

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

9:30 a.m.

Reported By:

Peter Petty
eScribers, LLC



APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

Linda Akutagawa, Chair
Isra Ahmad, Commissioner
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Alicia Fernández, Commissioner
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
J. Kennedy, Commissioner
Trena Turner, Commissioner
Angela Vázquez, Commissioner
Russell Yee, Commissioner

STAFF

Alvaro E. Hernandez, Deputy Executive Director
Corina Leon, Staff Services Manager
Anthony Pane, Chief Counsel
Peter Petty, Court Reporter
Wanda Sheffield, Office Technician
Tim Treichelt, Senior Counsel

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director/Comment Moderator

Also Present

Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund
Helen Hutchinson, League of Women Voters
Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian Law
Caucus



INDEX

	<u>PAGE</u>
Call to Order and Roll Call	4
Executive Director Report	8
Chief Counsel Report	16
Public Comment	18
Subcommittee Updates	19
Panel Discussion	24
Subcommittee Updates Cont.	98
Public Comment	103
Closed Session	104
Public Comment	105
Closing	105

P R O C E E D I N G S

9:30 a.m.

1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. All right. Thank you,
2 Kristian. Welcome. Good morning, everyone. And we are
3 in our fall November meeting. And today, I'm just going
4 to ask Wanda if you could take role.
5

6 MS. SHEFFIELD: Yes. Good morning, Commissioners
7 and Chair.
8

9 Commissioner Andersen?

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

11 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Fernandez?

12 Commissioner Fornaciari?

13 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

14 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Kennedy?

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

16 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Le Mons?

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

18 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Sadhwani?

19 Commissioner Sinay?

20 Commissioner Taylor?

21 Commissioner Toledo?

22 Commissioner Turner?

23 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

24 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Vazquez?

25 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.



1 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Yee?

2 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

3 MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Ahmad?

4 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

5 MS. SHEFFIELD: And Chair Akutagawa?

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm here. Are you able to hear

7 Commissioner Fernandez?

8 MS. SHEFFIELD: No.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm here.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: You cannot hear her?

11 MS. SHEFFIELD: No. I hear her now.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. All right. Excellent.

15 Okay. So thank you. Thank you, everyone.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll go through the --

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No. They can hear you. And

18 you're unmuted.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sorry for the technical
20 difficulties. The thing is, I can't hear the meeting.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, so don't use your -- don't
22 use your headphones.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And just mute yourself on the
25 Zoom. Okay. All right, everyone. Thank you very much



1 for that. Wanda, thank you for taking the role. Thank
2 you, everyone, for being here. We are coming to the last
3 of the two meetings for 2022. I'm just going to go
4 through our run of show for today. And what we'll be
5 doing is we will be starting with our Director Updates.

6 We'll also then transition to a panel conversation
7 for the Legislative Subcommittee from 10 to 11, we'll
8 then take a break from 11 to 11:15, which is our
9 mandatory break. And then we'll back with the panel from
10 11:15 to 11:45 for Q&A related to the conversation that
11 we'll be having with the panel.

12 And the specific things that we'll be talking about
13 is the Legislative Subcommittee has been considering
14 different items that as a Commission, we've been
15 discussing potential changes to either our government
16 code or other statutory changes.

17 There are three particular items that we wanted to
18 particularly get feedback from community members as to
19 their perspectives, perhaps ideas of other alternatives
20 to help inform our conversation. So that will be
21 happening from 11 to 11:45, which does include the 15-
22 minute break.

23 What we'll then do is if there is any remaining
24 items for the Executive Director and Chief Counsel
25 update, we will conclude with those updates, we'll then



1 take public comment on those items and then we'll then
2 continue with Subcommittee updates, Finance and
3 Administration will have an update, the Website
4 Subcommittee will have an update, and Lessons Learned
5 will have an update.

6 What we'll then do is we'll break for lunch at
7 12:45. I do also want to just warn anybody who is
8 watching us or listening in on the livestream, depending
9 on how quickly we're able to get through the Director
10 Updates and the Subcommittee Updates, there is a
11 possibility that we may break for lunch a little bit
12 earlier than 12:45.

13 So I just wanted to give you that heads up, which
14 then means we'll be back from lunch a little bit earlier.
15 But after lunch we will be going into closed session for
16 both pending litigation and personnel related matters.
17 We expect that we will be closed session from 1:45 to
18 3:15, at which point we'll take a 15-minute break and
19 then we'll come back either to finish up any subcommittee
20 updates that might be pending and/or we can take general
21 public comment before we adjourn the meeting.

22 Any questions? If not, I'm just going to -- before
23 I move on to the Director Updates, I'm just going to ask
24 our Commissioners, any announcements that anyone would
25 like to make while we're at the top of the meeting?



1 Okay. Not seeing any. All right. We will go ahead and
2 we'll move on to our next agenda item. Agenda Item
3 Number 2, Director Updates and Announcements.

4 Executive Director Fernandez, I'm going to hand this
5 over to you.

6 MR. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Good morning,
7 Commissioners. So I have a couple of things to report
8 on. I want to mention that our website -- we met with
9 our subcommittee yesterday and they're going to provide a
10 more detailed update. So I'll leave it to them. But
11 that's moving along. Our database, the database contract
12 with Snowflake is in place and staff has met with them
13 and we'll be working with them to get our database over
14 to them.

15 We're still working with DGS on the user interface
16 contract and should be getting close to having that
17 completed soon. And once that is completed, we'll be
18 reaching out to the vendor and looking at what timeline
19 they there will need to get that piece in place. Again,
20 that user interface ties into the database and it allows
21 for individuals to access our information in a much more
22 user-friendly format. So that's what we're looking for
23 from them.

24 In regards to our budget, we are working with the
25 Finance and Admin Subcommittee to finalize our



1 expenditures and projections to the end of June 2023.
2 We'll have more information at the next meeting. As far
3 as our funding request, we met with staff from the
4 Department of Finance to answer some follow up questions
5 over a week ago. But we have not heard anything since
6 then. We continue to work with them to answer questions,
7 and I will defer to the Finance and Admin Subcommittee
8 for any additional information there.

9 I wanted to also mention that there has been no
10 additional requests or information requested from
11 Department of Finance regarding our BCP. I think it's
12 just that they're in the process of reviewing BCPs from
13 all departments. So the timing of it typically will be
14 they'll start asking questions in January, February in
15 regards to the BCP.

16 TECS hopefully received information. Those of you
17 that had outstanding TECS, those are getting processed or
18 have been processed. I'm going to go ahead and defer
19 over to Corina to provide an update on the TECS as well
20 as the update on her training and what she's been working
21 on.

22 Corina?

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Corina, you're on mute.

24 MS. LEON: Hello. Good morning. Good morning.

25 Thank you, Alvaro. Good morning. Great to be here. I



1 would like -- yeah, I'm going to provide an update on my
2 training and progress. I continue to train with the
3 accounting and budget and on administrative
4 responsibilities, getting comfortable and getting more
5 in-depth training with contracts. Thank you, Raul. And
6 as well as working closely with Vanessa, and Terri, and
7 Alvaro on their areas.

8 So I really appreciate their willingness to answer
9 my endless questions and provide advice and direction
10 when I need it. Recently I've worked with Paul on the
11 Snowflake Project and with the Snowflake Tech to move all
12 the required COI data and files into the Snowflake. So
13 that table and those files are ready now for the UI
14 project. So that's been done.

