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CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

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Speaker Number 5



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P R O C E E D I N G S

September 28, 2021

11:00 a.m.

CHAIR SADHWANI: All right. Well, we will try this again. Welcome, everyone. Welcome, California to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. My name is Sarah Sadhwani. I'll be the rotating chair for the next several sets of meetings. Our vice chair is actually Commissioner Antonio Le Mons, who could not be with us today.

So we have Commissioner Toledo sitting in as our vice chair today. Thank you so much, Commissioner Toledo, for offering to do that. And it's a very exciting day today at the CRC because many of us are here in Sacramento. It is the first time many of us are meeting in person.

So we are super excited to be here and still looking forward to meeting everyone else on the Commission who couldn't join us today. But really exciting. And we're still working on a few of the technical kinks, so bear with us if we have some sound or issues or some other components today.

Ravi, can we take roll call?

MR. SINGH: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.



1 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor?

2 Commissioner Toledo?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's here.

4 VICE CHAIR TOLEDO: Here. Sorry about that.

5 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Turner?

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

7 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez?

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

9 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee?

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

11 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

13 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

15 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

17 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Presente.

19 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari?

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

21 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

23 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

24 And Commissioner Sadhwani?

25 CHAIR SADHWANI: Here.



1 MR. SINGH: You have a quorum, Chair.

2 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so much, Ravi.

3 All right. Well, for today, things are going to be a  
4 little bit different than our normal meetings. We are  
5 actually going to hold off on taking public comment this  
6 morning, largely just due to scheduling. So my apologies  
7 to those who may have called in hoping to reach us this  
8 morning, but we will be taking public comment later on  
9 today and throughout the day.

10 We are going to start off today with an update and  
11 review of our VRA analysis from our VRA attorney, David  
12 Becker, as well as statistician Megan Gall. So I'm going  
13 to turn it over to them to get us started this morning.  
14 My understanding is that we will start an open session.

15 ATTY BECKER: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. And  
16 thanks for having us here today, since, as you know, last  
17 week the final population numbers from the census were  
18 available in the statewide database. And since then, the  
19 data team at Q2 and the lawyers and Dr. Gall have been  
20 busy working, trying to identify areas that might invoke  
21 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and be relevant to  
22 your considerations.

23 We're going to just -- in open session I'm going to  
24 describe the process and what we've got then we're going  
25 to need to go into closed session because there are some

1 specifics we're going to discuss that could be the  
2 subject of future litigation if there is litigation. So  
3 I'll identify when that is. And with your approval,  
4 we'll go into closed session at that time.

5       So first of all, what we've begun doing, I'll just  
6 give you a quick reminder. There are three preconditions  
7 that indicate whether Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act  
8 might require a district to be drawn in a certain way.  
9 And those are called the Gingles preconditions in the  
10 case Thornburgh v. Gingles in 1986.

11       And this is all old news to you. We've gone over it  
12 many times, but I'll just remind you, the first Gingles  
13 precondition is that a minority group is large enough and  
14 geographically compact enough to form a majority in a  
15 district. And then we look at the second and third  
16 Gingles preconditions with which both relate to what we  
17 call racially polarized voting.

18       Second Gingles precondition is, does that minority  
19 group vote cohesively for particular candidates of their  
20 choice? And then does the rest of the area -- everyone  
21 who's not in that minority group is the third jingles  
22 precondition do they vote cohesively in such a way that  
23 they would usually defeat the minority candidate of  
24 choice?

25       So we're looking racially polarized, voting for the

1 second and third Gingles preconditions. We've got pretty  
2 completely for you to show you in closed session are  
3 areas of California where based on the data we've  
4 received to this point. We think it's either it's that  
5 is probable or likely that the first Gingles precondition  
6 would be met.

7 In other words, the minority group in a particular  
8 area could be -- could form the majority of a district.  
9 And then we will begin -- what we're doing is we're we  
10 will with your approval direct the -- Dr. Gall to do  
11 racially polarized voting analysis in those areas to see  
12 if the second and third Gingles preconditions are  
13 present.

14 And I believe we've got an example for one of the  
15 areas that we can show you, so you'll get a sense of what  
16 you're going to see. She has not been able to because  
17 we've just gotten it where she's not been able to  
18 complete the entire state, but we'll be able to go into  
19 some detail as to what that will be.

20 And I think we're going to -- Dr. Gall, please nod  
21 if I'm saying something right or shake your head if I'm  
22 saying something wrong. But I believe we're anticipating  
23 that by next week, we'll have all of it or almost all of  
24 the racially polarized voting analysis in these areas  
25 complete. That's at least the target.





1           It's a lot of work. But Dr. Gall has been very  
2 diligent about proceeding with that. I'll take any  
3 questions there are about the process and what we're  
4 about to show you. But then to go into specifics, I'm  
5 going to request that we go into closed session.

6           CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Kennedy?

7           COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Your recitation of the third  
8 condition was slightly different from what I'd heard  
9 and/or seen before, and I just wanted to clarify what I  
10 have in front of me is that the minority must be able to  
11 demonstrate that the white majority votes sufficiently as  
12 a block to enable it, usually to defeat the minorities  
13 preferred candidate.

14           And you said all others. So I guess part of this is  
15 exactly how is minority defined. I mean, are we able  
16 under Gingles to look at possible coalitions or are we  
17 looking a just within the boxes that we have?

18           ATTNY BECKER: Okay. And I'm not sure -- I'm hoping  
19 that my audio is okay. Can someone give me thumbs up if  
20 they can hear me? Okay. I'm seeing some nods. Okay.  
21 Good. Thank you. All right. So some of this I'll  
22 probably have to address in closed session, but in --  
23 what I can say is that the ability for minority voters  
24 who can form a majority.

25           In other words, they've already met the first

1 Gingle's precondition. They're large enough to form a  
2 majority in a district, the ability for them to elect  
3 candidates of choice and to and the challenge that they  
4 may face in having those voters defeated is at the core  
5 of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

6 Historically, what that has meant is it's usually a  
7 minority versus white calculation. But I think  
8 there's -- I think that's something we wanted to talk  
9 about a little more. But I think the law is pretty clear  
10 that it is that there are there are ways in which groups  
11 could coalesce to defeat a particular minorities  
12 opportunity to elect where they could otherwise do so.  
13 And we should talk about that. I don't think it's going  
14 to be very common, but it could happen.

15 Also, I just want to for my purposes, this is how I  
16 usually define terms like coalition and crossover.  
17 There's a lot of confusion about those terms, and it's  
18 not anyone's fault. The Supreme Court has some confusion  
19 about those terms. This is how I'm going to define them.  
20 This is how I generally use them. And that doesn't mean  
21 it's right, but it's just how I -- what I'm usually  
22 meaning when I use these terms.

23 A coalition district for me would be where a single  
24 minority group doesn't -- is not large enough to satisfy  
25 the Gingles precondition in a district, the first Gingles

1 precondition. But together with another minority group  
2 that is also not large enough on its own to form a  
3 majority in a district, they could be combined, and we  
4 could look and see if they vote cohesively together as a  
5 single group.

6 If all of those things are met, I think there's a  
7 very strong argument that that kind of coalition district  
8 could and should be drawn under Section 2 of the Voting  
9 Rights Act. But again, this presupposes that neither is  
10 large enough on its own to form a majority in a  
11 particular district to satisfy the first Gingles  
12 precondition.

13 So this would be a situation where perhaps you had  
14 thirty percent of one minority, thirty percent of another  
15 minority, forty percent white. You might theoretically  
16 look at whether Minority A and Minority B together  
17 forming sixty percent of a potential district or voting  
18 cohesively for the same candidates. Does that makes  
19 sense to everybody. Hopefully I'll see some nods. That  
20 to me is what a coalition district is.

21 Crossover is the -- is when the third -- in the  
22 third Gingles precondition when the nonminority group is  
23 voting at some rate for the minority candidates of  
24 choice. The minority that satisfied the first Gingles  
25 precondition we looked at the second. And you will hear

1 from Dr. Gall when we talk about this a little more.  
2 There are places where the racially polarized voting is  
3 so stark that statistically it looks like virtually zero  
4 crossover amongst what is usually the white community.

5 But there are other places where there is some  
6 crossover. And that crossover, depending upon the rate  
7 of crossover, doesn't defeat the third Gingles  
8 precondition all the time. It could be only ten or  
9 twenty percent, in which case you would still see  
10 significant, racially polarized voting probably that  
11 satisfies the third jingles precondition.

12 I'm speaking purely hypothetically here, because  
13 we're not getting into specifics. I want to be clear  
14 about that. But that ten to twenty percent crossover  
15 could be really relevant in the remedial phase. Once  
16 we've decided a Section 2 district probably should be  
17 drawn in informing what that District should look like  
18 and what the composition of that District should look  
19 like.

20 And if we can generally count on, say, ten percent  
21 white crossover, then the minority might not need fifty-  
22 five percent or fifty percent or forty-five percent when  
23 we're drawing the district because it can count on  
24 regular crossover. So this is -- the crossover is  
25 relevant both to the third Gingles precondition because

1 if it's really quite high, it would indicate that that  
2 condition doesn't exist.

3 And/or it could be relevant or it could be relevant  
4 in the remedial phase when we're trying to determine how  
5 do we make sure that we're drawing districts that the  
6 minorities that satisfied all the Gingles preconditions  
7 do end up with an opportunity to elect candidates of  
8 their choice.

9 There will be a test on this later. Does anyone --  
10 I hope that makes sense. And I think when we get to some  
11 specifics, we'll be able to talk about this. But  
12 obviously we can't do that. And given that that it may  
13 be that this could come up in future litigation.  
14 Although we hope not.

15 Madam Chair, I think, were you talking -- speaking?  
16 Because I can't hear anything on my end.

17 CHAIR SADHWANI: No. I think there's a sound issue.  
18 Hang on.

19 ATTNY BECKER: I got you now.

20 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Okay. Great.

21 Commissioner Sinay?

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry. So this is a holdover  
23 question from our -- your presentation last time, Dr.  
24 Gall's presentation. I felt like at the end I kind of  
25 was like, wait, so was it or was it not a VRA district?

1 So you walked us out --

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We're not hearing  
3 Commissioner Sinay.

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: What do I need to do?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry. Okay. Can you hear  
7 me now?

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. Thanks. So this is a  
10 holdover question from the presentation that Dr. Gall  
11 gave us. At the end of the presentation, I kind of felt  
12 like all of a sudden I wasn't sure from the exercise if  
13 they were or they were not VRA districts. And then even  
14 today, when you started explaining the difference between  
15 crossover and coalition, I'm not -- I'm not sure.

16 I think you all did a great job in kind of  
17 explaining the different ways to do it, the methodology,  
18 the definition of methodologies. I have the presentation  
19 in front of me so I don't mess up on all the wording.  
20 But could we at some point just go back to that exercise  
21 and say, yes, it is, and this is the reason why? Because  
22 I don't think we looped and closed that off. So I  
23 apologize if others got it, but I really want to make  
24 sure I understand it.

25 ATTNY BECKER: I think what I'd suggest -- I'm



1 hoping that what we show you in closed session might be a  
2 real-world California example of something that will help  
3 answer that question for you, because obviously we don't  
4 need to actually determine whether the Cook County,  
5 Illinois, racially polarized voting existed there.

6 I think we're going to show you a Real-World example  
7 that might help answer that question and then we could  
8 probably come back in open session and discuss that more  
9 fully, if you'd like. Does that make sense, Commissioner  
10 Sinay? No?

11 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry, it doesn't, because I  
12 think the more -- that was an exercise and we were told  
13 it was a training. And so if we're walking away, not  
14 knowing the answer of that "training", that means we did  
15 not get trained. And I think the more times we  
16 experience it and also the public got that training, and  
17 I think they need to hear what that response might be.

18 ATTNY BECKER: Dr. Gall, do you want to go back to  
19 that? I don't know that we're prepared to go back to  
20 that specific question, but do you want to go back to --

21 DR. GALL: I was trying to pull up my presentation  
22 right now. If you could give me just a moment to pull it  
23 up, I'd be grateful.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Of course.

25 DR. GALL: Okay. So in that example, what we had



1 consistently was the white vote was split. The black  
2 voters had a clear candidate of choice and Latino voters  
3 had a different candidate of choice with crossover to  
4 the -- to the African-American candidate.

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum.

6 DR. GALL: In this example, the black voters did  
7 have a clear candidate of choice. And theoretically,  
8 that would satisfy Gingles 2, which is -- does the  
9 minority -- is the minority expressing a candidate of  
10 choice. Where we would fall apart a little bit is in  
11 Gingles 3.

12 And I don't think that we would be able to prove  
13 Gingles 3 that the majority was thwarting the will of the  
14 minority. If anything, both white voters and Latino  
15 voters were crossing over to the minority preferred  
16 candidate to boost that candidate to win. And so in that  
17 situation, I would -- that's how I would read those  
18 results.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you very much.

20 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Great.

21 Commissioner Fernandez?

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Stop me if it's not -- if  
23 it's a closed session question, maybe. So my question  
24 specifically for California is the new census data came  
25 out in the Latinos is the highest population in



1 California. So are they no longer considered minorities?  
2 I just want to -- so is your definition of minorities,  
3 nonwhites? So I guess I'm -- just want to make sure.

4 ATTNY BECKER: I can answer this.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

6 ATTNY BECKER: The Voting Rights Act defines  
7 minorities. Latinos are absolutely considered  
8 minorities. Blacks are considered minorities. Asians  
9 are considered minorities. That is settled law. I  
10 should also note, I believe that Latinos CVAP in  
11 California under the new census, data was roughly thirty  
12 percent, maybe just a shade under.

13 Even by being mathematically fortunate that -- well,  
14 even mathematically, they are -- they're still a minority  
15 within California. But absolutely, no question, legally,  
16 Latinos, African-Americans and Asians are considered  
17 minorities for purposes of Section 2 Voting Rights Act  
18 analysis.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: I'll just jump in here. But I  
20 think a part of that, you can correct me if I'm wrong,  
21 Mr. Becker, but it has to do with historical exclusion;  
22 is that correct?

23 ATTY BECKER: Yeah. If you remember the totality of  
24 the circumstances, the totality of the circumstances all  
25 relate to historical discrimination and its continuing

1 and present-day effects on those populations. But I just  
2 want to be -- also be clear, particularly with -- not  
3 that Asians have less coverage, they have equal coverage,  
4 but there have been extensive findings in the 1965 Act,  
5 in the 1970 and 1975 renewals about Latinos as well. So  
6 absolutely covered under the Voting Rights Act.

7 CHAIR SADHWANI: Perfect. Great. Thank you. Any  
8 additional questions from commissioners?

9 Oh, Commissioner Fernandez?

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you. Just one  
11 more. Thank you, David, for that. I kind of knew the  
12 answer to it, but I just wanted to make sure everyone  
13 knew the answer to that. So thank you so much. My other  
14 question was in our last meeting -- I'm trying to get my  
15 hand down. There we go. There was a comment that  
16 precincts change regularly. So when you do the racially  
17 polarized voting, how does that research -- how do you do  
18 that research if precincts continue to change? Does that  
19 make sense, Megan?

20 DR. GALL: It does. And the California Statewide  
21 Database gives us those data. And the fact that the  
22 precincts change does not matter to the analyses because  
23 we are still analyzing precincts within the jurisdiction  
24 of interest. If they happen to change from the next  
25 election, the past, the next, that's irrelevant to the

1 analysis. And luckily those data already exist for us  
2 with the database.

3 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Great.

4 ATTNY BECKER: And again, I'll just point out, Karin  
5 MacDonald said something along this line before. Not  
6 every state, in fact, not really any other state has the  
7 benefit of the database that California does. It is a it  
8 is a tremendous resource. I know Dr. Gall has worked in  
9 a lot of places, but it's something that not every place  
10 has.

11 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes. We are definitely lucky to  
12 have the Statewide Database as a resource here in  
13 California.

14 Commissioner Andersen?

15 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair. This is a  
16 question actually. I guess it's for either of you. And  
17 could you actually explain -- and it's for all of us and  
18 including the public, when you're doing the RPV analysis  
19 that the exogenous and endogenous -- because is it true  
20 you basically have to redo the VRA analysis for each type  
21 of district. So can you kind of walk us through, if  
22 you're doing assembly, what is endogenous/exogenous for  
23 Senate, for Congressional because it kind of comes up  
24 when we do the whole listing all the criteria and then  
25 people think, oh, nesting, you just do that for the

1 assembly and stick two of them together and you have the  
2 Senate. So could you kind of --

3       ATTNY BECKER: Meghan, I'll start, but I'm probably  
4 going to have to hand it off to you. So endogenous are  
5 simply the elections for the same office that you're  
6 analyzing. So when we're looking in assembly districts,  
7 assembly districts are -- assembly district races are  
8 endogenous. Everything else is exogenous. Senate same  
9 thing. Congressional same thing.

10       Exogenous doesn't mean irrelevant. It does mean  
11 less relevant. So endogenous are going to be the most  
12 dispositive in determining whether racially polarized  
13 voting exists. So when we're looking at assembly  
14 districts -- and you'll see when we're showing you this,  
15 we're going to we're measuring Gingles 1, we're looking  
16 at concentrations and numbers of populations sufficient  
17 to form a majority within an assembly district, for  
18 instance.

19       So we're using Assembly District numbers as the  
20 denominator, and we know what the numerator would need to  
21 be to be at fifty percent. That numerator is going to be  
22 nearly double for Congressional and Senate Districts will  
23 be double for Senate Districts. It'll be nearly double  
24 for Congressional Districts.

25       So then within that, we're going to look at



1 elections that touch on those areas. So for instance, we  
2 might be looking at an area of minority concentration  
3 that actually touches three or four Assembly Districts.  
4 And we might need to look at all of them in that area to  
5 see what's happening.

6 Now, we can then if we're if we're getting an  
7 incomplete picture or we or there's also a Senate  
8 district there, we very well likely might look at the  
9 Senate district elections as well to see what we can  
10 find. Again, going back ten years, looking at primaries  
11 in general. We might look at congressional races as  
12 well. We might look at statewides.

13 The clearer the picture becomes sooner, the less  
14 likely we'll need to rely upon exogenous elections that  
15 are further and further away from that district, if that  
16 makes sense. There might be circumstances where we see  
17 really clear, powerful data. And we might look at a  
18 little more, but we don't need to go much farther. We  
19 can see, yes, it exists. No, it doesn't exist.

20 And there are going to be certainly circumstances  
21 where the concentrations are large enough that we  
22 probably need to look at all three districts anyway and  
23 statewides might inform that effort too. And we need to  
24 look at all of them to get a clearer picture.

25 There are things in the in historical election

1 analysis that can make it -- can make it appear to be a  
2 less complete picture like strong incumbents, where there  
3 haven't been a lot of challengers, for instance, or there  
4 are times when you've got an incumbent and this kind of  
5 goes along with the first one. There's an incumbent that  
6 isn't of the same race as the as the minority population.

