
11 area.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Perfect. Okay.

13 MARTA: Thank you so much for your time.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Thanks so much.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now, we  
16 will have 037. And then up next will be 030. And then  
17 following that will be 020. Sorry, if there's any  
18 confusion in the queue. Right now it'll be 037. And up  
19 next will be 030. 037, I will be promoting you now.  
20 037, you can now enable your audio and video in the  
21 lower-left corner of your screen. Your speaker order  
22 number will be number 26, if you'll please make note of  
23 that for future reference. If you'll please let the  
24 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
25 With that, the floor is yours.

1 MR. PEREZ: Hi. My name is Felipe Perez (ph.), and  
2 the area that I'm going to talk is Fresno County, City of  
3 Firebaugh. As rural communities in Fresno County -- in  
4 Fresno County are heavily Latino and historical  
5 underserved, we have state representation that is really  
6 working for us and bringing back state resources. We  
7 want to keep our current lines and representation. Rural  
8 communities in Fresno County should be kept together with  
9 South Fresno because we share similar working class  
10 immigrant backgrounds, heavily Latino demographics, and  
11 face similar issues, such as old infrastructure,  
12 broadband issues, and environmental justice impacts.

13 Rural communities in Fresno County and across the  
14 Valley face health care access issues. Oftentimes,  
15 communities are many miles away from the nearest  
16 hospital, so we rely heavily and rural health clinics.  
17 And something that I want to add, that the Constitution  
18 of the United States says "We the people," not just "some  
19 people".

20 Please keep the lines as we keep it in the past,  
21 because we want more resources to our -- you know, the  
22 Westside, the community from the Westside, like I said  
23 this, a lot of poor people, and we don't have good  
24 infrastructure. If you guys break off the lines where we  
25 are right at now, it's going to be hard for us. Thank



1 you so much. And have a good day.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
3 now will be 030. And then up next to be 020. Right now,  
4 030, I will promote you. 030, you can now enable your  
5 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.  
6 Your speaker order number will be number 27, if you'll  
7 please make note of that for future reference. If you'll  
8 please let the mapper know what area you would like to  
9 discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fresno County, please, the  
11 west side of 99. We're talking representing the  
12 communities of San Joaquin, Tranquility, Mendota,  
13 Firebaugh, and everything in between; and the Kerman  
14 area.

15 I'm currently president of the Central Valley  
16 Leadership Roundtable, which is composed of different  
17 elected officials, community advocates, and community  
18 leaders. In addition, I do hold an office on the School  
19 Board of Firebaugh, that's Delta School District Area 1.

20 But the Central Valley Leadership Roundtable  
21 encompass all these rural area communities that are  
22 struggling for clean, clean, safe drinking water,  
23 affordable housing, lack of job creation, and most dire  
24 is the digital divide. The rural connectivity,  
25 especially when all school districts went on either

1 hybrid or full online classes, a lot of the education  
2 suffered for the children of the -- a lot of AG farm  
3 worker communities.

4       And I must say, in speaking for this area, that we  
5 do have good representation because I visit all these  
6 communities, I stay connected with local leaders,  
7 parents, and visit the homes. For example, most  
8 recently, San Joaquin, the mothers are worried about the  
9 colored water. Sometimes it looks like apple juice or  
10 beer, and other times it looks like coffee, sometimes it  
11 does come out fairly well, but again, these are the  
12 area -- the concern for all these areas, because again,  
13 we're a rural farm community.

14       We are well represented, as my previous speaker  
15 mentioned, by Dr. Joaquin Arambula District -- I mean,  
16 area District 31, and our Senator, Anna Caballero,  
17 District 12, that visit the community, communicates with  
18 roundtable leaders, families, and other grassroots  
19 organizations.

20       So I must say that we have good representation, but  
21 also resources definitely are lacking because the  
22 infrastructure requires more statewide level to make sure  
23 that children living in rural America, rural communities  
24 such as -- the reason why I say Mendota, Firebaugh,  
25 because Mendota has been featured as the worst community

1 to live in the State of California, and nationally among  
2 the top ten. So these communities need leaders that are  
3 going to expose the --

4 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- the lack of resources.  
6 And so I speak as an elected official and as a  
7 representative of all these communities, through the  
8 Central Valley Leadership Roundtable. And I appreciate  
9 your time. And will continue to definitely advocate so  
10 that our continual future leaders do represent and  
11 address the needs of all communities in the west side of  
12 Fresno County. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
14 now will be 020. And I invite those in the queue that  
15 have called in that have not shared their community of  
16 interest input today, to press star 9 to raise their  
17 hands indicating they wish to comment at this time. I  
18 invite those who have not sent community of interest  
19 input to press star 9 to raise your hand. And I also  
20 invite those who have joined by their Zoom link, who have  
21 not commented today, 035 and 049, to use the raise your  
22 hand button at the bottom of your screen to get in line  
23 in the comment queue.

24 At this time, we do have a raised hand from 020, and  
25 I will be promoting you at this time. 020, your speaker

1 order number will be number 28, if you will please make  
2 note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
3 your audio and video in the lower-left portion of your  
4 screen. And if you'll please remind the mapper of what  
5 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
6 floor is yours.

7 MS. TIMM: Thank you. My name is Emily Timm (ph.).  
8 And I would like to discuss the area of Northeast Fresno  
9 and Clovis in Fresno County. I would like for these two  
10 areas to remain together when the lines are redrawn. I  
11 was a student who was fortunate enough to grow up in  
12 Northeast Fresno, it was a part of Clovis Unified, and  
13 these two communities are very closely interlaced.

14 Students are able to grow up together, and  
15 experience very high quality education together, as  
16 schools in the same district are spread across both areas  
17 of Clovis and Northeast Fresno. So speaking for the  
18 younger community in this county, I would like for these  
19 two communities to remain together when the lines are  
20 redrawn. Thank you for your time.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
22 now we have caller 6187. And then up next we will have  
23 035. Right now we have caller 6187. And up next will be  
24 035. Caller 6187, if you will please follow the prompts  
25 to unmute by pressing star 9 -- I'm sorry. If you'll

1 please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6;  
2 6187, if you'll please press star 6 to unmute yourself.

3       There you are. Caller 6187, you are currently  
4 unmuted. I have a couple of brief instructions for you.  
5 Your speaker order number will be number 29, if you'll  
6 please make note of that for future reference. If you'll  
7 please let the mapper know what area you would like to  
8 discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

9       MR. WILDE: Hello. I'd like to discuss Fresno. Am  
10 I on now? Is this the conference call?

11       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You are on.

12       MR. WILDE: Great. My name is Stuart Wilde (ph.).  
13 I am born and raised in Fresno, been there my whole life.  
14 I am almost seventy years old. So it's been quite a long  
15 time. I've watched the Valley grow, watched Fresno grow.  
16 And I still live in the same area very close to where I  
17 grew up. I've noticed the Valley's incredible growth,  
18 but the nice thing about Fresno it's a very big small  
19 town.

20       And I think that is an allure for many people  
21 because people are afraid of big cities now, and they  
22 want to -- they want to come to a smaller town. And  
23 Fresno, even though it's massive, it's one of the largest  
24 in the city it still has that small-town quality. And I  
25 think the reason for that is, is because we have a

1 continuity of thinking within the, you know, Fresno,  
2 Clovis area.

3       And they basically, you know, run things the same  
4 way. And I think it's worked out extremely well for  
5 Fresno. And I would hate to see it change. I don't want  
6 to see a rivalry between two areas, I want more of a --  
7 of people working together for the same goal. So that's  
8 my two cents worth on Fresno. And I hope with this  
9 redistricting, you don't come and change these maps a  
10 lot, because I think it would be a detriment to our  
11 community.

12       So anyway, thank you for the opportunity to address  
13 you. And I hope you will take this in consideration when  
14 you make your recommendation. Thank you.

15       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
16 now, we will have 035. And I invite those who have  
17 called in and have not given their community of interest  
18 input today to please press star 9 to raise your hands  
19 indicating you wish to comment. I also invited 049, who  
20 has joined via Zoom link, to use your raise your hand  
21 button at the bottom of your screen, indicating you are  
22 ready to comment at this time.

23       But right now we have 035 with their hand raised,  
24 and I will be promoting you at this time. 035, your  
25 speaker order number will be number 30, if you'll please

1 make note of that for future reference. You can now  
2 enable your audio and video at the lower-left corner of  
3 your screen. If you'll please remind the mapper of what  
4 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
5 floor is yours.

6 MS. VALLEJO: Good afternoon. My name is Grace  
7 Vallejo. I'm from the City of Delano. I've been here  
8 all my life. I am part of Kern County, which is what I'm  
9 going to speak on. Having been involved in the City  
10 Council for sixteen years, and on the Planning Commission  
11 for eleven years, I'm fully aware of the various  
12 communities in our county.

13 We are the second largest in Kern County, but our  
14 neighbors, which are McFarland, Roscoe, Shafter, East  
15 Bakersfield, and of course the rest of Bakersfield, along  
16 with Arvin, and Lamont, are cities that have very much in  
17 common. They are low-income communities, farm workers,  
18 and of course our farmers. We are the ones that can keep  
19 everything together.

20 We're very much alike with having communities that  
21 are identical is what allows our representation to help  
22 us. If we are separated and divided it makes it harder  
23 for whomever is representing us, because they can look at  
24 us and see that we have similar problems. We have the  
25 water issues, we have our AG economy, and that is fueled

1 both by farmers and the farm workers, and of course,  
2 those that work in the offices for much of this.

3 We also hold two state prisons in our particular  
4 city, and they give jobs to the various communities  
5 around us. Obviously, some of them come from the Tulare,  
6 Visalia area. We have the oil jobs. All of this is  
7 something that our representative can definitely look at.  
8 And as we need the assistance, and they look at what's  
9 coming up, whether it's in bills, in funding, they know  
10 what they're dealing with. And they're working with the  
11 same type communities.

12 The majority of our cities are of the same  
13 demographics by our religious beliefs and also our  
14 culture. We are of Hispanic descent, many of us. I am a  
15 fifth-generation farm worker until, of course, I went  
16 into the business section of it. But there are many  
17 things that someone from our area can recognize as the  
18 needs that we have. And I believe if these communities  
19 are broken up and not kept in the same district, it would  
20 create a problem for whoever represents --

21 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

22 MS. VALLEJO: -- represents these communities. So  
23 please, I urge you to not split our cities up. And I  
24 thank you for your time. And I hope to see this district  
25 stay as is. Thank you so much.



1 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Before you drop off, can you  
2 give us -- it would be helpful if we had a list of  
3 cities.

4 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Welcome back,  
5 035. You can now enable your audio and video in the  
6 lower left-hand corner of your screen. The Chair has  
7 some additional questions for you.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, caller. We appreciate  
9 your passionate input. Wanting to just confirm, are  
10 there particular cities, or is it all of Kern; because  
11 you did list out some but not all?

12 MR. MANOFF: You are muted, 035.

13 MS. VALLEJO: I just unmuted. I'm sorry. You had a  
14 question for me?

15 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah, I did. Thank you so much for  
16 your testimony. The question I had for you was that you  
17 listed in your input some of the cities, and we are  
18 wondering what was your desire? Was it to be inclusive  
19 of all of Kern or just the cities? Or did you want to  
20 list out what cities you're specifically wanting to be  
21 kept together?

22 MS. VALLEJO: Well, specifically, I would like to  
23 see the cities that are so much alike, which are Delano,  
24 us, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Arvin, Lamont, the  
25 southeast area and northeast area of Bakersfield.

1 Because so much of that is consistent of the, as I  
2 mentioned, farm workers and the AG, and the type of work  
3 that, of course, we all are looking and striving to  
4 better ourselves with, and the quality of life.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

6 MS. VALLEJO: So that's kind of what I'm looking at.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Beautiful. Beautiful. Thank  
8 you so much.

9 MS. VALLEJO: You're welcome. Thank you for your  
10 time.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
13 invite those that have called in at this time to please  
14 press star 9 to raise your hands, indicating you wish to  
15 comment. And I invite 049 to use the raise your hand  
16 button at the bottom of your screen, indicating you are  
17 ready at this time to comment. 049, I invite you to use  
18 the raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen,  
19 indicating you are ready at this time to comment. And I  
20 invite the callers in the queue to please press star 9  
21 indicating you wish to comment at this time.

22 And Chair, I do not have any raised hands at this  
23 time.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Okay. Well, I'm open.

25 Okay. Beautiful. Well, let's first of all, just breathe

1 for a moment. This is an amazing day. I'm so excited  
2 for all of the input that we are receiving. So well  
3 done, so far, and I'm certain that our callers will  
4 continue to call in. So at this point, I'm just going to  
5 ask us just to stand at ease for a second. Let's see if  
6 we get some more raised hands in, for our communities of  
7 input testimonies on today.

8 Katy, as always, you are doing an amazing job. And  
9 our line drawers, our mappers, thank you so much for your  
10 work on today. So we're just waiting.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You're welcome, Chair.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. I think this might have been  
13 our first session where we went through the entire first  
14 session without any down time. So that's like, woo-hoo,  
15 we're warming up. I think this is a sign of more things  
16 to come. I think all of our meetings are going to be  
17 like this. The calls are starting to roll in, just what  
18 we need.

19 So at this point, Katy, maybe will give a -- and  
20 we've already asked if there are -- do we have anyone  
21 else that's called in just yet?

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No one that has called in  
23 during this time. I do invite the callers to press star  
24 9. I invite 049 to use the raise your hand option.  
25 049's appointment is not until our next session. So if

1 they're not ready at this time, then I'll let them  
2 listen, I suppose, so.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I could read the  
5 instructions for call in, if you like.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Let's read the instructions  
7 for call in. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It's the first time I've  
9 read them today.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize  
12 transparency and public participation in our process, the  
13 Commissioners are taking community of interest input by  
14 phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on  
15 the live stream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted  
16 to enter the meeting ID number provided on the live  
17 stream feed, it is 94965881654 for this meeting. When  
18 prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the  
19 pound key.

20 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a  
21 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press  
22 star 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.  
23 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message  
24 that says: The host would like you to talk, and to press  
25 star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,

1 please state and spell it for the record. You are not  
2 required to provide your name to give public comment.

3 Please make sure to mute your computer or live  
4 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during  
5 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert  
6 for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please  
7 turn down the live stream volume. And I invite those  
8 that have called in to please press star 9 to raise your  
9 hand indicating you wish to comment.

10 As for caller with the last four, 3500, and we do  
11 have a raised hand at this time. Caller 3500, if you  
12 will please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star  
13 6; caller 3500, you are currently unmuted. I have a  
14 couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker order  
15 number will be number 31, if you will, please make note  
16 of that for future reference. And if you'll please let  
17 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss  
18 today. With that, the floor is yours.

19 MR. BRUEN: Good afternoon, Commissioners. And  
20 thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is  
21 Eric Bruen. I am the Mayor for the City of Ridgecrest,  
22 California. I am also the chief executive officer for  
23 Desert Valley's Federal Credit Union. I'm hoping I can  
24 hear you. And I'm going to assume that.

25 I would like to speak specifically about the

1 community of interest which coincides the entire Kern  
2 County area. This is beginning north of McKittrick,  
3 south through Taft, Maricopa, and then east -- southeast  
4 through Stallion Springs, Tehachapi, to Mojave, east to  
5 Edwards Air Force Base, Moron, and to the Kern County  
6 border, north through California City, and northeast to  
7 the community of Ridgecrest, which I represent. I'm not  
8 sure if I'm being heard or not, but I'm going to hope so,  
9 and I can see it coming across the screen.

10 MR. MANOFF: We can hear you, sir. That's great.  
11 Go ahead.

12 MR. BRUEN: Thank you very much, sir. The specific  
13 area that I'm speaking of is Kern County as it relates to  
14 the redistricting around California District 23. Kern  
15 County encompasses an area of Central California, and it  
16 serves as a critical center of natural resource,  
17 agriculture, military, and recreation to the California  
18 economy. Ridgecrest is the home of China Lake, Naval  
19 Base, in addition to being a critical hub in the Eastern  
20 Sierra Corridor.

21 As part of Kern County, Ridgecrest shares several  
22 key economic synergies, the Mojave Air -- the Mojave  
23 Space Port and Edwards Air Force Base act as complements  
24 to the research and development accomplishments of China  
25 Lake Naval Base. The vast Mojave Desert is an important

1 environmental element of our common interest. Wind and  
2 solar energy development in the region is a critical  
3 focus. And Ridgecrest, with its sunny climate, is a  
4 synergistic partner in leading this development.

5 Finally, recreation interests within Kern County are  
6 a critical element of the Ridgecrest community. The  
7 county has incredible recreational options, from boating,  
8 camping, fishing, whitewater rafting, hiking, and of  
9 course, off-road recreation, which our specialty is in.  
10 We are the eastern hub for these.

11 And I specifically am calling out the Kern areas  
12 because our community of interest, which is all part of  
13 California 23, and it's vitally important for us that  
14 Ridgecrest remain within Kern County's field of interests  
15 because we have had significant economic challenges and  
16 disaster challenges. As you may know, we were the  
17 central hub of the 2019 back-to-back Freedom quake, which  
18 was the 6.4 and 7.1 earthquake on two consecutive days.

19 The critical aspect of our relationship with our  
20 representatives, and with our community of interest as a  
21 county and as a whole, brought incredible resources to  
22 our community to help support the recovery and the  
23 rebuilding. And we are now in the process of rebuilding  
24 our China Lake Naval Base, which is going to take over  
25 the next five to seven years.

1           It's very important for us to keep the districts as  
2 they have been. Moving forward we believe they do  
3 represent our community of interest very well. And more  
4 importantly, is we don't have commonalities with other  
5 counties bordering Kern, and that is an important factor  
6 for our community. We are a rural community. We are a  
7 community of 30,000 people out in the middle of the  
8 Mojave Desert. We don't want to be redistricted with  
9 counties that are dominated by large metropolitan  
10 communities, which would dilute what the rural needs are  
11 and rural concerns are for urban interests. We are a  
12 county which is spread over a large area of land within  
13 California and represents --

14           MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.

15           MR. BRUEN: -- many, many different diverse  
16 communities and diverse interests. And we would wish  
17 that gap --

18           MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

19           MR. BRUEN: -- the lines would remain the same, and  
20 continue forward. Thank you for your time.

21           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
22 invite those that have called in, that are sitting --  
23 that are in the call-in queue to press star 9 to raise  
24 your hand indicating you wish to comment.

25           At this time, Chair, we do not have any raised



1 hands.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Well, they're not feeling inspiration  
3 just yet. They'll raise their hands in a minute,  
4 perhaps. But in the meantime, I just have a reminder for  
5 you all that's listening, and that we'll listen later on  
6 to the recording, that we'd like for you to frequently  
7 visit our website at WeDrawTheLinesCA.org, We Draw The  
8 Lines California.org, that's using, WeDrawTheLinesCA.org.  
9 And also you can sign up for our emails because who would  
10 want to miss what's going on with our Commission.

11 You'll get information about our meetings, our  
12 updates and announcements, and you also can connect with  
13 us on social media. We are on Facebook. Yeah, we're  
14 Facebookers, we're on Instagram, we're on Twitter, we're  
15 on LinkedIn, and on YouTube, amazing videos by all of the  
16 Commissioners. Please check us out on YouTube,  
17 @WeDrawTheLinesCA or California.

18 And guess what? There are numerous ways to  
19 participate. For those of you that are shy and don't  
20 want to call and talk to us live, you also can use our  
21 community of interest, that's COI mapping tool, which is  
22 DrawMyCACommunity.org. Of course, these public input  
23 meetings will be taking place throughout the summer. So  
24 if you're listening in this time, you can call in at a  
25 different time.

1           Just visit the [WeDrawTheLinesCA.org](http://WeDrawTheLinesCA.org) for more  
2 information. And of course, if you sign up, we'll  
3 contact you to tell you when those are taking place.  
4 Also, we want you to know that our community of interest  
5 tool is available in multiple languages. So pass the  
6 word; share. It's often in English, of course, but also  
7 in Spanish, in simplified Chinese, in traditional  
8 Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and we mention these every  
9 time because we're very proud of all of the ways that  
10 we've tried to be inclusive of all Californians. It's  
11 also available in Korean, in Armenian, Farsi, Arabic,  
12 Russian, Japanese, Punjabi, Khmer, Hmong, and Thai.

13           And I would love to have some of you contact us in  
14 that manner. Some of those languages I've not yet had  
15 the privilege to hear directly. So this just will be  
16 exciting, I think educational for everyone. So please  
17 do.

18           Tutorials are also available in those languages. On  
19 our website [www.WeDrawTheLinesCA.org](http://www.WeDrawTheLinesCA.org), and click Draw My  
20 CA Community icon. And you can reach us, of course, by  
21 email. [VotersFIRSTAct@CRC.CA.gov](mailto:VotersFIRSTAct@CRC.CA.gov), and yes, the U.S.  
22 Postal Service still delivers: California's Citizens  
23 Redistricting Commission, 721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260,  
24 Sacramento, California 95814.

25           So callers, where are you? Are you there?

1           Katy, do we have any that's raised their hands that  
2 wants to talk with us live?

3           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Not at this time, Chair.  
4 But I will invite those that have called in to please  
5 press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you wish to  
6 comment. And appointment 049, you are still there  
7 listening, more than welcome to, but you can use the  
8 raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen at  
9 this time to do your input at this time.