15 As far as TECS, I think they're all processed that
16 I've received and pushing through the last few. On that
17 topic of TECS, this is the week, this Friday, when DGS
18 will put any TECS submitted after this Friday, they're
19 going to place them on hold until January 1st. So I just
20 wanted to let you know if there's anything else out there
21 for you. It needs to be submitted by this Friday, TECS.

22 So let's see what else. And then as far as the
23 data -- okay, I can mention we've done Snowflake part.
24 And then next we're going to be preparing, working with
25 Martin on moving any website files that need to be going



1 into a Snowflake and then also preparing for the handoff
2 to The State Archives. So that's what I'll be working on
3 next with that.

4 Let's see what else. I think that's just going
5 through a lot of meetings, getting ready for it.
6 Involved-- more involved with the UI and the website and
7 continuing my training with the staff. I want to thank
8 you and the staff for your support and commitment to
9 helping me get prepared. I'm really excited about
10 supporting the Commission. So thank you.

11 Before I turn it over to Alvaro, I think I mentioned
12 the TECS. Oh, I also wanted to mention that I submitted
13 a list of proposed dates for the upcoming Commissioner's
14 meetings to Commissioner Akutagawa and Taylor for their
15 consideration. And I also -- that list was also posted
16 in the handouts for today's meeting.

17 And also you might want to consider arranging your
18 travel for December because flights are not as plentiful.
19 So I would encourage you to do that. So do you have any
20 questions for me? If not, I'll turn it back over to
21 Alvaro. Thank you. Thank you very much.

22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Corina. I appreciate
23 that.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Corina.

25 MS. LEON: Thank you.



1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Working on a lot of different
2 things --

3 MS. LEON: Yes.

4 MR. HERNANDEZ: -- a lot of different meetings and
5 definitely asking a lot of questions. That's all very
6 good. It's a lot to do, unfortunately. With that, that
7 concludes my report. Are there any questions?

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I see Neal -- oh, sorry --
9 Commissioner Fornaciari?

10 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thanks, Chair Akutagawa.
11 Alvaro, hey, I just want to check in. At one point, you
12 said you were -- you have the team and you working on
13 putting together sort of a document for the next
14 commission on how to run the back room -- the back office
15 of the Commission. And I was just curious how that's
16 coming along.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good question. That is a
18 combination of the different activities that staff are
19 performing. So they'll have procedures and information
20 there. That's what I'm kind of pulling together. I'll
21 be providing kind of my perspective, high level. Not so
22 much a recommendation, more of an operating guide.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you.
24 Commissioner Fernandez?

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Can you hear me? Just on



1 the quarterly meetings, I would recommend.

2 THE COURT REPORTER: I can't hear Commissioner
3 Fernandez.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: You're on mute.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Commissioner Fernandez,
6 please unmute.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Can you hear me now?

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Good. Sorry. I'm
10 trying to work this out. I would just recommend from
11 January through June that we scheduled monthly meetings
12 and if we don't need them, we won't have them. But I do
13 foresee a potential of having to meet if there's any
14 legislative proposals going forward. And also
15 potentially with our budget and our BCP, there are some
16 items. And again, if we don't need to meet then we could
17 always cancel that. Thank you.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thanks for that
19 recommendation. It's easier to cancel than to try to
20 schedule at the last minute. All right. I see
21 Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner Andersen after
22 that.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I
24 would endorse that. Once we get the Lessons Learned
25 report on the table with the full commission, there may



1 be further recommended legislative actions coming out of
2 that. So yeah, I'm fully in support of that approach to
3 things. Thanks.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
5 Kennedy.

6 Commissioner Andersen?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Mine was a quick
8 clarification. Was that a recommendation, Commissioner
9 Fernandez, just for '23 or '23 and '24? Because I know
10 you are more familiar with the legislative cycle. And I
11 totally support that idea. We should have it monthly and
12 then cancel. But if it needs to be a two-year span, we
13 should just go ahead and do that for the two years.

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez?

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: For now, I'm just thinking
16 of the first six months to see if we get a bill in and
17 then we can move forward the following year. Because
18 really the legislative process, it's from January through
19 June and you kind of have to get it in by June. So if
20 you don't get it in by June, you're missing that cycle.
21 So then you'd go to the following calendar year and then
22 we can at that point decide whether or not we want to go
23 monthly the following January through June as well.
24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would still recommend the



1 entire year given that we now have to, starting the
2 second half of next year, we will have to actually meet
3 in person. So we need head time to get locations. So
4 that would sort of give our staff time to hunt down those
5 locations if we need them.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.
7 I think if we could, perhaps Commissioner Taylor and I
8 can have a conversation with Corina about the timing and
9 what might be needed. What we could do is we could go
10 ahead and schedule out all the dates so that at least
11 it's on everyone's calendars. But I think we will also
12 need to determine how far in advance we'll have to make a
13 call on the cancellations or before she starts working on
14 trying to secure space. So I also want to be mindful of
15 just how her time is going to be as well, too. So
16 perhaps that's a conversation that we could have with
17 them Corina. But we'll go ahead.

18 Corina, if you could just propose monthly dates then
19 for at least 2023?

20 And Commissioner Anderson, just for clarification,
21 are you also suggesting all of 2024?

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: At this point, I would just
23 say '23 and then we'll see how that goes. And at that
24 point, we'd be at least six months ahead and if we want
25 to go into '24. So at this point, just '23.

1 MS. LEON: Okay.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

3 COMMISSIPMER ANDERSEN: Okay.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. All right. Anything
5 else?

6 Executive Director Hernandez, I do believe you said
7 that you were completed with your report --

8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- and if you are, then we'll go
10 ahead and move -- okay. Thank you. We'll go ahead and
11 move on to the Chief Counsel Report.

12 ATTNY PANE: Thank you, Chair. Good morning,
13 Commissioners. Oh, it looks like Commissioner
14 Fernandez -- I don't know if she still has a question or
15 not.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Getting my earbuds back in.
17 Here we go. Okay. Just on scheduling past -- monthly
18 past June, we do -- we will have budget considerations at
19 that point because right now we have funding for
20 quarterly meetings versus monthly. So that's something
21 that we just want to make sure that we keep tabs of.
22 Thanks.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. That's a good
24 reminder, Commissioner Fernandez. I think perhaps the --
25 Commissioner Taylor, who will be the next incoming chair,



1 and I can have a conversation with Corina so that we can
2 get this out to everybody, especially the early 2023
3 dates so that we can all just get that on our calendars.
4 We'll have a conversation with Corina. We'll keep all of
5 that budgetary constraint in mind as well, too.

6 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Chief Counsel?

8 ATTNY PANE: Thank you, Chair. Good morning again,
9 everyone. Chief Counsel Report's going to be pretty
10 brief this morning. I did want -- and I think most of
11 you were aware, but I just didn't want to call your
12 attention, on December 7th, the U.S. Supreme Court will
13 be entertaining oral argument on the Moore v. Harper
14 case, which is, as all of you are aware, it has the
15 potential to affect the 52 districts that this Commission
16 has drawn. And so I just want to call that to your
17 attention.

18 I don't have anything else, at least at this time,
19 sort of reserving the potential for maybe coming back to
20 it as needed later today if we need it. I don't have any
21 other question -- unless anyone else has questions for
22 me.

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

24 ATTNY PANE: Thank you.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, that was quite short and



1 sweet. Okay. All right. Thank you very much, Chief
2 Counsel Pane. We are moving through our agenda very
3 quickly. At this point, if there is no other questions
4 from the Commissioners, Kristian, we could go ahead and
5 move to public comment.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sounds good, Chair. Just
7 a moment.