7 But there's been a long historical coalition that's  
8 been formed there and it just can create some somewhat  
9 noisy data that -- and we'll try in those circumstances  
10 to paint as complete a picture as we can based on the  
11 data for you. But the endogenous elections will identify  
12 for you. You'll see what we found.

13 And Dr. Gall and I hope you can take it from me at  
14 this point and correct anything I've said that was wrong.  
15 Dr. Gall will also go into a lot of detail about what she  
16 looked at, what she found. You'll get specifics on the  
17 types of elections we looked at, what candidates. We'll  
18 go into that level of detail with you and you'll see  
19 that.

20 And by the way, this will be an iterative process if  
21 there's something where. We've reached a conclusion or  
22 even our conclusion isn't absolutely really clear. You  
23 should feel free to ask us, is there more that we can do?  
24 Are there things that we should look at and we'll answer  
25 that as clearly as possible.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Dr. Gall, did you want to jump in?

2 DR. GALL: No, that was a great answer.

3 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Very good. He's going to  
4 take over as a as a political scientist one of these  
5 days. Are there any additional questions from  
6 Commissioners? And if not, we will head out for a closed  
7 session under the pending litigation exception. I  
8 anticipate that we will be back around 2:30 p.m. this  
9 afternoon, though certainly we could be back earlier if  
10 we get done earlier.

11 So please keep an eye out for the public. Keep an  
12 eye out for the live stream. We will update when we are  
13 coming back. And I'm sure we'll try and put out a couple  
14 notices via social media as well for those who are trying  
15 to follow along. Thank you so much. We'll see you in  
16 closed session.

17 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

18 CHAIR SADHWANI: Oh, thank you so much. Welcome  
19 back. We are back from closed session in which we took  
20 no action. We will move into public comment at this  
21 time.

22 Kristian, will we be reading public comment for us?

23 MR. MANOFF: Katy should be here for us.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Oh, great.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I am here. Can you hear



1 me?

2 CHAIR SADHWANI: We can hear you. And we're all  
3 very jealous of your current location.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. I took this  
5 picture this morning. Thank you so much. All righty.  
6 In order to maximize transparency and public  
7 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be  
8 taking public comment by phone. To call-in, dial the  
9 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is  
10 877-853-5247.

11 When prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number  
12 provided on the livestream feed, it is 88264383219 for  
13 this meeting. When prompted to enter -- when prompted to  
14 enter a participant ID simply press the pound key. Once  
15 you have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue. To  
16 indicate you wish to comment, please press star 9. This  
17 will raise your hand for the moderator.

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

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





1 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn  
2 down the livestream volume. We do have a couple of  
3 callers at this time.

4       Caller 6252, if you will please follow the prompts  
5 to unmute at this time by pressing star 6. The floor is  
6 yours.

7       MS. HUTCHINSON: Thank you very much. This is Helen  
8 Hutchinson with the League of Women Voters of California.  
9 It's really nice to see some of you being able to be in  
10 the same room together. I appreciate that. I want to  
11 thanks -- add my thanks to Mr. Becker and Ms. Gall for  
12 their work and in particular how accessible they are  
13 making the Voting Rights Act and racially polarized  
14 voting analysis for us in the public. It helps everybody  
15 understand the issues and the process.

16       I have a question for you and potentially for your  
17 counsel. Can you explain or help us understand the  
18 rationale for doing at least some of the Voting Rights  
19 Act and racially polarized Voting Act analysis discussion  
20 in closed session when there is no current litigation?  
21 Thanks so much.

22       ATTNY PANE: Some assumptions. This is Anthony  
23 Pane. I can probably give you somewhat of a of an answer  
24 on that in response. So a state body there's,  
25 Redistricting Commission included, is able to go into



1 closed session for the pending litigation exception. And  
2 as you point out, the pending litigation exception  
3 certainly includes litigation for which the state body is  
4 a party.

5 Also may include situations where the state body is  
6 not a party but may want to wish to initiate litigation.  
7 It could also include exposure to litigation, and that  
8 exposure to litigation is also an acceptable basis for  
9 going into closed session. So I just wanted to highlight  
10 any of those categories -- any of those categories are  
11 ones which state body can go into closed session.

12 MS. HUTCHINSON: Thank you very much. That is very  
13 helpful.

14 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you for your call, Ms.  
15 Hutchinson.

16 Katy, it looks like we have a few more callers.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we do. Up next,  
18 will be caller 6337. And up next, after that will be  
19 6855. And I'd like to invite caller 3818 to press star  
20 9. If you wish to give comment, this will raise your  
21 hand. Caller 6337, if you'll please follow the prompts  
22 to unmute at this time by pressing star 6. There you go.

23 MS. GOLD: Great.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

25 MS. GOLD: Good afternoon, Commissioners. This is



1 Rosalind Gold within the NALEO Educational Fund. I first  
2 wanted to start by thanking you all for the extreme hard  
3 work and thoughtfulness that has gone into the materials  
4 that have been handed out for the next day or two of  
5 meetings. And again, the amount of real tireless work  
6 you've been doing in terms of thinking about how all of  
7 the parts of the line drawing process are going to fit  
8 together.

9 I just wanted to request that with respect to the  
10 potential line drawing calendar, that the Commission not  
11 take action on this calendar today. We are all, those of  
12 us who are working with community organizations and  
13 working to mobilize community members to provide input  
14 once the Commissions maps come out, are really in the  
15 process of looking at the calendar, looking at how the  
16 timelines might affect our ability to mobilize people,  
17 especially in terms of the relationship to Thanksgiving.

18 We could just probably use today and maybe even  
19 tomorrow morning to talk to our community members and to  
20 think through a couple of different scenarios. So I do  
21 want to request if the Commission could hold off on  
22 taking any final action until tomorrow at the earliest.  
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Ms. Gold. And  
25 you know, certainly we have on our agenda for this



1 afternoon, hopefully to begin a discussion on it, though  
2 that certainly might not happen until tomorrow given the  
3 number of other things we have on our plate.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Up next, we have caller  
5 6855. If you will please follow the prompts to unmute at  
6 this time.

7 MR. SUKATAN: Hello.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.

9 MR. SUKATAN: Hello, Commissioners. Good morning.  
10 Afternoon. Excuse me. Totally lost track of time. Sam  
11 Sukatan from California Environmental Voters Educational  
12 Fund, environ voters. You heard me introduce myself as  
13 CLTV. Just wanted to call, one, because we changed our  
14 name and two, again, to cosign Rosalind of NALEO's  
15 comments about appreciation for the work that you doing  
16 with the calendar and situation that I know the  
17 Commission did not ask for with the court and some of us  
18 also supported.

19 Definitely appreciate slightly more time to come to  
20 a consensus and to support community organizations also  
21 environmental organizations as the Thanksgiving holiday  
22 would make it more difficult for us to get folks to  
23 comment on the first month of March.

24 But as before, we know that you can bear the load  
25 that's been put in front of you, and we look forward to



1 continuing to partner with you. Definitely appreciate  
2 it. Have a wonderful meeting today.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. Thank you.  
4 Up next, we have caller 3818. If you will please follow  
5 the prompts to unmute at this time. The floor is yours.

6 MS. GARNER: Good afternoon, Commissioners. This is  
7 Grace Garner again calling on behalf of the black census  
8 and redistricting hub. I have a few logistical questions  
9 for you. In terms of the maps presentations, if a group  
10 were to submit a map now, could a PowerPoint presentation  
11 of the actual presentation be submitted at a later date  
12 as long as it's before October 11th?

13 And the other question is, when a group is or an  
14 individual is giving these actual map presentations since  
15 we won't be able to control the screen on our own, how  
16 logistically will that work and what kind of information  
17 does staff need in order to make sure that this is a  
18 seamless process?

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much for those  
20 questions. And you know, I think we will be talking  
21 about this in a little bit more detail later. Certainly  
22 to the first question, you are welcome to submit your map  
23 at any point in time, as is anyone, and we will certainly  
24 be talking more about the logistics of the presentations.  
25 So thank you.



1 MS. GARNER: Thank you.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And up next, we have  
3 caller 5882. If you will please follow the prompts to  
4 unmute at this time by pressing Star 6. The floor is  
5 yours.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. I would like to, like  
7 everyone else, thank you for the work and making things  
8 accessible. My question follow up is a follow up on  
9 Helen Hutchinson's from the League of Women Voters. And  
10 as I understood her question, it was not whether the  
11 state body was able to use the pending litigation  
12 exception. That to me was clear.

13 But why you might want to, in terms of potential  
14 litigation, and right -- so as to hold your cards close  
15 to the chest. That that makes sense. But are there some  
16 aspects where you're choosing to work on this outside of  
17 the public view for very clear reasons? But could we  
18 have some contours of that so that it didn't seem as  
19 black boxy? Thank you very much.

20 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you for that comment.

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

23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so much, Katy.

24 And we will, of course, do public comment again at  
25 the end of today's meeting. So we are going to move into



1 our agenda for today by starting with our director  
2 reports. And we will -- which is Agenda Item Number 3.  
3 And we will begin with our executive director report from  
4 Director Hernandez.

5 MR. HERNANDEZ Thank you, Chair. And good  
6 afternoon, Commissioners and Californians. So I will  
7 start in regards to our meetings for the Southern  
8 California. We are working on finding locations so that  
9 this body can meet together. We've secured some  
10 locations for the October meetings near Los Angeles,  
11 downtown Los Angeles, and we'll be working to secure  
12 rooms and all the logistics that come with that.

13 We'll provide additional information to all the  
14 Commissioners in that regard so that you have that for  
15 planning purposes. I wanted to make sure that all of you  
16 are set up on Concord and that your account is set up so  
17 that we can help with any logistics as needed. Ravi can  
18 definitely assist in that. Those of you who have  
19 traveled today and needed assistance, Ravi can help with  
20 that process.

21 I've also spoken to Kristian about the set up and  
22 he's indicated that the Commissioners will and any  
23 attendees will be required to log on to the Zoom on their  
24 laptops for the meetings. And he's also further  
25 indicated that everyone should have headphones with a



1 microphone so that we don't have feedback at the meetings  
2 and echoes and things of that nature. So just putting it  
3 out there early so that you can go and find those  
4 headphones with the microphone on it.

5 Gaming type headphones, the big earmuffs, if you'd  
6 like, just keep in mind you'll be wearing them for long  
7 periods of time. So that's at -- that's what we have for  
8 the meetings that we have scheduled down south. We're  
9 still working on logistics for November and trying to  
10 find a location in San Diego area.

11 We have looked at other options as Commissioner  
12 Fornaciari had indicated, looking at possible hotels.  
13 We're still looking into that. So far, it's been rather  
14 difficult to find accommodations at the State rate, but  
15 we're working on that. If that should occur, we will let  
16 you know and make those necessary changes to those  
17 logistics. Any questions on that?

18 Yes, Commissioner Sinay?

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Would it be possible for staff  
20 just to purchase the right headsets that we may all need,  
21 instead of all bringing several and trying to figure out  
22 what works and all that?

23 MR. HERNANDEZ: We're going to work on that as well.  
24 But I wanted to give you the option again. Some folks  
25 prefer certain type of headphones with the microphones.





1 My kids prefer the ones with the big ole microphones and  
2 the earmuffs. So we are going to look into that and see  
3 what we can do for the Commissioners. And keep in mind,  
4 if you have them, just let us know. We want to pursue  
5 getting those for you, but we are looking into that as  
6 well.

7 CHAIR SADHWANI: I see additional questions from  
8 Commissioner Fernandez and then Kennedy. Commissioner  
9 Fernandez?

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you, Chair.  
11 Yes. So my assumption is that our videographer is not  
12 traveling with us. Is that the case? I do remember or  
13 recall in the videographer contract that we did have  
14 information in there in terms of for hybrid, for them to  
15 travel with us and be there on site versus be off site.  
16 So I would prefer to have them on site.

17 I'm not sure how my fellow -- other fellow  
18 Commissioners feel about that, but this whole headphone  
19 thing, I'm just imagining things going wrong. Yeah.  
20 Because they usually do. So anyway, I'm just stating my  
21 preference would be to have the videographer there with  
22 us when we travel off -- away from Sacramento. Thank  
23 you.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Alvaro, do you have any sense or  
25 could you speak to -- is it appropriate to speak to the

1 contractual agreement about whether or not videography  
2 would or would not be traveling with us?

3 MR. HERNANDEZ: They could. That is not the  
4 question. But we're looking at the logistics of  
5 everything, and it just made sense to have everyone on  
6 the laptops in the same room because we're not using the  
7 larger room as we had originally projected and therefore  
8 be similar type of setup as we have here. Except  
9 everyone would be on their laptops without all the bells  
10 and whistles, as you see here in the room.

11 CHAIR SADHWANI: So just to be clear, it would be  
12 possible to have all of the bells and whistles that we  
13 have in -- setup in Los Angeles or other locations.

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: It is possible, yes. So we can work  
15 that out if that's a desire of the Commission to do so.  
16 I'll work with our videographer folks to see what will be  
17 possible.

18 CHAIR SADHWANI: Um-hum.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: And just keep in mind, we're talking  
20 about traveling down south, lodging, equipment, all those  
21 things that they would have to then transfer from one  
22 location to the next. And then we do have them week to  
23 week meetings. So we go down south, we come back to  
24 Sacramento, go down south, come back to Sacramento. So  
25 we're bouncing back and forth. Just a consideration for

1 you all to keep in mind.

2 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. So while we're -- oh,  
3 Commissioner Sinay?

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, the headsets that came  
5 with your phones that the Commission sent to you do work  
6 on these computers. I just checked them.

7 CHAIR SADHWANI: There are headsets with our phones?  
8 Okay. Thank you.

9 Commissioner Kennedy?

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Director  
11 Hernandez, Dr. Kaplan was fairly far along in discussions  
12 with UC Riverside about meeting venues, and then we  
13 called it off at the -- towards the end towards where we  
14 were actually agreeing on a date, time, and place. I'm  
15 wondering if those discussions have been resumed because  
16 we would not have to start over from the very beginning  
17 with UC Riverside.

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: So we did reach out to many of the  
19 people that we had originally contacted when we were  
20 looking at doing the COIs in person. Some places are not  
21 available, some places are not open. So we have reached  
22 back to a lot of the same groups that we had talked to  
23 originally.

24 We are looking at this particular venue that  
25 we've -- where we're trying to get in place, just



1 basically sign the dotted line because it's available.  
2 We can continue to look, but we're running out of time.  
3 And so I'm just going with what we have now. And if we  
4 can look at some other options, we will. But it's -- we  
5 have to make some decisions quickly because we're running  
6 out of time.

7 So that's where we are today with the planning of  
8 that. There are other options. We've looked into them.  
9 They haven't come through. And so rather than delaying  
10 it and then doing it last minute, I wanted to secure what  
11 we knew we had available today.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. So that's a no. As  
13 far as being in contact with UCR.

14 MS. KAPLAN: We were originally just looking in the  
15 Los Angeles area and then began to expand into other  
16 regions within Southern California. So the initial  
17 contact was for a lot of the Los Angeles area locations.  
18 It was just recently where we were expanding into Ontario  
19 and other areas, and that's where the L.A. location was.

20 We were able to secure for two series of meetings,  
21 so that's just noting. So if we want to further expand  
22 into these other regions, we can then go back to those  
23 contacts. But just to reiterate what Alvaro had noted.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: So to answer your question, no, we  
25 have not reached back out to Riverside.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Ahmad, I think it had  
2 your hand up previously, right? Why don't you go ahead  
3 and then I'll get back to you, Commissioner Fernandez.

4 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. Just really  
5 quickly, I can help with headphones set up. I don't want  
6 any of my colleagues to worry about that. And then also  
7 Zoom and anything is just a quick Google search away. So  
8 if we want to save some funding on travel for the whole  
9 videographer team, I am willing to step up and help out  
10 in that area.

11 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you for that, Commissioner  
12 Ahmad.

13 Commissioner Fernandez?

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. And  
15 thank you, Commissioner Ahmad, for offering that. I  
16 would still prefer to have the videographer with us so  
17 that Commissioner Ahmad can be freed up for Commission  
18 work. And once again, our contract has that information  
19 in our original schedule. We were planning to travel  
20 throughout the state, so it was going to be traveling to  
21 different cities, different weeks. Right now we've going  
22 back and forth from Sacramento to Southern California.  
23 And then the second part of it is with that piece, I  
24 think it is in the Commission's best interest at least  
25 two weeks prior to a meeting, either be -- while being in

1 Southern California to take a poll as to which  
2 Commissioners will be attending. Because if it turns out  
3 there's only going to be four or five Commissioners, then  
4 maybe we want to rethink whether or not we want to  
5 reserve a space and everything else that goes involved  
6 with that. So I'm just kind of throwing that out there  
7 for something for us to think about.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: I think that those are excellent  
9 ideas and I think it would be helpful just to better  
10 understand the -- like we hear you, Commissioner  
11 Fernandez and I actually share your perspective that we  
12 were going to be traveling around the state. So we -- to  
13 the extent that we are going to host meetings in other  
14 locations, then we should have the full setup.

15 But it would be helpful to get a sense of other  
16 Commissioners perspectives on this matter. Is there a  
17 motion that you might want to put forward on this, or do  
18 we want to just discuss it? Can we get a sense of other  
19 Commissioners -- is there a desire to one have  
20 videography on site for meetings when we are traveling?  
21 And two, are -- is everyone comfortable with having a  
22 poll and setting a date and you need to respond by that  
23 such date?

24 Commissioner Toledo?

25 VICE CHAIR TOLEDO: It's a little bit unclear what



1 benefits and disadvantages of either. I know that there  
2 is, of course, financial advantages to not having  
3 videography travel as much. But are there. And I  
4 haven't been in person, so I'm not sure what those images  
5 might be. So that's just a question.

6 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you.

7 Commissioner Turner?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. I think my comment  
9 or question was much as the same of Commissioner Toledo.  
10 Obviously, we look at justifying cost and yes, it was  
11 also included from the beginning. But I'd also like to  
12 get a little bit of the other side to determine, is it  
13 that our tried-and-true videographers aren't available?  
14 Is it cost, perhaps?

15 Can we justify costs by renting the same equipment  
16 in Southern California so that we're not taking it back  
17 and forth? Because also with the equipment moving it  
18 back and forth, there's always the opportunity that  
19 you're damaging it in the travel. So I'd just like to  
20 know a little bit more.

21 Yes, I'd love for them to go with us, but there has  
22 to be more behind it. And I'd like to understand that,  
23 because for sure I can be swayed to do something  
24 different understanding, full ramifications of saying  
25 pack it all up and continue to move it.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Director Hernandez, you want to  
2 respond to that?

3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure. So we can do that. We were  
4 looking at different options. We were looking at a  
5 hybrid method and looking at -- we have changed from what  
6 we originally planned. It was supposed to be in-person  
7 for the public to attend. They're not attending.

8 And so this is just the meeting of the Commission.  
9 And so we were looking at different options. That was an  
10 option that was presented to me. I thought it was  
11 reasonable, given that we all do need to be in the Zoom  
12 because that is what is livestreamed and therefore it is  
13 still a Zoom meeting.