10           But at this time we do not have any raised hands,  
11 Chair.

12           CHAIR TURNER: Oh. They want me to keep talking.  
13 And I will. So I also want you to know as a reminder,  
14 requests for interpretation, requests must be submitted  
15 at least five business days prior to the meeting, and you  
16 can submit those requests via email to,  
17 [interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov](mailto:interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov), on a COI meeting  
18 appointment form, or call our office. Our office, we do  
19 still receive phone calls, and that would be at 916-323-  
20 0323.

21           A couple of more things before, and I guess, one,  
22 I'm going to read this next announcement, and we may take  
23 a break and show you some videos, and what have you. But  
24 for now, let me talk to you as well. So for those of you  
25 that are listening, you'll know how to plan, because we

1 do have additional COI input meetings coming up, and the  
2 business meeting.

3       So I want you to know that this is going to be  
4 another busy week for us. We have two COI public input  
5 meetings, with one this coming Thursday, July 15th, at 4  
6 p.m., that will be focused on Los Angeles County and its  
7 surrounding areas. And so we're expecting that to be  
8 another amazing meeting.

9       Registration for the Thursday meeting closes  
10 tomorrow night, Tuesday at 5 p.m., so don't rush off yet  
11 because we still want to hear from you. But if you're  
12 listening in, tell your friends and neighbors they have  
13 till Tuesday at 5 p.m. to register for the Los Angeles  
14 County input meeting.

15       The other COI meeting is this Saturday, July 17, at  
16 10 a.m. with a focus on the Bay Area. Woo-hoo, the place  
17 I was born again. So that's going to be in the counties  
18 of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San  
19 Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano, and the surrounding  
20 areas. So registration for Saturday's meeting closes at  
21 5 p.m. on Thursday.

22       So our next business meeting is tomorrow. So not a  
23 community of input meeting but -- a community of interest  
24 input meeting, but it is a business meeting that's going  
25 to be tomorrow, July 13th. And I know you all will want

1 to tune in. We're making some important decisions, or at  
2 least having important discussions that we'd love for you  
3 to listen in on, and at the appropriate time give us a  
4 public comment. We want to hear from you.

5 I want to remind all of you that we're  
6 representatives of all of you in California. So we can  
7 only give our best, kind of weigh in and make decisions,  
8 based on information that we've heard from all of you.  
9 And so we do desire that you participate with us in this  
10 process. Now, for tomorrow's meeting you are not  
11 required to make an appointment. For our community of  
12 interest meetings you are not required to make  
13 appointments.

14 We always provide space, even if you've not had an  
15 appointment for you to participate. So don't hold back  
16 now thinking, I did not meet those deadlines. Call us  
17 anyway. We have this lull now, and we'd love to hear  
18 from you. You can call in even the day of the meeting.

19 Right now our meetings are still being held  
20 virtually, so anyone in California can provide input.  
21 Just please go to our website for meeting information.  
22 Sign up, and you can click, Checking In With Us, we will  
23 reach out to you and tell you what's going on once you  
24 sign up.

25 At this time, Katy, do we have callers? Do we have

1 hands raised?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have hands  
3 raised. But I would like to invite those that have  
4 recently joined, 034, to use the raise your hand button  
5 at the bottom of your screen indicating you wish to  
6 comment at this time. 034, there is a raise your hand  
7 button at the bottom of the screen that will allow you to  
8 raise your hand indicating you are ready to comment at  
9 this time.

10 I'm going to press the, allowed to talk, and ask you  
11 if you are ready to comment at this time, and you're  
12 struggling with the raise your hand button.

13 Hi. 034, would you like to be promoted to panelist  
14 so that you can enable your video and your audio?

15 MS. MEDRANO: Yes.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I will do that now.

17 MS. MEDRANO: Uh-huh.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You have been promoted to  
19 panelist. You can now enable your audio and your video  
20 at this time.

21 MS. MEDRANO: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is  
22 Virginia Medrano (ph.), and I am --

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One second. I'm just  
24 going to let you know -- brief instruction. Your speaker  
25 order number will be number 32, if you could just make

1 note of that for future reference. And if you could  
2 please let the mapper know what area you will be  
3 discussing today. The floor is yours.

4 MS. MEDRANO: Wonderful. Thank you so much. Again,  
5 my name is Virginia Medrano. And thank you so much for  
6 the opportunity to just share a couple of thoughts. And  
7 again, thank you to the informed membership of this  
8 Committee. My name is, again, Virginia Medrano. And I  
9 represent Riverbank, California, which is in the northern  
10 part of Stanislaus County.

11 What I would like to share with you is, I think that  
12 there are tremendous needs to amplify voices for some of  
13 the more rural areas of Stanislaus County and the  
14 surrounding counties with regard to education, housing,  
15 and AG disparities. When we talk about AG, it's always  
16 on the farmers, the owners, but so little has ever really  
17 focused on the migrant workers.

18 With regard to housing, there is such a disparity  
19 with regard to affordable housing. Affordable housing is  
20 not affordable for those that are living off of minimum  
21 wage. And again, going back to the migrant farm workers  
22 in the farm workers in general, we do need to do a whole  
23 lot more in that regard. With regard to education,  
24 there's so much emphasis on higher education, which I'm a  
25 product of higher ed, but we need to focus more on

1 vocational and job skills training, again to meet the  
2 demands for the growing need of skilled workers. And it  
3 just seems like we're missing the mark there.

4 I represent -- or I actually am represented by  
5 Congressional District 10. And when you take a look at  
6 the lines there seems to be some misalignment with regard  
7 to how our district representative is selected. And I'd  
8 like to see more equity and parity, not only with  
9 Congressional District 10, but also with Assembly  
10 District 12.

11 There just needs to be more -- in my opinion, more  
12 opportunities for people, especially in the rural areas  
13 of Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced County, to have  
14 equitable representation. Stanislaus County, up until  
15 just a few months ago, has always and historically been  
16 represented by White, Caucasian males, only two females  
17 in the history of this county, and those were Caucasian  
18 women.

19 We have never had a person of color, specifically  
20 Latino, especially with an area and a county, which  
21 forty-eight percent of our population is Latino. And up  
22 until this point, we have never had a person of color  
23 represent our community. So there needs to be more  
24 equity so that, again, we all share, and can have a cross  
25 communication, if you will --



1 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

2 MS. MEDRANO: -- in terms of the needs and the  
3 interests that should best represent all of us. And  
4 thank you so much for allowing me to comment.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Hold on. Don't leave just  
6 yet; a quick question for you. So thank you so much for  
7 that and giving your unique perspective on it. Can you  
8 talk a little bit more and name perhaps for us more of  
9 those rural communities that should be kept together? I  
10 know you mentioned Stanislaus, and I think San Joaquin,  
11 but you also continued to refer to rural communities.  
12 And I just want to make sure we're seeing your picture.

13 MS. MEDRANO: Absolutely. So if you take a look at  
14 Stanislaus County.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

16 MS. MEDRANO: The area of Patterson, Newman, Crows  
17 Landing on the far -- yeah, that area.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

19 MS. MEDRANO: That has been part of our Board of  
20 Supervisor District that includes Ceres, which is more in  
21 the Modesto area. And when you take a look at those  
22 lines and how they were drawn, one would have to, again,  
23 contemplate and wonder, why was that line drawn there  
24 when there's so much rural areas on the Crows line and  
25 Patterson, Diablo Grande, Newman area. Why would they

1 have concentrated that with the community of Ceres and  
2 Modesto?

3         So I think that there needs to be a rethink, if you  
4 will, of how we draw that line. And perhaps it would  
5 allow us to vote in, if you will, and get representation  
6 that really does mirror the community, because up until  
7 this point, we have not had adequate representation to  
8 address those concerns and those areas of need,  
9 especially in the south and west side of Modesto, that  
10 historically have been impoverished, undereducated, I  
11 would say. So we need more parity.

12         CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Just wanted to make sure we're  
13 including what you're including with the background.  
14 Thank you for sharing the background, and I think we have  
15 it at this point.

16         MS. MEDRANO: Great. Thank you.

17         CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thanks for calling.

18         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
19 invite those that have called in and are in the queue to  
20 please press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you  
21 wish to comment. Please press star 9 to raise your hand  
22 indicating you wish to comment.

23         We do have a raised hand at this time. Caller with  
24 the last four, 0623, if you will please follow the  
25 prompts to unmute yourself by pressing star 6 at this

1 time; caller 0623, you are unmuted. I have a couple of  
2 brief instructions for you. Your speaker order number  
3 will be number 33, if you will please make note of that  
4 for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
5 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
6 With that, the floor is yours.

7 MS. COLLINS: Merced County.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

9 MS. COLLINS: Yes. My name is Barbara Collins  
10 (ph.). And I did write a letter regarding redistricting  
11 in 2011. We are happy with our current district. I just  
12 wanted to do a few updates. We live in Merced County,  
13 specifically in Atwater, California. We're between State  
14 Route 140 and Highway 99. We're primarily a farming  
15 community as we have thirty acres of sweet potatoes and a  
16 horse facility. Our community is strongly tied to  
17 agriculture, and our main concerns are water for crops,  
18 crops and farmland labor. Those are hard to attain right  
19 now; also, affordable housing for farm labor.

20 Our schools are improved greatly, and we have a  
21 great UC campus. Our rural roads are always a concern,  
22 the conditions. 99 is in the midst of large  
23 improvements, but our rural roads need help. Since we  
24 are on the Highway 99 Corridor, we identify with counties  
25 along that corridor, Stanislaus County borders that's to

1 the north, and have the same dynamic as we do.

2       We interact with Stanislaus County much more than  
3 other counties, because of the ease to get to, and the  
4 ability to do a little varied shopping there. Fresno  
5 County to the south of us also has a lot in common with  
6 us, the same issues and interest. It's a little farther  
7 removed from us, so we pretty much stay within the  
8 parameters of Merced and Stanislaus counties. While we  
9 love our neighboring mountain communities, such as  
10 Mariposa, Calaveras, Tuolumne counties, they have very  
11 different issues and would be better served in a  
12 different district than ours and are currently in  
13 different districts.

14       They have forest management issues, wildfires, they  
15 have tourism, problems with roads in and out. So theirs  
16 is very different from our issues. I feel that the  
17 districts deserve to be represented within common issues.  
18 And that's pretty much all I had to say on that.

19       CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. I wanted to just quickly  
20 ask, because you started out mentioning a couple of  
21 districts, and then you said you liked the district. So  
22 are you comfortable? You're saying you like all of the  
23 districts the way they currently are?

24       MS. COLLINS: I like our district, specifically. I  
25 just have concerns that we --

1 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. I mean, in your area. Yes.

2 MS. COLLINS: Yes, I do like the way it is now. I  
3 just had concerns that we might get pulled into part of a  
4 mountain community, which we aren't now, but that  
5 wouldn't serve us well, or them.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Assembly, Senate, and the  
7 Congress is good for you. Okay.

8 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

9 CHAIR TURNER: That sounds beautiful. Thank you.

10 MS. COLLINS: Thank you.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And  
12 again, at this time, I would like to invite those that  
13 have called in to please press star 9 to raise your hands  
14 indicating you wish to comment or use the raise your hand  
15 button at the bottom of your screen.

16 At this time, Chair, we do not have any raised  
17 hands.

18 CHAIR TURNER: All right. Well, let's see. We are  
19 at 1:07. And I think what we're going to do is to go to  
20 lunch a little bit early. I'm going to talk a minute  
21 more, see if a hand is raised, and if not, we're going to  
22 go to lunch earlier than anticipated, so that we can be  
23 back refreshed and excited for the start of our session  
24 at 2 p.m.

25 Commissioners, I know we're all enjoying the input.

1 And we thank you so much for all of California that's  
2 calling in, giving us this wonderful information. I  
3 wanted to just say for those that are listening how  
4 crucial it is that when describing areas, it's important  
5 that you not just say North San Joaquin, North Fresno,  
6 because that then is kind of subjective depending on the  
7 person. And so it really is more helpful if you give  
8 specific boundaries, or cities, or streets even, that you  
9 consider what's north for you, what's upper east, what's,  
10 you know. So that's helpful.

11       So if you, in recrafting your testimony when you're  
12 preparing to call in for the second half, and going  
13 forward, north is just too broad. My north might not be  
14 your north. Okay. So just go ahead and drill down a  
15 little bit on that for us. I think you'll be pleased  
16 with the end result. We won't have to make judgment  
17 calls on what you intended. Our intent is to be able to  
18 capture your picture.

19       So I don't know if any of you ever played this game  
20 where you had your backs turned and you described  
21 something and the other person was too draw it, and by  
22 the time you turned it around, it looks like something  
23 entirely different. We do not want that to happen. We  
24 want you to be very specific when you're telling us what  
25 your communities of interest are.

1 So with that, any raised hands?

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are not any raised  
3 hands at this time, Chair.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. I think you all are waiting to  
5 catch your breath and be able to come in strong for the  
6 next part. So we're at about 1:10. We're going to take  
7 a fifty-minute lunch, we're going to come back at 2 p.m.  
8 and look forward. So at this time period while we take  
9 lunch, hopefully you --

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair? Excuse me, Chair?

11 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Yes.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We have one raised hand  
13 at this time.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Oh. Woo-hoo. Good, let's go. Let's  
15 open to that.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: So if you would like to  
17 take that before lunch? All right.

18 CHAIR TURNER: I do want to take it. Yes.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. Caller 3315,  
20 I see your raised hand, and if you will please follow the  
21 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 3315 --

22 MS. MELKONIAN: Can you hear me?

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, I can. If you'll  
24 follow just a couple of brief instructions; your speaker  
25 order number will be number 34, if you will please make

1 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
2 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss  
3 today. With that, the floor is yours.

4 MS. MELKONIAN: Thank you. And I want to say I'm so  
5 proud of California for having this Commission, this  
6 Citizens Redistricting Commission process. And I  
7 appreciate the apparent enthusiasm of all the  
8 Commissioners and your staff in this process.

9 My name is Maile Melkonian, and I'm in Visalia, the  
10 seat of Tulare County. Our current Congressional  
11 district includes parts of Fresno and Clovis. And I, for  
12 one, am very happy about that because very often we head  
13 up to Fresno and Clovis for shopping, for some  
14 specialized medical care, and for cultural events, very  
15 often, so that -- I'd like to see that preserved.

16 However, what I and several people I know are very  
17 baffled at is that Three Rivers is not part of our  
18 district, Three Rivers and Sequoia National Park. The  
19 Highways 198 and 99 sort of define the major arteries of  
20 our everyday lives. And Three Rivers is -- we would  
21 definitely, in Visalia, consider Three Rivers as part of  
22 our community of interest.

23 We also identify very closely with Sequoia National  
24 Park. In Visalia, we consider ourselves the gateway to  
25 the Sequoias. I believe Three Rivers also considers



1 themselves the gateway to the Sequoias. And both  
2 communities, and the community -- other smaller  
3 communities along 198 have a very vested interest in  
4 protecting the national park, national forests, and  
5 national monuments.

6 And you know, it's not clear that people in Kern  
7 County, which comprises -- I guess, Three Rivers is sort  
8 of lumped in with them for some reason, that they -- that  
9 their lives intersect with those natural areas as much as  
10 ours do.

11 Also Three Rivers, you know, the closest high school  
12 is in another Congressional district for them,; their  
13 high school, they send their children to a high school in  
14 another Congressional district from where they live. It  
15 just doesn't seem to make sense. So yes, so I would just  
16 hope that Three Rivers --

17 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

18 MS. MELKONIAN: -- would somehow be able to be  
19 included in whatever district Visalia, Clovis, and Fresno  
20 end up in. Okay. I think that's all. Thank you.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. All right. Katy?

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That is all our raised  
23 hands at this time, Chair.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Okay, then. Well, we're going to ask  
25 California, while you're on your lunch break with us,

1 text, phone a friend. Tell them that we'll be back at 2  
2 p.m. Best show in California. We want you to be right  
3 here. Meet us back at 2:00 and we shall continue when we  
4 return from our lunch break at 2:00. Thank you all.

5 (Whereupon, a recess was held from 1:20 p.m.  
6 until 2:00 p.m.)

7 CHAIR TURNER: Welcome back, California. And  
8 welcome to the California Citizens Redistricting  
9 Commission Input Meeting, Community of Interest Input  
10 Meeting.

11 We encourage you to continue going to our website.  
12 We want to make sure that you also utilize our  
13 communities of interest tool to draw a map and describe  
14 your community by visiting, [DrawMyCACommunity.org](http://DrawMyCACommunity.org). And  
15 for those of you that are just tuning in, as we noted at  
16 the start of our meeting, we're here because every ten  
17 years after the Federal Government publishes updated  
18 census information, California must redraw the boundaries  
19 of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and  
20 State Board of Equalization Districts so that the  
21 districts correctly reflect the state's population.

22 So our fourteen-member Independent Commission was  
23 authorized by the California voters to draw the new  
24 district lines. So we're here today to obtain  
25 communities of interest information from you, California,

1 directly. And we encourage all Californians to  
2 participate in this process.

3       So our communities of interest tool, we recognize  
4 that there are no clear rules, no specific rules on how  
5 to define a community of interest, but we have identified  
6 some helpful ways for us, for you to describe your  
7 community.

8       First of all, as you call in to talk to us on today,  
9 begin with your county or your city so that we can find  
10 you on our California map. We'd love for you to mention  
11 the street names and significant locations in your  
12 neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of your  
13 community. And we don't want to draw our picture or  
14 ideal of what north, south, east, or west is. So if you  
15 give us the specifications of what cities, what areas  
16 you're talking about, that would be most helpful.

17       What are your shared interests? What brings you  
18 together? Talk to us about what's important to your  
19 community. Are there nearby areas you want to be in a  
20 district with? And of course, please let us know if  
21 there are areas that you don't want to be in a district  
22 with, and tell us why or why not.

23       And if your community has ever come together to  
24 advocate for important services, better schools, or  
25 roads, or even health care centers in your neighborhood,

1 that's helpful information for us. And if you would  
2 rather submit your community interest input over the  
3 internet, you can do so from our website, by visiting  
4 DrawMyCACommunity.org. Skip the Line. Go online.

5 So with that in mind, we're going to go back into  
6 our next riveting section. And we will begin with those  
7 that have appointments, and those that do not have  
8 appointments, hang tight. We want to hear from you as  
9 well.

10 So Katy, it's going back over to you. Katy is our  
11 comment moderator. And we will continue at this point  
12 with our public input.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Welcome to the public  
16 input session. Please use the raise your hand button at  
17 the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is  
18 your turn to speak, you will be identified by your  
19 assigned unique ID number. You'll be reconnected to the  
20 session with the ability to enable your own video and/or  
21 audio. You will then be assigned a speaker order number  
22 before you begin speaking; please make a note of your  
23 speaker order number for future reference.

24 The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time  
25 limit, with a warning at thirty seconds and fifteen

1 seconds remaining. At the end of your public input or at  
2 the end of your time, you will be reconnected in a  
3 listen- and view-only mode. At the beginning of your  
4 input, please remind the mapper of what area you would  
5 like to see on the screen.

6 Right now, we'll be 041. And up next in the queue  
7 will be 040; right now 041, up next 040. 041, I will be  
8 promoting you now. 041, your speaker order number is  
9 number 35, if you'll please make note of that for future  
10 reference. If you'll please let the mapper know what  
11 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
12 floor is yours. You are currently muted. You have to  
13 unmute yourself, lower-left corner.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. It was easier than I  
15 thought. Hi. Thank you. I'm in Kings County, and I can  
16 now no longer see what I wanted to say. This is not  
17 good. Let me find it. It went big again, and now I  
18 can't see what I'm doing. There we go. Okay.

19 I'm in Kings County, and this includes the City of  
20 Hanford, which is where I live. And I live in a little  
21 neighborhood on the north -- kind of the north end of  
22 town called Short Acres. It's between 11th Avenue and  
23 Douty Street, north of Grangeville Boulevard.  
24 Grangeville Boulevard is the -- is that road right down  
25 that one is Grangeville, and then 11th Avenue. I live on

1 this -- yeah, there you go. That's it right there, that  
2 neighborhood.

3       And just to describe, some of my neighborhood, the  
4 houses in our neighborhood are -- it's all houses, all  
5 single-family dwellings with a few backyard residences.  
6 Most of our houses are over fifty years old. A few of  
7 them are not quite fifty, but they're all pretty close to  
8 fifty. And I'm asking that this Commission not divide  
9 our county for our Legislative districts. We are  
10 currently included with parts of Fresno and Kern County,  
11 and I really think we should continue to be that way.

12       The reasons that I have, or that I believe that we  
13 should continue to be the same, are that we're a small  
14 county, we don't have any real large cities. We have  
15 three very small, unincorporated communities, Kettleman  
16 City, Stratford, and Armona. They're pretty far spread,  
17 but they're there and they're viable parts of our  
18 community.

19       We have a Native American reservation, the Santa  
20 Rosa Ranch area, and four small to medium-sized  
21 incorporated towns. And we have a real large  
22 agricultural area in the south central-ish part of our  
23 county. And in 2017, our county was estimated to have a  
24 population of less than 150,000. And I believe that we  
25 should be considered a community of interest as a whole.