8 MS. LEON: Hi, Gabriel.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And this is public
10 comment on Item 2?

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Item 2.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Got it. In order to
13 maximize transparency and public participation in our
14 process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment
15 by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided
16 on the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When
17 prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the
18 livestream feed. It is 83969435598 for this meeting.

19 When prompted to enter a participant ID simply press
20 pound. Once you've dialed in, you'll be placed in a
21 queue to indicate you wish to comment, please press star
22 9. This will raise your hand for the moderator. When
23 it's your turn to speak, you'll hear a message that says
24 the host would like you to talk. Sorry. Just a moment.
25 Once you've dialed in your -- well, where was I? The



1 host would like you to talk. Press star 6 to speak.

2 If you'd like to give your name, please state and
3 spell it for the record. You're not required to provide
4 your name to give public comment. Please make sure to
5 mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent any
6 feedback or distortion during your call.

7 Once you're waiting in the queue, be alert for when
8 it's your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the
9 livestream volume. And there is no one in the queue at
10 this time, Chair. I think you're on mute, Chair.

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. We'll just wait
12 for the instructions to finish streaming. And then at
13 which time, if there's no one in the queue, what we'll do
14 is, we'll have about seven minutes. I wonder if we could
15 get to at least one subcommittee update.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And those instructions
17 are complete on the stream, Chair.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. And I see that
19 we have no one in the queue. All right. Finance and
20 Administration Subcommittee, is it possible to have it as
21 an update in seven minutes? Okay. Thank you. So this
22 is --

23 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Do we even have anything?

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- Commissioner Fernandez or
25 Commissioner Fornaciari.



1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think the only -- I think
2 Alvaro talked about everything. The only other item -- I
3 just wanted to really stress that for Commissioners or
4 staff is if you have any outstanding TECS or also your
5 per diems, if you can get those in as soon as possible.

6 And the importance of turning them in is when we
7 compile the final report for the legislature, we would
8 like to show the true costs that were associated. Again,
9 the costs are a little bit skewed because of COVID and
10 meeting virtually. But so we would like to show what a
11 true reflection of what the expenditures have been. And
12 I don't think there was anything else. Commissioner
13 Fornaciari?

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. Oh, we have a
15 question from Commissioner Andersen. Thank you. I've
16 got a question actually looking toward the future here,
17 because the Website subcommittee will have things later
18 for -- to bring up in a few years from now. And what is
19 the lead time? Say, if you're a subcommittee or you know
20 that the Commission will need to do some certain things
21 at a later date, what's the lead time to get it into the
22 budget?

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Go ahead, Commissioner Fernandez.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We're in the same room, so
25 it makes it interesting going back and forth. In terms

1 of the lead time, we would probably want to know at least
2 a year in advance, if possible, so that we could -- if
3 it's above our budget amount, we could submit it as a
4 budgeting proposal.

5 And if you don't have that lead time, I know
6 there -- we could do a finance later or maybe revise.
7 But those are a little bit trickier if we would like to
8 go through the main -- the regular process, if possible,
9 which would be right now in terms of getting the
10 budgeting the proposal in September, October time frame.
11 And if not, we could do a finance letter which would be
12 like in a February time frame.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So just to recap, so
14 I understand this. So say I need something in '27, say
15 the budget year '27. And is that one -- is it annual or
16 is it -- I don't know what you'd call it. You can't
17 either -- is it July -- what is the actual --

18 COMMISSIONER FERNNDEZ: Fiscal.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Fiscal. So it is fiscal?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. It's always starts
21 July 1st, start of the fiscal year to June 30th.

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And to get that in for
23 consideration, say, whichever particular June, July 1 to
24 June 30th, what it would be the September before the
25 July?



1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Perfect. So for us to say
3 we should bring it up literally almost a year essentially
4 starting in July so the Commission has time to talk about
5 this, go through and say yes, please submit it in
6 September for the following July.

7 COMMISSINER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes.

8 COMMISSINER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you for asking
10 that question. That was a good question to ask for all
11 of the subcommittees, if there's any potential future
12 work. Okay. Thank you very much for that.

13 Kristian, do you know -- I see that we have one --
14 two of our panelists. I think we're just waiting for one
15 more person to join us.

16 Question for our other two subcommittees. I have
17 next up, Website Subcommittee. Is that something that
18 could be done in the next three minutes? If not, I'm
19 going to move on to Lessons Learned and ask that same
20 question.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Basically, I would
22 ask Commissioner Kennedy, can you do three minutes or do
23 you want me to give it a go?

24 COMMISSIPMER KENNEDY: Actually, I think it'll be
25 Commissioner Yee reporting for us. And yes, I think it



1 can be done in three minutes.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. It sounds like -- let's go
3 to Lessons Learned Subcommittee. Commissioner Yee?

4 COMMISSIOER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Commissioner
5 Kennedy and I are writing like crazy. We split up the
6 main chapters of the Lessons Learned report, half and
7 half. On my end, I have a full rough draft of all my
8 sections.

9 I think I can get a full first draft of that out to
10 the Commission via staff well before the December meeting
11 to get your comments, which I very much hope to get,
12 because as I go through those sections, wow, there's so
13 many things that really bear our collective memory and
14 not just my individual memory. And that's where my end
15 stands.

16 Commissioner Kennedy, and your end?

17 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I remain hopeful of likewise
18 having a full draft in time to distribute before the
19 December meeting.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Wonderful. We look forward to
21 seeing that draft then. And thank you very much to the
22 both of you for all your work on this. I know it's been
23 quite a labor of love there, so.

24 COMMISSIOER YEE: A lot of good memories.

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Okay. And kind of



1 recollecting everything. Okay. Thank you. Excellent.
2 We are just perfectly on time. I see that we now have
3 all three of our panelists here. And so I do want to
4 thank everyone, our panelists, for making time to join
5 us. I am going to turn this over to the Legislative
6 Subcommittee and Commissioner Fernandez, who is going to
7 moderate this panel.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Chair.
9 And thank you -- yes, I also want to echo our three
10 panelists very excited about this. And we've heard from
11 all of them before, which is actually -- which is just
12 wonderful. And again, we thank them for continuously
13 being involved in this process.

14 And we have Helen Hutchinson, who's the director of
15 League of Women Voters of California. We also have
16 Rosalind Gold, who is the chief public policy officer of
17 NALEO Education Fund, and we have Julia Marks, who's the
18 program manager of the Asian American Advancing Justice
19 Asian Law Caucus.

20 And then I also wanted to let everyone know that we
21 did reach out to Jonathan Mehta Stein from -- who is
22 Executive Director from Common Cause, and James Woodson,
23 who is executive director of the California Black Power
24 Network. And unfortunately, they were not able to join
25 us today, but they were able to reach out to our three



1 panelists. So their voices and their feedback will be
2 heard as well. So thank you all for coordinating that.

3 And in terms of what we will be discussing today, we
4 picked three items that we've been grappling with and
5 there's been some conversation back and forth between
6 Commissioners. And we felt it best to also receive
7 feedback from our stakeholders because we only see one
8 side of it. We see our side of it.

9 We don't understand the effort, the humongous effort
10 that's involved in terms of organizing community members.
11 So we thank the three of you for joining us tonight -- or
12 today. And just to give you an overview of the three
13 items that we'll be discussing is one of them is the
14 three days of notice, three months prior to the final map
15 date. That's the first one.