14 Everyone is going to be on their laptop. That's a  
15 requirement to be in the Zoom. And so logistically it  
16 made sense to me. But if the Commission decides that  
17 they truly want to have the videographer staff there,  
18 they're able and willing.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Fernandez, do you have  
20 another comment?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I should probably keep my  
22 comment to myself right now so we can go on to the next  
23 person.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay.

25 Commissioner Anderson?



1           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair. One  
2 consideration is, remember, for -- in the 2030  
3 Commission, they'll be looking at how much we actually  
4 spent. And we're supposed to be taking account as much  
5 as we can for what was abnormal and what is normal. And  
6 what is normal is that everyone travels, the videographer  
7 all travels.

8           If we don't have that amount at all, the legislature  
9 could look at, well, okay, great, let's deduct the things  
10 that only happened because of the pandemic and just stop  
11 there. They wouldn't add in the things that -- other  
12 expenses that we really should have had, but didn't  
13 because it was all virtual.

14           So I think at some point it would be worth some sort  
15 of travel, moving the roadshow at least. So we have an  
16 actual dollar amount that then we could multiply up or  
17 something. So that's just a consideration for next time.

18           CHAIR SADHWANI: That makes sense.

19           Commissioner Turner?

20           COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. And thank you,  
21 Director Alvaro, for your response on the videographers  
22 going with us to Southern California. I appreciated the  
23 response about it. We're going to be on Zoom anyway.  
24 And our team, our videography team does things so  
25 seamlessly and well. I appreciate them greatly.



1 I don't necessarily know all of the extras. So  
2 right here we're sitting in for the public in a wonderful  
3 space with a lot of equipment and what have you. But I'm  
4 still looking at a Zoom screen. And so if they go with  
5 us, we'll still be looking at a Zoom screen and what  
6 other benefit is it?

7 So when we get to line drawing, will their  
8 attendance or not make a difference as to whether or not  
9 I imagine I'll be able to see maps on a large screen and  
10 watch it? Or am I going to really be looking at maps  
11 just on my computer here? So that's what I want to know.

12 So with the videographers going with us, will it  
13 make a difference of what is displayed and what I can see  
14 large screen as opposed to like, well, we have this  
15 television that's larger with screens or something on the  
16 wall. I want to know what's the difference that will be  
17 provided by them being present as opposed to if we were  
18 just seeing our computers.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: I don't have a sense because I don't  
20 know the location of the facility and what's available at  
21 that facility. Obviously, some of these televisions that  
22 you see before you are part of the videographer's  
23 equipment. The larger one is our equipment that we would  
24 have to have it taken down there as well. Those would be  
25 available.

1           As far as having a large screen to view the maps, I  
2 don't know if we would have that capability at the  
3 location. That is something we could definitely look  
4 into. The line drawers may attend in person. But  
5 they're also going to be displaying it on the Zoom for  
6 the Californians to watch it.

7           So I mean, it's definitely something that we can  
8 look into to find a larger screen and see how we can  
9 display that information better so that you can see it.  
10 It is rather difficult to see it on your laptop because  
11 there's so much information within that image that it  
12 does cause us some challenges.

13           So you know, those are some options that we could  
14 look into. But I don't know exactly how that facility is  
15 set up. I don't know what they have available. And so  
16 we do have some additional logistics that we have to work  
17 out. So I can't really say how that's going to change at  
18 this point.

19           COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. So just one follow up.  
20 I'm still not clear. What do I miss if they're not  
21 there?

22           MR. HERNANDEZ: Their personalities.

23           COMMISSIONER TURNER: And that will be a huge gap.  
24 Hard to fill.

25           Mr. Hernandez: I don't think that you'll miss much.



1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: Obviously, there may be some  
3 technical issues that -- they are awesome at what they do  
4 and making sure that everything has been mentioned  
5 already is seamless. And so technical glitches may  
6 happen and they may happen if they're there, too, because  
7 it's an unknown -- a different facility, different  
8 location that they're have to having to adjust to. But  
9 beyond that, I couldn't tell you how different it's going  
10 to be without them.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum. Um-hum. Okay. So  
12 conceivably, one of the other options is is we can try  
13 one without them and see what we've lost and then make  
14 another decision about them going. If we got there and  
15 determined, we were just really flailing without them.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: That is an option. I would air on  
17 the side of let's not go there. The last thing is we  
18 want to flail on that side. Hopefully, things will just  
19 run smoothly. But again, that was a -- I was being  
20 cognizant of a number of different things, logistics  
21 being what they are trying to figure all the different  
22 pieces. And there were moving pieces when we started  
23 this process. And now we've got more of a finality as to  
24 what we're doing and how we're doing things. So we can  
25 obviously pivot at this point if we wanted to do that,



1 but that I would defer to the Commission to decide if  
2 that's what you wish to do. But we do have those two  
3 options.

4 CHAIR SADHWANI: And I think that's a really great  
5 point, Alvaro, as we have been operating in a state of  
6 ambiguity for quite some time, not knowing if we would  
7 have to have public meetings, have to -- what we would  
8 have to do, when our deadline would be. We now have a  
9 whole lot more clarity. And that clarity only just came  
10 very recently.

11 And I think now is the opportunity, if there's  
12 something in particular that you want to see over the  
13 next couple of months, now's the time to really voice  
14 that so that we can make it happen or not. I see,  
15 Commissioner Toledo.

16 VICE CHAIR TOLEDO: I appreciated Commissioner  
17 Andersen's point about that any decision might impact  
18 future budgets for the next Commission. The other point  
19 I -- and I also appreciated the outcome in terms of what  
20 we will miss and/or gain by having the right staff or our  
21 technical staff there.

22 I am thinking that if we do meet in person and we're  
23 going to have to use audio -- rather audio phones and  
24 other equipment, but it may make sense to have an IT  
25 person -- a help desk type person there to help with any

1 technical issues. And I also appreciate Commissioner  
2 Ahmad for volunteering to help us with some of these  
3 things.

4 I know I haven't been able to get my earphones to  
5 work with my laptop at all. And luckily, my speakers  
6 work pretty well. But I think it might be good to have  
7 some kind of technical assistance available if we do it  
8 in person. Thank you.

9 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yeah, I think that's a great  
10 suggestion.

11 Commissioner Ahmad?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. And thank  
13 you, everyone for this conversation. I just would like  
14 us to think about what is the difference between us  
15 sitting in this room and us sitting at home. And I don't  
16 have a TA person at home except Google University that  
17 helps me out and identifying my own users.

18 So if we're not letting in the public because of  
19 COVID concerns, but we're meeting in person, I don't see  
20 how this is any different than us just individually  
21 meeting from home. I would caution us to even think that  
22 we're missing out on anything if the video photographer  
23 team doesn't travel with us, because that would mean that  
24 we were missing out on something for the last year, which  
25 I don't think we were. So just my thoughts.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. And in response to your  
2 question, I think the difference is sweatpants perhaps.  
3 But I'll keep that to myself. Any other final comments  
4 on this topic?

5 Alvaro, can you give us a rundown over the next  
6 couple of weeks what that schedule looks like? So next  
7 week we are back here in Sacramento; is that correct?

8 Mr. Hernandez: That is correct. We are back here  
9 in Sacramento. Let me pull up my schedule. Just one  
10 second. Yeah. Yeah. So Yeah, in Southern California.

11 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I got it here.

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Do you have it?

13 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah.

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: October 13th, 14th, 15th,  
16 in Southern California. Do you want me to say that out  
17 loud?

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: I got it here. Okay. So October  
19 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th were here in Sacramento. October  
20 13, 14, 15, we're in Southern California.

21 CHAIR SADHWANI: And is there a location for that?

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: We have secured location for that.

23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: October 20, 21, 22, is back in  
25 Sacramento, and 23 as well, which is a Saturday. We have

1 a location for that here in Sacramento as well. October  
2 27 through the 30th, Southern California. We have a  
3 location at this point. It's the same location as the  
4 previous one, Southern California. But we're still  
5 looking at options to see if we can find other locations.

6 But I wanted to secure what we knew we had versus  
7 continuing to look for things and then come up short and  
8 then I'm not going to hear the end of that. So I just  
9 want to make sure get what we can get right now.

10 November 3rd, 4th, and 5th, we're back in  
11 Sacramento. October 8th, 9th, and 10th -- oh, November.  
12 I'm sorry, November 8th, 9th, and 10th, and then also on  
13 the 12th, we're scheduled for Southern California.  
14 That's where we're looking for a location in San Diego  
15 area.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So we we're taking  
17 Veterans Day off?

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Veteran's Day is Veteran's Day. So  
19 I don't know how the Commission wishes to proceed with  
20 that. But on the schedule, that is a holiday. And then  
21 thereafter we are in Sacramento the 16th through the  
22 19th, and then we have Thanksgiving. And then the 30th  
23 through December 2nd, we're back in Sacramento. And then  
24 the subsequent meetings after that are in Sacramento for  
25 the commission meetings.





1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Sure.

2 MR. HERNANDEZ: But I know that we may have some  
3 additional meetings for feedback and things like that  
4 similar to our COI meetings, and those have not been  
5 scheduled at this point.

6 CHAIR SADHWANI: Perfect. Thank you so much for  
7 walking us through that. Okay. Great. Director  
8 Hernandez, did you have anything else for your Executive  
9 Director's Report?

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: I do. That was just the beginning.  
11 All right. So I wanted to give you an update on the  
12 paper COI. We received the final approval from the U.S.  
13 Post Office last week, and we're working with the State  
14 printing to print the paper COI and have it delivered and  
15 looking at different options on the delivery.

16 Some of the quantities are rather large to the  
17 prisons, and so we're trying to figure out how to get  
18 them to them. It's not as easy as just sending it to an  
19 address because it's a P.O. box. They don't provide us a  
20 physical address, so we have to work with that scenario  
21 and try to work it all out. That's where we are with  
22 that.

23 We're also going to be looking at posting the paper  
24 COI PDFs online in the multiple languages that we have  
25 available. So we're working on that piece of it as well.



1 Any questions on the paper COI?

2 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioners Sinay?

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I believe it's the prisons and  
4 the libraries that you're also getting it to libraries  
5 throughout the state as well.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, the libraries are going to be  
7 much easier because the volume, the quantities are not as  
8 large as the prison industries, and therefore, it's a lot  
9 easier to get them out. So yes, we are looking at the  
10 prisons and the libraries, and I believe there's two  
11 other groups that are missing. It's not just the  
12 prisons, it's the sheriffs. And there's another group.

13 Marcy?

14 MS. KAPLAN: And at one point we had talked about  
15 that we might put a code just so that we had an idea of  
16 which ones were coming back from libraries and which ones  
17 were coming back from incarcerated individuals for our  
18 analysis at the end. Is that still -- it didn't have to  
19 be something big, but is that still in the works or  
20 because of everything that got approved, let's not touch  
21 anything?

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. No, the coding would take  
23 place when we are inputting that information. So we'll  
24 have -- when we receive them back, we're going to try to  
25 identify them where they're coming back from, because

1 they're going to be sent back to us by the prisons  
2 directly to us. And then what we can do is in the  
3 database indicate where they're coming from. That would  
4 be the only code. We didn't do any coding on the actual  
5 documents. It's just too much to try to figure out.

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Will we be able to, at some  
7 point, have a report that's created that says how much  
8 was sent to whom and then what came back and putting it  
9 out there again, that we know that the numbers will  
10 probably be small this time around. But just so that,  
11 you know, we have a baseline for the future and for  
12 our -- and for the public and all of us to know.

13 MR. HERNANDEZ: Absolutely. We will provide that.

14 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Kennedy?

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Yes, it was  
16 basically to request that we be provided with a copy of  
17 the distribution plan. Thank you.

18 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you.

19 Commissioner Fernandez?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I'm not sure how  
21 the -- for the California Department of Corrections and  
22 Rehab, how they will be sending that information back if  
23 the if it's from every facility. If we do receive them  
24 from the facility, just so that everyone knows it's  
25 stamped that it's coming from a correctional facility.

1 So we'd be able to know that they came from a  
2 correctional facility. So we might want to maybe -- can  
3 tag that in the database or as part of our stats.

4 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you.  
5 Director Kaplan?

6 MS. KAPLAN: Just to add to the other statewide  
7 entity that's being -- will be shipped out to is the  
8 statewide prison population, the County jails, and also  
9 the juvenile facilities. And then we work together with  
10 the California Library Association and The State Library  
11 and Office to distribute a request form for libraries,  
12 and then went back and also followed up with more rural  
13 libraries as well. So that was the direction by both of  
14 those statewide associations to really get the requests  
15 from the entities themselves.

16 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you.  
17 Alvaro?

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. Moving on, I  
19 want to go back and talk about the 2010 website. I don't  
20 recall if I shared this last -- I probably didn't share  
21 it last week cause I didn't get a chance to report out.  
22 So we've communicated with the website or I have  
23 communicated with the Website Subcommittee that there is  
24 nothing new to share at this time as far as getting that  
25 website up.

1           We're not able to post the 2010 website because it's  
2 noncompliance to ADA requirements. So we'll work with  
3 the Subcommittee on what the next steps might be as far  
4 as getting that webpage either compliant at some point  
5 and posted somewhere. And we're trying to -- we're going  
6 to try to figure that piece out as we move forward.

7           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. What was it  
8 noncompliant with?

9           MR. HERNANDEZ: ADA, America's Disability Act. So  
10 the websites have to be compliant with ADA requirements.  
11 They have to -- all state websites must be compliant,  
12 otherwise they have to be taken down. Our website, our  
13 current website is ADA compliant. We have ADA  
14 certificate, compliant certificate. So that's why we  
15 cannot post the 2010 website at this time among other  
16 things.

17          ATTNY PANE: Commissioner, if I could just briefly  
18 contextualize it a little bit. There was a bill that was  
19 passed between the 2010 Commission and the 2020  
20 Commission that required all state websites to be ADA  
21 accessible. And that's to the visually -- I mean, the --  
22 for example, a PDF may or may not be visually accessible  
23 to those that are visually impaired. But say a Microsoft  
24 Word document in a certain font is what is sort of what  
25 is an acceptable standard.

1           So all State Department websites have to certify  
2 that their website is ADA compliant. And so that's sort  
3 of been a going forward basis that state entities have  
4 taken and then they're sort of working on previous  
5 documents. And by the way, it applies not just to the  
6 website, but it also applies to the documents that are on  
7 the website. So for the better part of a few years now,  
8 all state entities have been working on that.

9           COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So actually on that, so does  
10 it mean that you also have to have auditory? Like should  
11 they need it?

12          ATTNY PANE: I'm not exactly sure if that part  
13 applies to the certification. The bill itself that was  
14 signed into law applies in a specific context.  
15 Specifically, it has to have a certification about it  
16 being accessible to the visually impaired. I'm not sure  
17 if it also has to be applied as to hearing impaired as  
18 well.

19          COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

20          CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Thank you. More? Oh --

21          MR. HERNANDEZ: Hands raised.

22          CHAIR SADHWANI: I'm sorry. I'm looking out and  
23 it's not on the Zoom.

24          Commissioner Fernandez?

25          Commissioner Kennedy?



1           COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Director  
2 Hernandez, the Subcommittee would like to receive  
3 whatever email or other correspondence you've had with  
4 The State Archives on this so that we can see if there's  
5 any further effort that we might want to take.

6           MR. HERNANDEZ: I will get that information to you.  
7 I just want to once again note that The State Archives  
8 doesn't archive websites, it archives documents, digital  
9 documents, digital media information, but not a form -- a  
10 format where they can house a full-on website.

11           That has been the challenge that we've been trying  
12 to overcome, is that we'd like to have the entire website  
13 available for historical purposes, but there isn't -- at  
14 this point, that avenue to post a website or for someone  
15 to host our website as is on their web site. And so  
16 that's where we've been kind of looking to find that  
17 solution. But definitely we'll send you that information  
18 that I have.

19           COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. And yeah,  
20 understood. But even if it's -- we know that members of  
21 the public are looking for specific items. And if The  
22 State Archives are able to pull up those items, then the  
23 having the structure of the 2010 website becomes less  
24 relevant.

25           We want to be responsive to members of the public



1 who are looking for specific documents or videos or  
2 transcripts or whatever it may be that were most easily  
3 locate through that website. But if The State Archives  
4 has them and we can refer members of the public to The  
5 State Archives to obtain the information that they're  
6 looking for, that's -- I see that as perfectly  
7 acceptable. So thank you.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.  
9 Alvaro, was there more to your report?

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Absolutely. All right. This is the  
11 last thing. I promise. So our database has been updated  
12 through September 10th. So that means all the COI input  
13 meetings information has been loaded and is available  
14 now. So that was something I wanted to share with  
15 everyone. Make sure that you're looking and finding the  
16 information that has been posted out there.

17 We're still going to be receiving correspondence,  
18 emails, things of that nature that will take a little bit  
19 of time to vet it and get it into the database because  
20 we're going through the COI tool to have it available in  
21 our database, CRC database. So we're working on that  
22 piece and making sure that everything is working in  
23 order.

24 I just put it out there for Californians. If you  
25 find that there's something that is not there or



1 information that is confusing, please let us know at  
2 VoterFIRSTAct@CRC.gov. Thank you. That concludes my  
3 report on this. Are there any other questions at this  
4 point.

5 CHAIR SADHWANI: And I see there are.

6 Commissioner Fernandez?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. Yes.  
8 Regarding the updated database, I'm just going to look  
9 this way because it feels weird for me to look in here.  
10 Anyway. So right now we're about two weeks out. So as  
11 we move forward with the line drawing, and I believe  
12 there was a comment at our last meeting, like how  
13 frequently will we be able to update the information like  
14 now or two weeks out. As we get closer, are we going to  
15 get like one week out, days out? And I might have missed  
16 that part. So I apologize if I if it's repetitive.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good question. We are trying to  
18 streamline the process, but it depends on the volume of  
19 correspondence and information that we receive. I think  
20 it was two weeks ago we received over 100 pieces of  
21 correspondence. So those do take some time to process.

22 Our goal is to do it more timely. We are looking at  
23 bringing on some additional staff to help with that  
24 effort. It does get uploaded to the statewide database,  
25 the COI tool and a map -- if it is created -- if it if



1 there's enough information to create a map, and that's  
2 something that's key. So it's not just the information.  
3 We receive it and then that's it. And we share it with  
4 all of you.

5 We do put it on our public input page. It's there.  
6 But we also have to take that information, put it into  
7 the COI tool so that it can create the map if a map is  
8 not been provided and then that information is then  
9 transmitted to the -- I was going to say my old agency  
10 name. It's transmitted over to the Commission into our  
11 Airtable.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just a quick follow up. So  
13 if there's -- how frequently is the information from the  
14 committees of interest tool, the statewide database, how  
15 often is that updated to our, the Commission's database,  
16 that input?

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure. I believe at this point it is  
18 every couple of days the goal is to get it where it's  
19 daily. I know we had talked about doing it more  
20 frequently than that. I don't know if we're going to get  
21 to that place, but definitely the goal is to get it to  
22 transmit daily.