1 We have several K-8 -- particularly with K-8 school  
2 districts, we have several K-8 school districts that feed  
3 into some neighboring towns for our high school. And our  
4 Department of Elections manages different school election  
5 issues, bonds, school boards, and they're different --  
6 and we have a number of those school districts, as well  
7 as some unified school districts.

8 But the kids that go in some of our country schools  
9 feed into different towns. And some of our K-8 schools  
10 are divided into two different -- two different high  
11 schools. But since our election department is really  
12 small and dividing that would further tax our staff and  
13 fiscal resources if they had to support multiple  
14 Legislative districts.

15 Our county hasn't been divided in many years, and  
16 this is because it's been just one of three counties in  
17 California that was subject to Section 5 of the Voting  
18 Rights Act of 1965. And yes, it's nonexistent anymore,  
19 but ten years ago our representative districts were  
20 formed by another nonpartisan Commission at that time.  
21 And these districts continue to be essentially the same.  
22 Each of them is competitive, and I believe that is one  
23 factor the Commission is looking to achieve. I do not --

24 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- want Kings County to be

1 included with Tulare County. It would lead to very  
2 partisan districts and eliminate the chance for us to  
3 live in a competitive district or any competitive  
4 district. Thank you. I'm done.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Thank you so  
7 much. Right now will be 040. And up next will be 049.  
8 Right now it's 040. Up next in the queue will be 049.  
9 040, I will be promoting you now. 040, your speaker  
10 order number will be number 36, if you will please make  
11 note of that for future reference. You can now enable  
12 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
13 screen. If you'll please remind the mapper of what area  
14 you would like to discuss today. And with that, the  
15 floor is yours. You can unmute yourself in the lower-  
16 left corner of your screen.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you are.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Great. Thought I did  
20 it already. I am a resident of Kings County, City of  
21 Hanford. I actually live in an older part of Hanford on  
22 Irwin Street, just to the south of Grangeville Boulevard.  
23 Our county is one of two -- well, I thought it was one of  
24 two counties, but the former speaker said one of three,  
25 that from California, that were part of the Voting Rights



1 Act and not able to be split.

2 And even, you know the -- even though the Supreme  
3 Court has gutted the Voters Rights Act, the same issues  
4 that applied in years past still apply in Kings County.  
5 We're a small, rural county. We have no large cities.  
6 All of our small communities in Kings County depend on  
7 the county seat, which is the City of Hanford, for many  
8 services. Dividing up the smaller communities like  
9 Corcoran, and Avenal, and Kettleman City away from  
10 Hanford would be detrimental, I believe, to our entire  
11 county.

12 The county as a whole, I believe, is a community of  
13 interest. The former speaker did talk about the fact  
14 that, you know, we do have a small elections office,  
15 small staff, dividing this up would make it very  
16 difficult for them. The Nonpartisan Commission ten years  
17 ago was able to create very fair, very competitive  
18 districts for Congress, State Senate, and Assembly. And  
19 this is what the Commission strives to do.

20 The area is basically unchanged from the time that  
21 these districts were drawn. And we feel that the  
22 services and the support that we receive from our  
23 district are -- when the districts are competitive, are  
24 good for our citizens.

25 Kings County should not be paired with Tulare

1 County. This would create an ultra-partisan district.  
2 If this happens, the elected officials would not feel the  
3 need to be as responsive to their constituents. And so I  
4 thank you for your time.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
6 now will be 049. And up next in the queue will be 046.  
7 Right now it's 049, up next 046. 049, I'll be promoting  
8 you now. 049, your speaker order number is number 37, if  
9 you will please make note of that for future reference.  
10 You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left  
11 corner of your screen. Please remind the mapper of what  
12 area you would like to discuss today. And with that, the  
13 floor is yours.

14 MS. LIVENGOOD: Good afternoon and thank you for the  
15 opportunity to comment on our community of interest, San  
16 Joaquin County. My name is Marla Livengood. I'm a  
17 lifelong San Joaquin County resident. I'm from a farming  
18 family and serve on the Linden School Board and the  
19 County Aviation Advisory Committee.

20 Geographically, San Joaquin County is located at the  
21 top of the eight-county Joaquin Valley. We are a  
22 culturally diverse population of approximately 783,000,  
23 with the majority of the county's residents residing in  
24 Stockton. The incorporated cities of Escalon, Lathrop,  
25 Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, and Tracy are also in the county.

1           We are a major AG region and transportation center.  
2 Agriculture provides 5.7 billion in total economic  
3 contributions to our county, and the transportation and  
4 warehousing sector has dominated our employment growth,  
5 due to our strategic location and robust transportation  
6 network. Our county is also home to the state's largest  
7 share of super commuters, with 8.8 percent of our  
8 workforce regularly traveling ninety-plus minutes to the  
9 Bay Area for work. This is due to the Bay Area's  
10 concentration of jobs and insufficient supply of housing.

11           My fellow San Joaquin Valley neighbors and I have a  
12 shared interest in the success of agriculture, the  
13 continued success of transportation and warehousing, and  
14 affordable, livable communities.

15           As you review communities of interest, we commend  
16 the 2010 Commission for uniting Northern San Joaquin  
17 Valley Communities through Senate District 5, where the  
18 district is located at the northernmost point of the San  
19 Joaquin Valley -- San Joaquin County; it encompasses all  
20 of San Joaquin County.

21           Population equity is achieved by moving south to the  
22 closest neighboring San Joaquin Valley County, which is  
23 Stanislaus. These two counties have numerous economic,  
24 socioeconomic, cultural, and geographic similarities,  
25 which are not found with our county's other neighboring

1 counties. All parts of the district can easily  
2 transverse and are free from geographical barriers, such  
3 as the Diablo Altamont Mountain Range to the West and the  
4 Sierra to the east.

5 Our proposal for San Joaquin County would build on  
6 the example of SD 5. It would include: one Congressional  
7 district encompassing all of San Joaquin County, and if  
8 needed, for population equity portions of Stanislaus  
9 County our most similar neighbor; one State Senate  
10 district encompassing all of San Joaquin County, and for  
11 population equity portions of Stanislaus County when  
12 needed; two State Assembly districts nested within the  
13 Senate district.

14 Additionally, communities need to be kept whole with  
15 no community split between two districts. Our greatest  
16 concern is that the district with the -- districts for  
17 our county would be split and grouped with counties that  
18 do not share our economic, socioeconomic, cultural, and  
19 geographic similarities. We would like to thank --

20 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

21 MR. LIVENGOOD: We thank you for the opportunity to  
22 share our priorities for redistricting. Please do not  
23 hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank  
24 you again.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right

1 now will be 046. And up next will be 051. Right now  
2 it's 046; up next 051. 046, I'll be promoting you now.  
3 046, your speaker order number will be number 38, if you  
4 are, please make note of that for future reference. If  
5 you'll please remind the mapper of what area you'd like  
6 to discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

7 JIM: Thank you. My name is Jim. I live in  
8 Magnolia Court, that is located in the northeast district  
9 of Fresno, very close to the Clovis City Line. Cross  
10 streets are Maple and Alluvial. I am a retired Fresno  
11 police chaplain, and I am on the Board of Directors of  
12 this very small gated community of fifty-eight homes.  
13 Very racially diverse, I'm very proud of that. And we're  
14 just -- excuse me. I wanted to speak to you today with  
15 regards to the districting, and I appreciate the  
16 opportunity.

17 I have enjoyed living in this one home, two stories.  
18 Houses range in this little community between 1200 and  
19 1600 square feet. I guess that calls us "middle income"  
20 or whatever. And I am a retired former employee of  
21 community medical centers, technical engineer that helped  
22 build most of the buildings that all of you see in the  
23 City of Fresno; loved the job.

24 I love our district. I am very pleased with it. I  
25 live within the Clovis School District. Mountain View

1 Elementary is right across the street from us. I have  
2 enjoyed being able to shop and have this district be a  
3 very common area. I believe our district covers about  
4 half of Fresno, most of Clovis, down to Visalia, and  
5 perhaps into Three Rivers.

6       Anyway, I just wanted to express my desire that I'm  
7 happy with the way it is, comfortable with the fact that  
8 I do a great deal of my shopping in the City of Clovis.  
9 I do a great deal of my involvement with some leadership  
10 within the city, with a common area and a common interest  
11 amongst the people here in Fresno.

12       So I really appreciate you guys taking the time to  
13 really listen to all of us and take into consideration my  
14 vote. Leave it the way it is. I am quite pleased with  
15 it, taking the time to know, quite pleased with our  
16 representative, and would like it to stay that way. And  
17 with that, I'll retire my time back to you.

18       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
19 now will be 051. And up next will be 024. And I would  
20 like to ask those that have called in to please press  
21 star 9 to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.  
22 As for those who have chosen to call in today, please  
23 press star 9 to raise your hands indicating you wish to  
24 comment. At this time I will be promoting 051. And up  
25 next will be 024. Thank you so much for those callers.

1 I do see those hands.

2 051, your speaker order number -- your speaker order  
3 number will be 39, if you'll please make note of that for  
4 future reference. You can now enable your audio and  
5 video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you'll  
6 please remind the mapper of what area you would like to  
7 see today. With that, the floor is yours.

8 KAREN: Hi. Yes. Can you hear me?

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

10 KAREN: Hi. My name is Karen. And I live in Fresno  
11 County, and the area of Fresno County in which I reside  
12 is in Tarpey Village. I live west of Clovis Avenue, east  
13 of Minnewawa, and south of Ashland, is the area that I  
14 somewhat recently moved to. I've lived in Fresno for  
15 most of my life, and I moved to this part of town, mainly  
16 because of the community, and the diversity, and  
17 everything that this area offers.

18 Tarpey village is an area that was built back in the  
19 1950s. Most of the homes are on half-acre lots. It's an  
20 older community in that the homes are older, but the  
21 people are diverse in age and ethnicity. The one thing  
22 that I really do like about this area is that we are very  
23 closely linked to North Fresno, obviously, and Clovis.  
24 Fresno and Clovis are the two largest cities in Fresno  
25 County.

1           And the areas of interest are the schools. I live  
2 in an area where I'm very happy with my school district.  
3 There is actually a mall, probably about a mile and a  
4 half from my home, in which people from both Clovis and  
5 Fresno shop at. We have a lot of the same parks, a lot  
6 of the same shopping areas, and we share the same  
7 community interests in as far as the areas that we  
8 represent.

9           And because of that I would -- I wish that the area  
10 can stay the way it is. As far as not changing the  
11 boundaries, I feel that where I live is in close  
12 relationship to North Fresno and Clovis. So my input  
13 would be that we keep things the way they are because  
14 they do represent the community of interest. I actually  
15 live a little -- I live north of the airport, if that  
16 helps at all.

17           But I, I love this area of town, and I love the  
18 community here. And thank you for allowing me to share  
19 my thoughts on this.

20           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
21 now will be 024. I will be promoting 024. And up next  
22 will be caller 2009. Right now will be 024. And up next  
23 will be caller 2009. 024, I promoted you now. 024, your  
24 speaker order number will be 40, if you will please make  
25 note of that for future reference. You can now enable



1 your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your  
2 screen. If you'll please let the mapper know what area  
3 you would like to discuss today. With that, the floor is  
4 yours. 024, if you'll follow the prompts to unmute  
5 yourself. Go ahead.

6 MR. MOUANOUTOUA: I'm assuming I'm 024.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You are 024.

8 MR. MOUANOUTOUA: Okay. Sorry.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And your speaker order  
10 number is 40, for future reference. And if you'll let  
11 the mapper know; the floor is yours.

12 MR. MOUANOUTOUA: Okay. Thank you. My name is Vong  
13 Mouanoutoua. I am a resident of Clovis but also a  
14 Council member here in Clovis. And I wanted to request  
15 the Commission to keep Clovis under one district under  
16 the State and also for Federal representation. Being  
17 included in one district has really helped us in the way  
18 we have governed, but also in the way we have reached out  
19 to our representatives.

20 Clovis is very diverse and I think if you split it,  
21 you will disrupt the diversity in that more than fifty-  
22 five percent of the City of Clovis is non-White. And so  
23 I think we split it you'll ruin that, sort of that  
24 mixture of what Clovis is. So I'm asking the Commission  
25 to keep Clovis intact, to maintain that diversity, and to

1 maintain the ability of all -- everyone to give input.

2 I also want to say that, you know, Clovis works very  
3 well with the school districts and the other entities  
4 that are closer, meaning Fresno, the parts of Fresno that  
5 are close to it. And so we share the same sort of  
6 ability to -- lifestyle, and pride in education, pride in  
7 supporting businesses. And so I just wanted to ask the  
8 Commission to keep Clovis intact, and not to split Clovis  
9 up.

10 And so in closing, I just wanted to thank the  
11 Commission members for your service, and for your  
12 volunteering, and for putting all this time to listen to  
13 all the input from many of the citizens in the area.  
14 Thank you very much.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
16 now will be caller 2009. And up next will be caller  
17 4359. Caller 2009, if you will please follow the prompts  
18 to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 2009, you are  
19 currently unmuted. I have a couple of brief  
20 instructions. Your speaker order number will be number  
21 41, if you will please make note of that for future  
22 reference. And if you will please let the mapper know  
23 what area you would like to discuss today. With that,  
24 the floor is yours.

25 DALE: Well, thank you. My name is Dale (ph.), and

1 I live in Tulare County and Visalia to be exact. That's  
2 a population center for Tulare County. Well, I'm calling  
3 because I would like to propose that for an area that  
4 Three Rivers, which is unincorporated area to our east,  
5 be included in our community of interest. They share  
6 medical needs and educational needs and business needs  
7 with largely Visalia, and Tulare I suppose, but mostly  
8 Visalia.

9 So I was hoping that Three Rivers, instead of being  
10 attached to Bakersfield in one particular district, they  
11 be incorporated -- better included with Visalia and the  
12 rest of Tulare County. Tulare County as one unit, that  
13 would be appreciated.

14 And I wanted to thank the Commissioners for their  
15 time. And thank you, thank you again. Bye.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
17 invite those who have called in who have not given  
18 community of interest input today to please press star 9  
19 indicating you wish to comment. Caller 2737, if you wish  
20 to provide community of interest input today, please  
21 press star 9 to raise your hand indicating that you wish  
22 to provide input today.

23 Thank you so much. I see your raised hand. Caller  
24 2737, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute by  
25 pressing star 6; caller 2737, you are currently unmuted.

1 I have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your  
2 speaker order number will be number 42, if you will  
3 please make note of that for a future reference. If  
4 you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
5 like to discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.  
6 Go ahead.

7 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Hello. My name is Patricia  
8 Ramos-Anderson. I live in Merced County in the  
9 northwestern point of the county, which is Santa Nella,  
10 an unincorporated area that used to be 1,308 people, now  
11 it's about 4,500, and many of us are from Silicon Valley,  
12 professionals. And we also have our neighbors that  
13 originally built the San Luis Reservoir.

14 So we're very much aligned with the most -- farthest  
15 western region of the county, and we're adjacent to Santa  
16 Clara County, and across the other mountainside is San  
17 Benito; many of us relate a lot more to the area of  
18 Silicon Valley and Santa Clara.

19 And what's very distinguished about our community is  
20 that we have a mobile home park that was converted to  
21 housing, new developments, and we're a tiny,  
22 unincorporated area with no health care, no libraries,  
23 not even a park, but yet this community brings in almost  
24 four million dollars of revenues since its beginning.

25 And we are in the county of Merced, but also we

1 relate most of our medical is done either in the Bay Area  
2 because of our insurances, and the quality of health care  
3 on the other side, those that can afford better quality  
4 of health insurance, end up going to Los Banos for  
5 dental. And for any kind of specialty health care has to  
6 be done outside of the region, always from Fresno to  
7 Modesto, or even Stanford.

8       So our community is a large immigrant community,  
9 very diversified. We have communities that are  
10 (indiscernible) near us. The scenery is a totally  
11 different area, different from our community because it's  
12 a very -- we are very much diverse and multicultural in  
13 our community, and very respectful of those viewpoints as  
14 well. We might not always agree, but we're still very  
15 respectful.

16       What's key is that it's very necessary for us to be  
17 in the -- challenges of that being in Zone F, is that by  
18 having the zone, you also need to have sections of  
19 designated areas for representation during this  
20 district -- redistricting process.

21       And we have a very diverse community migrant  
22 Spanish-speaker, large Latino in Merced County and any --  
23 that our community is more of a -- say, of an area that  
24 has one where we go to city, we're in the rural area, we  
25 go to traditional events. But what's important is that

1 we have also the issue of the digital divide of broadband  
2 issues in this area, which is very challenging for many  
3 of us in Silicon Valley, and those that have moved into  
4 Santa Nella. So and education also, and the quality of  
5 education --

6 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

7 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: -- and also the quality of  
8 representation. Thank you.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Caller, if you'd hold on,  
10 please, on just a point of clarification. Thank you so  
11 much for sharing. Can you give us a little bit more  
12 detail about who are you wanting to be in a district  
13 with? And who do you not want to be in district with?  
14 Thank you for the testimony, but just some specifics of  
15 what exactly it is you're requesting.

16 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Okay. But for us, it's  
17 definitely, we're not in the district for the Fresno --  
18 well, we're part of Zone F, which goes all the way down  
19 to Fresno, we're the most western, we're more adjacent to  
20 the Santa Clara County. That would be a totally  
21 different zone, that we do not relate to Gustine because  
22 they don't -- lack the services that they have there. We  
23 don't have any, but the services we do go to will be  
24 either on Silicon Valley on the other side of 152, off of  
25 101. It switches, a different zone, it's Santa Clara

1 County.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

3 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: And then those that have lived  
4 here, they're migrant workers they have to go to those --  
5 to the local Los Banos clinics. But they also, for  
6 specialty, they have to go all the way to the Bay Area.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

8 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Or they can go to Modesto. So  
9 that's the challenges that we have. We would prefer, you  
10 know, in Zone F, so for us --

11 CHAIR TURNER: So caller?

12 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Yes.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Let me say this, Zone F was created  
14 just for us to divide and conquer for outreach purposes.  
15 So looking at your map and your area, what we're  
16 understanding you to see is that, yes, Santa Nella  
17 included with Santa Clara, included with Los Banos.  
18 Could you clarify, is that what you're asking for, and  
19 not with which areas?

20 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: I wonder what they currently  
21 have right now. That was kind of interesting to see  
22 that. We would be much more tied in with Santa Clara  
23 County.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

25 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: I think so because -- and most

1 of the folks in this area, the mostly western area, they  
2 commute to the Bay Area for jobs.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

4 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: That's very important there in  
5 these areas, in the rural areas, because of the  
6 affordable housing.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

8 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Because they can't afford, you  
9 know, a small, a 900-square-foot little cottage that's  
10 almost \$750,000 if you have to buy it. And rents are  
11 difficult, but also --

12 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And you're there also  
13 including Los Banos with Santa Clara?

14 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: No. Los Banos is separate from  
15 us. We're like twelve miles away. So we're kind of --  
16 we're in our own little island. Literally, the Forebay  
17 is our backyard. That surrounds our town to like half of  
18 it.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

20 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Then the other area is the  
21 agricultural area. You have Highway 5, and 33, that's  
22 sort of a little heart beat, so we're on the western  
23 of -- or the southern part of 33, we're the western part  
24 of 33 and 152.

25 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.



1 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: So we're against that  
2 mountainside, the San Luis Reservoir, so that's what --

3 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. I was going to say --

4 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: -- a lot of that is coming  
5 from -- yes?

6 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah. I was going to say that's  
7 helpful. Thank you so much.

8 MS. RAMOS-ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
11 now we have 042. 042, I will be promoting you now. 042,  
12 your speaker order number will be number 43, if you will  
13 please make note of that for future reference. And if  
14 you'll please let the mapper know what area you would  
15 like to discuss today. And with that, the floor is  
16 yours.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will be addressing Fresno  
18 County.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But specifically Southeast  
21 Fresno. Okay. Well, good afternoon, Commissioners.  
22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I have  
23 been a resident of Fresno for twenty-one years, and I'm  
24 here today to request that the Commission keep my  
25 community of interest together and possibly with other

1 regions as one district. My community is located in the  
2 93701 ZIP code, between 1st Street and 8th Street, east  
3 to west, and Olive Street to the Darrell Street north to  
4 south.

5 My community shares Mexican indigenous ancestry,  
6 history, languages, and customs. A shared role by my  
7 community is the regional economic contributions across  
8 Fresno and Madera Counties through agricultural labor,  
9 since a lot of my community members are fieldworkers.  
10 And within my community there is a diversity of native  
11 languages, and some of my community members only speak  
12 their native dialect. So this often has created a  
13 language barrier for some of my community members.

14 And within my community there is also a diversity  
15 between the native languages, and some of my community  
16 members have spoken about this, and they only speak their  
17 native language sometimes, so they don't speak Spanish.  
18 And that's why it creates that language barrier.

19 And because of this, it has been shared among the  
20 community that the language barrier unawareness, and the  
21 fear of the census process have been some of the factors  
22 as to why my community is unlikely -- is likely  
23 undercounted in the census process.