16 The second one will be clarifying taking public
17 comment during regular non-mapping business meetings does
18 not constitute receiving input on redistricting matters.
19 And then the third one is an earlier start date for
20 commissioners.

21 And so what we'll do -- the plan is to just take one
22 at a time and a lot about twenty minutes for each one,
23 and then we'll take our mandatory fifteen-minute break
24 and then we'll come back for -- we've allotted thirty
25 minutes for questions from our Commissioners. And again,



1 it's this will be helpful as we move forward to formulate
2 as a commission if we decide to move forward in terms of
3 any legislative changes.

4 So we're just going to jump right into it. And the
5 first one, as I mentioned, is the three days public
6 notice, three months prior to the final map date. And
7 just a little bit of background, we've gone back and
8 forth with that.

9 We felt that the reason for this would be to provide
10 more meaningful agendas for the public excuse me, and
11 also to allow an account for something that may come up
12 last minute and not have to -- and be able to discuss it
13 and not have to wait the ten or fourteen days to post the
14 information.

15 And when I say more meaningful agendas, because as a
16 Commission what we've done is we and I believe this is
17 also what the 2010 Commission did is because of this
18 restriction, we kind of posted a generic every agenda
19 looks the same. And we may not discuss everything. We
20 may discuss one or two things. And so we felt that if we
21 had a three day, we could provide more meaningful
22 information for the public.

23 So with that, I'm opening it up to Rosalind, Helen
24 or Julia or all three, actually, I'm hoping you all
25 provide feedback on this. And then also when we say

1 three days, okay, maybe three -- maybe not three days,
2 maybe it's five days. So if there's some discussion as
3 to if there's flexibility and then I do want to turn it
4 over to Chair Akutagawa because I'm sure I probably have
5 forgotten something.

6 MS. HUTCHINSON: So I'm going to start off because
7 with the League of Women Voters, we were there at the
8 beginning of this and we were responsible, I would say,
9 with Common Cause California for the fourteen days'
10 notice. And the route -- and we sent this in a letter,
11 so I think Commissioners know it, but let's make sure
12 that everybody's on the same page.

13 The route of that fourteen days' notice was we spent
14 a fair amount -- a lot of time talking to community
15 groups all over the state about what kind of notice they
16 needed and what they needed to be able to give meaningful
17 input to redistricting Commission. And it was really
18 clear that the small community-based organizations, the
19 ones that you really need to hear from, need fourteen
20 days' notice and or longer actually to get themselves
21 organized and get and provide meaningful input to you.
22 So it's not -- it's not just rallying people. It's
23 making sure that they know what they want to say about
24 their communities. People need to take time. They need
25 to take time off work. They need to figure out how to

1 get that time or they need to get childcare, whatever it
2 is that that it takes time to get people organized and to
3 get -- and to get testimony organized. So I will say
4 that both Common Cause and the League feel really, really
5 strongly about this fourteen days' notice and that we
6 will, quite honestly, we'll actively oppose any attempt
7 to reduce that fourteen days' notice period.

8 MS. GOLD: Well, thank you so much, Helen. Thank
9 you, Chair Akutagawa. Thank you, Committee Chair
10 Fernandez. And thank you all, Commissioners, for giving
11 us this opportunity. We really appreciate the time. And
12 we, as always, we appreciate all of the thoughtfulness
13 that has gone into your work. And we know that this is
14 really a tough issue that you're struggling with.

15 So one of the things that I thought would be helpful
16 is based on our experience and mobilizing Latino
17 community members to testify before the Commission, and
18 we did that ten years ago and we did it this time around,
19 I thought it might be helpful to just provide a little
20 bit of information about the logistics and what's
21 involved in mobilizing community members to testify.

22 By the time we get to the point where we want
23 community members to testify about their communities of
24 interest or any things they may want to say about the
25 maps and the visualizations, we have already done a lot

1 of groundwork. We have, first of all, done basic
2 education with our community members about why
3 redistricting is important, what the Commission's
4 redistricting process is, and also a lot of education
5 about what is a community of interest, what are the
6 factors you want to take into account when thinking about
7 your communities of interest?

8 So much of that groundwork has been laid before the
9 meeting notices start to come up about the specific
10 meetings. So why do we need those full fourteen days?
11 Well, first of all, there are a lot of specifics about
12 the logistics of testifying, letting people know about,
13 okay, here's how you make an appointment, or here's how
14 you sign up.

15 In many cases, there's been a little bit of a lapse
16 of time since we've talked to people about their
17 communities of interest. So we need to often sort of
18 talk to people again about here's what you want to focus
19 your testimony on in terms of here's your criteria for
20 your communities of interest.

21 Also, many community members are a little I feel a
22 little bit like the process may be intimidating to
23 provide testimony. And so you know, we like to provide
24 reassurance that this is just telling the story of your
25 community, making your voices heard. And I just want to



1 repeat what Helen said, which is there is a lot of work
2 responsibilities, family responsibilities, other things
3 that come up. So that the more notice our community
4 members have, the more they can work to schedule time in
5 the work that we can do to get out the information,
6 provide the support.

7 We very much understand the Commissioner's desire to
8 have agendas that have more complete information, but we
9 feel there may be other ways to provide that information.
10 For example, we commended the attempt to put together the
11 run of show for which different regions the community
12 input sessions were going to focus on.

13 We do think it's a good idea to have different input
14 sessions, focus on a particular region because it does
15 lead to a little bit more coherence and cohesiveness of
16 testimony. Of course, we want the Commissioners to be
17 willing to take testimony even if somebody shows up who
18 isn't from the region. But we like the idea of those --
19 that kind of regional structure.

20 And we know that there wasn't always alignment
21 between the run of shows and what areas were being
22 focused on. But finding some kind of mechanism like
23 that, once people know there's going to be meeting to
24 provide additional information afterwards that doesn't
25 necessarily need to be agendized would be a good

1 possibility in something maybe thinking about how that
2 might be done for your Lessons Learned document.

3 We also would strongly oppose anything less than the
4 fourteen days' notice. But again, we do this in the
5 spirit of really wanting to make sure that community
6 members from underrepresented communities really have a
7 meaningful voice and have good provide good quality input
8 to the Commission.

9 MS. MARKS: And I'd like to share a couple of
10 thoughts here, and then I see Commissioner Kennedy with
11 his hand raised. So thank you all for having us. I hope
12 you can hear me okay. There's construction in the
13 background now, so similar to some of Rosalind's remarks,
14 Advancing Justice, we worked with folks around the state,
15 working with regional anchor orgs and local organizations
16 and just community members who heard about the process to
17 help folks engaged both in the COI period and in the map
18 drawing period and having as much notice as possible was
19 really important through all of those phases.

20 It was very helpful in this time period that we were
21 able to know ahead of time, both when the meeting would
22 be and what regions would be covered. But we understand
23 that there are limitations to your ability to do that, or
24 a future Commission's ability to do that during the map
25 drawing phase.



1 That said, the basic principle of as much notice as
2 possible, I think, rings true through the whole process.
3 And so even knowing that a meeting is going to happen on
4 a given Saturday in September is really important because
5 we can meet with the local orgs and we can meet with
6 folks who've expressed interest in redistricting in their
7 region and give them the schedule and say, we know here
8 when meetings are happening.