23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Kennedy?

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. It's good to hear  
25 that you're looking into additional staff. I think that

1 is a timely consideration at this point. Just wanted to  
2 inquire, I had made a request three weeks ago on the 7th  
3 for a listing of all of our meetings to date, as well as  
4 the status of each of the transcripts of those meetings.  
5 So just wanted to get an update from you on that.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: And I do apologize. I did not send  
7 that over to you. We do have a list. We did receive  
8 some additional transcripts for the more recent meetings.  
9 I will update that information and get that over to you.  
10 But we have received them and I believe we're either in  
11 the process of posting them or we have posted some of  
12 them.

13 COMMISSIOER KENNEDY: Thank you.

14 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thank you so much.  
15 Shall we continue on with the Communications Director's  
16 Report?

17 MR. CEJA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a few  
18 things before I jump into my report. The transcripts  
19 were updated. The last batch that we got, we uploaded  
20 immediately and it was in my last week's report. But it  
21 was an amazing report.

22 But sadly, I didn't get to go over it because we ran  
23 out of time. It was like the most robust report I've  
24 ever written and had a bunch of great information,  
25 including the transcripts that were uploaded. I think

1 there was a total of eight or ten.

2       The other thing is regarding the 2010 website, it  
3 has become an issue for us because not only do we not  
4 have the funds to continue having that website live, we  
5 don't have the people power to do it either. And we did  
6 lose a lot of files when it crashed years ago.

7       Now, the issue for the next Commission is what do  
8 they do with the 2010 Commission website? What do they  
9 do with the 2020 website? Because we have to maintain it  
10 and pay for its monthly fees. And so for whoever is  
11 keeping track of the next, I guess it's Lessons  
12 Learned -- but we do have to come up with a plan before  
13 we end our work for what's going to happen with our  
14 website and eminently with the 2010 website, because we  
15 don't have a game plan yet. And if we don't keep it up,  
16 it's just going to die. And we lose all the information  
17 that's on there.

18       Jumping into my report, I don't have too much, just  
19 some updates. We did purchase a plug in for the website.  
20 So much like other amazing websites, we're going to have  
21 a language drop down menu where individuals that are  
22 visiting our site will be able to change the language for  
23 the website or in total its 104 languages that you can  
24 select.

25       So anything that's in text will be translated into



1 that language. I'm trying to remember if it also  
2 includes videos. I know that it includes the livestream  
3 because it's text that's ongoing as the meeting's going  
4 forward. But I don't know if that works for other tape  
5 material, so I'll inquire about that.

6 That should be up tomorrow. We were trying to get  
7 the code embedded into every one of our web pages today,  
8 but it doesn't seem to be working yet. Hopefully by  
9 tomorrow I'll make an announcement when we have that.

10 I'm setting up meetings with our advertising  
11 contractors with the zone lead so that you can know  
12 what's going on in your individual zones. And pivot if  
13 we need to change messaging for your zones in regards to  
14 billboards and radio advertisements.

15 And as far as contracts are concerned, we're still  
16 just missing the ethnic media contract. Everything else  
17 has been signed, so we're moving forward with those  
18 plans. And I'll update you individually as zone leaders  
19 when we meet so that I can give you the whole rundown on  
20 where actual billboards are, what radio stations we've  
21 gone after. And if you want to change that, we can. We  
22 have enough time.

23 Moving forward, our social media contract that's  
24 doing advertisements on Facebook, Google, and other  
25 social media platforms, will start next week. We did a



1 messaging meeting with them this past week with the  
2 communications team, so they pulled a lot of stuff from  
3 our website, which is up to date.

4       It has the most pertinent information and those --  
5 the only thing that we changed was instead of focusing on  
6 COI meetings, we're now focusing on line drawing  
7 meetings, but everything else seems to be moving forward  
8 nicely. And we should have our first advertisements on  
9 social media next week.

10       We'll be working on the newsletter this week. It's  
11 already the end of the month. It's hard to believe. So  
12 the October newsletter will be drafted tomorrow or as  
13 soon as I get back to L.A. And I'm also coordinating  
14 with the Statewide Database for the launch of the Draw My  
15 California District Tool, which will allow Californians  
16 to draw their own maps in their own districts.

17       That is not up yet. And as soon as it is, we'll  
18 send out a press release announcing that it's live. I  
19 did send over today the paper COI tool educational video.  
20 Because we were running out of time, we didn't have time  
21 to produce a whole new PSA for the paper OOI tool. What  
22 we did was take the educational video that we had for Why  
23 Participate. It goes over the whole purpose of  
24 participating in redistricting.

25       But we also included at the end the fact that we're



1 sending out paper COI tools for those incarcerated  
2 populations and libraries that will be utilizing the  
3 paper COI tool. And it's just a short one and a half-  
4 minute video, but it goes over all our work and why it's  
5 important to participate. And that's all I have for  
6 today. I'll take questions.

7 CHAIR SADHWANI: It looks like Commissioner Toledo  
8 has a question.

9 VICE CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair. Thank you so  
10 much for the update and for all of the work that your  
11 team is doing that you and your team are doing. Just a  
12 question about the social media ads that you mentioned.  
13 Will those be in -- just in English or are they also in  
14 Spanish and other languages? Because I was just curious  
15 if you can just speak to the targeting of the social  
16 media?

17 MR. CEJA: Yeah, that's a great question. So we are  
18 hoping to do in language ads. We did have one contractor  
19 that was doing billboards and they actually did some in  
20 Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese. So we want to take that  
21 messaging that's been vetted already by radio stations  
22 that speak those languages and use those for social  
23 media.

24 So what I'm going to do once we sign the ethnic  
25 media contractors have everyone meet together so that

1 they can share content, they can share visuals and  
2 messaging, and that we can have everything circulating  
3 through all our channels, through radio, through  
4 billboard, through social media. And so we'll be sharing  
5 all those messaging points with every contractor so that  
6 everyone's speaking the same language and using the same  
7 messaging.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: That's great. This is just an  
9 incredible amount of work and an incredible campaign. I  
10 think people are going to be getting the message that  
11 redistricting is happening and they should get involved.

12 Commissioner Kennedy?

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you Chair. And this  
14 ties into that. Director Ceja, I recall having asked  
15 previously about your indication at one point that you  
16 would be organizing a briefing for editors, not so much  
17 the journalists themselves, the editors.

18 And I want to know, I think you mentioned at one  
19 point that one of these contracts needed to be in place  
20 in order for that to happen, which I didn't fully  
21 understand why a contract needs to be in place for that  
22 to happen. But I wondered if you could update us on the  
23 concept, at least of organizing briefings for editors.  
24 Thank you.

25 MR. CEJA: Yeah. So the briefings that we have set



1 in place and the contracts with ethnic media are for  
2 reporters. I can get started on it at editorial briefing  
3 so that we have a select few Commissioners actually  
4 talking to editorial boards so that they get the gist of  
5 what our timeline looks like now that we've updated the  
6 timeline. And that's another thing that I forgot to  
7 mention. It's on our website.

8 We took the liberty of going through the timeline  
9 and updating it with the new deadlines that we have so  
10 that the public knows what's expected for the remainder  
11 of the year. And that's basically what editors will want  
12 to know is what's next for the Commission?

13 How much time do you have left? So I'll get on that  
14 this week, Commissioner Kennedy. And if I can have a few  
15 people volunteer to sit in on those editorial board  
16 meetings, I can get those scheduled asap.

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, that would be great.  
18 And I'm happy to --I would think, though, that briefings  
19 for editors would include all media, not just ethnic  
20 media.

21 MR. CEJA: Yes, that's correct.

22 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Yeah.

23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Turner?

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. Director Ceja, I  
25 had an opportunity to look at some of the billboard



1 advertisements that you sent us, which they look  
2 wonderful. And in a different area of my life, we used  
3 billboards. And typically when there are pictures and  
4 edited photos of people that would be recognizable, we  
5 typically get a greater response from billboards than  
6 just the name. So I just wanted to suggest that in any  
7 future billboards or planning that perhaps consider  
8 putting some of the Commissioners faces on the billboards  
9 as well.

10 MR. CEJA: Yes. Thank you.

11 CHAIR SADHWANI: I will volunteer your face for  
12 these billboards, Commissioner Turner.

13 Commissioner Sinay?

14 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Two things. Following up on  
15 Commissioner Turner, I thought you were going to say  
16 something else. I thought you were going to say having  
17 people take pictures on social media and hashtag it. And  
18 I would like to see our social media be a little more  
19 interactive in that regards. It's very one way just  
20 pushing information out. But how can we make it more  
21 interactive.

22 On the editors, just you kind of sparked something,  
23 Andrew, who's the lead in San Diego, Imperial County,  
24 Riverside, in San Bernardino, he organized a meeting for  
25 Commissioners at the San Diego County level, City of San

1 Diego, Chula Vista, Escondido, just kind of a lot of the  
2 different Independent Redistricting Commissions. We made  
3 it very elite in that way. It's only the independent  
4 ones are invited. And I was invited.

5 And we are with all of us together, we feel that we  
6 can really push for the editors to meet with all of us so  
7 we can give a message on this is why redistricting is  
8 important. This is why it's important in all the  
9 different levels. And Voice of San Diego is one of our  
10 local digital platforms and they do a big Politifest is  
11 what they call it.

12 And so we're looking to see how we can be involved  
13 in that, too, but we're really looking to kind of come  
14 out as a unified force, similar to that article that came  
15 out in Los Angeles, which I thought was really well done,  
16 kind of saying this is why it's important, this is how  
17 you can get involved at the State, this is how you can  
18 get involved at the County and then listing the different  
19 cities. And so I just wanted to share that so that you  
20 all knew that we did that. I forgot to share that last  
21 week when we met.

22 CHAIR SADHWANI: It sounds exciting. Any additional  
23 comments or questions for Director Ceja? I will insert  
24 myself here. I actually have one or two. The first one  
25 was just for today's meeting. I didn't see any public

1 comment posted on our website and I just wanted to get an  
2 update to see if we did have any.

3 In our last meeting, we had over 50 pieces, 50  
4 submissions, so I just wanted to check in on that. I  
5 believe that -- I recall seeing at least one piece come  
6 in that was emailed to Commissioners. So I just want to  
7 check in on that.

8 And then the second piece, I know Fredy had  
9 mentioned this to me. I actually wanted to just raise  
10 this with the full Commission rather than making a  
11 decision on this solely. There has been a request that  
12 now that we -- some of us may meet in person for the  
13 line, drawing from reporters, asking if it would be okay  
14 for a reporter to come to our meetings in person.

15 I wanted to raise that with everyone's -- get a  
16 temperature check on the room, see how folks are feeling  
17 about that request. And I think a part of it is we are  
18 meeting without the public due to COVID regulations. So  
19 while I could see the value, I also think that there's  
20 some broader considerations I wanted to see if others had  
21 thoughts.

22 Commissioner Sinay, did you have a hand up first?

23 No. Commissioner Fernandez?

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think I'd have to say no  
25 to that because we aren't allowing the public, and I just

1 feel that's an equity issue. Thank you.

2 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Commissioner Akutagawa?

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I would agree. I  
4 would agree on that, too. Also, on your other question  
5 about the public comment and the public input, I am  
6 noticing that you do have to go to the separate page on  
7 the website on a regular basis to check if there is new  
8 input on both areas.

9 However, it's not always on our handouts area, so I  
10 just wanted to note that there were several pieces.  
11 There's public input and public comment on tabs on the  
12 website, so you'll have to look at that. There is  
13 several pieces on the public comment side as well as on  
14 public input from the last time we met. And so I'm  
15 finding that it's just better to go there to make sure  
16 that you have everything that you know is current.

17 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Kennedy?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I would  
20 say that I'm more supportive of the idea of a reporter or  
21 two reporters in the room. As long as there's an  
22 understanding -- first of all, as long as they're  
23 required to meet our rules as far as vaccination masking,  
24 social distancing, et cetera.

25 Second, as long as there is an agreement that they



1 are acting as pool reporters and are going to share what  
2 they what they collect with others. Yeah. I wouldn't  
3 want one to be allowed in an exclusive. When you're  
4 dealing with situations where there's limited space and  
5 so forth, pool arrangements are usually way around that.  
6 So I would I would be supportive of it as long as it's as  
7 a as a pool reporter. Thank you.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you.

9 Commissioner Yee?

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. I'm feeling open to having  
11 credentialed journalists attend. I mean, the public  
12 depends on a free press and journalists to observe things  
13 and to go to public meetings, go to school board  
14 meetings, things that may be open to the public. But you  
15 know, the public can be anywhere.

16 There are other meetings where it is limited to  
17 credential reporters and not to the general public. So  
18 even if it were a equity issue, I think we want to be --  
19 err on the side of it being accessible and not having the  
20 pandemic cost the public yet more access to the workings  
21 of their government. So I'd be open to actually more  
22 access.

23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Some variation in the room  
24 here.

25 Director Ceja?

1 MR. CEJA: Yes. Thank you. I was trying to unmute  
2 on my computer. Not necessary. Yeah. What I was going  
3 to suggest is that we just come up with parameters. If  
4 the Commission feels comfortable maybe having one  
5 reporter here at a time, scheduling them far apart,  
6 making sure that they're abiding by the social distance,  
7 and wearing a mask mandate and conducting all interviews  
8 outside.

9 And if the camera person needs to come in here and  
10 should be able to do that quickly and then be on their  
11 way. It's not for them to stay here and linger for the  
12 majority of our meeting. Just capture enough B-roll to  
13 create a story and put it on the air. And then, like I  
14 said, have one on one interviews take place in the  
15 hallway where it's ample and there's not a clutter of  
16 people.

17 CHAIR SADHWANI: So that sounds like some reasonable  
18 parameters that you feel like you could develop.

19 Commissioner Ahmad?

20 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I think I'm  
21 in most agreement with what Fredy just shared. In terms  
22 of allowing access variability between the public and  
23 reporters. There is no variability. Everything we do is  
24 live streamed and open to the public and the press at any  
25 point in time. The only difference being if we do end up

1 interviewing which then becomes public anyways.

2       So I don't think there's any special access being  
3 granted to a reporter versus anyone from the public. So  
4 from that standpoint, keeping it clean cut is kind of  
5 where I'm thinking. But to Fredy's point, if there's in  
6 individual interview requests, having that conducted  
7 somewhere outside this space would probably be okay with  
8 me.

9       ATTNY PANE: Chair? Chair, if I could just mention,  
10 I'd like to echo Commissioner Ahmed's point. I want to  
11 make sure that we're treating the press and the public to  
12 the same extent.

13       CHAIR SADHWANI: I think that makes sense. So  
14 perhaps we can continue to talk a little bit more about  
15 whether or not that's possible and if so what those  
16 parameters would be offline and come back with a  
17 proposal. Okay. Great. Thank you.

18       Director Ceja, any additional pieces to your report?

19       MR. CEJA: No, that's it. Thank you so much.

20       CHAIR SADHWANI: All right. Thank you. And I'll  
21 also note that Director Ceja very kindly came and spoke  
22 with my class today and did a phenomenal job. And so my  
23 sincere thanks to you for that and sharing your many  
24 years of expertise and though -- in the world of public  
25 policy. So thank you.



1 Director Kaplan, for your report?

2 MS. KAPLAN: Hi, everyone. I wanted to highlight  
3 that outreach staff have begun to conduct Draw My CA  
4 community trainings and in the handouts for today, I've  
5 posted a document that includes the upcoming and past  
6 presentations that have happened so far. There's an  
7 additional two that are still being scheduled as well.

8 I also want to highlight that we made some updates  
9 to the Draw My CA community presentation to now include  
10 the new mapping tools the Statewide Database had  
11 presented to the commission last week highlighting  
12 they're coming soon, so that will be updated once there  
13 actually live as well with the ways to access them.

14 And we have also included a slide on the timeline  
15 which is now posted on the CRC website. The updated  
16 version of the scripts and PowerPoint are on the website  
17 now in the outreach materials page also. The handout  
18 posted today also includes a number of input received  
19 through September 10th, which Alvaro had highlighted  
20 earlier, and it provides a breakdown as the source type,  
21 such as live meeting, Draw My CA community tool, et  
22 cetera.

23 I also wanted to highlight that this Monday at 9  
24 a.m., the requests for appointments for the October 21 to  
25 23 public map input sessions was posted on the meetings



1 page of our website. Again, this is an opportunity for  
2 the public to present district maps to the Commission,  
3 and this request form is also distributed through our  
4 email list and our social media and outreach staff have  
5 also been promoting to stakeholders.

6 And just a reminder, filling out this form is not a  
7 confirmation or guarantee of appointment. Invitations by  
8 appointment time slots will be assigned by the CRC on 10/  
9 15/21 at 5 p.m., and maps and written narratives must be  
10 submitted in advance to the CRC by October 11th at 5 p.m.  
11 Those can come in two different emails, so it doesn't  
12 need to be -- they don't need to be sent at the same  
13 time, but do need to be received by October 11th.

14 And I wanted to provide an update to the Commission  
15 right now on the sign ups to date, because we did we  
16 have -- received a lot of sign-ups so far. So as of this  
17 morning, this is as of 8 a.m. this morning, there's been  
18 thirty-seven sign ups. Twenty-six of those are small  
19 submissions. That's a one to three district map, a six-  
20 minute presentation. Seven of them are medium. So this  
21 is for four more district maps. Three of those are large  
22 submissions, one statewide map and one is extra-large  
23 submission.

24 And so just to give you a sense of like how we're  
25 looking and filling up our time of the three-day proposed



1 meetings, the proposed schedule the Commission created  
2 allowed for 780 minutes of public input. So of the  
3 submissions we've received so far, that's about 396  
4 minutes. So we're about halfway full in terms of what  
5 we're getting. And just wanted to let you know that the  
6 sign-ups did trickle in pretty heavily the last two days.

7 But just as of this morning from 8 a.m. till right  
8 about now, there's only been two more that came in today.  
9 So the thirty-seven was from 8 a.m., so maybe it's  
10 slowing, but maybe it's not. So just to give you that  
11 sense and then we'll -- I'll provide more of an update  
12 next week also to see where we're at.

13 And then just want to add a little bit more to the  
14 conversation around the COI paper tool. So staff have  
15 been reaching out over a time period, not just recently,  
16 but to entities that also serve incarcerated populations  
17 to provide communications about the paper COI tool and  
18 the redistricting process, to request their support and  
19 promotion about information, about redistricting to the  
20 communities they serve.

21 And so we've also shared communications with the  
22 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation,  
23 the California State Sheriff's Association, and the chief  
24 probation officers of California who oversee the juvenile  
25 facilities and how to prepare their staff for the paper



1 tools that are coming, the communications to distribute  
2 information on the COI paper tool and how that will be  
3 getting back to us.

4 But additionally, how the Commission is hoping to  
5 facilitate participation among those who are incarcerated  
6 and also really highlighting information with the staff  
7 on how they themselves can also participate. And so the  
8 COI paper tools developed to allow incarcerated  
9 populations the opportunity to participate.