24 My community of interest is similar to the regions  
25 in the area codes of 93706 and 93721 in Fresno County

1 area. When drawing new districts, I would like the  
2 Commission to keep my community of interest and also  
3 consider including these two ZIP codes as well because of  
4 the similar interests, similar background, diversity and  
5 languages that -- spoken, and mainly, you know, their  
6 agricultural contribution that they have provided within  
7 Fresno and Madera counties.

8 So this would also help address the language barrier  
9 and establish a sense of safety and allow community and  
10 education through the word-of-mouth within community  
11 members, and establish that sense of safety, and let them  
12 know that it is safe to engage in the census process and  
13 participate in the census so that they are also accounted  
14 for. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 And at this time, Chair, we do not have any other  
17 callers in the queue.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Well, we are going to just  
19 chat for a minute before we play our video -- before we  
20 go into our five-minute video. I know our Commissioners  
21 online have sat by patiently and glued to the screen, and  
22 to the audio listening, but I know they want to also  
23 share, talking about our amazing Central Valley.

24 So with that, I'll open it up to Commissioners to  
25 see if you have a brief word that you want to share in

1 your experience with the Central Valley, California  
2 Central Valley.

3 Oh. Yeah. I see you, my fellow San Joaquin Valley  
4 person, Commissioner Fornaciari, let's take it away.

5 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. Thanks, Trena.  
6 You're doing a great job. Really appreciate it. I have  
7 a new picture behind me that I took yesterday. And this  
8 is -- there is a road, if the mapper will go -- zoom in  
9 to Tracy. There is a road that goes from Tracy to  
10 Livermore. It's called Patterson Pass Road. It's a one-  
11 and-a-half lane road that that goes over the mountain,  
12 the hills between the two cities. And this is at the  
13 very top of that -- the road is down kind of all 580 off  
14 Mountain House there.

15 Anyway, so this is the view you see if you're coming  
16 from Livermore over to the Valley. And so kind of over  
17 here is part of Tracy, Mountain House is right about  
18 there, Stockton is kind of off a little further, but it's  
19 most of San Joaquin County. You can see all the  
20 windmills which we're famous for. And off in the  
21 distance, you can barely see the Sierras.

22 But you know, I'm going to -- I'm going to take this  
23 picture again several times during our tenure, and you'll  
24 see in the winter that the hills will be all just  
25 beautifully green. And I'll try to pick a day where it's

1 clear, and you can see the Sierras and the beautiful  
2 snowpack up on the Sierras.

3 But this is the view I used to see every night when  
4 I came home from work. And just you come over the top of  
5 the hill, just a breathtaking view of the San Joaquin  
6 County in the Central Valley.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Absolutely. Thank you.  
8 Thank you for sharing.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair?

10 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Excuse me. This is Katy.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Hi, Katy.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have a raised hand.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Someone else wants to share  
15 and talk about it.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely.

17 CHAIR TURNER: Come on with it, Katy.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 3577, if you'll  
19 please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.  
20 Caller 3577, if you will press star 6 on your keypad it  
21 will unmute you; again, caller 3577, if you'll press star  
22 6 on your keypad. There you are. Caller 3577, you are  
23 currently unmuted. I have a couple of brief instructions  
24 for you -- if you can go ahead and mute your computer or  
25 live stream, wherever you're watching it.

1 Oh. Unmute yourselves. So if you'll please mute  
2 your live stream or wherever you are listening to the  
3 live stream. And then press star 6 on your keypad.  
4 Caller 3577, if you'll press star 6 on your keypad and  
5 unmute yourself; there you are. Caller 3577, I have a  
6 couple of brief instructions. Your speaker order number  
7 will be number 44. If you'll please let the mapper know  
8 what area you would like to discuss today. With that,  
9 the floor is yours. Hello?

10 I apologize. We had to mute you. It will cause a  
11 reverb feedback if we do not. If you can mute the player  
12 that you are playing the live stream on, it will allow  
13 you to talk with us. There is a media player that you  
14 are listening to the live stream on, do you want to mute  
15 that, press your mute on that. It will then allow you to  
16 talk to us. I'll try this again.

17 MR. RAJARATNAM: Can you hear me now?

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can.

19 MR. RAJARATNAM: Okay. Sorry about that.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay. Go ahead.

21 And let the mapper know what area you want to discuss  
22 today. The floor is yours.

23 MR. RAJARATNAM: Good afternoon, Commissioner. My  
24 name is Solomon Rajaratnam, and I'm a resident of the  
25 City of Ridgecrest in the County of Kern. I am a branch

1 manager of the Community Bank, and I'm also a city  
2 council member for the City of Ridgecrest. And I  
3 appreciate the opportunity to comment on redistricting  
4 today.

5       Commissioners, today I am calling to ask you to  
6 leave the City of Ridgecrest as it is. Our community of  
7 interest in Ridgecrest area is part of the 23rd  
8 Congressional District, containing in Kern County  
9 district lines. Commissioners, Ridgecrest is a remote  
10 and rural High Desert community located on the eastern  
11 side of the Sierras, and east of the Kern County seat in  
12 Bakersfield. Ridgecrest is the only incorporated town  
13 within the Valley, and adjacent to China Lake, Naval Air  
14 Weapons Station, which accounts for an approximate  
15 eighty-six percent contribution to the economy in the  
16 Valley.

17       The China Lake workforce resides in our community  
18 and the surrounding valley. Our shared community of  
19 interest is with Kern County. As part of Kern County,  
20 Ridgecrest shares several key economic synergies. The  
21 Mojave Space Port and Edwards Air Force Base act as  
22 complement to the research and development  
23 accomplishments of the China Lake.

24       It is vitally important that Ridgecrest remain  
25 within Kern County State and Federal district lines,

1 especially during this critical time of rebuilding China  
2 Lake, Naval Air Weapons Station from the damage done by  
3 the 2019 major earthquake. To change representation now  
4 could lead to unintended delays and consequences during  
5 the next five years of rebuilding the facility at China  
6 Lake.

7           China Lake cannot afford to miss a step in the  
8 ongoing time in the two critical process. Ridgecrest and  
9 China Lake, Naval Air Weapons Station rely heavily on  
10 these district lines for keeping our voices heard.  
11 Ridgecrest wants to remain in the State and Federal  
12 district line drawn in 2011 by the 2010 Citizens  
13 Redistricting Commission.

14           Ridgecrest has no commonalities with other counties  
15 bordering Kern that have substantially large populations.  
16 Ridgecrest does not want to be districted with other  
17 counties dominated by large metropolitan communities,  
18 which would dilute rural needs for urban interests.

19           So Commissioners, I once again ask you to leave the  
20 City of Ridgecrest as it is. And thank you very much for  
21 your time and put your service --

22           MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

23           MR. RAJARATNAM: -- on this Commission. I  
24 appreciate your time.

25           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.



1           And that is all our callers at this time, Chair.

2           CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Then we'll pick it up right  
3 where we were before the last caller. Thank you so much  
4 for that information.

5           And we have Commissioner Sinay that would love to  
6 share about our California, San Joaquin Valley.

7           COMMISSIONER SINAY: I love the San Joaquin Valley.  
8 And I have to say, my memory, it comes up -- it sprouts  
9 up every summer. A few years back through a leadership  
10 program, we got to spend time in Bakersfield. And we met  
11 with different leaders from different industrial and  
12 civic leaders. So we met with oil company, and farm  
13 owners, and the farm workers, and the farm workers, these  
14 women were amazingly generous, and shared the abundance  
15 of their crops with us. And I brought home some  
16 tomatillos on that trip. And by the time I got them  
17 home, they were a little overripe, because they had been  
18 in the car for several days. So I put them in our  
19 compost container and those little suckers grow every  
20 single year in my garden.

21           I don't plant seeds in my garden anymore. I just  
22 heap up compost and mix it with good soil and see what  
23 comes out. And every year I get tomatoes, tomatillos,  
24 and pumpkins. And those tomatillos started in  
25 Bakersfield, from that trip.

1           CHAIR TURNER: Oh. Yeah. I love that story. San  
2 Joaquin Valley lives on. Beautiful, beautiful. Now our  
3 Commissioner Fernández has a story that she has assured  
4 me will be the most exciting ever.

5           And so come on, Commissioner Fernández.

6           COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Okay. That is so far from  
7 the truth, because I told Commissioner Turner it's work  
8 related. So in my prior life, my last stint working for  
9 the government, I worked for Department of Corrections.  
10 So the San Joaquin Central California is home to many  
11 institutions, state facilities. And so Stockton,  
12 Clovis -- Avenal, Coalinga, Wasco, Stockton, Corcoran,  
13 Chowchilla, Tracy, Delano, Fresno, Tulare, Bakersfield,  
14 if they have some sort of facility, I've been there.

15           And I think I was telling Commissioner Sinay, the  
16 other day, I used to tell my husband that: Oh, I love  
17 going to the institutions. And I think what I loved most  
18 was not necessarily the institutions, but where the  
19 communities, because I just -- they were so welcoming.  
20 And having gone to Mexico many times to visit family, I  
21 would walk into a store or into a community and it just  
22 felt like I was in part of Mexico. So it was very  
23 comforting. And everyone was very welcoming and  
24 engaging.

25           So I just have warm thoughts and memories every time

1 I drive down I-5. It's absolutely beautiful to me. Some  
2 people may not see that it's beautiful, but it is. It's  
3 what I call home. So thank you.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Thank you. Thank you for  
5 sharing.

6 Katy. Do we have a caller yet?

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No, Chair. We do not.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Good. Because what I want to  
9 talk about, for I've lived in the San Joaquin, Central  
10 Valley for 26 years now, but prior to that I was in the  
11 Bay Area, San Francisco Bay Area only, and had very  
12 little connection to any rural community, farming  
13 community at all. And when my job, at the time working  
14 in the telecommunications industry, when I took a  
15 relocation out to the Central Valley and moved my family,  
16 it was a little bit of culture shock, I'll say.

17 And so of course I was following good employment and  
18 the money. But to get here I was amazed by the  
19 community. It was something that had to grow on me. And  
20 one of the things that I thought people here just had a  
21 superpower around, we would travel throughout the Central  
22 Valley and they would see all of the greenery on the side  
23 of the road and people that live here, they'd be like,  
24 oh, that's a this kind of tree. Those are almonds, those  
25 are walnuts, those are --

1 I'm like, I see green and branches. How in the  
2 world do you know what's going to grow there? And I was  
3 just amazed that people that grew up here, you can just  
4 look at a branch and some leaves and begin -- and know  
5 what's going to grow in the area. It's certainly not  
6 anything they taught me coming out of Richmond in  
7 Oakland. So I was amazed by that.

8 And the other thing that I learned coming in the  
9 Central Valley was all of the livestock, and the smells  
10 that I've gotten accustomed to, of the Central Valley.  
11 And then my kids going down the street, my son tells the  
12 story now. He was probably in middle school at the time,  
13 and had to get a bus from Stockton, at the time there  
14 were no schools in our area, so he was going into the  
15 Manteca area.

16 And he'd tell me -- I'd hear him talking on the  
17 phone to his friends. He's, like, man, he said, I saw  
18 chickens on the side of the road, and this is not a joke.  
19 They're really -- just like my kids. Poor babies, I just  
20 really did enrich their lives with moving them out here,  
21 but they had not been exposed to hogs on the side of the  
22 road waiting -- I guess whatever they do still with  
23 livestock after they pass. I guess something comes and  
24 picks them up.

25 But anyway, so City Girl, meet Central Valley. It's

1 been a wonderful ride for the last 26 years. I'm still  
2 learning about all the little carve outs, and special  
3 places, and the diverse foods, and just authentic food  
4 and the love of the people. So you know, we're kind of  
5 lifers now. 26 years in, I finally had to quit saying I  
6 was from the Bay Area. I'm from the -- I'm a Valley girl  
7 now. So that's been very exciting.

8 So Commissioners, any other Commissioner want to  
9 share about your Central Valley experience?

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair?

11 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It's Katy.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Hi Katy.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have a caller with  
15 their hand raised.

16 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, Katy, just let them wait, I  
17 want -- no, I'm just playing.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.

19 CHAIR TURNER: We've got real stuff happening up  
20 front. Caller, you are next. We would never have you  
21 wait. Go, Katy.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. All right. Caller  
23 7712, if you'll please follow the prompts to unmute;  
24 caller 7721 (sic), you are unmuted. I have a couple of  
25 brief instructions. Your speaker order number will be

1 number 45, if you'll please make note of that for future  
2 reference. If you'll please let the mapper know what  
3 area you'd like to discuss today. With that, the floor  
4 is yours.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello, Commissioners. And I  
6 apologize to interrupt Commissioner Turner's wonderful  
7 stories about the Valley. We love listening to you.

8 I'd like for the mapper to please focus in on the  
9 southwest -- pardon me, southeastern region of San  
10 Joaquin County, near the Stanislaus River, centered on  
11 the Cities of Escalon and Ripon. All right.

12 So I'm a sixth-generation Central Valley rancher,  
13 and my family has raised almonds, pistachios, grapes, and  
14 cattle, and has been dairy farmers in the Valley, ever  
15 since arriving from the Netherlands over one hundred  
16 years ago. Like so many other families in the area, I  
17 can trace my ancestry in the Valley back generations.  
18 And when I tell people where I'm from, I always say,  
19 Modesto.

20 The cities of Ripon, Escalon, and those areas of San  
21 Joaquin County surrounding the city, specifically those  
22 south of Lone Tree Road, and east of Austin Road, are  
23 much, much better suited in a district like the Cities of  
24 Modesto, Oakdale, Riverbank, and the rest of Stanislaus  
25 County, than they are with San Joaquin County.

1           Our economy is based around agriculture, whether  
2 it's our largest crop, almonds, cattle, which so many  
3 other Dutch farmers raise, grapes which are grown largely  
4 by the Franzia company, which traces its headquarters  
5 over to Tracy down in Stanislaus County, our interests  
6 lie with the counties of the South.

7           We simply do not have very much in common with the  
8 rest of San Joaquin County. As the caller earlier  
9 mentioned, San Joaquin County has largely become a  
10 destination for Bay Area super commuters, which is simply  
11 not the character of our rural communities. It is like  
12 Tracy, Stockton, and Manteca have by and large become Bay  
13 Area suburbs at this point, far detached from the  
14 agricultural lifestyle which defines our town and so much  
15 more of the Central Valley to the south.

16           We're proud to be home to large Latino, Portuguese,  
17 Hmong, Dutch, and Italian, and many other immigrant  
18 groups here in the Southeastern San Joaquin County.  
19 Groups that can also find themselves in large numbers in  
20 Modesto, with road names like Van Allen Road, Van Horn,  
21 Dutch Hollow, and other similar names, you can clearly  
22 see the way that we trace our ancestry back in similar  
23 ways to those who live in Stanislaus County.

24           We simply do not have very much in common with  
25 Tracy, Stockton, Manteca, or other areas of San Joaquin

1 County. Should we need to be in a district that includes  
2 more than just Stanislaus County and our town, we would  
3 kindly request that the District extend south into Merced  
4 County rather than including Bay Area exurb.

5 Again, I really thank you for your time. And we  
6 appreciate all of the hard work the Commission is putting  
7 in this year. Thank you.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And  
10 we do have another caller. And I'd like to ask those  
11 that have called in and have not made community of  
12 interest input today to please press star 9 to raise your  
13 hand indicating you wish to comment. At this time we do  
14 have a caller; caller 1781, if you'll please follow the  
15 prompts to unmute. And then up next, we have another  
16 hand of caller 5621. Right now will be caller 1781. And  
17 up next to be caller 5621.

18 Caller 1781, if you will please follow the prompts  
19 to unmute by pressing star 6; caller 1781, you are  
20 currently unmuted. Your speaker order number will be  
21 number 46, if you are, please make note of that --  
22 whoops -- that was totally my fault, I clicked her -- if  
23 you'll please press star 6. I apologize. I just muted  
24 you. Thank you. I'm deeply apologetic. Your speaker  
25 order number will be number 46. And if you'll please let



1 the map or know what area you would like to discuss  
2 today. The floor is yours.

3 DR. L. VASQUEZ: Thank you. It took me a little  
4 while to follow the instructions, but once they were  
5 given.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I'm so sorry.

7 DR. L. VASQUEZ: That was so good of you. Except,  
8 okay, you got it together. Yes. I'm in Tulare County,  
9 actually. So that's the area of the map that I'd like to  
10 speak about. Of course, I'm trying to find you again.

11 My name is Dr. Lucia Vasquez. I live in Visalia,  
12 and I live in the north side of Visalia, which has one of  
13 the highest poverty-stricken areas, and the most census  
14 tracts that are affected right around -- the overlapping  
15 of Visalia, Tulare County.

16 And first of all, thank you for listening to us, and  
17 taking into consideration all of our comments, and our  
18 communities of interest. I am in a neighborhood, that  
19 because they are high Latino, high poverty, we change  
20 numbers. And so when we're moved in one place to  
21 another, we're often used as -- an apartment block could  
22 be moved one way or to be moved the other.

23 And so what happens is what's happened in the past,  
24 it's like for the Congressional district we're part of  
25 Fresno -- we go up north and we're part of that Fresno

1 one. And if you look right across the 99 where that, I  
2 think it's Congressional District 21, it's very  
3 gerrymandered all over the place, and different because I  
4 think the same kinds of things are happening, where these  
5 high Latino populations, low -- poverty, are being moved  
6 around to accommodate our numbers, which is great, but  
7 it's really been making it difficult for those of us in  
8 those areas to really be represented anyway.

9       When you look at where my Senate seat -- my senator  
10 is, that area goes south, and will go all the way down  
11 south, from a little bit of Visalia, all to Tulare, it  
12 goes down to Kern County, and goes all the way over to  
13 Needles, all the way almost into Nevada.

14       So say, if I wanted to run for Senate, there's no  
15 way that I would really have a fighting chance of being  
16 elected. I really spent a whole lot of time in Kern  
17 County because I'm being used for my high density of  
18 Latinos and the poverty in that little, tiny piece of  
19 Visalia that you have, and to be pulled all the way over.

20       So what my ask is then, you guys have a great task  
21 ahead of you, to wipe clean that state and to start over  
22 again. I know that the number of Latinos have increased,  
23 I know that there's many pockets of people in poverty.  
24 So I would really like you to keep in mind that when you  
25 do that, that you can try to keep us as close as

1 possible --

2 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

3 DR. L. VASQUEZ: -- together with our voting  
4 districts, and with our -- our essentially neighbors that  
5 are there. I mean, I understand very well the rules of  
6 being contiguous, and trying to keep things together in  
7 that, you know, the priorities that people have --

8 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

9 DR. L. VASQUEZ: -- but I need you to please keep in  
10 mind that you're moving people around. And by shifting  
11 us so that your numbers can come out, then we're losing  
12 the ability to be part of a larger community, which is  
13 really important. So again --

14 MR. MANOFF: Time.

15 DR. L. VASQUEZ: -- I thank you for your time.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
17 now we have caller 5621. And I invite those that have  
18 called in and have not given community of interest input  
19 today to press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you  
20 wish to comment. But right now, caller 5621, if you will  
21 please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.  
22 Caller 5621, you are currently unmuted. Your speaker  
23 order number will be number 47, if you'll please make  
24 note of that for future reference. And if you'll please  
25 let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss

1 today. With that, the floor is yours.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Hi. First off, I'd  
3 like to thank everyone, all the Commissioners, for taking  
4 part in this. It's great that you guys are doing this.  
5 I'm I wanted to take a look at the Kern, Kings, and  
6 Tulare area, specifically Bakersfield. I think it's  
7 important that the City of Bakersfield stays together.  
8 As someone earlier brought up, it has the oil industry as  
9 well as agriculture in the surrounding areas.

10 And I know with the current map, it's gerrymandered  
11 based off the VRA, and with the growing Hispanic  
12 population in the Central Valley, that's not really a  
13 concern anymore. I think you can still get to Hispanic  
14 majority districts in that area, in the Fresno area and  
15 the Bakersfield area.

16 So it would be nice if Kern County had its own --  
17 for the most part, its own solid district. And that  
18 would be Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, and the areas east of  
19 Bakersfield in the one district. And then putting  
20 together Kings and Tulare, they consist of many working-  
21 class Hispanic communities as well as a lot of  
22 agricultural areas as well. And it's important to keep  
23 both those counties together.

24 And they actually used to be one county a long time  
25 ago, so they have a lot of similar interests regarding

1 agriculture, and there's not a whole lot of large cities  
2 there. It's mostly just smaller cities together, rural  
3 Hispanic area. And if you just combine those with  
4 McFarland, Lasco, Shafter, and those other Hispanic towns  
5 right there, then you can make a -- basically a rural  
6 Hispanic majority district that would do a good job of  
7 representing those communities, that have been  
8 underrepresented through the years that they've been  
9 broken apart by the current map, which has been intact  
10 for a while with that 21st District that stretches from  
11 Fresno to Bakersfield.

12       So yeah, that's my concern, is about keeping those  
13 communities together. And that's all. Thank you for  
14 your time and doing this for us. Bye.

15       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
16 invite those that have called in who have not provided  
17 the community of interest input today to raise their  
18 hands by pressing star 9 on their telephone keypad. I  
19 also invite 047 to use the raise your hand button at the  
20 bottom of your screen indicating you are ready to give  
21 comment at this time.