9 We've heard from the Commission your region will
10 likely be on these days, but things can change. So keep
11 in mind there's also going to be a Saturday meeting and
12 so try to keep some flexibility for that. And you know,
13 if the days change, not everyone can participate. But as
14 much as we can tell them ahead of time what the schedule
15 will look like, it really makes a difference to getting
16 folks involved.

17 And that is important in those last three months,
18 too, because we did see a lot of folks who shared their
19 COI but didn't have the sense that their district might
20 change or didn't feel as motivated to get involved. And
21 then as the process evolved, people saw that it really
22 would affect them and wanted to be able to call in.

23 And so being able to let folks know, oh, your
24 opportunity will probably be in the next couple of weeks,
25 here is the schedule was actually really helpful. And I

1 also commend the efforts to do the run of show and would
2 strongly encourage you to include that in the best
3 practices and guidance for the next Commission and try to
4 get to more meaningful notice through those practices
5 rather than through shortening that minimum statutory
6 notice to let folks know the meeting is going to occur.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you for that.
8 And I'm just going to remind the Commissioners that we'll
9 take questions at the end so that we can make sure that
10 we have -- we discussed the three topics. First, and I
11 just wanted to -- it's not a question that this year it
12 was via Zoom. And I don't want to make the assumption,
13 but I'm assuming that regardless of in-person or hybrid,
14 you still prefer the longer period, correct? The
15 fourteen day?

16 MS. HUTCHINSON: Yes. Yes.

17 MS. GOLD: But if I could just add something to
18 that. Ten years ago that the Commissioners traveled
19 through the state and held meetings in different regions
20 of the state. So we almost -- essentially when we were
21 doing our community organizing work, we were doing a lot
22 of it in person, and we were sort of like, we're
23 following the commission around.

24 So again, having notice about, okay, two weeks from
25 now there is going to be a meeting in this part of the

1 state so that we can then plan to be in the that part of
2 The State as well, to mobilize community members to align
3 with the Commission's schedule.

4 MS. HUTCHINSON: Yeah, actually, Roz, to be really
5 clear, you preceded the Commission because you went the
6 two weeks --

7 MS. GOLD: Exactly.

8 MS. HUTCHINSON: -- in advance and started prepping
9 people and that was what we were seeing. And so whether
10 it's hybrid or in-person or just completely electronic,
11 knowing that the -- where the focus is going to be is
12 really critical to these groups. And as much advance
13 notice as possible is really important.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you so much
15 for the -- for your feedback. And it's great to see that
16 we have groupies. I like to call them groupies, but not
17 really. Any other comments on this by our panel members
18 before we move on to the second one?

19 Okay. So our second topic is clarifying taking
20 public comment during regular non-mapping business
21 meetings does not constitute receiving input on
22 redistricting matters. And the difference in this is we
23 are required by Bagley-Keene to have a ten-day advance
24 notice for our agendas. However, our government code
25 section specifically specifies that if it's receiving

1 input, there's a fourteen-day requirement.

2 And so what we wanted to do was to specify if
3 it's -- if the purpose of the meeting is solely a
4 business meeting, then that's only under the ten-day
5 requirement, regardless of potentially receiving some
6 public input during the public comment time. So if you
7 could provide feedback on that or if you need additional
8 information on that specific topic. Thank you.

9 MS. GOLD: Well, I'll go ahead and start. I think
10 again, this is a situation where we feel that the
11 fourteen days' notice would be optimal. First of all,
12 again, there may be situations where community members
13 come to us on their own and say, hey, by the way, I don't
14 know if I'm going to be able to testify later on, but
15 could we could we be -- do something earlier or provide
16 comment earlier and letting them know when those meetings
17 are going to be?

18 But also, there are a broad range of issues with
19 respect to things that the Commission brings up that we
20 as advocates like sometimes decide we want to weigh in
21 on. Again, we were very, very happy to see how
22 responsive the Commission was to the comments and remarks
23 that we made throughout the process. But as part of
24 that, we try to achieve consensus and try to really vet
25 ideas that we want to present before the Commission.



1 We had a very, very robust redistricting California
2 Collaborative, I think was our name of our where we would
3 say, oh, this is -- might be coming up on the agenda,
4 these are the topics, this is the direction it's looking.
5 One of the things that are collaborative that was very
6 strong on is the fact that we had members who represented
7 very diverse communities in California.

8 So we wanted to make sure that if we presented
9 recommendations that we had a chance to talk to people
10 who represented communities, that might not be the ones
11 we were working with, to see if we could achieve
12 consensus and present ideas that were for all.

13 I mean, one of the things about California being so
14 diverse is that in many of our conversations, we really
15 needed to look for solutions and approaches that would,
16 help the redistricting process for Californians from a
17 variety of underrepresented communities. And we were
18 very conscious about vetting ideas with each other,
19 bouncing ideas off of each other, and trying to work to
20 achieve consensus.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rosalind.
22 Before we continue on this one, I forgot to mention that
23 as a Commission, we opted to provide a fourteen-day
24 notice for all meetings because we didn't want to prevent
25 or turn anyone away if they provided public input during



1 one of our business meetings. And that's because the
2 last thing we want to do is have somebody call in and
3 shut them down because we're not here to shut anyone down
4 for sure. So I just wanted to let you know the ten-day
5 versus fourteen-day?. The ten-day, if we are able to
6 provide a definition, then we wouldn't have to turn
7 someone away with the input. So Julia or Helen?

8 MS. HUTCHINSON: Yeah. I'm going to just echo what
9 Rosalind said, that -- and that the 14 days is really
10 optimal. I'm going to add a small -- and that we really
11 have liked having the run of show. It has helped know
12 when we might need to be particularly watching meetings
13 and has groups that do try to monitor the meetings. That
14 does help us a lot.

15 The other thing I'm going to add is that while we
16 share your desire to have meaningful agendas, the fact
17 that the reports that go to those agendas frequently are
18 just posted at the very last minute is really -- makes it
19 difficult for us as a group, even as an individual group,
20 because we don't have time to review them and think about
21 what our response might be.

22 But then in our coalition, we definitely don't have
23 time to vet ideas and hear from others. And that
24 frequently changes -- doesn't change, but it may add
25 nuances to what we might want to say. We do try as a

1 coalition to really discuss these things. And when we
2 get a report less than twenty-four hours before a meeting
3 that -- there's no chance for that to happen.

4 MS. MARKS: And I'll just weigh in briefly. In
5 addition to the points Rosalind and Helen made about the
6 value of notice, we did really appreciate that this
7 Commission took input at any meeting because the public
8 doesn't differentiate between a business meeting and
9 another meeting, as you well know.

10 So if you did pursue a change along these lines, I
11 would just caution to make sure there aren't any
12 unintended consequences. We wouldn't want a future
13 Commission to not give equal weight to public input
14 received at a business meeting because that will happen
15 and we think it deserves equal consideration.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Thank you so
17 much. Any other comments on this particular item? Okay.
18 Great. We're moving right along. And thank you so much
19 for that feedback. It's really good to understand that.
20 And we also feel that it is difficult for the public to
21 understand that it's -- what a public comment is versus
22 public input. And I would agree with that as well.

23 The third item is earlier start date for
24 Commissioners and that would be the office set-up,
25 coordination with census, also maybe gets a head start on

1 hiring, and also some of the RFP and contracts that need
2 to be in place. So I will turn that over to our three
3 panelists.

4 MS. HUTCHINSON: I'm going to start on this one and
5 just say that you as a Commission had more lead time than
6 the first commission because of their input. But I'll
7 add to that, that you had -- the orientation, the
8 training you received was -- I mean, I think we all agree
9 was really poor.