10 But we still also want to encourage staff at those  
11 facilities to participate. And so we're making sure to  
12 include that information as well, that they can access  
13 the COI tool online, they can access our website, and  
14 that they're encouraged to do so as well. And that was  
15 it.

16 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you. Any questions  
17 for Director Kaplan?

18 Director Ceja?

19 MR. CEJA: Hi. I did just get an email a while ago  
20 from one of our county partners indicating that since  
21 Draw My California district is not up if there are other  
22 tools that counties can use to create their maps to meet  
23 that December 11 -- or October 11th deadline to submit  
24 maps before they present to the Commission? Does that  
25 makes sense? Yeah.

1 MS. KAPALN: What are other mapping tools?

2 MR. CEJA: Other mapping tools that they can use  
3 because ours is not yet or the statewide databases is not  
4 up yet.

5 MS. KAPLAN: I guess that would be for the  
6 Commission on what you want to be promoting.

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: It's supposed to be up by  
8 the end of this week. So a couple of days versus trying  
9 to find just a random mapping tool. I would suggest they  
10 collect all the information a couple of days and then  
11 jump on it as soon as it comes out. Because it -- the  
12 one thing about the mapping tool, it does allow you to  
13 comment on the particulars of why you're putting your  
14 district together, which your standard GIS mapping tools  
15 do not. So you have to write a separate report and  
16 that's a huge advantage and it is also free. So that's  
17 another advantage. And because it does go directly to  
18 the statewide database, it'll come directly to us.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Oh, Commissioner Fornaciari?

20 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. Thanks. A couple  
21 of questions. The first one, I don't know if you know  
22 the answer to this, but it says the organization name is  
23 San Joaquin County. So is that like to the Board of  
24 Supervisors or something or is it just --

25 MS. KAPLAN: I can look that up while we're meeting



1 and --

2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Just kind of  
3 selfishly curious.

4 MS. KAPLAN: Yes. And that's helpful just to  
5 include that clarification in the future.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. And then the other  
7 question is, a caller called in earlier and said, can  
8 they submit a PowerPoint later? Can you answer that  
9 question? And I just spaced out about it or?

10 MS. KAPLAN: Yes, so they can it just needs to be  
11 submitted by October 11 so they can submit their map like  
12 on October 4th and then submit their PowerPoint on  
13 October 9th. As long as it's before the 11th of the --

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

15 MS. KAPLAN: -- the cut-off time.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. And then I guess  
17 we're still working on the logistics of how all that's  
18 going to work.

19 MR. HERNANDEZ: Once we have a better sense of how  
20 many people -- I'm sorry, Chair, may I? I was looking  
21 right at him. That's why. That's the advantages of  
22 being in the same room. Right? Once we have a better  
23 sense of how many people we have, then we'll start  
24 looking at the next step of how we're going to display  
25 and schedule everybody. And how the maps -- because some

1 people may sign up but don't get the maps in in time. So  
2 we're still looking at making sure we have a full  
3 schedule and coordinating from that point on.

4 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I guess just a  
5 question about how we're going to -- who's going to  
6 display the map and how we're going to run through all  
7 that process we still have to work through. So yes, we  
8 do. You already know that.

9 CHAIR SADHWANI: I will just jump in. And I think,  
10 Commissioner Fornaciari, you could be really instructive  
11 on this. And we don't have to answer this question now,  
12 but this did come up in some of our conversations with  
13 the line drawers. So I want to raise it now, at least to  
14 put it put a pin in it and we can figure it out later.

15 The line draw drawers are of the belief that it  
16 would be easiest if presenters can share their screens  
17 and walk us through their maps themselves. Right?  
18 Sometimes even when presenting, you'll try to point to  
19 something and you're not really pointing to it because  
20 you're not controlling a screen.

21 So I did want to raise that. I think it's something  
22 we need to consider. We certainly did not allow it for  
23 the COIs -- COI input sessions. Perhaps these district  
24 input sessions are substantively different to some  
25 extent, and we might want to consider a change in that

1 policy. So I'll just raise that and hopefully we can  
2 think about that very soon. Yeah. Please.

3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I mean, there  
4 are -- we were talking about that this morning with  
5 Kristian. There still are security concerns. So maybe  
6 there's a hybrid approach that we can take. Maybe an  
7 individual presenting a single map. Maybe we can show  
8 that. Maybe a group can present their own map. Maybe a  
9 group would send us a map, but have a PowerPoint that we  
10 could slide through.

11 So there's lots of options that we need to think  
12 about, but there is still the same underlying security  
13 concern that someone's going to Zoom bomb our meeting.  
14 And we really have to understand it a little bit more  
15 deeply, I think, than we do right now of how we would --  
16 how we could manage that concern effectively.

17 CHAIR SADHWANI: I think that would be great.

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So we'll continue to work.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: That sounds perfect. That sounds  
20 perfect.

21 Commissioner Andersen?

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I do want to just bring up a  
23 couple of additional points is, remember, for these  
24 particular meetings, this is unusual in that everything  
25 has to be submitted beforehand. And so we will know



1 what's coming and if we can even have a few second delay,  
2 if they -- and the understanding that if you vary from --  
3 start talking about something else, that's it. You're  
4 gone. Your time is over.

5 A couple of things like that because the line  
6 drawers really fought and these particular meetings,  
7 they're during as we're trying to do draft maps so it is  
8 a -- is different and you know we're having different  
9 criteria very specific. So that's another item to  
10 consider in this whole can we do it? How can we do it  
11 issue. Just wanted to bring that up.

12 CHAIR SADHWANI: Director Kaplan, did you have a  
13 hand raised?

14 MS. KAPLAN: I just wanted to follow up with  
15 Commissioner Fornaciari's question about San Joaquin  
16 County. It is to the board and the members of the  
17 public.

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Oh really? And the  
19 Board --

20 MS. KAPLAN: Board of Supervisors. Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: At a Board of Supervisors  
22 meeting?

23 MS. KAPLAN: Sorry, I it is I can let me clarify  
24 that. It just says to the board and members of the  
25 public, so let me clarify.

1 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

2 MS. KAPLAN: Okay. I'll come back.

3 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thank you. Director  
4 Kaplan, did you have anything else in your report?

5 MS. KAPLAN: That was it.

6 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so much. And  
7 thank you also for laying out by the minutes that was  
8 really helpful to kind of think about how much time has  
9 actually -- that we're allotting and how much time has  
10 been reserved.

11 Chief Counsel Pane?

12 ATTNY PANE: Thank you, Chair. Oh -- all right.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I just did have a question.  
14 And I'm going on our website cause I wanted to -- so when  
15 we do the public input on our website and we put the  
16 date, and then from, and then the area, for me  
17 personally, it would be helpful if we also maybe put the  
18 county that it's coming from because I don't know all of  
19 the cities in the state, but for me that would be helpful  
20 if that's hopefully not too much work. I think Executive  
21 Director Hernandez is all on board with that.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

23 MR. CEJA: Can I?

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Director Ceja?

25 MR. CEJA: Yes, if I can respond to that. Yeah, we



1 would love to. But not all entries are the same. Not  
2 all mention counties, some just mention the city. We can  
3 try to guess what county and some of them are actually  
4 mentioned multiple counties. So with that, we've tried  
5 our best to tag them regarding where the input -- not  
6 where their input is coming from, but what county it or  
7 what area it's referring to. Because someone from San  
8 Francisco can easily give us input on Los Angeles. And  
9 it would have to be tagged Los Angeles.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. So I would be  
11 interested as to what -- where the input is, what area.  
12 So if it's L.A., it would be L.A., that'd be great. And  
13 then sometimes it might be multiple counties, which I'm  
14 okay with having multiple counties as well. So thank  
15 you. Whatever you can do to provide a little bit more  
16 specificity. That's a big word. Yeah.

17 CHAIR SADHWANI: All right. So we are up against a  
18 break in just a few moments, but I think Commissioner --  
19 I keep calling everybody Commissioner -- Chief Counsel  
20 Pane is going to get started with his report and if need  
21 be, we'll finish after our break.

22 ATTNY PANE: Thank you, Chair. Just to highlight a  
23 couple of things. First, you'll note for today's  
24 meeting, we have the map requirements that are posted.  
25 These are essentially sort of broader guardrails for a

1 substantive policy discussion for later where the  
2 Commission is going to be deciding kind of the contours  
3 of the calendar for the maps -- for drawing our line  
4 drawing.

5 I tried to highlight in there some keywords based on  
6 previous Commission questions or thoughts. And we can  
7 certainly discuss them at a later time, but I just wanted  
8 to highlight that for you all. Second, just a preview as  
9 well for later, in the Legal Affairs Committee report  
10 out, I'll be looking for a recommendation.

11 They'll be recommending just to have a future  
12 subcommittee created to help finalize litigation contract  
13 negotiations for the Gibson and Dunn contract. So just  
14 to highlight that that's also forthcoming. And that's  
15 all I had, unless anyone has any questions.

16 CHAIR SADHWANI: If there are no questions, I think  
17 we have enough time to go to public comment on this  
18 agenda item.

19 Katy, are you available for public comment?

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I am, Chair.

21 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The Commission will now  
23 be taking public comment on Agenda Item Number 3,  
24 Director's Report. To give comment, please call 877-853-  
25 5247 and enter the meeting ID number 88264383219 for this



1 meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star 9 to  
2 enter the comment queue.

3 The full call-in instructions have been read  
4 previously in this meeting and are provided in full on  
5 the livestream landing page. And we do not have anyone  
6 in the queue at this time. And I will let you know when  
7 the instructions are complete on the screen, Chair.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. That sounds great. So we'll  
9 just hang tight for a minute or two until we can  
10 finish -- finish it on the livestream. When we come back  
11 from break at 4:15, we will move into subcommittee  
12 reports. I know that we probably have some more  
13 substantive conversations from the Mapping Playbook  
14 Subcommittee, I believe, which I anticipate will be where  
15 much of our time will be spent. But we will go through  
16 the full list of subcommittee reports.

17 Oh, Commissioner Sinay, did I miss -- did you have a  
18 hand raised? My apologies.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just quickly kind of going back  
20 on tagging in the database. I did speak to the student  
21 intern who works every day at different times. He's from  
22 Sacramento State. But he was saying that they're going  
23 back and fixing some of the tags because, yeah, there was  
24 multiple counties and stuff. So they are trying to  
25 figure out there are they are working on that piece and I

1 thought I would share it with everybody since we were all  
2 like, okay, I've read that one five times and I'd rather  
3 read something five times and not see it. So it's okay.  
4 So I just want to give everyone that update.

5 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. And I'm not seeing any  
6 callers on this agenda item.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The instructions are  
8 complete, Chair.

9 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Very good. So we're going  
10 to take a little bit of an extra break. We will come  
11 back at 4:15. That means I'm being very generous and get  
12 a couple of extra minutes. Make up for that short lunch.  
13 So we will meet back at 4:15.

14 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

15 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Welcome back to the  
16 California Citizens Redistricting Commission. We just  
17 finished in our Agenda Item Number 3, the Director's  
18 Reports. And we will be moving on to the subcommittee  
19 updates, beginning with Government Affairs and Census,  
20 which is myself and Commissioner Toledo.

21 Commissioner Toledo, would you like to provide -- I  
22 don't know if is Commissioner Toledo back? If not, I  
23 will provide that update. We have no -- nothing new to  
24 report, so we will leave it at that.

25 Finance and Administration, Commissioner Fernandez

1 and Fornaciari?

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Let's see, what have we  
3 done? We are actually working on the budget right now to  
4 provide updated information. Correct? And then we  
5 are -- I'm not sure the status of the letter the  
6 Department of Finance on -- if you can provide us an  
7 update with that please.

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure. So we are working on  
9 finalizing the letter, requesting additional funds for  
10 the Commission through the completion of the maps. So we  
11 were finalizing that as of yesterday. So we have not  
12 sent out the letter. We just want to make sure we dot  
13 our T's -- or is it dot our I's and cross our T's? Is  
14 that what it is? Something like that. So we're working  
15 on that. Should get it out hopefully no later than  
16 tomorrow.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then one thing  
18 that I did want to bring up concerning the letter, this  
19 is for our Lessons Learned, for Commissioners Kennedy and  
20 Ahmad. For next time, I would really like to maybe  
21 streamline the process. What we currently -- what we  
22 currently go through is we have a budget that's approved  
23 right by the Department of Finance.

24 And then we kind of have to go forward and say,  
25 Mother, may I spend this much? And then a few months



1 later, Mother, I spent -- I have yet to work for the  
2 agency that has to do that. So hopefully if we can  
3 figure out a process where the budget, it is what it is  
4 and it's fully available from the beginning.

5 And the only time we have to ask for additional  
6 money is if we need additional money above and beyond our  
7 budget. So for Lessons Learned, if we can add that,  
8 please. Or do you already have it, Commissioner Ahmad?

9 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Oh, I just wanted to clarify.  
10 Make sure we document this correctly. When you say  
11 streamline the process, you mean -- can you elaborate on  
12 that a little bit?

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So streamline the process  
14 in terms of once the budget is approved for the  
15 Commission. We do not have to go back to the Department  
16 of Finance and ask for approval to spend it basically is  
17 to have that authority because it's already approved.  
18 It's already been in the governor's budget and approved.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Anything else from  
20 Finance and Administration? Okay. Great. The Gantt  
21 Chart Committee.

22 Commissioner Kennedy?

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Good timing. Before we move  
24 on to the Gantt chart, I just want to ask Admin and  
25 Finance if you have put together a plan for staff



1 performance review since we're well into this process.  
2 And one of the things that you were talking about at one  
3 point was let's get this done before we're so deep in the  
4 mapping process that we can't do what we need to do  
5 administratively.

6 MR. CEJA: Is that our job?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think it's something that  
8 we would actually direct our executive director to come  
9 up with a plan and process, and that would be based on  
10 everyone's start date and then how you will go through  
11 that performance review process.

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, we also need -- we  
13 need to give --

14 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The Commission needs to  
15 review the executive director.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right. So we'll do that  
17 piece of it. That's good. But no, we will take care of  
18 that Director Hernandez.

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So no, we'll do that one.  
21 But then Director Hernandez will come up with a policy  
22 and a process for the other staff members. Sound like a  
23 plan? Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

25 CHAIR SADHWANI: Can I ask, I think that the -- and

1 I recall that we did talk about the staff evaluations  
2 quite some time ago. Do we have a sense of what is the  
3 time frame that we realistically think this needs to take  
4 place in? We are about to enter line drawing. I  
5 anticipate things ramping up just a little bit in the  
6 next few weeks and certainly over the course of the next  
7 several months. Is there a sense of time frame, urgency,  
8 et cetera?

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I don't know if there's an  
10 urgency, I will just go by what the state normally is of  
11 one year. So every year -- and there's actually a form  
12 that we have that it's pretty standard in terms of the  
13 different categories. So I was just going to use that as  
14 part of our starting point with the performance review.  
15 And it's like I said, it's usually done annually unless  
16 it's -- some positions are six months, but for the most  
17 part it's annual.

18 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you for that.

19 Commissioner Ahmad?

20 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Oh, I just wanted to add to  
21 what Commissioner Fernandez stated while we were making  
22 offers way back when and we did state that it would be a  
23 yearly annual review from the start date. Yeah.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: I think that puts Alvaro as one of  
25 the -- Alvaro and Fredy, right, they're the earlier ones.

1 Commissioner Akutagawa?

2 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, actually, that is my  
3 question in terms of a clarification for Executive  
4 Director Hernandez, because from a position point of  
5 view, his actual then start -- in his current position  
6 would actually not take place until after we finish with  
7 line drawing.

8 But if you're talking about from the time he was  
9 actually hired in a different role, then that's a  
10 different kind of conversation. But I do wonder if then  
11 that clarification would be, I think, helpful, because if  
12 it's as the executive director, then we -- I would just  
13 say we have a little bit of time given that we're going  
14 to be a little busy.

15 CHAIR SADHWANI: It looks like Commissioner  
16 Fernandez has a response to that.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Part of our  
18 negotiation when he went from a deputy executive director  
19 to executive director is we did say that from the year  
20 that he was appointed as a deputy executive director, we  
21 would conduct an evaluation. So we did try to address  
22 that issue, but thank you for bringing that up. And we  
23 also made the same commitment to Director Kaplan.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Alvaro, did you have  
25 a -- are you sure? Okay. Any additional comments or

1 questions. Okay. Great. Gantt chart.

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Gantt Chart. I did  
3 update the Gantt Chart and shared it with Commissioner  
4 Taylor. I did not hear back from him on that. Plus, we  
5 are going to be talking about the map drawing timeline  
6 anyway. And so I didn't want to prejudge or predetermine  
7 anything in relation to our discussion on the timeline.

8 So I have updated it, but I did not want to be  
9 updated with the dates from the Supreme Court, but wanted  
10 to hold off to get the results of our discussion on the  
11 mapping timeline to see if further updates were required  
12 before distributing. Thank you.

13 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.  
14 Outreach and Engagement, Commissioners -- oh, was there  
15 a -- oh, apologies.

16 Commissioner Fornaciari?

17 COMMISSIOENR FORNACIARI: Yeah, my apologies. I  
18 have to circle back. I think performance reviews in this  
19 context are the biggest motivator on the planet.  
20 Colossal waste of time. And in this case are -- I mean,  
21 if they're not connected to a raise in pay, then I don't  
22 understand why we're doing it. And I know we talked  
23 about it that we were going to do it.

24 But I mean, if it's a requirement for the future of  
25 state employment for these folks, yeah, but we're going

1 in hot and heavy in line drawing. I mean, if we want to  
2 give people feedback, why don't we wait until after line  
3 drawing when things are -- and slow down and we can give  
4 it a little more of its due and make it more meaningful.  
5 So just my thought. I was going to keep it to myself,  
6 but I just --

7 CHAIR SADHWANI: But we feel very hot and heavy.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: It's dumb.

9 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes. So we're popping around here  
10 a little bit. We just finished Gantt Chart. I see a  
11 couple more hands. Director Ceja, is it on Gantt Chart  
12 or back on the reviews?

13 MR. CEJA: Performance reviews.

14 CHAIR SADHWANI: No problem. Thank you.

15 MR. CEJA: Am I allowed?

16 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes, please. And then I think,  
17 Commissioner Fernandez has --

18 MR. CEJA: Yeah. Thank you so much. I was actually  
19 going to keep it to myself too. I'm speaking as a staff  
20 member for the Commission. Yeah. If you are going to  
21 assign any type of performance appraisal with raises then  
22 just do it now, of course, because we only have a few  
23 more months to go.

24 But if not, yeah, it might actually be a disruption  
25 to the staff and to morale, knowing that our time here is

1 limited and that our positions will be ending soon. But  
2 I do suggest that we do it at the end for those of us  
3 that want to continue in public service, to have a letter  
4 of recommendation would be great. To add to our resumes.

5 CHAIR SADHWANI: That's really helpful.

6 Commissioner Fernandez?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. And actually, I  
8 completely understand where you're coming from,  
9 Commissioner Fornaciari, but it is somewhat tied to a  
10 potential -- up to five percent increase annually until  
11 they reach a maximum. And there are no maximums with the  
12 Commission. So it is associated with the pay -- a  
13 potential pay increase.