22       047, has chosen to raise their hand. I will be  
23 promoting you at this time. 047, your speaker order  
24 number will be number 48, if you'll please make note of  
25 that for future reference. If you'll please let the

1 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.

2 With that, the floor is yours. 047, you are unmuted.

3 Hello?

4 (Pause)

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 047, it appears that  
6 you are connected to the Zoom meeting without audio. If  
7 you could please select to join with audio that would  
8 allow us to communicate with you via audio; in the lower-  
9 left corner of your screen, you'll see a little  
10 microphone.

11 I don't even know if they can hear me. Oh. One  
12 moment; they've sent us a chat. "I'm calling in again.  
13 You couldn't hear me, but I could hear you." They're  
14 going to call in again. If you can hear me -- oh, they  
15 laughed. Oh. They're back. Okay. Let's try this one  
16 more time.

17 047, I'm going to promote you to panelist. 047, it  
18 appears you've joined without audio again. You can hear  
19 me, but I can't hear you. So if you go to the  
20 microphone, there's a little caret next to the  
21 microphone, if you select your audio options, you should  
22 be able to select connecting your audio with the  
23 microphone, within those settings. That will allow us to  
24 hear you.

25 I will suggest, there is a phone number in your Zoom

1 invite, if you are not able to figure out the audio  
2 options with the device that you are using, you do have  
3 the option to call us using the phone number that is in  
4 your Zoom invite that you have used to access this link.  
5 So I would advise you calling in if you cannot connect  
6 your audio. I believe they left.

7       Okay. So I also invite those that have called in  
8 that have not provided a community of interest input  
9 today, to press star 9 to raise their hand. That's for  
10 caller 9532, if you wish to make community of interest  
11 input today, please press star 9 to raise your hand. Oh.  
12 Caller 1561, if you'll press star 9 to raise your hand  
13 indicating you wish to comment. We do have a raised  
14 hand, and caller 1561, if you'll please follow the  
15 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 1561, you  
16 are currently unmuted. Your speaker --

17       MARTHA: Hi. This is Martha (ph.). Can you hear me  
18 now?

19       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I can hear you now. You  
20 were joined in the Zoom before?

21       MARTHA: Yeah.

22       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh. Perfect. There you  
23 are. We can hear you.

24       MARTHA: I am so sorry.

25       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.

1           MARTHA: I'm sorry to put you through that. Okay.

2           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It's perfectly fine.

3           MARTHA: I feel embarrassed.

4           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh, no. You're perfectly  
5 fine. So your speaker order number will be number 48, if  
6 you'll please make note of that. And then if you'll --

7           MARTHA: Okay.

8           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- please let the mapper  
9 know what area you would like to discuss today. The  
10 floor is yours.

11          MARTHA: Okay. I am looking at the North Fresno and  
12 City of Clovis areas today.

13          PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. Go ahead.

14          MARTHA: Okay. I have lived in the Fresno area for  
15 over -- well, closing on forty years now, and my husband  
16 grew up here, our daughter has grown up here. And I have  
17 enjoyed being a resident of this location forever. So  
18 over ten years North Fresno and the City of Clovis have  
19 been in the same Congressional and State districts. And  
20 I think that there's a really, really strong bond, a  
21 connection, if you will, between the two with our  
22 families and friends residing in one or the other area,  
23 going to school, going to church, shopping, you know, the  
24 whole nine yards.

25                 And with the way that Fresno and the Clovis area has



1 grown over the years, the positive changes, with traffic  
2 control, and just overall sensible working so that the  
3 two can continue to be more connected than ever. It's  
4 easier to get from here to there, to go to dinner, go  
5 shopping, visit our friends and family who live in  
6 Clovis, since I'm a Fresno resident. And I think that's  
7 really positive.

8       You know, since we do all these together, these  
9 cities are really connected, and we have a strong  
10 identity. We share values, interest and a just overall  
11 compatibility that makes sense that we continue to share  
12 the same representative.

13       So with that, I would like to share that that is the  
14 feeling of my friends and family, that we've talked about  
15 this redistricting with, and we'd like our representation  
16 to remain the same for North Fresno and Clovis. We're  
17 very happy with it right now. And appreciate your taking  
18 our comments.

19       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

20       And with that, Chair, that is all of our callers at  
21 this time.

22       CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Then right before we run our  
23 video, Katy, while waiting, we will go to Commissioner  
24 Yee. That has a hope for our San Joaquin, Central Valley  
25 that he'd love to share.

1           COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Not I hope  
2 just for the Valley, but for the whole state. And that  
3 is the hope of high-speed rail. I will have you know,  
4 our California high-speed rail system is actually under  
5 construction between Madera and Bakersfield. The first  
6 leg of it, and of course, has become mired in politics,  
7 and delays, and all sorts of things.

8           But there is construction going on now. And my  
9 hope, as one who spends far too much of his life dodging  
10 trucks on I-5, or waiting in TSA lines to get into  
11 Southern California, or other places, is that, you know,  
12 a speed rail will become a reality, going right through  
13 the Central Valley and connecting different parts of the  
14 state.

15           It just seems crazy to me that a state with our  
16 population, and our economic base, and our transportation  
17 needs doesn't have this as an option. So I'm glad a  
18 system is under construction, to some degree, in the  
19 Central Valley right now, and I'm hoping that in the  
20 future things will develop so that we will get our full  
21 system in place and running someday.

22           CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Yes. Thank you for sharing  
23 that. I share that hope. That would be simply wonderful  
24 for us for so many reasons.

25           Katy, actually, why don't you read, please, the

1 call-in instructions? Because we're fifteen minutes, I  
2 believe, from a break. So let's just see if we can  
3 rustle up some more callers in this short time period.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We did just have someone  
5 join, 056 just joined. So I will --

6 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: -- give them the  
8 instruction to please use the raise your hand button at  
9 the bottom of your screen indicating you wish to comment  
10 at this time. And then I will go ahead and read the  
11 abbreviated call-in instructions.

12 And I do see your raised hands, 056. I will be  
13 right to you.

14 The Commission is now taking community of interest  
15 input at this time. To give comment, please call 877-  
16 853-5247. Enter the meeting ID number 94965881654 for  
17 this meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star  
18 9 to enter the comment queue. The full call-in  
19 instructions have been read previously in this meeting  
20 and are provided in full on the live stream landing page.

21 At this time we will go to 056, I will be promoting  
22 you now. 056, your speaker order number will be number  
23 49, if you'll please make note of that for future  
24 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in  
25 the lower-left corner of your screen. If you'll please

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

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. How are we doing? Can  
4 you hear me?

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We can. And we're great.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, yes.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Great. I really appreciate  
8 this opportunity. I live in Reedley, California, which  
9 is in Central California near Fresno. And the concern we  
10 have is -- good job -- is splitting the city. Reedley is  
11 an amazing place. It's got a river going right through  
12 it, pretty amazing. It's got a college. It's got an  
13 old, wonderful downtown. We have a thriving interracial  
14 community. And it would damage our community irreparably  
15 to split it up.

16 So all I'm asking for today is that you consider  
17 that in your efforts. And I really applaud you for doing  
18 this. This is sort of a thankless job. That's pretty  
19 much it. You know, I love living here, and I only came  
20 here like ten years ago, but this is an amazing  
21 community, and it's an old community and it has such  
22 wonderful resources that having the community split would  
23 dilute our ability to access government services and the  
24 kind of things that we need to keep this community up and  
25 running. Does that make sense?

1 CHAIR TURNER: It does, indeed, make sense, and it  
2 sounds like someplace everyone should at least visit.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, you can -- you can go  
4 kayaking right in the middle of town and it's like you're  
5 right in the middle of the wilderness. It's really  
6 kayaking, and then you get out, you know, a couple miles  
7 downstream. It's wonderful. And it's got an area where  
8 it's sort of like Golden Gate Park, where you can go and  
9 go running for like two hours and never see a car.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Oh.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Reedley is pretty amazing.  
12 And a tragedy would be, if in this redistricting, if we  
13 ended up splitting the city. And that's all. That's a  
14 very simple request. And I don't know what your plans  
15 are, but I think it would be -- it would be too bad if  
16 that happened, and it would be too bad in a really  
17 deepened sense for our -- for this community.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Well, we don't know what our plans  
19 are yet. We're learning from all of you. So thank you  
20 for calling in to share that with us today. That's  
21 important.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I'm going to  
23 congratulate you again for doing this. And say thank you  
24 for putting in the time and effort.

25 CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you need my name or  
2 anything, or you've got to have that, or?

3 CHAIR TURNER: No. Don't have to have your name.  
4 We've got just what we need. And we appreciate you.  
5 Thank you so much.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. God bless. Take care.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

9 And that is all of our callers at this time, Chair.

10 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful, beautiful, beautiful.  
11 Let's see. We are at 3:20. Oh. Commissioners, we're  
12 excited. California, thank you for calling to speak with  
13 us, we think this is signs of things to come. We expect  
14 all of our sessions to be exactly like this and have more  
15 and more callers calling in and telling us about these  
16 spaces, these places in California.

17 And as things are opening up again, I know a lot of  
18 the different visitors bureaus are trying to find ways to  
19 talk about their areas and invite people to come and  
20 visit. And this has been a marvelous way to talk about  
21 small areas within California that others may not have  
22 known about. So who knew you could go kayaking in  
23 Reedley? You know, so there you go.

24 So I just do -- we want to encourage people to  
25 continue to call in. And yeah, so we are going to keep

1 the lines open. Today we are going to get through our  
2 appointments. It will be opening it up soon for those  
3 that don't have appointments.

4 And if those of you who're out there listening, if  
5 you want to call in and talk to us even more, I'm  
6 noticing that we need more information about North  
7 Fresno, asking where does north start in the minds of the  
8 people. Inquiring minds want to know.

9 North Fresno starts exactly where? What's the  
10 boundary for that? So then hopeful, the next callers  
11 calling in, if that's your area, you'll be able to talk  
12 to us about that as well.

13 So with that, Katy, let's just have our full, long,  
14 dramatized instructions. And then we'll see what that  
15 gets us.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

17 I will invite those who have just called in to  
18 please press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you  
19 wish to comment, that's for caller with the last four  
20 9366.

21 In order to maximize transparency and public  
22 participation in our process, the Commissioners taking  
23 community of interest input by phone. To call in, dial  
24 the telephone number provided on the live stream feed.  
25 It is 877-853-5247. When prompted to enter the meeting

1 ID number provided on the live stream feed, it is  
2 94965881654 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a  
3 participant ID simply press the pound key.

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

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

17       And again, I invite those that have called in to  
18 please press star 9 on your telephone keypad indicating  
19 you wish to comment at this time.

20       And we do have a raised hand at this time, caller  
21 7268. Caller 7268, if you would please follow the  
22 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6; caller 7628, I have  
23 a couple of brief instructions for you. You are  
24 currently unmuted. Your speaker order number is number  
25 50, if you'll please make note of that for future



1 reference. If you'll please let the mapper know what  
2 area you would like to discuss today. And with that, the  
3 floor is yours.

4 ZINGO: My name is Zingo (ph.), and I'm from Tulare  
5 County. And to be more particular, Tulare City, so if  
6 the mapper can go there.

7 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead.

8 ZINGO: So when you come to Tulare County, Tulare  
9 County is divided into three different districts, 21, 22,  
10 and 23. And that's, you know, I have friends in many  
11 different areas of the county. It's very hard for them,  
12 very difficult for them to be -- you know, to be fairly  
13 represented in the State of California law, you know, one  
14 Congressional seat. I think that I speak in the best  
15 interest from the community in saying that we will be  
16 okay if we lose District number 22, and just restart  
17 drawing the new lines again for all that area. Thank  
18 you.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Oh. Don't hang up just yet. Don't  
20 hang up just yet. Thank you for having those  
21 conversations. What do you -- can you give us some  
22 cities? Which city? Which area? What do you and your  
23 friends that you're speaking with, what would you like to  
24 see together?

25 ZINGO: So you see how on the map right there it

1 says, you know, District 22, and then District 23, and  
2 District 21.

3 CHAIR TURNER: We see it.

4 ZINGO: So I live in Tulare City, and then my  
5 friends, they live in Portersville (sic), which is a  
6 whole different -- a whole different district, right?

7 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

8 ZINGO: And then I also have friends in -- of which,  
9 just in that area, in Tulare City alone, we have three  
10 different districts. And I mean, look at the way it's  
11 shaped and the gerrymandering that's been going on.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

13 ZINGO: I think it's only fair that you draw those  
14 maps again. And we ensure that, you know every -- the  
15 community of interest, which is the entire county, stays  
16 at least together in one area, because right there we  
17 have three different areas that are divided.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So caller, are you suggesting  
19 that 21, 23, 22 all are together? Or you mentioned  
20 Tulare, Portersville (sic), and what was that, was Pixley  
21 you said? Is it those areas? I just need to hear it  
22 from you and not have me engage my imagination. That's  
23 just wild sometimes. What is it you're asking for?

24 ZINGO: Oh. No. I'm just asking to be at least to  
25 have the county be in one or two different districts,

1 right; because right now it is split into three.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. I got it.

3 ZINGO: And I'm (indiscernible, simultaneous speech)  
4 for all the people that live in the county, right?

5 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

6 ZINGO: So I think that, you know, when we draw the  
7 new lines, if we can draw a -- you know, stay away from  
8 having so much gerrymandering.

9 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

10 ZINGO: That way we can, like, it stays together.  
11 And you be able to fit together all of it, right, but  
12 maybe we can just divide it into two rather than three  
13 areas of interest.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So is it fair to say you're  
15 saying, keep all of Tulare County together?

16 ZINGO: In a perfect world, that would be ideal.  
17 But you know, given the circumstances that we're in right  
18 now --

19 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

20 ZINGO: -- I know that, you know, we can't do that.  
21 But if we can at least make it two different districts.  
22 I think that will be perfectly okay.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you for sharing and  
24 indulging me. Thank you.

25 ZINGO: Thanks.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
2 invite 054 to please use the raise your hand button at  
3 the bottom of your screen, indicating you are ready at  
4 this time to give your community of interest input.  
5 Thank you so much. 054, I will be promoting you now.  
6 054 -- you're there. 054, your speaker order number is  
7 number 51, if you'll please make note of that for future  
8 reference. You can now enable your audio and video in  
9 the lower-left corner of your screen. And if you'll  
10 please let the mapper know what area you would like to  
11 discuss today. With that, the floor will be yours.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello? Can you hear me okay?

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. Good. Thank you. I am  
15 calling from Fresno -- excuse me -- Clovis, California.  
16 And I really urge you to keep the -- to keep the  
17 district -- to keep the lines the way they are. So many  
18 people move into our area because of who we are, what  
19 we've accomplished, our schools, our representative,  
20 especially our representative.

21 It defines who we are. They know us very well.  
22 It's just -- it's been perfect. So I do encourage you to  
23 just keep us the way we are now because we've worked  
24 hard. We made it work. We love our representatives. We  
25 love our area. We work together well, and it's important

1 for us to keep that going.

2       Constant change, sometimes it's good, sometimes it's  
3 not. But in this time I think it's not, because we've  
4 worked well to make things work for us. So I do  
5 encourage you to keep it the way it is.

6       CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Thank you so much for  
7 sharing that, all that that would be everyone's testimony  
8 about where they live. So that is just so wonderful.

9       What we'll do at this time is we will take our  
10 break. We'll take a required break now for fifteen  
11 minutes. And then we'll come back, and it will be open  
12 game for everyone to call in. And hopefully those that  
13 had appointments, you'll still be able to contact us.  
14 And either way, we'll be here waiting to hear your calls.  
15 We'll be back at 3:45.

16       Thank you, Commissioners. Fifteen-minute break,  
17 please.

18               (Whereupon, a recess was held from 3:30 p.m.  
19               until 3:45 p.m.)

20       CHAIR TURNER: All right. California, welcome back.  
21 And because I'm old and dating myself, every time I hear  
22 "welcome back", of course I think about that Welcome Back  
23 Kotter song, "Welcome back, your dreams were your ticket  
24 out." But you know this is your ticket in, your ticket  
25 to be able to determine your own destiny on how you'd

1 like your lines drawn.

2       So we are back for our next segment of our public  
3 input session, and we are accepting now all callers, all  
4 over California. I hope you've rallied the troops and  
5 they are dialing in now, waiting in queue. Katy, I'm so  
6 excited.

7       And in the meantime, for those that are not,  
8 perhaps, listening right now, if you listen to us a  
9 little bit later on a recorded version of our  
10 presentation today, we always want to encourage you to  
11 visit the communities of interest tool to draw a map. If  
12 you did not get in on this line, please utilize the tool  
13 and describe your community by visiting  
14 [DrawMyCACommunity.org](http://DrawMyCACommunity.org).

15       So with that, Katy, let's see who's waiting to  
16 talk to us today.

17       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. Would you  
18 like me to start the session with the instructions?

19       CHAIR TURNER: Yes, please.

20       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. In order to  
21 maximize transparency and public participation in our  
22 process, the Commission will be taking community of  
23 interest input by phone. To call in, dial the telephone  
24 number provided on the live stream feed. It is 877-853-  
25 5247. When prompted to enter the meeting ID number

1 provided on the live stream feed, it is 94965881654 for  
2 this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID  
3 simply press the pound key.

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

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

17       And I do see a raised hand from caller 2406. And I  
18 invite those that have called in to press star 9 to raise  
19 their hands indicating they wish to comment. So right  
20 now we have caller 2406. Up next, we have caller 9366.  
21 And then after that there will be caller 6100. I do see  
22 everyone's hands. And caller 2406, if you will please  
23 follow the prompt to unmute.

24       CHAIR TURNER: Woo-hoo.

25       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 2406, you are

1 unmuted. I have a couple of brief instructions for you.

2 Your speaker order number will be number 52.

3 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: Yes.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, your speaker order  
5 number will be number 52, if you'll please make note of  
6 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
7 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.

8 With that, the floor is yours.

9 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: Thank you, Commission. Thank you  
10 for letting me speak. My name is Dr. Inés Ruiz-Huston.  
11 I live in San Joaquin County. And as you know, San  
12 Joaquin County, the majority is 40.5 percent or more  
13 Hispanic, we have a huge commuter culture and we would  
14 like to see San Joaquin County stay more within its own  
15 area. A lot of our communities, you know, we are  
16 connected a lot with working in the East Bay and using  
17 the 580 Corridor, and that creates a culture and a  
18 supportive community.

19 We also, at San Joaquin, we have a lot of needs in  
20 our community for social services. We'll help with  
21 housing, with immigration, and a lot of our families also  
22 work in restaurant business, retails, and all that. So  
23 with the large population in big city, for us, we don't  
24 have very much of a connection in terms of Amador or  
25 Calaveras County. It is very, very different. And I,



1 myself, love to go up to those areas, and Calaveras, and  
2 Amador to go fishing or hiking, and be in the beautiful  
3 forest area.

4 But these areas and the interests of those areas are  
5 not the same of what we need in San Joaquin. So I'm  
6 asking for our San Joaquin community not to be -- does  
7 not belong with Amador-Calaveras County, because a  
8 majorities work in a large city population. And we also  
9 have a lot of commuters. And we also, in terms of our  
10 Spanish-speaking community, a large Spanish-speaking  
11 community, and so also we need bilingual services.

12 So with that, thank you for the opportunity to  
13 speak. Thank you, Commissioners.

14 Again, my name is Inés Ruiz-Huston. I'm with the  
15 San Joaquin community. I live in Stockton, California,  
16 and I've worked with El Concilio and other nonprofit and  
17 community-based organizations. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Great. Before you hang up,  
19 just wanting to confirm a couple of things, because  
20 you've said it's important to stay within your own  
21 community, and we just want to make sure we're really  
22 clear on that. I understood you to say not Amador,  
23 Calaveras, et cetera, comment, so you want to go west,  
24 south, we definitely know not east. So give me some more  
25 boundaries on the other side?

1 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: Yes. Again, we want to head east,  
2 not west. Correct. Because I was just talking about,  
3 mostly talking about we have a lot of our families work  
4 in the Bay Area, in other words, in the Bay Area going to  
5 San Francisco and San Jose. So we have a lot of families  
6 working in that area.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Do you have boundaries --

8 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: (Indiscernible, simultaneous  
9 speech) --

10 CHAIR TURNER: -- with how far you want to go?

11 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: No, I just --

12 CHAIR TURNER: Just those ones?

13 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: I'd prefer to leave it at that  
14 comment. Yeah. Thank you.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Okay. I appreciate you.  
16 Thank you.

17 DR. RUIZ-HUSTON: Thank you.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you, Californians, for  
19 hanging in there with us while we had our bonus break to  
20 take care of a few technical issues. But a number of you  
21 were waiting with hands raised.

22 And so at this time, we're going to, Katy, go back  
23 over to you so we can go right back into our testimony.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I  
25 apologize.

1 I would like to invite those that have called in to  
2 please press star 9 to raise your hands indicating you  
3 wish to comment. We do have two raise hands at this  
4 time. Caller 9366 we will start with, and up next it'll  
5 be caller 6459. And I do see those other raised hands  
6 that have come up, and we'll be on to you after this.

7 So right now, caller 9366, if you could please  
8 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6; caller  
9 9366, you are currently unmuted. Your speaker order  
10 number will be number 53, if you'll please make note of  
11 that for a future reference. And if you'll please let  
12 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss  
13 today. With that, the floor is yours.