10 You never got -- it never started with a roadmap
11 even of what you were going to get in the training, much
12 less a road map of what you needed to do as a Commission
13 in your work. And if you had started with that kind of a
14 road map that said, here are some key dates and here are
15 some things to watch out for, that you may not think
16 about mappers right away, but it's going to take a while
17 to hire them.

18 The same with voting rights attorneys. Those kinds
19 of heads up. And the training you received focused
20 entirely on mapping which is was -- and it was disjointed
21 at that. But it didn't talk about all the administrative
22 stuff. And to me, if I'd been in charge, my son used to
23 say, if I was the supreme ruler of the universe, I would
24 have -- I would have said, yeah, we need to worry about
25 mapping. But first, let's talk about setting yourselves

1 up as a Commission and what's involved with that and how
2 you do that, and what the key points are in that process.

3 So I think -- I mean, my guess is that if you had
4 gotten that kind of a training and orientation at the
5 very beginning, you could have made a lot better use of
6 that extra time that you had. And it was -- you were
7 also hampered because you were not -- you were not in
8 person.

9 And so it made it more difficult for you to get to
10 know each other and your working styles and all of that.
11 That was an extra thing in there. And I don't -- we're
12 going to -- we really hope that the next commission is
13 not going to be hampered by a pandemic. Let's just all
14 cross our fingers to that effect, so.

15 MS. GOLD: Yes. I very much agree with what Helen
16 said about the initial set-up. I think perhaps in that
17 regard, I'm delighted that your Lessons Learned is going
18 to be written. And I certainly hope that there is a way
19 that whoever serves on the next Commission gets a chance
20 to read that from the very beginning.

21 There may be a need to have a dialog with the state
22 auditor about what the next Commission, what kind of
23 materials, what kind of information can the next
24 commission have from day one? I think there needs to be
25 some clarification and a little more information about

1 what that might look like. I think the issue that
2 occurred to us with regards to starting to have the
3 Commission seated earlier is the work that has to be done
4 to educate community members about how to apply for and
5 how to serve on the Commission.

6 When we work with the Latino community, many of the
7 civic leaders that we want to encourage and promote
8 Commission service are also involved in working with the
9 Latino community to educate Latinos about the importance
10 of the decennial census. So if there's no pandemic ten
11 years from now, census day is going to be April 1st of
12 2030.

13 So that means a lot of the planning, the strategic
14 dialogs, the creation of materials for census outreach,
15 the coming up with strategies about how to mobilize
16 community members. There's all this work that's done
17 well in advance of census day, which means there -- with
18 starting the Commission early, the application period and
19 the period that we would have to educate community
20 members on serving on the Commission would likely run
21 right into the time when all of this planning for Census
22 2020 would be going on at the same time, I mean, and
23 we -- even with the schedule as it was this cycle, we did
24 run into situations when we'd be talking to civic leaders
25 about, hey, let's start thinking about redistricting,

1 let's start thinking about applying and surveying. And
2 people would say we ought to focus on the census right
3 now.

4 So I think thinking about the consequences of
5 starting earlier and what that might mean for the
6 outreach that's done. Now, there could be a way to maybe
7 sort of coordinate that a bit by having the California
8 Census Office, right, take on some responsibilities for
9 doing outreach to educate people about the Commission or
10 coordinating with the state auditor's office on that.

11 But I still think the timing and how the application
12 period and thinking before the application period, the
13 education period that we all have to do works with the
14 outreach that's being done for mobilizing people to
15 participate, educating people about the importance of
16 Census 2030 on how those two schedules would align.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Julia?

18 MS. MARKS: Yeah. I think, similarly, we have some
19 questions about how an earlier start date could impact
20 the applicant pool. It's such a huge lift to be a
21 Commissioner, as you all know. And so we want to make
22 sure that diverse communities can both get engaged in the
23 fact that this process is happening and that it's time to
24 apply, but also not start so early and in the thick of
25 census that it makes it untenable to successfully launch



1 as a Commission while still being civically involved in
2 the census activities. So I agree with Rosalind's
3 suggestion to kind of keep those overlapping timelines in
4 mind.

5 Additionally, there are other approaches that may
6 get at some of the goal of being able to start more
7 robustly early on, including the training pieces that
8 Helen talked about and the recommendations you all will
9 be sharing with the future Commission. And I do think
10 it's worth exploring further how to bolster the
11 connections with the State Census Office.

12 So that could mean explicitly including provisions
13 when The State census office is doing its work, both
14 funding to do this and also some requirements to do it,
15 to make sure that they're starting to do that outreach
16 around Commission recruitment and also redistricting
17 itself, letting the public know redistricting is coming
18 up and potentially having the State Census Office more
19 fully staffed longer after census itself so that they're
20 available as a resource to the redistricting Commission.

21 And I know you did draw upon some staff from the
22 Census Office, and there were some great connections
23 there. So I think the question is for you, are there
24 ways that could be made even stronger so that that's
25 better staffed and readier to transition into supporting



1 the redistricting work that you all were leaving.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. And
3 great feedback. And just so that you do know, we do --
4 we did do our ten year out and we're hoping in either '27
5 or '28 we will start reaching out to the Census Office to
6 try to do some coordination with some education and some
7 outreach, along with census, not only be counted, but
8 also be heard with the redistricting. So thank you for
9 that. We appreciate that. Oh, Rosalind?

10 MS. GOLD: I just wanted to add one thing to
11 actually put on your radars. When we work with our
12 communities ten years from now or how many years from
13 now, it'll be to educate people about the importance of
14 serving on the Commission, but also the opportunities, as
15 well as some of the challenges we'll be likely coming to
16 you to see if you would like to come to meetings to
17 present to our community members and our civic leaders.

18 MS. HUTCHINSON: Yeah. I wanted to just reinforce
19 what Julia was suggesting about actually including in the
20 Census Bureau's mandate, the complete count committee
21 that they actually need -- that they get some extra money
22 and they need to coordinate with the redistricting, that
23 it needs to be a follow through in there. So yes, it's
24 great that you're planning to reach out to them, but
25 let's put a little oomph behind that.



1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other comments
2 regarding that particular item. If not, we're just going
3 to go ahead and open it up to questions. And I do know
4 that Commissioner Kennedy did have his hand. So he's
5 going to -- he's ahead of you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. I mean, at that
7 point, I was wanting to make sure that everyone was
8 clear, including anyone who might be listening, that we
9 were talking about just the meeting notice, because it
10 seemed that initially when this subject came up in our
11 Lessons Learned discussions, that there was some
12 confusion between the meeting notice and the period
13 during which maps could not be altered or we could not
14 present additional maps. And I just want to make sure
15 that everyone is clear on that.

16 I have to say that the way the statute currently
17 reads, that the three-day notice period is only in
18 August, if you have an August 15th deadline, and if we
19 looked at -- we submitted our maps or approved our maps
20 on the 27th of December, and if we went back essentially
21 two weeks from that and looked at only being able to have
22 meetings with three-day notice in those last two weeks,
23 in my mind, it just it seems rather useless to have that
24 provision because by the time you get to August and
25 you're two weeks away from submitting the final maps, it

1 just really seems to me that the utility of a three-day
2 notice period has mostly passed.

3 I'm not married to three months. I think I've
4 probably said in one of the meetings that three months
5 seemed to be a bit much to me. But I really do think
6 that you're looking at what the Commission has to do and
7 the possibility of something coming up that needs to be
8 addressed very quickly that has to be agendized.