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So they just got a  
15 standard --

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That is not related to --

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So it's not related?

18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No.

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So they have the option of  
20 giving a pay raise related to performance feedback?

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. What they received  
22 was a standard cost of living adjustment that was given  
23 to all state employees. That is separate and apart from  
24 an annual performance review. Sorry.

25 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I still think it's



1 dumb.

2 CHAIR SADHWANI: So what I would ask then is if the  
3 subcommittee can go back -- we have another business  
4 meeting next week, again on October 7th, and come back  
5 with a recommendation of how you'd like to proceed. And  
6 then we can move forward accordingly. I think for -- on  
7 my end, I hear both sides of this.

8 And certainly if there is a pay increase that's  
9 associated, then it would make sense to do it. But if  
10 not, then I -- waiting until the end, knowing that we are  
11 a time bound enterprise, would make a lot of sense as  
12 well. Does that work? Great.

13 We will move on to Outreach and Engagement,  
14 Commissioners Sinay and Fornaciari?

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We have nothing to add.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. I don't think we have  
18 anything. Unless there's something else that's a  
19 colossal waste of time that you would like to discuss.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No.

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Just one per meeting.

22 CHAIR SADHWANI: I'm really enjoying being in person  
23 with everyone. I think this is really wonderful and just  
24 great for moral. I will just note on -- for the  
25 subcommittee potentially and I think we have to discuss

1 it further in the future, but there will be additional  
2 public engagement following the draft maps. Certainly,  
3 we'll be talking more about that timeline and what that  
4 looks like.

5 But whether that falls here on this subcommittee or  
6 the full public input design, I think does still need to  
7 be sorted out so that. I just wanted to flag that for  
8 your radar. Yeah. Okay.

9 Materials Development, Commissioners Fernandez and  
10 Kennedy.

11 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I think the main thing  
12 we worked on with Director Ceja was the time -- updated  
13 time line based on the information that we have? And I  
14 believe that was it. Commissioner Kennedy?

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We've begun to stick our toe  
16 into the drafting of the final report, the body of the  
17 final report. So that's the portion of the final report  
18 that describes the legal framework, the process that we  
19 went through, the challenges that we faced, et cetera.  
20 But not touching, of course, the description of the  
21 districts.

22 But I am hopeful that we will, at some point, be  
23 able to provide some recommendations on how those  
24 descriptions or what information those descriptions  
25 should contain. Having looked at some of them, seemed to



1 me that some of them were kind of slim.

2 And I guess we'll have to speak with the lawyers as  
3 to what our boundaries are on those descriptions of the  
4 of the districts. But we have started the process of  
5 getting that initial portion of the final report drafted  
6 for the Commission to review well before the submission  
7 of the final maps. Thank you.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you very much.

9 Data Management, Commissioners Ahmad and Turner?

10 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No new updates from us.

11 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good.

12 Communities of Interest, COI Tool, Commissioners  
13 Akutagawa and Kennedy?

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Nothing to report. It was  
15 reported by Outreach Director Kaplan.

16 CHAIR SADHWANI: Perfect.

17 Incarcerated Populations, Federal Facilities,  
18 Commissioners Kennedy and Turner?

19 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing significant to  
20 report.

21 CHAIR SADHWANI: Do we need to maintain the  
22 subcommittee on the agenda? It can still exist in the  
23 ether of the commission, even if it's not on the agenda.  
24 Was there a sense from the subcommittee if you'd like to  
25 continue to be included in updates?

1           COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think it could. I don't  
2 think it necessarily has to be there because we're  
3 basically going to be working with the Lessons Learned.  
4 And the only piece -- and it kind of was reported out on  
5 earlier as related to just incarcerated populations, is  
6 just to ensure that with the tools that we're using, we  
7 are absolutely utilizing the tools to the best of our  
8 ability to capture attention.

9           So again, with video, again, ensuring that they're  
10 able to relate to whoever it is that's doing the video.  
11 I always volunteer for that, for that particular  
12 population. So I just want to make sure that we are not  
13 trying to move past that population. And I know we're  
14 not too soon.

15           But I want to make sure that we've done everything  
16 we can so that they are participating and understand why,  
17 understanding why they should participate. And so to  
18 answer your question, yes, we are. Commissioner Kennedy,  
19 unless you think otherwise or I think there's a reason we  
20 need to keep it on the schedule. I think we can.

21           COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: The only thing standing, at  
22 this point is I'm going to be drafting a reply to the  
23 Bureau of Prisons and eventually we might receive a  
24 response from them to our reply. And I can just submit  
25 that as a handout and we could discuss as appropriate.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: That sounds perfect. That sounds  
2 like a great idea. Okay. So we will move forward with  
3 that.

4 Lessons Learned, Commissioners Ahmad and Kennedy?

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: As Commissioner Kennedy says --

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Our database of --

7 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Oh.

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Keep them coming.

9 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Our database of suggestions  
11 continues to grow.

12 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good.

13 The Security Subcommittee, Commissioners Fornaciari  
14 and Taylor?

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIAFRI: Sure. There was a couple  
16 of things. Thanks for changing the title. Oh, that  
17 wasn't one of the things, but. So we did talk a little  
18 bit about the Zoom meeting, the mapping meetings. So we  
19 still need to work on that and come back with a  
20 recommendation on how we're going to handle that. So  
21 we're working with the team to get that resolved.

22 The other thing is we were working we've got a draft  
23 of a of a security plan for in-person meetings. But  
24 since we're not having in-person meetings yet we didn't  
25 think it was that urgent to bring it forward. We've got

1 to finalize the last few details on that. But we'll get  
2 that going in the next few weeks and bring it forward.  
3 We'll have to have discussion in a closed session on  
4 that, so.

5 CHAIR SADHWANI: That sounds great. Thank you so  
6 much.

7 Commissioner Turner?

8 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I'm just to the subcommittee.  
9 Thank you, chair. Having the meeting scheduled and the  
10 public, of course, knowing that we are still meeting at  
11 the locations that we're meeting at, I just want to as  
12 you're considering our security protocols, to think that  
13 through as well.

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. Well, that's -- I  
15 don't know if you noticed, Alvaro was being a little  
16 vague on where we're meeting and so we're not going to  
17 publicize where we're meeting, so. Yeah, but we're in a  
18 secure building.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Great. The next one on the  
20 list is actually Mapping Playbook. I'm going to hold on  
21 to that and do Legal Affairs first, if you're okay with  
22 that, only because I think that's going to be a longer  
23 conversation. So Legal Affairs and Commissioner Yee is  
24 currently the chair of the Legal Affairs Committee.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. So right now,



1 the Legal Affairs Committee is working on the contracts  
2 with the two litigation counsel firms that we had voted  
3 to pursue, and that has become a little bit more  
4 prolonged than we had expected. We are recommending that  
5 the Chair appoint a new subcommittee, the Litigation  
6 Contract Subcommittee we're proposing, in order to be  
7 able to move quickly on finalizing those contracts.

8 Chief Counsel Pane, do you want to give a little  
9 more detail about the contract process and where we're at  
10 and why that a new subcommittee would be helpful?

11 ATTNY PANE: Sure. Thank you, Commissioner Yee.  
12 The reason why we're asking this for the Commission is  
13 because, as you all know, contract approval process with  
14 the state is not a slow process. And we were -- it was  
15 helpful that in the most recent iteration with the Gibson  
16 & Dunn, we received a counter from them and we have a  
17 proposed response to that.

18 And thankfully we also were able to get input in  
19 time from Department of General Services, Office of Legal  
20 Services. And as some of you know, that sometimes has  
21 been a delay. So if the typical pattern would be to come  
22 back to the Legal Affairs Committee and then bring it  
23 then to the full Commission for a counter that takes up a  
24 lot of time to schedule that out ten days in advance for  
25 to Bagley-Keene agendaized meetings.



1           So and of course being cognizant of the time here we  
2 are the end of September. We want to make sure that  
3 these litigation contracts are in place by the time we  
4 need them, which is at least by the final map  
5 finalization, if not a little bit sooner.

6           So the hope is that the Commission would give its  
7 authorization to have a subcommittee of no more than two  
8 people to help assist the chief counsel in finalizing any  
9 future counters that go back and forth between the firms  
10 to help finalize the contracts.

11           Once that would be finalized, it would certainly  
12 come back before you for final approval because there  
13 would be substantive changes, but it's essentially to  
14 most efficiently use the time and minimize the delay  
15 between any sort of counters that go back and forth.  
16 That's the theory behind it. Thank you, Chair.

17           COMMISSIONER YEE: The thought would be not to -- I  
18 mean, if there -- if something came up that were  
19 substantially outside the contractual provisions that  
20 we've already looked at and agreed to, then of course, we  
21 would bring those to the Commission's attention. But as  
22 long as they're still within those guidelines, we want to  
23 move expeditiously on the contracts.

24           CHAIR SADHWANI: That's right. And so in my  
25 position as Chair, it would be my complete honor to

1 create a subcommittee at your request for litigation  
2 contracts and my hope that it would be that it would  
3 include yourself, Commissioner Yee, as well as  
4 Commissioner Toledo. I don't know that he's on right  
5 now, but I think that he would be --

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah.

7 CHAIR SADHWANI: Oh, Commissioner Andersen has  
8 nominated him. Thank you very much. And I know that  
9 Commissioner Toledo has actually -- as well as  
10 Commissioner Yee have worked very tirelessly on these  
11 contracts thus far. And I think it would be wonderful to  
12 have you both advance them through the end. Unless  
13 there's any opposition there, I think Commissioner  
14 Fornaciari is in favor of this new subcommittee. We will  
15 create the Litigation Contract Subcommittee. Yes. Very  
16 good. Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair.

18 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. And then on to the  
19 Mapping Playbook Subcommittee with Commissioners Turner  
20 and Yee.

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. Me back again.  
22 Commissioner Turner and I have been hard at work and are  
23 pleased to be able to present today finished drafts of  
24 two out of three pieces of the mapping playbook. So let  
25 me go ahead and share screen. These are also in the



1 handouts for today. Okay. Let's see, I'm not seeing it  
2 in my screens. Oh, okay. Here it is. I have it. Okay.

3 So this is the main document, the mapping playbook.  
4 We've actually discussed an earlier draft of this in part  
5 last week. And so this now is draft 2.0. It's been  
6 fully vetted by our VRA Counsel and we present it to you  
7 for your consideration today.

8 So the full playbook will consist of this document,  
9 plus attachment number I, which will also look at today  
10 the consideration of current district boundaries as well  
11 as attachment number II, line drawing phases plan, which  
12 is still being completed.

13 Okay. So I should just talk you through this, I  
14 guess. Roman Numeral I, Data, you've already seen this.  
15 So of course, we will use the Statewide Database's  
16 official California Redistricting Database as our one  
17 entire and whole and only source of redistricting data.  
18 Roman Numeral 2, the Ranked Statutory Criteria. I'm  
19 sorry. Commissioner Sinay?

20 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Does that mean we won't use any  
21 complementary data? Because every single -- I mean, the  
22 report from the last Commission, and I've been bringing  
23 this up over and over again, is that there is other data  
24 that's not redistricting but can give us a flavor of the  
25 communities. We've got the community interest and we've



1 got the census data, but we -- homeless, just other  
2 things that when -- if we have questions because legally  
3 we can use that.

4       COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, good question. I should  
5 have been more precise about that. That is true. In  
6 fact, we do reference that later in the playbook. For  
7 Roman Numeral I, this involves the numbers that actually  
8 count for population numbers for our districts as well as  
9 for RPG analysis. And that's the basis for those using  
10 those only.

11       Okay Roman II, our favorite six statutory criteria  
12 listed in order of priority and ranked of course and I  
13 think I will revise this slightly to specify it's A  
14 through F, following in this list. The following six  
15 criteria A through F.

16       Equal population, of course, with Assembly, Senate  
17 and Board of Equalization, we actually do have a bit of  
18 deviation allowed. We've heard the number of five  
19 percent plus or minus. But for purposes of this  
20 document, our counsel is recommending that we aim for as  
21 close to zero as possible, but with deviation permitted  
22 by law.

23       So that basically gives us a little more flexibility  
24 with that. Congressional, of course, less flexibility as  
25 close to zero percent as possible. And in quotes there,

1 the language straight from our statutory criteria. Yeah.  
2 Yeah.

3 Commissioner Kennedy, go ahead.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.  
5 I was wondering if under -- I think it's under II, before  
6 we get to A, if we could say lower priority criteria only  
7 apply to the extent they do not conflict with higher  
8 priority criteria. Because the -- if when I read that  
9 it, just completely knocks out lower priority criteria  
10 where we might want to be a little more nuanced.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Good point. I'll make a note of  
12 that. Okay. Down to -- thank you, Commissioner  
13 Kennedy -- 2B, VRA Compliance, fulfill all section II  
14 requirements. You may recall in earlier draft we had  
15 some thought of perhaps putting language there concerning  
16 section five. We decided to take that out to retain  
17 maximum flexibility.

18 Non-retrogression can be viewed in a lot of  
19 different ways and could actually force us to effectively  
20 pack the District which would not be a good idea. So we  
21 want to retain more flexibility there and -- so  
22 mentioning only section II.

23 Section III, Contiguity, observe absolutely with  
24 appropriate consideration for islands and permanent water  
25 crossings. We kept thinking of different ways to cross

1 water. Not just bridges, but tunnels, ferries, so -- and  
2 never use point continuity. We went back and forth on  
3 whether to add some language there about how that's a  
4 violation of traditional redistricting principles. I  
5 don't know. In this draft it ended up coming out, but  
6 that's where that came from.

7 Letter D, Cities/Counties, a city and county, which  
8 is only one San Francisco. Local neighborhoods and local  
9 communities of interest. And as was mentioned before,  
10 earlier in this meeting, the following two government  
11 units and communities of interest are not ranked the two  
12 of them. Which is rather brilliant because if a  
13 community of interest crosses the county line, we're free  
14 to cross that county line. We don't have to rank one or  
15 over the other.

16 So Governmental Units, 1A, of course, to respect the  
17 integrity of any city, county -- city and county local,  
18 neighborhood and community of interest. And reminding  
19 ourselves a local neighborhood is not just officially  
20 designated neighborhoods. The language is simply local  
21 neighborhood.

22 B, Non-statutory Governmental Units, not mentioned  
23 in our statutory requirements, but we should consider  
24 especially since census designated places. And we talked  
25 about this earlier when we previously discussed this

1 draft -- a draft of this.

2 Letter C, Current State Election Districts will be  
3 considered per the separate consideration of current  
4 district boundaries. That'll be attachment 1, which  
5 we'll talk about in just a bit. That's the whole  
6 question of whether we'll look at the 2011 maps or not.  
7 And we will. Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah. Thanks, Fredy.

8 Okay. Continuing to the second page, Communities of  
9 Interest now. First was Governmental Units. Now  
10 Communities of Interest. And of course, we're required  
11 to keep those together. And letter A there, it's just  
12 the statutory language. Letter B, excluding any  
13 consideration of relationships of political parties,  
14 incumbents or political candidates.

15 Section C, where COI submissions conflict? How do  
16 we weigh them? Some different ways we might -- whether  
17 this one better fulfills other statutory criteria. 2,  
18 are more relevant to the District being considered so  
19 like a COI concerning military bases might be more  
20 relevant to a congressional district than an assembly  
21 one.

22 C, seems to represent a larger segment of the  
23 community. D, more closely fits the statutory  
24 definition. We've actually had some testimony about  
25 groupings that may or may not actually fit that

1 definition. 5, are given by somebody located in that  
2 COI, although of course there's no way of absolutely  
3 knowing that. But sometimes people explicitly say, Oh,  
4 and I'd also like to comment on some other place.

5 Commissioner Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Was there any conversation if  
7 the person giving the COI is representing an organization  
8 versus representing government entity versus just being  
9 an individual? I mean, to me, they're all equal. But I  
10 know for others they'll have weight.

11 And I know in one case, one of my friends is a city  
12 councilmember, called in but didn't say she was a city  
13 councilmember because she thought she wasn't sure if that  
14 was going to help or not help. So we've never been clear  
15 about that. And I -- maybe that goes in Lessons Learned  
16 to help people know how to identify.

17 But I do know that some people think that if a  
18 nonprofit calls and says, I'm from such and such  
19 nonprofit, it's going to weigh more. And so I just  
20 wanted to put that -- I mean, to me, this playbook -- I'd  
21 like to have discussions a little bit on some of these  
22 things.

23 Again, it's a guideline, but just so that we can  
24 hear what we're each thinking, because that was part of  
25 the idea of discussing the playbook, was to learn from

1 each other where we are in our thinking and not to say,  
2 okay, and go on to the next. And I know Legal wanted it  
3 this way, but I'm going to push us back to say this is  
4 about policy. And I would like to hear a little bit from  
5 my colleagues on what we're thinking.

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: Great point, Commissioner Sinay.  
7 Yeah. In fact, we've had some official government  
8 resolutions from cities and counties submitted to us as  
9 well. That might be related to number 3 there. It may  
10 seem to represent a larger segment of the community, but  
11 that's kind of a weak way of getting to it. Yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: But does it? Just because it's  
13 a few people who all agreed --

14 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Because I mean, I just want to  
16 make sure that. What does that -- okay. So let me put  
17 it a different way. What do we mean by number 3 and how  
18 are each of us interpreting it? Because we're I feel  
19 like we may get into trouble is that these are written so  
20 big in general, we may each be interpreting it  
21 differently. And so I -- and I know that's what Legal  
22 wants. Right? But I'm going to still push. Sorry,  
23 guys. And just for us to have some cohesion about it,  
24 because I may be like, oh, it's a government and write it  
25 off and someone else might be like, it's a Government, we

1 let's move forward. And that's why there's 14 of us,  
2 because we all have different opinions and we don't have  
3 to be all one.

4 COMMISSIONER YEE: Commissioner Turner?

5 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. So good. Good. Thank  
6 you. Thank you for that question, and the comment, and  
7 the pushing in that. I would add -- so for me and we've  
8 just talked about it minimally, but for me, based on  
9 who's making the input, who's speaking, who's talking  
10 about it, I think should be given equal weight, number 1.

11 Now, what are they saying? So we have some  
12 coalitions that are -- they're actually submitting that  
13 this represents 500 people, a thousand people, 200  
14 people, whatever it is. And with that documented -- I  
15 guess with that documentation saying that this is a  
16 larger number, that in my mind that would be a larger  
17 number as opposed to me calling saying I'm from a  
18 coalition and I represent a lot of people.

19 I don't have any data -- anything to attach with it.  
20 And so I think it should be in our minds, we shouldn't be  
21 ranking, oh, I'm going to mark this up higher because  
22 it's the government, this down lower because it's  
23 coalition. I think we should take the testimony as it  
24 comes equally. And then based on what it says and what's  
25 attached with it, we can then make some other judgment

1 calls based on the value of the testimony. Go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, I agree with you.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Um-hum. You want it in policy  
4 form.