14 ELLEN: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner, for  
15 this opportunity. My name is Ellen (ph.). And I live in  
16 Visalia, which is Tulare County. And I would like to  
17 speak on Tulare County at this time. I'm calling to  
18 express my desire to see Visalia and Tulare, both cities  
19 to be kept together in this redistricting process, as  
20 you're drawing the lines.

21 Visalia being the county seat of the -- being the  
22 county seat, and then Tulare being the second largest  
23 city, all of the services in our county, most people go  
24 to these two larger cities. So it just makes sense that  
25 all the leadership, and that the county stays -- that the

1 two largest cities stay as a whole unit.

2 And I did like what another caller mentioned earlier  
3 about Tulare County, and it'd be nice to see all of  
4 Tulare County in one county, instead of broken up into  
5 three different counties. But my call is specifically  
6 addressing to keep Visalia and Tulare together in one  
7 county, as one district.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
10 now we have caller 6459. And then up next will be caller  
11 4040. Right now will be caller 6459. And then up next  
12 will be caller 4040. Caller 6459, if you will please  
13 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller  
14 6459, you are currently unmuted. I have a couple of  
15 brief instructions. Your speaker order number will be  
16 number 54, if you'll please make note of that for future  
17 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what  
18 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
19 floor is yours.

20 MR. SANDOVAL: Yes. Hi. My name is Espi Sandoval  
21 (ph.), and I represent the communities of Western Fresno  
22 County. I am a former city councilman of the City of  
23 Kerman, California, which is Fresno -- Western Fresno  
24 County. I would like to speak. I was raised in the  
25 cities of Tranquility and Mendota in Western Fresno

1 County. And in Western Fresno County is considered the  
2 Appalachian of the West.

3 I'm hoping that you do not make massive changes that  
4 would affect our communities. Our elected officials have  
5 done a great job representing us so far. I hope you  
6 would consider keeping us connected to Southern Fresno,  
7 where in Southern Fresno it's very similar in  
8 demographics and in comparison to Western Fresno County.

9 So that's really my asking from you, to make sure  
10 that you keep us with Southern Fresno and not to make  
11 massive changes, you know, I mean in the -- and to keep  
12 our communities closed. For example, we have communities  
13 now like, Tranquility, San Joaquin, Mendota, Firebaugh,  
14 Huron. On the west side we have Sanger, Selma, Parlier,  
15 some other cities that are -- that basically are  
16 connected to us.

17 Meaning, I hope that you keep districts, our State  
18 districts the same way, so that we can continue to  
19 benefit from the great service that our elected officials  
20 have giving us, out to our communities. Thank you. And  
21 you guys have a wonderful afternoon.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. And so those cities that  
23 you named. I was trying to see them on the map, it  
24 looked like we're -- was that your Southern Fresno idea?

25 MR. SANDOVAL: Those cities are Western Fresno

1 County, Western Fresno County, some of them are on the  
2 eastern, but they're on the southern part of the county.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Just interested, when you're  
4 wanting -- when you mentioned Southern Fresno, I wanted  
5 to know where those boundary lines were for you.

6 MR. SANDOVAL: Southern Fresno will be mainly south  
7 of Ashland Avenue in Fresno.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

9 MR. SANDOVAL: They have similar issues that we have  
10 on the -- on our communities. A big mistake would be if  
11 they lumped us with Clovis or the Northern Fresno, which  
12 has a -- I would like to say the more affluent  
13 communities that do not connect with us. So it would be  
14 a disservice to be -- for us to be in those areas,  
15 because I don't think our --

16 CHAIR TURNER: Fine.

17 MR. SANDOVAL: -- communities get (indiscernible) so  
18 that's was -- that's my big fear.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. When you're saying -- when  
20 you're saying, sir, what's helpful in testimony, and we  
21 appreciate your calling in; for you, and other callers as  
22 well, when you're saying "Southern Fresno, and with those  
23 communities", we just want to make sure you're naming  
24 which communities so that we're not left to guess what  
25 was in your mind a "southern community" and "other

1 communities".

2       So if you could name the communities, or more street  
3 names for Southern Fresno, or those that you do not want  
4 to be connected with, we can ensure we're drawing  
5 correctly based on what you desire.

6       MR. SANDOVAL: Yeah. You know what? The cities  
7 that we want to get connected to, Southern Fresno -- so  
8 Southern Fresno, Ashland Avenue is the street.

9       CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

10       MR. SANDOVAL: And just south of Shaw, right now.  
11 And when we're talking about communities, if we're  
12 talking about communities here in California, San Joaquin  
13 in California, Firebaugh, Mendota, Kerman.

14       CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

15       MR. SANDOVAL: And then on the east side, we're  
16 talking about maybe cities like Sanger, Selma, Parlier,  
17 Reedley, Orange Cove, you know, Fowler.

18       CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

19       MR. SANDOVAL: Maybe the City of Caruthers, the City  
20 of Riverdale. You know, that's what we're talking about.

21       CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

22       MR. SANDOVAL: Okay. We all have -- no problem.

23       CHAIR TURNER: Yep. That was very helpful. Thank  
24 you so much.

25       MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you.

1 CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right  
3 now we have caller 4040. And then up next will be caller  
4 6100. So right now is caller 4040, and up next will be  
5 6100. And I do invite those that have called in to  
6 please press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you  
7 wish to comment. That is for caller 6638.

8 But caller 4040, if you will please follow the  
9 prompts to unmute, right now, by pressing star 6. Caller  
10 4040, your speaker order number is number 55. You are  
11 currently unmuted. If you'll please let the mapper know  
12 what area you would like to discuss today. With that,  
13 the floor is yours.

14 MS. TRUJILLO RICE: Thank you so much. And good  
15 afternoon, Commissioner members; thank you for this  
16 opportunity.

17 My name is Nichole Trujillo Rice and I am  
18 specifically calling about the North Valley area. That  
19 is San Joaquin County, Calaveras County, Stanislaus and  
20 Tuolumne Counties, Merced and Mariposa.

21 And I'd like to just start by talking about my  
22 childhood. I grew up in San Joaquin County in the City  
23 of Stockton, California. And shortly before moving to --  
24 or going off to college, my parents moved to Sonora in  
25 Tuolumne County. It was a place we frequented and had



1 family at. And so having that switch from the valley  
2 floors to the more mountainous areas was a change for  
3 them, and they still reside there, and that was a little  
4 over twenty years ago.

5 I, personally, have done a lot of work, significant  
6 work within the Central Valley with communities over the  
7 last decade, specifically in those that I mentioned, and  
8 currently the principal officer of the North Valley Labor  
9 Federation, which represents those six counties. And  
10 through my work with labor, and community organizations,  
11 and business, I want today to stress the importance for  
12 us, as a movement, to keep separate the valley floor from  
13 the more mountainous areas.

14 The Gold Country and the Central Valley Floor, they  
15 have completely separate needs. We see this in the work  
16 that we do in community benefit, as well as in labor, and  
17 political work. It's something where -- you know,  
18 whether it's water, or anything else, and the more urban  
19 areas just don't have the same types of needs as the more  
20 mountainous ones.

21 Similarly, speaking specifically about the County of  
22 Merced, or the City of Merced, thinking that those two  
23 have a lot of the same group in common, and so I would  
24 like to see those still remain as one district. I think  
25 a lot of other people have touched on similar things that

1 I have and so just wanted to stress those specific things  
2 that are important to us in those six counties.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

4 MS. TRUJILLO RICE: Thank you so much for your time.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. Right now we  
7 have caller 6100. And I invite those that have called in  
8 that have not given community of interest input today to  
9 please press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you  
10 wish to comment. But right now we have caller 6100. If  
11 you'll please follow the prompts to remove by pressing  
12 star 6. Caller 6100, you are currently unmuted. I have  
13 a couple of brief instructions. Your speaker order  
14 number will be number 56, if you'll please make note of  
15 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
16 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
17 With that, the floor is yours.

18 MS. SOUZA: Hi. Thank you very much. I am calling  
19 discussing Tulare County. My name is Deene Sousa (ph.).  
20 I live in Visalia, which is a population of about  
21 133,000, which is definitely the largest city in our  
22 area. I am calling in to hope that you would not make  
23 any changes to our current Congressional district. We  
24 feel very well represented in the current situation that  
25 we're in.

1           Our main industry is farming, and we have a very  
2 diverse population, and we enjoy the communities very  
3 much that contribute to our population. If I were to  
4 pinpoint a characteristic that brings our area together,  
5 it would definitely be agriculture. It is very important  
6 that we have a district that will continue to be  
7 represented by someone who will continue to represent  
8 agriculture.

9           Our communities rely on strong representation in  
10 Washington, D.C. by someone who will protect the farmers,  
11 but also the farm workers. Without our farms, large or  
12 small, there will be no jobs for anyone in our area. I  
13 just watched an interview today that discussed the number  
14 of farms that are going to be allowed to dry up by these  
15 farmers because there is no water and no one supporting  
16 our AG community. If these farms dry up, our jobs in our  
17 area go away. And that hurts everyone, from the farm  
18 worker, to the doctor, to the person who changes the  
19 tires on your car, to the person who scans your food in  
20 the grocery store checkout line.

21           There's not going to be any more jobs. So we've got  
22 to protect the agriculture in our area. And I feel that  
23 that is the common characteristic that our area has. We  
24 would like to keep them together. Splitting our  
25 community to represent any sort of racial interest would

1 be detrimental, and it is very logical to keep Tulare  
2 County as one district.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. I do  
5 invite caller 6638 to press star 9 to raise their hand  
6 indicating they wish to comment at this time. If they do  
7 not wish to comment at this time, then we will have no  
8 raised hands.

9 At this time, it looks -- oh. I spoke too soon.  
10 See? That's what I get. Caller 6638, if you'll please  
11 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6; one more  
12 time, caller 6638, if you'll press star 6 that will  
13 unmute you.

14 (Pause)

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One more time star  
16 6, caller 6638 if you will press star 6, that will unmute  
17 you, if you'll press star 6. There you are. Caller  
18 6638, you are unmuted. Your speaker order number will be  
19 number 57, if you'll please make note of that for future  
20 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what  
21 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
22 floor is yours. You are unmuted. Go ahead. Caller  
23 6638, hello? Hello, you are unmuted. Caller 6638, can  
24 you hear me?

25 DEE: Could you hear me?

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Now we can. Go ahead.

2 DEE: Okay. Perfect. Good afternoon, Commissioner.  
3 My name is Dee. I have lived in Sanger and worked in the  
4 Fresno -- and worked in Fresno for many years. I was in  
5 the health care field. And the current district lines  
6 for both State and Federal, I think they would work well  
7 and should be maintained as best as possible. And also  
8 small towns in the West and South Fresno County should be  
9 kept together.

10 Roughly all the small towns south of Highway 180, I  
11 would also include South Fresno with these communities.  
12 Let's see here. It would not be in the best interest of  
13 the small farm-worker towns to be put together with North  
14 Fresno, Clovis, or the foothills communities. Farm  
15 workers are migrant backgrounds. I, myself, am the  
16 grandchild of farm workers, and I saw many parents work  
17 in the AG industrial.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Ms. Dee?

19 DEE: I think these two cities are really -- relied  
20 on each other. That is the culture in these communities,  
21 all these small towns, like they said earlier, you know,  
22 Del Rey, Parlier, Selma, and Reedley, Kingsburg. In  
23 fact, I spent today volunteering at a COVID vaccine  
24 clinic in Del Rey. And tomorrow I will be in Caruthers,  
25 also volunteering with the COVID vaccine also there.

1           We have also done vaccines at the Fresno fairgrounds  
2 in South Fresno. That is just how we are in these small  
3 communities, helping each other as best as we can, even  
4 by donating boxes of food. Actually today, also in Del  
5 Rey, they were giving boxes of food to the less fortunate  
6 and the ones that are struggling. So again, keep the  
7 current line the same, both State and Federal.

8           CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Ms. Dee. Just a couple of  
9 confirmations I'd like to know. When you're mentioning  
10 South Fresno, because you've named some cities in some  
11 communities, and we appreciate that. And then you've  
12 said, "And then include with South Fresno." How are you  
13 defining, what's the borders for South Fresno that should  
14 be included with these communities that share interests?

15           DEE: Well, I work in Fresno, and I live in Sanger.

16           CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

17           DEE: And so Fresno is more -- how can I say it,  
18 it's more unfortunate. And I see that they don't get the  
19 help as Fresno.

20           CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. What I'm asking  
21 specifically, though, in your testimony, as I heard or  
22 understood, and could have misunderstood it, is that you  
23 talked about districts being the same. That's great.  
24 And then you went into communities, and you said for the  
25 communities you want -- you named several communities

1 that you wanted to be kept with South Fresno. And I'm  
2 trying to determine what are you considering South  
3 Fresno? Do you have boundary lines? And if not, it's  
4 okay, we'll take that. But if you did, I wanted to make  
5 sure we captured what your intent was.

6 DEE: Well, I'm talking like -- you know, like  
7 Clovis, and --

8 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Are you there? We may have  
9 lost --

10 DEE: Did you hear me?

11 CHAIR TURNER: You were talking like Clovis and  
12 then --

13 DEE: Could you hear me?

14 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. You said like Clovis. And then  
15 we lost you for a minute. Did you say something else?

16 DEE: No. You're in and out, so I could barely hear  
17 certain things, you cut off.

18 CHAIR TURNER: You were naming the South Fresno  
19 border, and you stated, "Like Clovis," and was there  
20 something else, or is that it? And if I'm still cutting  
21 out, perhaps you can just send an email to confirm, and  
22 we'll match up your email with your testimony, or use our  
23 COI tool. I just want to make sure we have the borders  
24 as you are seeing them and particularly for South Fresno  
25 area that you wanted included with those cities you

1 named.

2 DEE: For the south -- the small towns in West and  
3 South Fresno. I guess I'm not understanding the  
4 question, I mean, this is a first time I'm even  
5 volunteering to speak, you know.

6 CHAIR TURNER: And I'm so glad. I'm so glad you're  
7 doing that. If I were to say West Fresno or South  
8 Fresno, I would have a particular picture in mind that  
9 could be different from yours. So if you had a definite  
10 area, I wanted to capture it. And if it's just  
11 generalized, that's okay too. But I wanted to at least  
12 give you an opportunity to name it if there was a  
13 specific street boundary that delineated south from north  
14 in Fresno, since you've named South Fresno. That's all.

15 DEE: Well, I mean, do you know -- I'm sure you know  
16 Fresno. I'm talking about like, you know, like the  
17 Fairground area.

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

19 DEE: Yes. Like the Fairground area, Downtown town  
20 area.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

22 DEE: I'm not talking about, like, towards Madera.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Ah.

24 DEE: I'm just talking about the Fairgrounds area,  
25 Sunnyside area. Sunnyside area, you know, Fairgrounds



1 area, that's what I'm talking about, because that's more  
2 or less where I also have friends that really struggle  
3 really hard. And they're all also farm workers, and also  
4 their parents are farm workers. I actually work in a  
5 great area, which is, you know, Herndon in Fresno, like  
6 River Park area.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. So Fairgrounds; so we  
8 have we have it. This is very helpful, Ms. Dee. And I  
9 appreciate you indulging me, so that we can ensure we get  
10 it correct for you. Thanks so much.

11 DEE: Thank you.

12 CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And  
14 that was all of our public comment at this time, Chair.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Wonderful. I think there's more that  
16 will be coming. Just positive speaking, I think more  
17 will come in. But in the meantime, we have denied you  
18 the pleasure of watching our videos all day.

19 And at this point, Katy, I'm wondering if we can  
20 run. We'll just tease them a little bit with the five-  
21 minute video. For starters, as people determine they're  
22 going to dial in and give us more testimony. But for  
23 now, please, enjoy this amazing video that we have, just  
24 for you.

25 (Whereupon, a five-minute video was played)

1 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so much. Welcome back.  
2 And hopefully you enjoyed that video.

3 Katy, do we have any hands raised at this time?

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have any  
5 callers at this time, Chair.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Well, while we're waiting, I'd  
7 just like to, again, remind all of the Californians  
8 that's watching, that we do have a busy week. We have  
9 two community of interest public input meetings this  
10 week, with this one, one this Thursday, July 15th, at 4  
11 p.m. That's going to be -- actually, two additional  
12 ones, I should say. This one on Thursday at 4:00 will be  
13 focused on Los Angeles County.

14 And I'm wondering if all of the other counties in  
15 California just kind of stood back and let the Central  
16 Valley have this one. We've had a lot of callers from  
17 this area, and I'm sure they appreciate it.

18 Los Angeles, it is your turn coming up Thursday, 4  
19 p.m. for Los Angeles County and the surrounding areas.  
20 And would love to remind you that the registration for  
21 the Thursday meetings closes tomorrow night; that's  
22 Tuesday evening at 5 p.m., so if you'd like to register,  
23 please call in by tomorrow at 5 p.m. for that LA County  
24 meeting.

25 And then our other community of input -- interest

1 meeting is going to take place this Saturday, July 17th,  
2 starting at 10 a.m. With a focus on the Bay Area  
3 counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, marvelous Marin, San  
4 Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano, and the  
5 surrounding areas. Registration for Saturday's meeting  
6 will close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, so you have a little  
7 bit more time to register for that meeting.

8 We will have another business meeting. That's  
9 tomorrow. You all don't want to miss it. We have  
10 important decisions to make, important discussions to  
11 have. And as always in our meetings, we look forward to  
12 your public comment to weigh in on our discussions. So  
13 that will be, business meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday,  
14 that's July 13th at 4 p.m. And look forward to have you  
15 dial in.

16 So at this point, we are still virtual, so that you  
17 can join in our meetings, so anyone in California can  
18 provide input. Also, we are encouraging you to go to our  
19 website at [WeDrawTheLinesCA.org](http://WeDrawTheLinesCA.org), that's  
20 [WeDrawTheLinesCA.org](http://WeDrawTheLinesCA.org), for meeting information. And it's  
21 there that you can also sign up for us to automatically  
22 notify you of what's going on. So we look forward,  
23 always, to have you join us and to share in this  
24 experience with us.

25 We want you to make us work. We want you to make us

1 work hard every time we have a meeting, call in and give  
2 us the information. And I'd love to remind those that's  
3 listening, it's important that when you give descriptors  
4 such as north, south, the western part, we know that the  
5 map will show cities, they'll show counties.

6 But when you start saying, west, it's almost like  
7 have a conversation with your neighbors. Their  
8 description of what's west may be a different street, it  
9 may be a different boundary than what you think. And  
10 what we don't want to do is to make it up. I don't want  
11 to put my thoughts on top of your community of interest,  
12 so please make sure when you're calling in, you're  
13 letting us know what you believe west is and where those  
14 boundary lines are. That's important.

15 So Katy, I think, I think.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have someone who  
17 called in, and they have not chosen to raise their hand  
18 as of yet. But I will let them know that if they press  
19 star 9 it will raise their hand. So please press star 9,  
20 raise your hand indicating you wish to comment at this  
21 time. That is for caller with the last four, 8143. If  
22 you wish to comment, please press star 9, this will raise  
23 your hand.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, the pressure is on.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I know, right?

1 CHAIR TURNER: Raise your hand if you --

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It doesn't look like --  
3 it doesn't look like we have a raised hand at this time.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. That's okay. Commissioners,  
5 did either of you -- any of you want to share anything  
6 else about our Central Valley; about the San Joaquin  
7 Central Valley? In preparing for this meeting, it's  
8 almost like you live in an area forever, and I can't tell  
9 you how long it was before I walked across the Golden  
10 Gate Bridge after being born in San Francisco.

11 And it's kind of the same thing in any one area  
12 you're in. You don't really learn a lot about it until  
13 you have folk visiting, and what have you. And so it was  
14 interesting because in preparing for our meeting today,  
15 and we like to share interesting tidbits about the area I  
16 learned that from 1993 to 2018 there was a show that was  
17 filmed in our California Central Valley.

18 Commissioners, do you know what it was, from 1993 to  
19 2018, very popular kind of sci-fi show that was filmed in  
20 our area? Anybody, anybody know what it was? About the  
21 X-Files, who knew that; the X-Files?

22 Commissioner Sinay is shaking her head. I had no  
23 clue. And then one of the Indiana Jones movies was  
24 filmed also in our San Joaquin, Central Valley. Do we  
25 know which? It was? Going once; it was number four, the

1 Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, in 2008.

2       And for the Trekkies out there, there we had a  
3 Trekkie movie, a Star Trek movie that was in this area.  
4 Oh. You guys have got a lot to learn about the Central  
5 Valley. It was The Voyage -- The Voyage Home, I think it  
6 was, it was number IV. We've got Seven Brides for Seven  
7 Brothers. Oh, my, word; films, lots of movies, that's  
8 right here in the Central Valley.

9       So California, Southern California didn't make all  
10 of the movies. There were movies being made right here  
11 in our San Joaquin, Central Valley. And when you look at  
12 that beautiful scenery behind Commissioner Fornaciari,  
13 you don't wonder why. What could you do with a scene  
14 like that?

15       All right. Let's see. Commissioner Fernández,  
16 you've got something else.

17       COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: I failed to deliver a  
18 shoutout to my family that lives in Stockton and Clovis.  
19 And in Clovis, I always love when they visited because  
20 they have the best sour cream. I'm just going to put it  
21 out there. It's just, the dairy products are wonderful.  
22 And then my boys always love going to Lathrop with the  
23 corn maze. So that was always a great adventure during  
24 Halloween.