9 And if we're still dealing with a fourteen-day
10 agenda requirement late in the process, it could
11 theoretically, lead to the collapse of the entire
12 process, which I don't want to see. Yes, this is
13 speculative. But we need to hope for the best, but plan
14 for the worst I always say. And so I really -- I
15 understand that the more notice, the better. I would
16 hope that future Commissions would also embrace that
17 philosophy.

18 But I'm just looking at the reality of what could
19 happen if a future Commission was faced with a situation
20 where something needed to be addressed and couldn't be
21 addressed because of the fourteen-day requirement. Now,
22 this brings up the possibility that future Commissions
23 may have to resort to special or even emergency meetings.

24 And I would ask Chief Counsel if he has any comments
25 that he would like to offer at this point on the

1 provisions for special or emergency meetings and how
2 future Commissions might have to resort to those if
3 something came up that needed action quickly, that was
4 not able to meet the fourteen-day agenda notice.

5 ATTNY PANE: Commissioner, so to your point, Bagley-
6 Keene, which is sort of the underlining law that would
7 apply for our Commission meetings, allows for emergency
8 meetings in particular circumstances. And so those would
9 still apply. I think maybe a helpful way to think about
10 it is Bagley-Keane defaults to ten days, but in
11 particular special circumstances is in our Government
12 Code for particular types of Commission meetings there is
13 an added four more days as a required notice for those.

14 That fourteen days would not supersede the Bagley-
15 Keene emergency requirements. So if we -- if there was a
16 need for an emergency meeting as prescribed in the
17 Government Code, that would still apply and those
18 shortened notice periods would still apply. And again,
19 the purpose -- the statute currently reads that it's the
20 purpose of the meeting is to have that testimony.

21 And so the question really is, is the purpose behind
22 that meeting, is it a fourteen-day notice requirement?
23 And as you mentioned, the final two weeks, there is a
24 three-day notice requirement. I wouldn't want to
25 speculate too much. But stepping back from this, if the

1 default is ten days and then there's testimony, meetings
2 that are four -- that are an additional four days, but
3 we're getting down to the wire, and so the statute allows
4 for three days' notice as we get closer.

5 I think the thought was and I'll defer to some of
6 the panelists if they have opinions on this, but I think
7 the theory is to head off any sort of cataclysmic
8 situation where we can't get the maps done because
9 there's not enough notice, period. We have to write a
10 fourteen-day notice period all the way to the when the
11 maps are due.

12 I think the final two weeks with only three days'
13 notice is to hopefully address the situation that you
14 wouldn't need or have a problem. But notwithstanding the
15 three days' notice, there's still the emergency meetings
16 that would still be allowed if we needed it.

17 MS. GOLD: So thank you so much. And thank you,
18 Commissioner, for raising the question. Certainly, we
19 understand why in that last period there is that three-
20 day notice. And I think at that point, many of us -- we
21 did not provide draft maps or make specific comments
22 about lines, but we worked very closely in our
23 mobilization work throughout this with our MALDEF, who
24 did indeed provide draft maps.

25 And I think it was very much an understanding is



1 that when it's coming time to like tweaking the lines of
2 those maps in that last period that people know --
3 they're going to be ready to meet and ready to provide
4 testimony and ready to -- ready to be as responsive as
5 possible.

6 So I think, for that, it's something that we
7 understand the reasoning behind that for that period.
8 But before that, there are still things like the time
9 that we need to educate community members about which way
10 the visualizations are going.

11 Again, if we talk about time in which our
12 collaboratives work together, there are group of
13 organizations that will providing maps for consideration.
14 And they really wanted to make sure that their maps
15 provided fair opportunities for representations for all
16 of the diverse communities they're working for.

17 So that, again, we understand for that two-week
18 period, but we actually -- it's good to hear that there
19 is, for those exigent circumstances, an opportunity to
20 provide emergency meetings. And I guess one of the
21 things I would be curious to hear about, you were talking
22 a little bit about the need to have a meeting very
23 quickly because of something unanticipated coming up.
24 Did you have this experience during this Commission? Was
25 there a time when you said, oh, gee, this fourteen-day

1 notice is keeping us from addressing an issue that's of
2 really salient importance?

3 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I would say that at least
4 personally, I felt that we were very close on a couple of
5 occasions. There were administrative steps that could
6 have been required that would have had to be noticed with
7 fourteen days' notice period that we simply didn't have.
8 There were there were some issues late in the process.

9 And I think, going back to your earlier point about,
10 there's a certain point in the process after which
11 everyone is kind of laser focused on this and aware that
12 things are happening quickly. And I think I -- I think
13 it was the meeting where at least some of us gathered in
14 Anaheim. And I'm not going to say the Southern
15 California Commissioners, because Commissioner Fornaciari
16 was with us in Anaheim for that meeting earlier this
17 year.

18 I think, if I remember correctly, my initial
19 suggestion was that the three-day notice period begin
20 with the release of the draft maps, because we know that
21 once the draft maps come out, there is a lot more focus
22 on all parts on the redistricting process. So that would
23 essentially be six weeks, which is more than two weeks,
24 but less than 13 weeks.

25 So that's kind of where I'm hoping that we could get



1 on this discussion, a recognition that there are
2 situations where there could easily be situations
3 requiring very quick action, particularly once the draft
4 maps are out, and that it does make sense to extend that
5 three-day notice period longer than just the last two
6 weeks. Thank you.

7 MS. GOLD: And you know, again, I would just very
8 respectfully talk about, from our perspective, working
9 together with our other organizations. Once those draft
10 maps come out, there is a lot of things we need to do
11 before we kind of mobilize people to provide testimony.
12 And the organizations that are actually providing our
13 testimony on the maps themselves have to do.

14 First of all, there's a lot of demographic
15 information about the draft maps and has to be looked at,
16 so we have to examine how those draft maps align with the
17 communities of interest that we have heard from with our
18 community members. And then once we've done that within
19 our own organizations, again, we have to have dialogs
20 with our partners and then we need to figure out which
21 communities do we want to mobilize, right?

22 How to mobilize, how to remind people, hey, now
23 we're talking about the lines. Remember, these were the
24 communities of interest you had focused on. Did you want
25 to provide testimony again? So I would just say I think



1 that timing is still going to provide challenges for us
2 with respect to getting good quality testimony, getting
3 analysis, getting dialog and mobilizing people that that
4 would be a challenge for us if the three-day notice was
5 extended back to the date of the release of the draft
6 maps.

7 And I would again, just -- again, maybe perhaps we
8 can get some information from counsel and at some point
9 about what are considered the kinds of circumstances that
10 would allow a meeting without notice, without the
11 three -- without the fourteen-day notice to be called.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rosalind. Oh,
13 Helen, did you want to say something?

14 MS. HUTCHINSON: Well, I was just going to echo what
15 Rosalind said and add that if you tried to reduce that
16 time period, you would definitely still hear from
17 community groups. But you'd hear from the ones that have
18 political power and have political cachet. And those
19 that that are the slower to mobilize, the very small
20 groups, the ones representing underrepresented
21 communities, underpowered communities are going to be
22 more difficult and they're not going to hear from them.
23 And they're exactly the ones that we want to make sure
24 you do hear from, so.

25 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Helen. Okay.