5 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, no, I don't want it in  
6 policy form. But I do want us to think about it because  
7 some of us may have not even realize we have those  
8 biases. And I'm really -- one of the things I really  
9 believe in is let's put our biases on the table, and that  
10 way we can help each other when we are being biased.

11 And so yeah, and that's one of my big questions.  
12 We've never walk through our biases as a Commission. And  
13 it's difficult because we couldn't do it in private.  
14 Yeah, we couldn't do it in closed session stuff. But I  
15 would hope that all my colleagues would really work hard  
16 to thinking through what your biases are.

17 And if you're being called on your bias and to say,  
18 hey, every time you bring something up, it tends to be  
19 focus on X. You don't take it as a criticism, but you  
20 understand that we're all -- we're trying to make sure  
21 that we're all being open and equal or -- there was  
22 another piece to it, and I'm sure it'll come back later.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. I think Commissioner  
24 Turner and I can discuss this more. Actually, I think I  
25 probably feel differently on this one than you,



1 Commissioner Turner, which is I'll get in this case. And  
2 maybe we can come up with an additional point to add to  
3 address this. Okay. We are down to Letter D. I'm  
4 sorry. Who?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sadhwani.

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: Commissioner Sadhwani? I'm  
7 sorry.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, actually.  
9 Commissioner Yee, I would love to hear your thoughts on  
10 that if you're willing to expand.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Sure.

12 CHAIR SADHWANI: And I also just wanted to add, I  
13 recall I was on a panel at one point with Commissioner Di  
14 from 2010, and this question had come up and she had  
15 talked about, I'm not going to try to paraphrase exactly  
16 what she said, but she had talked in general about the  
17 2010 Commission's attempt to really focus on evidence.

18 Right. The evidence that you could find from  
19 community of interest testimony. And I think that that  
20 sounds like a really great plan. I don't know how one  
21 does that in practice, though. Right? For example, when  
22 we get COI input, sometimes it's conflicting. Right?  
23 Include the city. Don't include the city.

24 We have so much to do with each other. We have  
25 nothing to do with this. So I don't know where to find

1 that evidence necessarily on those kind of more  
2 qualitative components, which is the purpose of the COI  
3 input. So I would be really curious to hear your  
4 thoughts and certainly for the subcommittee to bring back  
5 additional thoughts. But I think it is worth this  
6 conversation.

7       COMMISSIONER YEE: So my thoughts are related to  
8 that number 3. It seems to represent a larger segment of  
9 the community, but specifically in the case of a  
10 government official, for instance, I would give some  
11 weight to the thought, well, you did get yourself  
12 elected. So there must be some larger segment of the  
13 community that supported you.

14       Of course, there's also people who didn't vote for  
15 you, or really don't like you and want to vote you out.  
16 Well, that's true, too, but you got yourself elected. So  
17 that represents something in my mind that I would give  
18 some weight. And with organizations as well.

19       If it's a larger organization. Well, that  
20 represents a larger segment of the community, right? If  
21 it's a well-known national organization that has been  
22 able to grow itself to a certain point, and that  
23 represents something. And that's not to say just a lone  
24 individual giving some input might not make a very cogent  
25 point that has been long neglected and really compels us

1 to look at it differently.

2 But I would want to consider it. I wouldn't just  
3 say, well, no, you're just one person, even if you're The  
4 County Supervisor. We are speaking to an official  
5 resolution of the county. I mean, that would carry some  
6 weight to me, that represents something. So I don't know  
7 why I didn't think of it.

8 Commissioner Fernandez?

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I should be used to this by  
10 now. Okay. Thank you for that. I think for me, like my  
11 thinking, I completely understand what you're saying.  
12 Like this group came forward and they gave this input,  
13 and so we should take it. But what if we didn't? We had  
14 a group that had conflicting information.

15 I think that's why I have a problem putting  
16 different types of weight on COI. I would just like to  
17 take each one is one. And I realize that some say I'm  
18 representing 100 people and thank you so much for  
19 gathering the people, but there's so many more we're not  
20 hearing from.

21 So I think that's my concern is we're missing so  
22 much of this puzzle. There's more pieces missing than  
23 what we have. So to give more weight to a certain group  
24 or a certain community of interest is bothersome to me.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Anyone else? Commissioner

1 Sinay -- oh, Commissioner Andersen?

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you. Yeah. I  
3 always see this as -- it's you have to look at each one  
4 and where they are because this is our fourth criterion.  
5 And you still have numbers. You still have the VRA. And  
6 then you look at this and we're going to come back  
7 because like in our visualizations, we're looking at this  
8 section and then that section and how they overlap.

9 And I think we're using it as a guideline. We'll  
10 actually come down to some, okay, it really is this way  
11 or that way. But I think in many circumstances where the  
12 conflicting COIs are will dictate the information. I  
13 kind of like what Commissioner Turner said about we  
14 really need to look at the at the evidence.

15 What are they saying? Is it economic interests?  
16 Okay. Look at some businesses around, you know, can you  
17 verify that? You know, what are they saying? And I  
18 appreciate trying to put how we rank them. But I don't  
19 know how necessary they're really going to be looking at  
20 it in a tight, strict manner, because each circumstance  
21 will be a little different.

22 And remember when we do that criteria 4, then we  
23 kind of keep on looking and then, oh, but it might get  
24 shifted again, so we'll probably come back again. These  
25 will not be hard decisions. And I think we need to --

1 like Commissioner Sinay said, we need to discuss why we  
2 think we should have those, consider it, and eventually  
3 will we have to say yes or no.

4 But what kind of -- I don't know if we have to say  
5 yes. This is what all these people said and that of the  
6 person, just it's straight numbers. It's like, what did  
7 they all say? It's like they all say something, but it  
8 really isn't valid or are they all asking for the same  
9 thing and it can't happen. Well, sorry, it can't happen.  
10 I don't care how many people asked.

11 So I appreciate putting all these down, but I don't  
12 really think we should stick a hard rule and fast rule  
13 about this comes first, and that one, then that one, and  
14 that one. I think it'll shift around a bit.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. And these sub-criteria  
16 are not ranked, so.

17 Commissioner Akutagawa and then Commissioner Sinay.

18 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I got too many  
19 buttons here. I'm trying to figure out. How do I lower  
20 my hand? Which one do I unmute? Okay. Sorry about  
21 that. I guess, I would -- I have a couple of reactions.  
22 Part of it is I'm just trying to remember -- I was trying  
23 to remember everything. Okay. One, I'm having a little  
24 bit of maybe, I don't know, kind of a reaction I guess  
25 I'll just see some of what I'm reading.

1 I am a little concerned about weighing this COI  
2 input because I -- and I know that this could take a lot  
3 of time, but I am in favor of us looking. And I think  
4 this is kind of like what Commissioner Andersen was  
5 talking about is looking at each area individually, each  
6 COI individually or each region individually, only  
7 because I think there is going to be a lot of different  
8 factors.

9 I am a little concerned about, for example, D, I  
10 think this is 2D where says when an individual COI input  
11 submission is unclear, inconsistent with itself generally  
12 give greater weight to the part that seems more clear,  
13 specific and central.

14 And I guess for clarification, I just want to ask on  
15 this, are you talking about the part of the COI input  
16 that is more-clear or is it to give greater weight to  
17 separate COI input that is more clear? Because I just  
18 want to say that not everybody is going to be very well  
19 spoken, but that doesn't mean that their COI input is any  
20 less valid. And so I just want to just caution against  
21 that.

22 And I think it may be misunderstood, or at least  
23 that's the way I'm reading it. So I just want to caution  
24 that part. I also have a -- I think this is where I was  
25 kind of like having this argument in my brain right now

1 is about nonprofit organizations. I work at a nonprofit  
2 organization. So I run a national organization. But I  
3 also understand that when you are a national  
4 organization, you don't really know the local -- the  
5 hyper local places.

6 And so that is my caution also about some of the  
7 organizations, is that where is the input coming from  
8 or -- and I like -- and I appreciate some of the larger  
9 statewide based organizations that are saying we got X  
10 number of people. So it helps to get some context. And  
11 it may not be large numbers, but we know that it's coming  
12 from real people.

13 Yes, there are people that are not being heard. And  
14 I think that's part of the challenge. Right? So this is  
15 where we have to try to fill in. But I just want us to  
16 be cognizant of -- okay.

17 Even weighing like nonprofit input, not all is equal  
18 and who knows where -- and I feel like the local  
19 nonprofits actually know more than, say the statewide  
20 nonprofits, even though they may have their local  
21 connections. But I think that's where we have to find  
22 out how much of it -- anyways. So that's, right now, my  
23 initial reactions to what I'm hearing so far.

24 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner  
25 Akutagawa. But good thoughts. Just address the first

1 one. Yes, absolutely unclear with itself, not with --  
2 compared to others. I can add an individual COI. So  
3 maybe I should add some more language there. A greater  
4 weight to the part of that individual COI.

5 Commissioner Sinay?

6 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to check if  
7 Commissioner Ahmed wanted to share because I think what  
8 you had said I would -- I don't agree. And then we  
9 pushed you to share. And I want to thank you for  
10 sharing, because that is exactly the conversations that I  
11 think we need to be having, is knowing kind of where  
12 we're all coming from.

13 And yeah, the more we know each other, the more we  
14 can actually use each other's strengths. And I know, I'm  
15 a firm believer that we all got selected because we have  
16 different perspectives and we should have different  
17 perspectives. And I've learned so much from all of you,  
18 and I wouldn't want us to get into the line drawing now  
19 and be like, okay, let me look this up, but just kind of  
20 know what our biases are.

21 And we got to make this fun to a certain extent.  
22 And so to me, being able to say -- there you go Linda  
23 you're looking at the Asians -- thank you for doing  
24 that -- or whatever it might be, is a way to have fun and  
25 being able to support each other. Sorry, I had to call





1 it. I didn't have to call you out. But I use you as an  
2 example, so I want to say thank you for that.

3 And I really, truly hope that those who are -- that  
4 Commissioner Vazquez, and Commissioner Toledo, and  
5 Commissioner -- I keep wanting saying Commissioner Ray,  
6 sorry. But I want -- Commissioner Kennedy, I want  
7 everybody to kind of -- because we've been thinking about  
8 this, we've been listening to all these COIs and in our  
9 own minds, we have started judging them in different  
10 ways. And so I think that piece is important.

11 I also want to know how and when do we talk about  
12 the thinly veiled comments that we've gotten, the thinly  
13 veiled political or racial or what it might be, thinly  
14 veiled. The article in today's Common Cause was exactly  
15 about that. And just for the public, we're all really  
16 savvy.

17 We are kind of chosen because we know our  
18 communities and such, but how do we talk in a group so  
19 it's open. How do we do -- do we do that in closed  
20 session? Do we do that in public session? That to me is  
21 a really critical question because a lot of us might not  
22 want to say something because we don't know legally where  
23 it's going to take us. But we want to make sure all our  
24 colleagues know why we're going -- why we're thinking one  
25 thing or another.

1 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: To just jump in as well in  
3 that -- and Commissioner Yee, when you said that you  
4 didn't agree when you spoke, I didn't see the  
5 disagreement.

6 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think I'm like, okay, yeah,  
8 that's good. But anyway, in that -- but I also wanted to  
9 follow up and say I really do appreciate having this  
10 conversation to hear where everyone is shaking out as  
11 because, again, when you have a nonprofit background and  
12 I have come from a few different places, but most  
13 recently nonprofit.

14 And one of the things I want to make sure that we --  
15 I guess what I'll voice is that I also want to make sure  
16 that we're not penalizing people that did speak for those  
17 that did not speak. The whole purpose for our robust  
18 outreach and trying to ensure that we reached as many  
19 folk as we possibly could under the circumstance was that  
20 so that people could participate.

21 And certainly we are aware based on our -- the  
22 feedback or what we're receiving, that we didn't reach as  
23 many people as we'd like to. But for those that did take  
24 the time to respond, I want to make sure that we don't by  
25 some means mute their voices or determined that they

1 didn't count.

2 For those that took the time to gather folk where we  
3 could not, I don't want to again mute their voices and  
4 say that you didn't matter and you're counting one for  
5 one. And you did go through hours and days and a lot of  
6 effort to gather the information for us that we could not  
7 gather. So for me, that matters. For me, that's a --  
8 it's something that I do want to make sure that we  
9 consider and we're paying attention to.

10 And yeah, I think evidence -- any time you can find  
11 the evidence, that's great. I know that there are --  
12 through our testimony, through our input that we've  
13 received, I think that it's evidenced and that there are  
14 some groups that has done more gathering than others.  
15 And when it's time to look at it, I think that that  
16 information is there and we should consider it and not  
17 discounted for what did not occur.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: That is a great segway to letter  
19 E. The question of how to count quantity of input. So  
20 if you get a lot of input on one side of one area and  
21 little on another, how do you weigh that? So just as  
22 Commissioner Turner just said, it counts for something.  
23 Our thought is it counts for something that should be  
24 duly considered. But we are not just counting votes.

25 These are not just votes. We're not just counting



1 up how many of one side versus how many of another. We  
2 still have to weigh the quality of the of the COI being  
3 described and weigh that against everything else we have  
4 to consider. So quantity should be duly considered, but  
5 is not decisive is the language we landed on.

6 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yeah, I just wanted to acknowledge  
7 I think Commissioner Vazquez was in the line to say  
8 something, and I know she hasn't had a chance yet so I  
9 just want to --

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Oh, very good. Commissioner  
11 Vazquez? I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Thank you. It's not  
13 unrelated to number -- letter E in that I wanted to just  
14 echo and expand on Commissioner Turner's points about  
15 sort of my bias, my lens, is also in community work and  
16 community organizing. And I think I do give weight to  
17 sort of folks who are presenting things in an aggregate.

18 It is certainly sort of, if you think about it from  
19 the science perspective, it's certainly a biased sample.  
20 Right? But it's still a sample and it's a sample size  
21 larger than one. And so for me, that is giving me a  
22 particular perspective that I think is necessarily more  
23 broad, even if it's specific to a particular subset of a  
24 district population.

25 And I think it's really, really important to

1 acknowledge that. And I also want to acknowledge  
2 Commissioner Fernandez's point that there is a lot that  
3 we are not seeing, even if we have sort of many community  
4 groups submitting sort of aggregate testimony that  
5 they're -- we do still have to sort of hold in mind this  
6 idea that we're not getting a perfect dataset.

7 And so I think this is also where I sort of see I  
8 think I've said this before, that I very much view this  
9 process as much more of an art than I think many of us  
10 got into this work hoping for. I think we were hoping  
11 for -- especially the way it was framed. Right? The  
12 relevant analytical skills, I think was one of the  
13 requirements. I think we all absolutely have the  
14 relevant analytical skills, but can we as a group do the  
15 world's most complicated art project?

16 I think that's the -- that's the task before us.  
17 This is not a science project. This is an art project.  
18 And so I think that's where many of us I think we're all  
19 A-plus students and maybe skip some of the fine arts,  
20 we're getting a little uncomfortable here.

21 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Vazquez.

22 Commissioner Akutagawa?

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. So just for the  
24 record and for clarification, I do want to make it known  
25 that I am not bashing what the nonprofit said. I come

1 from that sector. I know our value. But I think in this  
2 particular case, I do want to state that there's a lot of  
3 work that is being done at local levels that I think are  
4 really good work. And yes, it will be aggregate, but I  
5 think they also know their communities.

6 And I think that gets to my other point about,  
7 Commissioner Sadhwani, wanting what you said there. The  
8 former Commissioner Di had said about evidence based.  
9 And I think when I hear evidence base, I think there is  
10 an importance to evidence base.

11 However, I think we should not believe that all  
12 evidence has to be quantitative, that qualitative  
13 evidence is also really important. And I think that's  
14 part of what we're getting here too. So it's just more  
15 of a reminder that there's some things that we're not  
16 going to be able to learn from the quantitative kind of  
17 evidence, right, about communities? And that's why we  
18 look for communities of interest, testimony and input.

19 And that that's what I've always said, gives us the  
20 nuance. And hopefully as people are listening, there  
21 will be continued input from more members of communities  
22 as well as nonprofit organizations and other  
23 representatives. I do also want to just note that in  
24 terms of interesting and very coordinated communities of  
25 interest input has come from Long Beach, where you have

1 heard from almost every various segment of the Long Beach  
2 community, from the business to the nonprofits to  
3 government.

4 I mean, they have done a really interesting and  
5 excellent job in terms of really coordinating their  
6 input. Not judging good or bad. I'm just making a  
7 comment that it's been interesting to hear from multiple  
8 segments of the Long Beach community.

9 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. And Commissioner Yee, if I  
10 may just interject really quickly. We'll try and --  
11 wherever we're at in this conversation, I'll try to pause  
12 at about 5:30 so that we can take a final public comment  
13 for today and we can certainly pick up again tomorrow as  
14 need be.

15 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Okay. Should  
16 we push on? Commissioner Fornaciari?

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I just want to say  
18 I really loved Commissioner Vazquez's comment. The  
19 world's most difficult art project, is that -- something  
20 like that. And I'm just -- kind of share my thoughts on  
21 this. Yeah, I don't know how this is all going to go,  
22 you know? So I'm just trying to -- trying to kind of  
23 think how it's all going to fit together.

24 What I just -- the way I think is I am trying to  
25 integrate the input into themes, if you will, and kind of

1 see what themes are coming out. And you probably see  
2 that in the requests that I made for visualizations that  
3 was based on themes more than specific COI input. But I  
4 think, I mean, for me, it's important to kind of be open  
5 and see how the whole process is going to play out.

6 Because I think, you know, a lot of -- I feel that a  
7 lot of this may be driven by the -- by criteria number 2,  
8 and that there may be places where we are just not able  
9 to accommodate the COI input that we're getting based on  
10 prior criteria. But I don't know that for sure. I'm  
11 just trying to see how it goes, I guess.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner  
13 Fornaciari. Okay. Should we go back to the outline  
14 then? Let's see we're the letter F, I believe. So  
15 letter F is a special case of letter E. So multiple COI  
16 input not only about the same area and taking the same  
17 position, but actually seeing the same very same words,  
18 very same points.

19 And how do we do that? Well, the focus on the  
20 merits of the COI itself and just weight it, do note of  
21 the quantity, which means something. But not let the  
22 quantity be decisive. Letter G, be open in ways that  
23 heterogeneous region -- a heterogeneous region may  
24 nevertheless share common social and economic interests.

25 We're not just we've had some COI input concerning





1 that and not wanting to split communities that how they  
2 at first glance might seem to be split, wanting  
3 communities to share more than they currently share. So  
4 to be open to that where it may apply. Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Quick question on that. Do  
6 you have an example. I mean, I don't know what you're  
7 talking about there. Can you have a little bit more  
8 description?

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: So I don't know if I should cite  
10 a specific example.

11 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: (Indiscernible) town.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: We had just example from the  
13 Coachella Valley. There's kind of a way of splitting it  
14 kind of at first sight how it would seem to split  
15 economically, maybe even racially.

16 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Oh.