25       And then all the other baseball fields, Manteca --

1 what is it -- Park, or Field of Dreams, or something like  
2 that. So any baseball field, I've probably been there  
3 with my boys at some point. But yeah, just great  
4 communities, great places to visit.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Absolutely. Absolutely. Now, who of  
6 the Commissioners has never been to the Central Valley?  
7 Okay. I don't see any hands. So we've all come through  
8 at some point. Wonderful.

9 Hey, Katy, why don't you read the instructions, see  
10 if we can get more callers in. And after that, we'll  
11 prepare perhaps to go to our 20-minute video. Let's see  
12 if, with instructions, we can get some more raised hands.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sounds good, Chair.

14 In order to maximize transparency and public  
15 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
16 taking community of interest input by phone. To call in,  
17 dial the telephone number provided on the live stream  
18 feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted to enter the  
19 meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed, it is  
20 94965881654 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a  
21 participant ID simply press the pound key.

22 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a  
23 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press  
24 star 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.  
25 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message

1 that says: The host would like you to talk, and to press  
2 star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your name,  
3 please state and spell it for the record. You are not  
4 required to provide your name to give public comment.

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

10 And we do have a caller at this time, and caller  
11 with the last four, 3723, if you'll please follow the  
12 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 3723, you  
13 are unmuted. I have a couple of brief instructions for  
14 you. Your speaker order number will be number 58, if you  
15 will please make note of that for future reference. And  
16 you'll please let the mappers know what area you would  
17 like to discuss today. With that, the floor is yours.

18 MS. HOWARD: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Happy  
19 Monday. This is Deborah Howard (ph.), and I'm actually  
20 calling with a general public comment. Is that  
21 acceptable at this time?

22 CHAIR TURNER: Well, Ms. Howard, we've not opened it  
23 up, but we don't have any other callers, so please go for  
24 it.

25 MS. HOWARD: Oh. Well, thank you so very much. I



1 just wanted to. Really, I am so thankful for the  
2 Commission's hearing. And your calendar is really full.  
3 And I have missed some of them, and I've been trying to  
4 kind of catch up over the video, and I am still having  
5 sound troubles with my video, regardless of the browsers  
6 that I work.

7 I wanted to flag that for you and see if that was  
8 something that you could either provide guidance on or  
9 provide some kind of workaround. I'm not exactly sure  
10 with that what happens as I watch it, and probably say  
11 like six to ten minutes of the video, and then the sound  
12 goes south.

13 And the second point I wanted to ask about is the  
14 meeting tomorrow. I think you scheduled that there will  
15 be a discussion about the timeline and I just wanted to  
16 confirm that that was, in fact, going to happen. And  
17 again, part of this is just trying to schedule my own  
18 monitoring of your conversations so I don't have to rely  
19 on the video, so I think that -- and thank you for  
20 indulging me for the public comment at this time.

21 CHAIR TURNER: Absolutely. Ms. Howard, I really  
22 apologize that you continue to have that issue, and  
23 hopeful that we can contact you through our staff to see  
24 if we can walk through since that generalized information  
25 did not work for you.

1           Commissioner Yee, did I read, or is that a  
2 discussion we're having at our meeting tomorrow? Are you  
3 chairing?

4           COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. That's right. So tomorrow  
5 evening, afternoon and evening, 4 to 8, we're agendized  
6 for a business meeting that will include a discussion of  
7 timeline. It is agendized for 4 to 8. It could go later  
8 if the discussion gets involved; so 4 to 8, at least, or  
9 possibly later as well.

10          CHAIR TURNER: Thank you.

11          MS. HOWARD: In fact, you all are super. Thank you.

12          CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome. Thank you.

13          Do we have other raised hands, Katy?

14          PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Oh.  
15 Yes, we do. I was just looking down and renaming.

16          Yes. Caller 9843 has a raised hand. If you will  
17 please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.  
18 Caller 9843, you are currently unmuted. I have a couple  
19 of brief instructions for you. Your speaker order number  
20 will be number 59, if you'll please make note of that for  
21 future reference. And if you'll please let the mapper  
22 know what area you would like to discuss today. With  
23 that, the floor is yours.

24          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you and good afternoon.  
25 I would like our mapper to take us into Kern County, and

1 specifically Bakersfield. And in particular, I live on  
2 the west side of Bakersfield, and I'm represented by a  
3 particular Assembly district, a Senate district, and a  
4 Congressional district that unfortunately don't represent  
5 me very well. And in fact, that's why I felt compelled  
6 to call in today.

7 I have lived in Bakersfield for a very long time,  
8 and as a child I was dragged up the canyon, the Kern  
9 River Canyon, to Lake Isabella to go to junior high  
10 because my mom was a teacher there. I have a brother who  
11 has been stationed at Lemoore Naval Air Base and has done  
12 work out of the High Desert in the eastern part of Kern  
13 County, and I have family Tulare and Fresno.

14 What I have heard mentioned today about keeping  
15 things the same is troubling to me in a number of ways.  
16 Number one, because I don't feel represented in it, and  
17 because I know that many, many of the people I have  
18 worked with for twenty years definitely don't feel  
19 represented well either.

20 And I would encourage this Commission to really,  
21 really lean on the Fair Maps Act; it is a beautiful,  
22 beautiful set of criteria that I believe will do a lot of  
23 the cleanup in the Central Valley that's been desperately  
24 needed for twenty years. And I think the data is going  
25 to show it, too.

1           In particular, I want to note that oftentimes when  
2 people say that they're happy with the way things are,  
3 it's because they've been benefiting from decades' worth  
4 of redlining and racially restrictive covenants and the  
5 other ways in which tax dollars have been definitely  
6 having the momentum in their direction and not into our  
7 essential workers and our working families and a lot of  
8 the people who couldn't be here today to speak because  
9 they're working, right; they're putting food on our  
10 table. And COVID has impacted them in ways that I would  
11 encourage the Commission to consider as well.

12           If we're seeing areas that have low vaccination  
13 rates if we are seeing areas that have -- that weren't  
14 able to get COVID testing, please, please, please look at  
15 those equity indicators. Look at those equity indicators  
16 so that the people who aren't here saying that they like  
17 things just the way they are, they can have a voice, too.  
18 And of course, I'm going to do my best to encourage as  
19 many of the people I know to come out here and  
20 participate in this.

21           But of course, it takes time to understand  
22 redistricting and why this is important. And I've been  
23 doing my best to try to do that. But sometimes, as you  
24 guys all well know, it is very difficult.

25           I do want to also identify that there's a lot of

1 cookie-cutter comments that I've heard today, same  
2 verbiage, from people who don't know how to pronounce the  
3 names of the counties or the towns necessarily very well.  
4 I'm a little nervous when people provide that kind of  
5 information --

6 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- because it tells me that  
8 perhaps they're not -- they're not actually from the  
9 area, or maybe they have some other agenda that they're  
10 trying to promote. Please also consider the fact that  
11 city limits don't really --

12 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- necessarily reflect the  
14 people who are not being represented. For example, the  
15 City of Bakersfield, you can be darn near in the downtown  
16 of Bakersfield and not be in the city limits. Let's be  
17 very clear, city limits don't actually reflect the people  
18 who --

19 MR. MANOFF: Time.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so much. And if you would  
21 hold, please. Thank you for sharing your testimony  
22 today. I'm wondering if you had specific boundaries that  
23 you want to be in a district with, as opposed to where it  
24 currently is. What boundaries are you giving us that  
25 should be set; if you can mention that for us, that would

1 be beneficial.

2 And then if you have that now that's great. But  
3 there is also an in-person meeting coming up for this  
4 particular area that, again, we would be able to -- let  
5 me see if I have that date -- I will share that in a bit.  
6 I lost it right in front of me, too many papers.

7 But anyway, there is a date, if you all can just  
8 send me that date, I will announce it. But wondering, in  
9 the meantime, if there was a -- boundaries that you'd  
10 like to provide in this area.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: 4th, August 4th.

12 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and just -- oh. Thank  
14 you so much. August 4th. Okay.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: In particular, the City of  
17 Bakersfield city limits, you can be as far east as the  
18 mouth of the Kern River Canyon, right there where it goes  
19 straight from Valley Floor and Rolling Hills, straight up  
20 into Jagged Rock. And you're in the City of Bakersfield,  
21 but you can be standing on the corner of Niles, and I  
22 believe it would be right there by Andre's burgers. And  
23 I'm so sorry, I think in landmarking, not in terms of  
24 street names, I'm so sorry, and not be in the City of  
25 Bakersfield.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Got you

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At the same time, the areas  
3 of Rosedale and the Fruitvale area up in the northwest of  
4 Bakersfield, huge, huge development where people are  
5 living. And that's not technically considered the City  
6 of Bakersfield either.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And yet their affluent  
9 counterpart in -- along the Stockdale Highway Corridor,  
10 where the river is on the west side, that they all have a  
11 lot of things in common, the Rosedale area and the River  
12 Run area along Stockdale Highway of Buena Vista.

13 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And then the other area  
15 boundaries that I wanted to mention is the east side of  
16 Kern County, where you got China Lake, and you've got  
17 Edwards. I agree with an earlier caller. They clearly  
18 have very complementary interests and should definitely  
19 be nested in a way that keeps them together up there, but  
20 also recognizes like a community of interest out of  
21 California City, a very large African-American community  
22 there that certainly is not being served in that area at  
23 all.

24 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I'll get those boundaries

1 to you later.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Perfect. That's just what I was  
3 going to say. We're at time. So I do want to encourage  
4 you to either utilize the tool, line it up with your  
5 speaker number, or email that so that we can have the  
6 boundaries that you're requesting need to be kept  
7 together. Thank you so much.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

9 And that was all of our raised hands at this time,  
10 Chair.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. That sounds great. We're  
12 waiting on our other callers to call in. And in the  
13 meantime, I pulled up some Valley facts that I think is  
14 interesting for us to learn about our Central Valley.  
15 Just that there are more than 250 different crops that  
16 are grown in the Central Valley with an estimated value  
17 of seventeen billion dollars per year. Oh, my. That was  
18 billion with a B.

19 And approximately seventy-five percent of the  
20 irrigated land in California and seventeen percent of the  
21 Nation's irrigated land is in the Central Valley.

22 So I believe, Commissioner Yee started out talking  
23 about the food basket of the world. And so I just wanted  
24 to go back to that just a little bit. Our predominant  
25 crops in our area here, cereal, grains, dill, hay,



1 cotton, tomatoes, vegetables, citrus tree, fruits, nuts,  
2 table grapes, and wine grapes.

3       And so I just thought this is interesting about our  
4 area, our little Central Valley that feeds, indeed, the  
5 world, and lots of regional characteristics that's very,  
6 I think, interesting to learn about for our Central  
7 Valley.

8       The Central Valley, depending on who you ask: Also  
9 known as the Great Valley of California, it covers 20,000  
10 square miles and is one of the more notable structural  
11 depressions in the world, occupying a central position in  
12 California. It's bounded by the Cascade Range to the  
13 north, the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Tehachapi  
14 Mountains to the south, and the Coast Ranges and San  
15 Francisco Bay to the west.

16       The Valley is a vast agricultural region drained by  
17 the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. The Valley  
18 average is about 50 miles in width and extends about 400  
19 miles northwest from the Tehachapi Mountains to Redding.

20       Now, generally, most of the valleys lie close to sea  
21 level, and the land surface has very low relief. But  
22 it's higher along the valley margins. Now, the Central  
23 Valley -- this is the part that I thought was interesting  
24 can in depending on who you ask: The Central Valley can  
25 be divided into two large parts. This was a point of

1 confusion for me for about the first five years, because  
2 the northern one-third is known as the Sacramento Valley,  
3 and the Southern two-thirds is known as the San Joaquin  
4 Valley, which is what we're talking about today.

5       So the San Joaquin Valley then, can be further split  
6 into either the San Joaquin Basin and the Tulare Basin,  
7 the San Joaquin and the Sacramento Valleys meet in the  
8 Delta area where the combined discharge of the Sacramento  
9 and the San Joaquin Rivers flows through the Central  
10 Valley's one natural outlet, which is the Carquinez  
11 Strait, on its way to San Francisco.

12       So we do have a caller. And with that need-to-know  
13 information about our Central Valley, we'll go take our  
14 caller now that has its hand raised.

15       Go ahead, Katy. Thank you.

16       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Chair.

17       Yes. Caller with the last four, 0079, if you will,  
18 please, follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.

19       MR. KELLY: Can you hear me?

20       PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we sure can. I have  
21 a couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker  
22 order number will be 60, if you will please make note of  
23 that for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
24 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today.  
25 With that, the floor is yours.

1 MR. KELLY: Hello. Thank you. Appreciate the  
2 opportunity to speak. My name is Will Kelly, and I'm  
3 calling on behalf of the North Valley Labor Federation.  
4 We're a coalition of seventy labor unions representing  
5 close to 100,000 workers in the Northern San Joaquin  
6 Valley. So that's San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced,  
7 Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa County.

8 I just wanted to make a general comment that what we  
9 see over and over again is different communities of  
10 interest between the Valley Floor, the more urban areas,  
11 and the areas in the foothills and in the mountains,  
12 right. And I think that those two regions have -- are  
13 their own communities and should be -- should have their  
14 own representatives.

15 So I hope that when decisions are being made about  
16 districting those regions, as much as possible, trying to  
17 keep those urban areas in the Valley Floor, where I think  
18 people have a very, very strong Central Valley identity,  
19 and it's common throughout the region. And also  
20 districting some of those Foothill regions together.

21 That was all I wanted to say at this time. So thank  
22 you very much.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Well, thank you for calling to share  
24 that. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was all of our

1 raised hands at this time, Chair.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Well, then at this point we'll  
3 pause, Katy, as soon as we get ready to go into something  
4 else, someone raises their hand. So I think if we just  
5 send a lot of good thoughts toward hand raisers, perhaps,  
6 someone will call in.

7 Because, California, we need to hear from you.  
8 We're fourteen Commissioners that have embarked on this  
9 journey, not to just share what we want and to have our  
10 own thought. We really do want to represent your voices.  
11 So we're hoping that you will call in and talk to us at  
12 this allotted time. And if you just choose not to call,  
13 we're hoping that you have or will utilize our community  
14 of interest tool. We're hoping that you will email,  
15 call, speak to someone live, we have telephone numbers.  
16 We've given you all of the information for sure. If you  
17 go on to DrawMyCACommunity.org, you can be notified of  
18 every time we go live.

19 But today is all about you. It's all about all of  
20 our California callers. But we have focused on the  
21 Central Valley. But for those of you that's been holding  
22 back in the Bay and in the South, if you want to utilize  
23 this time, we want to encourage you to call as well. The  
24 bottom line is, it's we need to hear from you during  
25 these sessions.

1 I almost felt like when we had sixty callers today,  
2 there should have been a ticker tape parade or something.  
3 I was, like, super excited at sixty callers at, let's  
4 see, at 4:55 in the evening. And so for those of you  
5 that are dialed in, just imagine, if you would, confetti  
6 raining down from the top of your screen, woo-ho, we're  
7 making big numbers and were excited about it. So  
8 consider yourself applauded in parades, just horns  
9 blowing, the full bit.

10 So yes, California, we're here waiting for you.  
11 Where our next scheduled break is not until 5:15. And  
12 we're going to wait on you calling in.

13 And so Katy, I think they just might need the  
14 instruction one more time, just the short version.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair, no  
16 problem.

17 The Commission is now taking community of interest  
18 input by phone. To give comment, please call 877-853-  
19 5247, and enter a meeting ID number 94965881654 for this  
20 meeting. Once you've dialed in, please press star 9 to  
21 enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions  
22 have been read previously in this session and are  
23 provided in full on the live stream landing page.

24 And for those that are just called in, please choose  
25 to press star 9 and raise your hand indicating you wish

1 to comment.

2 We do have a raised hand at this time; caller with  
3 the last four, 9532, if you will please follow the  
4 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. And caller 9532,  
5 you are currently unmuted. I have a couple of brief  
6 instructions for you. Your speaker order number will be  
7 number 61, if you'll please make note of that for future  
8 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what  
9 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
10 floor is yours. Hello? Can you hear me?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello? Yes, hello?

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey. Hi. I'm calling from  
14 Visalia and Tulare County. And I'm just calling to say  
15 thank you for letting us have a voice in our  
16 representation. I believe, very importantly, that  
17 Visalia and all of Tulare County is a geographically  
18 smaller area, and it should be held together with one  
19 representative.

20 And it should be -- we have common interest, which  
21 is agriculture, water. A very great community of --  
22 diverse, and it's just a wonderful community that our  
23 main thing we need to focus on in Tulare County, as a  
24 whole, and not be split up is our agriculture.  
25 Agriculture, Visalia, Tulare County has been known as the

1 breadbasket of the world, been that way since I grew up  
2 in Visalia, right between Tulare and Visalia. And it was  
3 always something to be proud of.

4 We feed the world, fruit and vegetables, and it is  
5 horrific how water is being diverted from our area and  
6 how some farming -- farmland is being dried up. Food is  
7 important. We survive by food. And it's just something  
8 that we need to come together on and realize how  
9 important to Tulare County is in feeding the world, in  
10 feeding our area, providing jobs for our farmers, and our  
11 farm help.

12 And that's basically all I really wanted to say, is  
13 just that we really want single representation for all of  
14 Tulare County. It's a close-knit area, and we need  
15 basically one representative for all Tulare County; all  
16 the little towns, Visalia being the largest of the  
17 surrounding towns, but they're all very close-knit  
18 family. Thank you.

19 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Thank you. Thank you for  
20 calling.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're welcome.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I invite those that have  
23 just called in to please press star 9 to raise your hand  
24 indicating you wish to comment. That's for caller with  
25 the last four, 5865, if you called in to make community

1 of interest input today, please press star 9 on your  
2 keypad to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.

3 Thank you so much. I do see your raised hand;  
4 caller 5865, if you will please follow the prompts by  
5 pressing star 6 to unmute yourself. Caller 5865, you are  
6 currently unmuted. I have a couple of brief  
7 instructions. Your speaker order number will be number  
8 62, if you'll please make note of that for future  
9 reference. And if you'll please let the mapper know what  
10 area you would like to discuss today. With that, the  
11 floor is yours.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi there. Yeah. I would  
13 like to just discuss the AV, Antelope Valley, Palmdale,  
14 Lancaster, pretty much Rosemont and Victorville area. I  
15 know our Assembly district lines go into different  
16 counties. That doesn't involve our area whatsoever. And  
17 it's causing us, you know, the right representation to be  
18 voted in, to benefit our community.

19 The last time we've had, you know, the right  
20 representation that represented our community that was  
21 able to make a difference in the Assembly in California,  
22 in Sacramento, it brought a lot of benefit to our area.  
23 And not only that like, you know, they don't -- they're  
24 not looking at our future, or like our area is more a  
25 poor community, are like, you know, lower wage, or lower



1 wages. But the property taxes, our taxes are higher,  
2 just like in LA, you know, they're not representing us  
3 correctly.

4       So I don't feel like it's fair that our district  
5 lines are reaching into Kern or San Bernardino areas  
6 which like -- you know, or that gets the other votes in  
7 to -- for a people that can't just make a difference for  
8 us up in Sacramento. So I would strongly suggest that  
9 you guys be fair and just like, let us have our district  
10 lines end within California -- I mean, within, you know,  
11 our area that will benefit us for our aerospace and movie  
12 production industry.

13       And that's a big deal that I think that will provide  
14 many, many, many jobs in our community, and the  
15 surrounding communities. People can commute from Kern  
16 County and from San Bernardino County to our area and  
17 benefit with that as well.

18       So I just wanted to put that input out there for you  
19 guys, and to see if you can shore up, and like close up  
20 the district lines there, and keep that in consideration,  
21 please.

22       CHAIR TURNER: I really appreciate your call. Thank  
23 you so much. Wanting to just ask again, for your  
24 Assembly district boundaries, and you talked about  
25 ensuring that we keep it fair, we absolutely want to do

1 that. Can you give us a picture of what -- any  
2 boundaries that you see that should be included that  
3 currently is not?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. So we're included in  
5 LA County, like for LA County, but then like the 36th  
6 District pushing into Kern County.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And it pushes into San  
9 Bernardino County, which is like a -- really it's a  
10 different district. They have their own different ways  
11 over there. Like they you know -- and they keep on  
12 voting, you know like they -- basically with them  
13 included into the 36th District. If they would just  
14 shorten it up, like Palmdale, Lancaster, Santa Clarita  
15 Valley, it would be a lot benefit to our community and to  
16 their --

17 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- community as well. Yeah.  
19 You know tax-wise, not only tax-wise, business-wise,  
20 we're trying to bring production up into this valley,  
21 into the Elm Valley, too, for movie production. And it  
22 takes a certain -- a diplomat to be in there to push for  
23 those things. And if we don't have that diplomat in  
24 there, then we won't be able to push for those things.

25 And basically, if we have somebody on the right that

1 nobody wants to work with, then we're just like, get in  
2 the water.

3 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Palmdale, Lancaster right  
5 now, we're like LA's stepchild, basically, there's no  
6 growth, there's nothing happening, and it's because we're  
7 limited. Like, we don't have the right representation  
8 for our area in Sacramento. If we did, we could progress  
9 from it, and the people around us could progress from it.

10 And I say that in a partisan way. I'm for  
11 everybody. I want everybody in our valley to benefit. I  
12 want our children. We want, you know, a four-year  
13 college up there.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We want the aerospace to  
16 bloom more, production to bloom more up there. But that  
17 we can't do anything. Our hands are tied from what --  
18 you know, what's been happening with those district  
19 lines. That's all I have to say.

20 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Well, I want to say I --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's all the things  
22 that I had.

23 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah. And I appreciate it. Thank  
24 you for allowing us to clarify your intent. We  
25 appreciate it. Thank you.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

2 And with that, Chair, that was all of our new  
3 callers at this time.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. All righty. So then what we  
5 will do at this time is to take a little bit of a bonus  
6 break. We have listened intently. We're going to make  
7 sure that we're fresh to be able to close this meeting  
8 out strong.

9 When we come back from break, we will see if there  
10 are others that now want to speak in regards to their  
11 communities of interest. And we will be opening up the  
12 lines for public comment. That kind of signifies that  
13 we're getting close to the end of our meeting on today.

14 So when we come back, we'll see if there's more  
15 public input. And we will also be taking public comment.  
16 We will not return until 5:30; so a little bit of an  
17 extended break. We will be back at 5:30. And so we just  
18 ask that you all stretch, get ready to be able to finish  
19 as strong as we started.

20 Thank you, Commissioners. We'll be back at 5:30.

21 (Whereupon, a recess was held until 5:30 p.m.)

22 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you so much. I'd like to say  
23 welcome back. Full energy, as we go through this last  
24 little bit of our day. This has been an amazing  
25 opportunity for me today, and for the rest of our

1 Commissioners, to hear from all of you. But it is not  
2 over yet.

3 I'd like to welcome you back to our California  
4 Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of Input  
5 Meeting -- Communities of Interest Input. I always want  
6 to skip past that "I".

7 We will continue at this point taking public input  
8 at this time. And also we are now officially inviting  
9 public comment as well. I'd like to let you know that  
10 the phone line for public input and public comment will  
11 close at 6 p.m. And we'll give you a reminder, just like  
12 our amazing Kristian does, lets you know five minutes in,  
13 it's almost time, we're going to close those lines.

14 So if you're listening in and desire to talk with us  
15 today, we're not going anywhere. We will be around. And  
16 there are multiple ways that you can still reach us. But  
17 for today, for this fun session that we've had, it is  
18 going to end at 6:00.

19 And so at this point, Katy, we are opening our lines  
20 and prepared to receive public input still and any public  
21 comment that Californians have for us on today.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. In order to  
23 maximize transparency and public participation in our  
24 process, the Commissioners will be taking community of  
25 interest input and general public comment for things not

1 on the agenda by phone, now.

2 To call in, dial the telephone number provided on  
3 the live stream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted  
4 to enter the meeting ID number provided on the live  
5 stream feed, it is 94965881654 for this meeting. When  
6 prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the  
7 pound key.

8 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a  
9 queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press  
10 star 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.  
11 When it is your turn to speak, you will hear a message  
12 that says: The host would like you to talk, and to press  
13 star 6 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 live  
17 stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during  
18 your call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert  
19 for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please  
20 turn down the live stream volume. And again, the  
21 Commission is taking community of interest input and  
22 general public comment at this time.

23 And I would like to remind those that have called in  
24 and are waiting in the queue, if you press star 9, it  
25 will raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.

1 And at this time, we do not have any raised hands.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Say it's not so, Katy. Say it's not  
3 so.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I'm so sorry. I don't  
5 like to deliver this news, but right now, right now, we  
6 are without a raised hand.

7 CHAIR TURNER: Oh, my, word. Okay. Well, it's  
8 coming. It's coming. Someone is going to call and give  
9 us a general public comment, or they're going to talk to  
10 us about their community of interest. We are here for  
11 that. We're here for all of that. Up until 6:00 today,  
12 these lines will be open and we encourage you to call in.

13 It is a scary thing to call into a public body and  
14 give testimony. You never know if you're going to say  
15 quite just the right thing. And I want to encourage you  
16 that we -- to remind you that we are Californians just  
17 like you, from a wide variety of backgrounds, and when I  
18 last checked, none of us participated in this process  
19 before either. So how about that? You're calling in to  
20 give public testimony and you've never done it before.  
21 We've never listened to you before. So we're on even  
22 playing ground. So please do be encouraged to call in  
23 and talk to us about your area feature.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You see, Chair, they just  
25 needed to hear it from you. We do have a raised hand.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: They're tired to listen  
3 to me. All right. Caller 6946, if you will please  
4 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6; caller  
5 6946, you are currently unmuted. I have a couple of  
6 brief instructions for you. Your speaker order number  
7 will be number 63, if you will please make note of that  
8 for future reference. And if you'll please let the  
9 mapper know of an area that you'd like to discuss today.  
10 With that, the floor is yours.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh. This is just a general  
12 public comment that I have.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's fine, too.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. I thought I was the  
15 only one having audio issues with, you know, watching  
16 past recordings. But the previous caller made me realize  
17 that it might not just be me. At first I thought it was  
18 an internet speed issue, which brings me to ask, will you  
19 be posting the written transcripts that will be easier to  
20 download, especially in communities where broadband  
21 access is limited?

22 I keep getting asked what others have said, but I  
23 just learned about your proceedings, and I haven't been  
24 able to hear any audio from old videos; only the first  
25 few minutes work, and then it cuts out. So I was just



1 wondering if that would be posted just to make it easier  
2 for people who might not necessarily have the best  
3 internet access if, for some reason, the audio issues on  
4 the recording for the website can't be accessed properly.  
5 Thanks.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, caller, for that question.  
7 And I apologize that that's a difficulty as well for you.  
8 We definitely have to look into that and see what's going  
9 on. I'm wondering, I do remember there was a workaround,  
10 and there was some specific instruction based on the  
11 types of browsers and what have you.

12 And I'm wondering if Commissioner Fornaciari, or  
13 Toledo, who remembers that information, and can share  
14 that?

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. There was some  
16 discussion about using a different browser, but this is  
17 the same -- the previous caller is the same person who  
18 tried a different browser, and they're still having  
19 technical difficulties. So I'm not sure if we should  
20 refer this to the website team, or something to --

21 MR. MANOFF: Chair, this is Kristian.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- (indiscernible) then,  
23 or Kristian.

24 MR. MANOFF: We have provided some additional ideas  
25 to the Communications Team for posting, and I'll follow

1 up on that.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, caller.  
3 And thank you for just letting us know that it is a  
4 broader issue than perhaps we thought. So we definitely  
5 will look into that. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have another  
7 raised hand at this time. Caller 8143 has -- chose to  
8 raise their hand at this time. If you'll please follow  
9 the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 8143, I  
10 have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your  
11 speaker order number will be number 64, if you'll please  
12 make note of that for future reference. And if there is  
13 an area you would like to discuss, please let the mapper  
14 know what that is. If you would like to make general  
15 comment, a public comment, please make that as well. The  
16 floor is yours.

17 MR. COSTALES: Good afternoon, Redistricting  
18 Commission. I really appreciate all the effort of the  
19 staff, and the Commissioners, and particularly for the  
20 work that you're undertaking.

21 My name is Alexis Costales (ph.). I'm a resident of  
22 the City of Tulare in Tulare County. For a brief  
23 background of myself; I'm a third-generation resident. I  
24 did have a ten-year stint in Los Angeles in a previous  
25 life as an educator and for other higher ed endeavors.

1 But I've always been a proud inhabitant of the City of  
2 Tulare, and the legacy of my family, particularly in the  
3 farm labor sector, as well as in particular to my  
4 parents, and their story of originating in the farm labor  
5 work, and then being able to transition into nursing, and  
6 telecommunications, respectively.

7 But Tulare has always had a -- of course, has been  
8 noted by many callers, a small hometown feel. Well, the  
9 only thing I realize now, and now in my mid-thirties, and  
10 coming back and working in the nonprofit and local  
11 government sector is that the success of Tulare and  
12 Tulare County, at large, is tied to the economy in Kern  
13 and in Fresno and particularly in the metro areas of  
14 Bakersfield and Fresno and also tied to policy in  
15 Sacramento and Washington.

16 So one of the notes that I -- in particular, that I  
17 wanted to talk, for example, when talking about  
18 districting the City of Tulare and Visalia and  
19 Porterville, it would be wise to -- if Tulare county were  
20 to be split, the distinct regions, anything in the  
21 foothills tied. You'll see those are large for tourism,  
22 and into the Sequoias, and so forth, that those can  
23 remain comparable to what we saw in the 2010/2011  
24 districting.

25 So California 21, and then if you go north into

1 Fresno, you'll see outside of the Bass Lake area, that --  
2 again, those kind of recreation, commercial -- those  
3 recreation and tourism into the Foothill areas, those  
4 could be distinct and keeping those boundaries as is.  
5 But the vast majority of the population lives on the  
6 valley floor, so if you look in Tulare County, the vast  
7 majority of the folks are in City of Visalia, Tulare, and  
8 Porterville.

9       And when wanting to think of the current  
10 districting, let's say, CA21 and CA22, those largely run  
11 north and south connecting portions of Fresno all the way  
12 to Bakersfield. I think that's fine. But there should  
13 be a lot of attention to detail and wholesale communities  
14 being kept together. For example, in CA22, as is, tying  
15 the stories, narratives, and success of Clovis and North  
16 Fresno to that of some of the more rural, small  
17 communities in Tulare County --

18       MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.

19       MR. COSTALES: -- and that of Tulare and Visalia, is  
20 probably not wise. I would think in terms of issues that  
21 I'm most passionate about, workforce development.

22       MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

23       MR. COSTALES: And wanting to plan for upscaling and  
24 distribution of manufacturing, as well as small business  
25 development, that's almost sixty percent of the local

1 economy, as well as that in other public sector jobs such  
2 as --

3 CHAIR TURNER: And you're at time. But if you would  
4 hold on, please. I wanted to find out. We've heard a  
5 couple of times, "foothills", and I'm wondering if you  
6 could talk to us, and just kind of name the communities  
7 or cities. How are you describing foothills? What's the  
8 line for the foothills?

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller, if you'll press  
10 star 6. There you are.

11 MR. COSTALES: Yes. I don't know. So I apologize  
12 for talking on there a little too much in detail. In  
13 terms of boundaries, when I talk about the foothills.

14 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

15 MR. COSTALES: If you were to look at a map of  
16 Tulare County, for example, you can tie in certain cities  
17 like in Exeter into Three Rivers, or Porterville into  
18 Springville. You could even tie in, if you go further  
19 north into Fresno, potentially Clovis into Bass Lake,  
20 right?

21 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

22 MR. COSTALES: Because I get that folks in those  
23 communities that lie in the sequoias and in the mountain  
24 areas that are great or beautiful natural resources for  
25 recreation, they see a lot of their services tied to the,

1 you know, the nearest city in the valley floor. And  
2 first with respect to districting that could be good to  
3 include, to have a nexus, right, to have that  
4 relationship between a Clovis and a Bass Lake, or an  
5 Exeter and a Three Rivers.

6 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

7 MR. COSTALES: And you'll see some of those, you  
8 know, settled visions or plans for a Clovis, settled  
9 visions, and plenty of investment in a Clovis and North  
10 Fresno. But if you were to unpack and really look at the  
11 City of Tulare, for example, you're going to see  
12 comparable to other large metros in the City of --  
13 throughout California; you're going to see disinvestment,  
14 aging housing.

15 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

16 MR. COSTALES: You know, poor infrastructure  
17 quality. And so I would, I think, in my opinion, to keep  
18 the future, future plans and growth for a City of Tulare,  
19 and portions of Visalia, as noted by other callers, a  
20 high concentration of poverty in some -- in pockets of  
21 the city, to tie those more to a South Fresno.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

23 MR. COSTALES: -- or to tie those more to majority  
24 of Fresno, or to a majority of Bakersfield, as opposed to  
25 tying Visalia and Tulare to that of the Foothills, or a

1 Clovis, or an Exeter, or Porterville.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Beautiful. Thank you for that  
3 clarification. Thanks so much.

4 MR. COSTALES: Thank you for your time. Uh-huh.

5 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. Up next we  
7 have caller 0957, if you could please follow the prompts  
8 to unmute. Caller 0957, you are currently unmuted. Your  
9 speaker order number will be number 65, if you could  
10 please make note of that for future reference. And if  
11 there's an area you would like to discuss, please let the  
12 mapper know. Otherwise, the floor is yours.

13 MR. GAMIA: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Andres  
14 Gamia (ph.), calling in from Zone F, Fresno County. And  
15 I want to bring some attention to this area, specifically  
16 because, historically, you know, this region has been an  
17 area that's been filled with agricultural industries, big  
18 AG, with large portions of the Latino population. And  
19 this area really requires special attention from this  
20 Commission, for example, to ensure that Federal and State  
21 Voting Rights Acts are upheld, right?

22 And I would also like to bring some attention that  
23 the interaction between oil production and pollution,  
24 access to clean water really create compelling issues  
25 when it comes to justice for the environment and the

1 people that live in this region. And I also think that  
2 it creates a unique opportunity for these communities of  
3 interest throughout the San Joaquin Valley to really be  
4 uplifted and acknowledged, right?

5       Moreover, you know, areas and parts of the state  
6 that require like natural resources usage and production,  
7 when it requires areas that are sensitive habitats, you  
8 know, those are also public in themselves, right, and are  
9 also interest for the community and for this Commission  
10 to uplift, especially areas like the San Joaquin River,  
11 San Joaquin River Gorge, and a few of our natural  
12 habitats that have an impact on the mental health and the  
13 overall health of the environment.

14       I would also like to state that some of the recent  
15 history, when it comes to acknowledging that, you know,  
16 keeping these existing boundaries together really  
17 continues the legacy of redlining and structural racism  
18 and the power structures throughout the Central Valley.

19       Secondly, it really ignores the communities of  
20 essential workers, like working families who are  
21 relegated to disenfranchised parts of these boundary  
22 units, for example.

23       And also, and this is going to be my last point.  
24 You know, I think the current boundaries and lines really  
25 speak to the history --



1 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

2 MR. GAMIA: -- of gerrymandering. Thirty seconds,  
3 thank you. That really leads to the cracking and  
4 dwindling of climate change in these impacted areas. As  
5 just today, there's, I think three or four fires  
6 happening, right, and so just really want to highlight --

7 MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

8 MR. GAMIA: -- how line drawing has an effect on  
9 outcomes when it comes to the environment and climate.  
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Mr. Gamia, before you  
12 hang up; can you tell us what areas should be kept  
13 together? You've mentioned a few issues that are  
14 problematic for you, but what should be kept together?

15 Did we lose him?

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No. He's there. He's  
17 unmuted. Hello? Can you hear us still?

18 CHAIR TURNER: Yeah, I was just -- Mr. Gamia, if  
19 you're there, I'm inviting you to share with us areas  
20 that should be kept together. You mentioned areas that  
21 were gerrymandered, correct, separated, different pieces.  
22 Thank you for sharing that. What would you see? What  
23 are the boundaries that should be kept together?

24 MR. GAMIA: Sorry. I think my -- I think that my  
25 phone, I can't quite hear you, and I don't want to unmute

1 the website.

2 MR. MANOFF: We can hear you, sir.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We can hear you.

4 CHAIR TURNER: Can you hear me; can you hear us now?

5 MR. GAMIA: Yes. Okay. I'm back. Sorry about  
6 that. That was weird. I'm sorry. You're asking what  
7 lines should be kept?

8 CHAIR TURNER: Yes. Yes.

9 MR. GAMIA: Yeah. You know, I think, in my ten  
10 years that I've lived here in the region, right, when  
11 we're talking about like, for example, the lines between  
12 Board of Supervisors, Districts 4 and 5, I think that  
13 would be of special interest for this Commission to think  
14 about, especially because it does overlap a lot of key  
15 demographics and key --

16 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

17 MR. GAMIA: -- and key groups of people that I think  
18 kind of across the spectrum of history of, for example,  
19 like warehouse and transportation, history of  
20 underdevelopment when it comes to urban park development  
21 and green space development.

22 CHAIR TURNER: Uh-huh.

23 MR. GAMIA: And so I would say, like regions that  
24 have a lot of -- that have very little green canopy, for  
25 example, or that are adding to the "hotspots", quote

1 unquote.

2 CHAIR TURNER: Okay.

3 MR. GAMIA: And that are adding to the heat wave,  
4 for example, where, if there is a correlation, I would  
5 say, of underdeveloped areas with urban and green  
6 development that have consequences from where the lines  
7 are currently drawn.

8 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. So well, I appreciate. Thank  
9 you so much. You're giving us generalized information to  
10 think about. Good stuff to think about. I just wanted  
11 to make sure that you didn't have set boundaries,  
12 streets, et cetera, in mind. So we'll receive your  
13 comment. And thank you so much for your input.

14 MR. GAMIA: Thank you. Appreciate it.

15 CHAIR TURNER: You're welcome. Thank you.

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

18 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. I do want to remind  
19 Californians that we are also taking general public  
20 comment at this time for our meeting today, or on any  
21 topic that you'd like to lift, for the next few minutes  
22 that we have together, or next ten minutes. The lines  
23 will be open, only another five minutes; five minutes and  
24 counting. And we'd love to hear from you if there is any  
25 public comment. And if not, we will perhaps conclude a

1 bit early.

2 But I'm wanting to wait on you. I think there might  
3 be more public comment that you have or input at this  
4 point. Any public comment or input, we invite you, while  
5 the lines are open, to dial in for our session today.

6 So Katy, for those right at the end of the day, that  
7 just got off work, and they rushed in, and don't quite  
8 know what to do, if you'd give them that short version  
9 one last time, so that they can call in with public input  
10 or they can call in with their public comment. And if  
11 you don't get in under the line, I want to invite you,  
12 for this particular zone, the outreach area F. We will  
13 have an in-person meeting coming up on August 4th. And  
14 we look forward to seeing a lot of you in person that  
15 will be able to show up.

16 And as always, there are multiple ways that you can  
17 continue to send in your community of interest testimony,  
18 or your thoughts and ideas on redistricting. We're here  
19 for all of it. But Katy?

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The Commission is now  
21 taking general public comment and community of interest  
22 input by phone. To call in -- to give comment, please  
23 call 877-853-5247, enter the meeting ID number  
24 94965881654 for this meeting. Once you've dialed in,  
25 please press star 9 to enter the comment queue. The full

1 call-in instructions have been read previously in this  
2 meeting and are provided in full on the live stream  
3 landing page.

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

5 CHAIR TURNER: Okay. We'll just wait a bit. The  
6 lines will close at 5:55, so they have about two minutes  
7 to slide in under the wire if that is their desire. And  
8 if not, I'll just remind you again that we do have two  
9 other community of interest input meetings this week, one  
10 taking place on Thursday that will be heavily focused on  
11 the Los Angeles County and surrounding areas, and another  
12 one coming up on Saturday with a focus on the Bay Area  
13 counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco,  
14 San Mateo, Santa Clara and Solano, and surrounding areas.

15 And of course, like always, wherever you are in  
16 California, you can participate in any of the meetings.  
17 The point is, it's we do want to hear from you. So we  
18 have -- oh, my -- one minute left before those lines  
19 close. Who is going to get in under the wire, anyone?  
20 We'll see.

21 Ah, Commissioners. They all waited with bated  
22 breath, waiting to see what is the last call, or what is  
23 the last comment. Hmm? Wish I had a countdown clock or  
24 a drum roll for this. We just have a few minutes left.  
25 Uh-huh. Waiting, waiting. Oh, boy. Katy, my clocks

1 here say 5:55.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: As do ours, Chair.

3 CHAIR TURNER: And we're out of there. Okay. Lines  
4 are closed. Listen, I just would like to thank you all  
5 for your wonderful input today. We have so much of a  
6 clearer picture. We're going to get so much more in the  
7 coming days.

8 But for today, I'm Commissioner Turner. It has been  
9 an absolute privilege and honor serving you today.

10 I thank Commissioner Vasquez, that was the co-Chair  
11 today, that I just had to wrestle her down and say,  
12 please, just let me -- just let me chair on today. And  
13 she did. And so I am grateful to her and for all of the  
14 other Commissioners.

15 Katy, you are amazing always. Kristian, thank you  
16 for all of the services; and all of the behind-the-scene  
17 support; California, you have quite the team that's  
18 supporting you for each of these sessions. And so we  
19 won't call out all of the names, but you know who you  
20 are. And so we say thank you to each and every one of  
21 you.

22 And so with that, I'm going to bid you all a fair  
23 adieu, until tomorrow when we meet back at our general  
24 public meeting. All right. Thank you all.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

1 CHAIR TURNER: Good night.

2 (Whereupon, the Zone F Public Input Meeting

3 adjourned at 6:00 p.m.)

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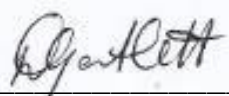
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I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, of the videoconference recording of the proceedings provided by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.



January 21, 2023

DELORIS GAUNTLETT, CDLT 257