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: But maybe actually, if you look  
18 at who knows --

19 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: -- environmental concerns, maybe  
21 those cut right across race and class concerns and  
22 actually might predominate in our consideration of  
23 something like that, so.

24 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Got it. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER YEE: Letter H, I give appropriate care

1 and consideration to the possibilities of covert  
2 motivations. That speaks to the question of possible  
3 office holders or candidates going incognito. Of course,  
4 on the other hand, we're not allowed to consider office  
5 holders, candidates or political parties. So maybe they  
6 should stay incognito. I don't know.

7 Commissioner Sinay?

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, I think on that one,  
9 we've all said everyone gets a voice. And so I'd rather  
10 they be overt versus covert. But either way, they do get  
11 a voice. There are some, though, that it is a whole --  
12 there's a movement behind it all that we also -- so  
13 there's different ways.

14 I don't want people -- I don't think that just  
15 because someone's a politician, they can't call in. We  
16 said -- we talked about this at the very beginning when  
17 we were talking. Will we present will we do a  
18 presentation to a politician or not? And if there -- and  
19 we had a long conversation about it and at the end we  
20 said, hey, you know, this is about all Californians.

21 So I just want to put it out there that we're not  
22 saying no. We're saying, please, we would rather know  
23 who you are. And it's only one voice. You're not get  
24 extra because or whatever it is. I mean, we had one  
25 politician who said, I'm running and she called in five

1 times and told us all about San Francisco. So --

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER Sinay: -- I'm just saying -- let's not  
4 make it seem like it's a bad guy.

5 COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. Sure. And just because  
6 you don't identify yourself doesn't mean you have covert  
7 motivations.

8 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No.

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: Negative covert motivations. All  
10 right.

11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I just wanted to add in  
12 to on this particular one where it says give appropriate  
13 care and consideration to the possibilities of covert  
14 motivations and sources of COI input.

15 Commissioner Sinay, earlier you mentioned about when  
16 will we discuss or talk about sometimes there's been  
17 thinly veiled racial comments or what have you. Some of  
18 that could also possibly be covert motivations that we'll  
19 be looking at.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Commissioner Sadhwani?

21 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yeah. I just wanted to note how  
22 timely this conversation is, given the CalMatters piece  
23 that came out this morning, and actually also to kind of  
24 give some credit to CalMatters and to other members of  
25 the public for following along. I actually think it was

1 fantastic that they were able to identify people who were  
2 candidates or partners of current elected officials.

3 I completely agree with Commissioner Sinay. I think  
4 from the get-go we have said and as I said to the  
5 reporter, there's a space for everybody here to submit  
6 their comments and their concerns about communities of  
7 interest and as we move forward and with their district  
8 plans as well.

9 But I think this is what the whole process is for.  
10 It is open and it is transparent so that CalMatters or  
11 anybody can follow along and help us identify the  
12 individuals who are calling in and make sure that we do  
13 have our eyes wide open. So that's kind of my  
14 perspective on it is like we can't stop anyone from doing  
15 that, nor do we want to, right?

16 We said that this is an open process and all  
17 Californians can participate. But I think that that is  
18 the role of the media as well as casual observers to help  
19 us identify those blind spots that we might have.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Full disclosure, one of my  
21 daughters works for CalMatters, although she did not have  
22 any role in this morning's redistricting story. We're  
23 very proud of her.

24 CHAIR SADHWANI: As you should be. As you should  
25 be.

1 COMMISSIONER YEE: Let's see, Commissioner Vasquez?

2 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I just also wanted to  
3 note that I maybe have an overly optimistic view of sort  
4 of the idea of elected officials calling in to give  
5 testimony in the sense that, especially because I worked  
6 for so long with a school board members two former school  
7 board members are on our Commission.

8 I think elected officials, particularly those who  
9 aren't currently in a state elected office or  
10 Congressional elected office, are civic leaders in their  
11 communities. And so in many ways have gotten elected  
12 because they are very in touch with sort of their local  
13 communities and what they need.

14 And so for me, I -- I'm not sure if I give more  
15 weight, but I think I'd be looking and hoping for a bit  
16 more of the flavor in that testimony of the community.  
17 Again, knowing this is an art, right, knowing that they  
18 may or may not have an agenda to pursue office in that  
19 community, a higher office, the State office or a  
20 Congressional office.

21 But I think for me, I see those civic leaders maybe  
22 not exactly the same, but thinking about sort of like a  
23 faith leader or you know, just some someone who is --  
24 someone who's in the know about their community, right?  
25 And so they have a particular perspective.

1           And so for me, I find that helpful. And so I'm  
2 hopeful to at least hear of a particular type of  
3 testimony from an elected official that can help either  
4 validate or offer up a different perspective than what  
5 we're hearing from elsewhere in the community.

6           COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Vazquez.

7           So the last item there letter I. If testimony alone  
8 is not -- is insufficient to fully define a COI, it may  
9 be helpful to seek other information. We just talked  
10 about that earlier. This is interesting because actually  
11 the 2010 Commission in its reports mentioned a couple of  
12 times regret that there was not more time and energy to  
13 do outside research on communities and the feeling that  
14 it would have filled in a lot of holes in that, quite as  
15 somebody didn't -- that COI testimony left and quite a  
16 strong regret that they weren't able to do that.

17           On the other hand, we've been advised that actually  
18 a lot of that info, for instance, the American Community  
19 Survey is a sample. It's over time. It gets old very  
20 quickly. And if you rely on that to try to fill in  
21 holes, you may be deceiving yourself. That sample may  
22 not even have involved at all this particular city that  
23 you're looking at.

24           So it's kind of a mixed note there. Certainly be  
25 open to further investigation, especially in-person

1 visits to see that eroded beach sand in Long Beach. But  
2 maybe not to count on it too much.

3 Commissioner Sinay?

4 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I completely disagree with  
5 that. I think that local communities spend a lot of time  
6 writing very good reports and very good information about  
7 the needs of their communities, about who's in their  
8 community. I'm sorry if it's not at an academic level or  
9 it's not using census -- well, it does use census data.

10 A lot of times I'm not talking about access data.  
11 I'm talking about like the United Way's report that they  
12 put out for the whole State of California on living wage.  
13 I know that's not something that maybe the Statewide  
14 Database uses or VRA lawyers use and stuff, but that is  
15 very legitimate data. I will tell you, I just did a road  
16 trip. Hashtag Redistricting Road Trip. No, just  
17 kidding.

18 The number 1 thing I saw everywhere was homeless  
19 populations. It did not matter. I saw a homeless  
20 encampment in Walnut Creek. I saw a homeless encampment  
21 in Tulare, I saw one -- every stop I did I could quickly  
22 see one. That's not going to come out in the ACS.  
23 That's not going to -- food deserts, those type of things  
24 aren't going to come up in the ACS.

25 But you can quickly get a report from that community

1 and understand some of that. That will help us  
2 understand what the COI meant. People may be using  
3 terminologies we don't understand or might have been  
4 telling us a story we don't get, but we can quickly read  
5 something about it.

6 So I'm going to push back on this whole idea that  
7 it's not legitimate. It's not this. It's very  
8 legitimate to those communities. And they've worked very  
9 hard. And I've been one of those who's written on some  
10 of these reports, especially around refugees. So many  
11 LGBT -- I've written for -- no, I'm sorry.

12 COMMISSIONER YEE: Commissioner Turner?

13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And just wanting to add the  
14 way "I" currently reads it says, If testimony alone is  
15 insufficient to fulfill to fully define a given COI, it  
16 may be helpful to seek demographic, economic, historic  
17 land use reports written by Commissioners Sinay and other  
18 data.

19 And then it says though -- note though, that such  
20 data -- sometimes some of that data is unhelpful. So  
21 that still stands true. Some of it is outdated.  
22 However, the it's here because we it's saying that  
23 sometimes it is insufficient to fully define and it could  
24 be helpful. So start with the high note. It could be  
25 helpful.



1           COMMISSIONER SINAY: I hear that. But I just want  
2 to make sure -- I'm just putting my bias out there that I  
3 will be pushing back on our -- those folks that we've  
4 hired to tell us, hey, let's stick to this, because I  
5 know from working in the community that a lot of that  
6 data is very helpful, even if it's not academic, even if  
7 it's not, whatever it may be, it is very helpful.

8           COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

9           CHAIR SADHWANI: You're not allowed in my classroom.

10          COMMISSIONER YEE: Well said. Perhaps Commissioner  
11 Turner and I will consider whether or not maybe we might  
12 take out that the parentheses there. I don't know.  
13 Yeah. Okay. Just a few minutes left in this segment,  
14 but then not much more to cover, actually. Compactness.  
15 Oh, I'm sorry.

16          Commissioner Vazquez? Yeah.

17          COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Sorry. I forgot to lower my  
18 hand.

19          COMMISSIONER YEE: Oh, okay. We all do that.  
20 Compactness and nesting. Those are just straight from  
21 the statutory criteria, so we don't really need to  
22 discuss those. Exclusions, likewise, that's statutory.  
23 Coming down here. Yeah. Exclusions are statutory.  
24 Mapping sequences, not statutory.

25          So and we've discussed this. So this is the same

1 order that we've discussed previously, starting with  
2 varied districts moving to the Assembly plans, since  
3 that's the most detailed since districts are the  
4 smallest, most intricate, most difficult to draw, go from  
5 there to the Senate having the Assembly plan fresh in our  
6 minds, BOE which should go fairly quickly and then the  
7 Congressional plan.

8       So that's the thought. Just in theory, since we've  
9 never done this before, it seems to make sense. But who  
10 knows? It could change depending on how things go. But  
11 that's the initial intention. And then the \$64,000  
12 question where to start. And this is a language from our  
13 VRA Counsel.

14       Start with the more complex and less flexible  
15 geographic areas such as those in L.A. County. I saw a  
16 little wiggle room there, but naming L.A. County. And  
17 we'll move towards the areas where there are less complex  
18 and most less complex and most flexible. So discarding  
19 that whole North to South thinking that was previously  
20 mentioned.

21       Commissioner Andersen then Commissioner Akutagawa.

22       COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. I actually want  
23 to quickly just go back on compactness and the nesting.

24       COMMISSIONER YEE: Um-hum.

25       COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And compactness, I really

1 want and this is for the public more so. Remember, this  
2 is all the way down at number 5. You don't look at --  
3 that does not -- so many people say that is not compact.  
4 You don't lead with compact. Okay. You lead with  
5 population, VRA, cities, counties, communities of  
6 interest. And once you figure those out, then you go,  
7 okay, now I need a few more people. Then where you grab  
8 them from is the compact area. Okay. It's not that --  
9 it isn't like you do a compact first because you'd  
10 violate all the other criterion above it. So I just  
11 really want to say that it's really important because we  
12 get a lot of people say -- and remember and I want this  
13 compact district going, that's nice. But let's look at  
14 everything else that is legally required to be considered  
15 before that.

16 And then nesting, I was looking at, well, it's  
17 pretty good. You look at your two assembly districts.  
18 Okay. Great. We got those worked out, the VRA and  
19 everything. You put them together. I did not realize  
20 that, no, the VRA for the Senate, you have to look at the  
21 Senate races. It can be very different, very different.

22 The VRA might not work if you put those two assembly  
23 districts together. It doesn't work of the Senate level.  
24 And I did not realize that. And I want the public to --  
25 I didn't realize it. And I'm kind of working with the

1 line drawing. There are a lot of other people who also  
2 are not that aware of it, and it's a very, very important  
3 thing to do. Oh, you think, oh, nesting. That's easy.  
4 Just go those two, those two, those two, those tend to  
5 move right on.

6 You have to reevaluate that for all the different  
7 criteria. And so that is why because I was wondering why  
8 do we have these assembly districts? And then the Senate  
9 is kind of this obscure little piece over here. That is  
10 why. So I just want to kind of really bring that up.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Anderson.  
12 How about Commissioner Akutagawa? Then I think we  
13 need to go to break.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I just really more  
15 of a clarification question. Is there a reason why -- I  
16 don't know, maybe I missed something here, but is there a  
17 reason why Congressional plan is before Board of  
18 Equalization? I would think that that would -- the Board  
19 would be easier because they're so big and there's only  
20 literally like, what, four of them or something like  
21 that.

22 COMMISSIONER YEE: So the thinking was that we would  
23 have the Senate plan fresh in our minds and it would help  
24 us just that tiny bit in the nesting criterion rather  
25 than just leaving it off, leaving it off and circling

1 back and having to remind ourselves. But yeah. We're  
2 told it probably will take a day, maybe two, the BOE  
3 plan.

4 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you so much,  
5 Commissioner Yee, for leading us through this and the  
6 process to develop this. I think this is really helpful.  
7 For me, it raises a whole bunch of questions actually, as  
8 well. But we can make sure that we have some time  
9 tomorrow to get back to this document. It probably won't  
10 be until tomorrow afternoon.

11 I'll just let you know that we do have Karin  
12 MacDonald coming tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. She's going  
13 to be talking a little bit about what to expect next week  
14 as we enter into the visualizations and line-drawing  
15 phase. So some of these questions may be relevant and I  
16 think all of it's going to come hopefully coming  
17 together.

18 I mean, even as even as we read this and I'm  
19 thinking about our visualizations for next week, I'm  
20 thinking, well, should we start with Assembly and look at  
21 those visualizations first if we're going to work in that  
22 order? So I think it's posing a lot of questions for me  
23 as well. But I really appreciate your work on this. And  
24 there's just another document, is that correct, that we  
25 still need to go through?

1           COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. So maybe I can encourage  
2 you overnight to give you a little homework to read  
3 through the attachment number one mapping playbook.  
4 Attachment number one is in your handouts, which was --  
5 the primary author was actually Karin MacDonald. And  
6 it's pretty work. It's a more-wordy document and so I  
7 don't want to read it to you tomorrow. So maybe if you  
8 have a chance to look at it before tomorrow and then we  
9 can highlight different issues.

10          CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. So we all have a little  
11 homework to do tonight. Okay. Excellent. So I see a  
12 couple hands raised. Are those current hands or former  
13 hands? Current? Former?

14          COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I can ask my question  
15 tomorrow if you're going to -- are we going to come back  
16 to the subject tomorrow?

17          CHAIR SADHWANI: We will. But if you have a burning  
18 question.

19          COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Well, it wasn't a burning  
20 question. It's just more of a comment in 3 with the  
21 mapping sequence. And I realize the line drawers, this  
22 is what they want to do is that they describe it as more  
23 complex and less flexible areas, which would be L.A.

24          I guess I have a different way of thinking because I  
25 tend to feel like a stepchild because now I am considered

1 more flexible and least complex where I live out in the  
2 middle of nowhere. And I'm thinking of like L.A. City of  
3 L.A. and the surrounding. And that's where you get into  
4 the grabbing communities, potentially, that have nothing  
5 in common with the big cities, right?

6 So I just -- and I know we're going to be flexible  
7 as a Commission, but I just want to put that out there as  
8 I don't want to look at my community as being more  
9 flexible. How's that? Is that okay?

10 CHAIR SADHWANI: So maybe some different terminology  
11 there. Yeah, fair enough. Fair enough. I think that's  
12 fair. Yes. We're all very complex individuals and  
13 identities and communities. Very good. Okay. So we  
14 will be coming back to this again later tomorrow  
15 afternoon.

16 For tomorrow -- we are we are about to go to public  
17 comment to close for the day. For tomorrow, though,  
18 before we do, I just wanted to point out again, we have  
19 Karin coming at 10 a.m. to talk through what to expect  
20 for next week. We also have the census timeline  
21 conversation to have.

22 Commissioner Andersen has gone ahead and laid out a  
23 document identifying some potential dates for us to  
24 consider. Again, homework. If you haven't had a chance  
25 to look through that calendar, make sure you have a read

1 through it and come prepared for that conversation  
2 tomorrow. And it sounds like the community also will  
3 have plenty to discuss.

4 I'd also just like to discuss a little bit about how  
5 we'll run the meeting next week as well, particularly  
6 some items around public comment and how we want to  
7 handle that to ensure that we can maximize the amount of  
8 time that we have during those days and potentially we  
9 could end a little bit early tomorrow, which would be  
10 lovely.

11 Okay. So with that Kristian and Katy, could we go  
12 in for a public comment?

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The  
14 Commission will now take general public comment by phone.  
15 Four items not on the agenda. And that -- is the  
16 previous agenda item over as well, Chair?

17 COMMISSIONER YEE: No.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I'm so sorry. No, that's  
19 okay. Is it just for items not on the agenda at this  
20 time?

21 CHAIR SADHWANI: It is for general.

22 ATTNY PANE: I think we could do general, because  
23 that's what we skipped earlier today. Is that right,  
24 Chair?

25 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yeah.



1           ATTNY PANE: Yeah.

2           PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. So it's just  
3 general public comment. The Commission will now be  
4 taking general public comment by phone. To give comment,  
5 please call 877-853-5247 and enter the meeting ID number  
6 88264383219 for this meeting.

7           Once you have entered the --once you have dialed in,  
8 please press star 9 to enter the comment queue. The full  
9 call-in instructions have been read previously in this  
10 meeting and are provided in full on the livestream  
11 landing page. And we do not have anyone in the queue at  
12 this time. And I will let you know when the instructions  
13 are complete.

14           CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thanks so much, Katy.  
15 While we wait for those instructions to complete and  
16 potentially for any callers, I wanted to give a big thank  
17 you to Alvaro and to the staff for coordinating this day  
18 to day. This has been just super incredible to have  
19 the -- finally the opportunity to meet so many of you.

20           And I know it, of course, took a lot from Kristian  
21 and the videography team and all of the staff, Ravi who  
22 put together so much of our snacks and our dinner  
23 tonight. So I really wanted to just acknowledge  
24 everybody who helped out in planning for today and for  
25 all of us who took the time out to travel and come here



1 today. I really appreciate that. Hashtag Redistricting  
2 Road Trip.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Those actions are  
4 complete, Chair. And we do not have anyone in the queue.

5 CHAIR SADHWANI: All right. Thank you so much,  
6 Katy. Well, I think I learned a lot from former Chair  
7 Fornaciari about learning -- about how to end a meeting  
8 early. And so I'm very excited that in my first  
9 meeting -- oh, Commissioner Turner?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: I just wanted to say, for the  
11 record, you did learn and excel. You kept the meeting  
12 early and we got full breaks and lunches. Very good.

13 CHAIR SADHWANI: Come on. Commissioner Turner was  
14 giving me some kudos here. Let it be. Let this --

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: One of those breaks were  
16 twenty minutes.

17 CHAIR SADHWANI: That's right.

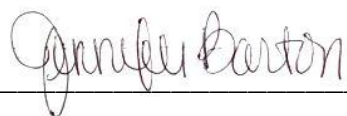
18 COMMISSIONER TURNER: This is a very generous.

19 CHAIR SADHWANI: That's right. Exactly. All right.  
20 So we will close for today and be back tomorrow morning  
21 at 9:30. Thanks so much, everybody.

22 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned  
23 at 6:00 p.m.)  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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.

November 17, 2022

JENNIFER BARTON