1 Julia?

2 MS. MARKS: Can I share? I definitely hear your
3 concern, Commissioner Kennedy, and understand that -- the
4 exigent circumstances issue. A fear I have is that if
5 the notice requirement were shortened for so long, it
6 would be used like even in non-exigent circumstances,
7 that the kind of accepted amount of notice for that whole
8 period of napping would shift in the future Commission's
9 eyes because by law it's allowed to be much shorter
10 notice.

11 And so it may be that well ideally it's fourteen
12 days in the future, folks get used to the idea that it
13 can be shorter and so notice just becomes shorter in
14 exigent circumstances as well as non-exigent
15 circumstances.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Julia.

17 Commissioner Fornaciari?

18 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. Let's see. I want
19 to talk about the third topic. So if any of my
20 colleagues want to talk about the topic we're talking
21 about, I'll defer to them at this point.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, go ahead.

23 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. So I guess a couple
24 comments. I think you all know I'm on the Outreach
25 committee and the Continuity/Transition committee. And I



1 appreciate your thoughts on engaging the census ahead of
2 time and in working that, engaging with the auditor's
3 office ahead of time to kind of plan some strategy for a
4 more effective training approach.

5 Some other ideas that we've talked about are also
6 potentially -- we review or some of us, I guess, I'm
7 not -- I can't speak for all of us, but kind of view
8 the -- this Commission is as an ongoing entity instead of
9 an entity that needs to be set up every ten years.
10 Right? And we want to change that perspective in both in
11 the Commission, outside of the Commission and in the
12 state. Right?

13 And so some of the things we've potentially talked
14 about or talked about potentially doing were maybe
15 standing up some of the back-office folks, maybe engaging
16 in -- with the auditor or taking responsibility from the
17 auditor for putting the transitional folks in place so
18 that -- so when the Commission gets stood up, they don't
19 have all that background work to do.

20 We haven't fleshed those thoughts out and we're
21 definitely going to engage you all in a conversation
22 about what these thoughts are and what -- get your
23 feedback and ideas on that. I have a question, though, I
24 guess, with regard to the census. We've talked about
25 engaging the census and the idea of putting it as part of



1 their mission to continue the work continue their work as
2 doing education and outreach related to redistricting, to
3 which I personally think is a great idea.

4 I have no idea how to engage in that process,
5 because that seems like another entity that is gone at
6 this point and gets stood up some time later. Do you all
7 know if there's somebody shepherding that process along
8 in the in the in-between times, or does it get stood up
9 from ground zero? Or how do we get engaged in that
10 process?

11 MS. HUTCHINSON: Yeah. I would ask legislative
12 staff to help you with that.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Okay.

14 MS. GOLD: I would also say that the funding and the
15 work of the California State Census Office came from the
16 Governor -- Governor's Office. It's under the Governor's
17 office. And I think, learning more about that process as
18 well as, when -- if the Commission decides to get
19 involved in making recommendations in their years in the
20 ramp up to the census well ahead of time -- I mean,
21 certainly starting to look into that now, right, and how
22 that gets set up through the Governor's Office would be
23 helpful.

24 But also, two to three to four years before, already
25 starting to ask the questions that you're asking.

1 Because I also do think there would have to be an issue
2 worked out about coordination between the Auditor's
3 Office and the governor's -- the entity of the Governor's
4 Office that provides the funding.

5 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

6 MS. GOLD: And runs the campaign. Yeah, so --

7 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right, right.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIAR: Thanks.

10 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You good, Neal?

11 Commissioner Fornaciari?

12 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Chair Akutagawa?

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Thank you for this. And I
15 guess just for my -- I guess I'll just say for my own
16 understanding, I think I'm going to maybe -- I know I
17 have a question in here somewhere, but I think I just
18 want to make sure I'm understanding what I heard on the
19 various issues. So I think on the three -- I'm going to
20 come back to the three days, but I also want to come back
21 to this earlier start date.

22 So on the three-day one, I think my -- I think in
23 hearing you all talk, I think my initial impression was
24 that the advance notice, just to get it on people's
25 calendars is just important, right? So that as community

1 leaders working with community members, right, the
2 earlier you know that you can get a calendar knowing that
3 this is going to -- there is going to be these meetings,
4 the earlier the better.

5 I would just have to say, I mean, I would agree with
6 you. I think for all any Commissioner, I think the
7 earlier we know, the better. We will also be able to,
8 plan our lives as well to not to mention be prepared for
9 the meetings that will be coming up. So I think I was
10 hearing that. What I think I also heard from you all was
11 that you were okay. Let's just schedule the meetings and
12 you are okay with just working through the details using
13 the run of show versus having it have -- be on the
14 agenda.

15 Now, the more nuanced conversation then becomes
16 closer to the once the maps are out and allowing
17 community members that time. I think that's where I
18 think the fourteen-day notice my impression or my
19 understanding from what I heard from all of you is that
20 the fourteen-day notice does become critical because now
21 you need this time to coordinate, to mobilize your
22 committee members.

23 And I know testifying is not going to be the easiest
24 thing if this isn't something that you do on a regular
25 basis. And so I could see that. And I think I just want



1 to make sure I'm understanding that as the nuance that
2 I'm hearing from you all in terms of why the fourteen --
3 keeping the 14 days is so important. It's not just about
4 business meetings, I'll say, but it's really also about
5 once the maps are done, being able to have that time to
6 mobilize the community members.

7 MS. GOLD: Yeah, yeah.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And I want to make sure that's
9 what you all want.

10 MS. GOLD: Can I just -- I'm so sorry. I hope I'm
11 not interrupting, but.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No, no, no, no.

13 MS. GOLD: I did want to just respond. It's not
14 just mobilizing the community because to get to the point
15 of mobilizing the community to comment on draft maps, we
16 have to analyze them. Okay? We have to, again, look at
17 what the demographic and other kinds of information is.
18 How do the maps align with what we've heard from the
19 communities on their communities of interest? How do we
20 work as a coalition to essentially have unity and
21 consensus?

22 So we have to do all of that before -- I mean,
23 before we could really start to talk to the community
24 about what are the kinds of issues and focus of what they
25 should be raising. There is that analysis period as

1 well.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. And then one
3 more thing. This is specific to the earlier start date,
4 and I appreciate, Helen, what you said about the timing
5 and the training. I would agree. I wish we had -- maybe
6 it struck you differently. And I think that's the reason
7 why we're talking about this.

8 In terms of the coordination with the census, I
9 think that Commission Fornaciari kind of already
10 addressed some of this, but from their perspectives, and
11 I feel like as a Commission we've had somewhat similar
12 conversations about doing some coordination with census.
13 Is there, from your perspective, what is the optimal time
14 where we don't interfere with the census work yet at the
15 same time, we can all say maybe -- kind of like when you
16 drive, right, there's the draft that you get from a
17 bigger car in front of you and you just don't have to
18 expend as much energy.

19 What would be that kind of ideal time frame where
20 we're out of their way, but then we could take advantage
21 of the momentum that they've created to now start raising
22 the issue about the redistricting work and also serving
23 on the Commission.

24 And I have a separate question about serving on the
25 Commission that I'd be interested to hear your

1 perspective on. But just on that one question, what's
2 the ideal time frame? What's your recommendation that we
3 should be thinking about?

4 MS. HUTCHINSON: I don't know that I have an idea.
5 But I mean, Roz or Julia might have some more ideas about
6 that with the -- but I do want to say that the deadlines
7 that were -- that you all applied under, made it -- it
8 was difficult because the chief recruitment period was
9 when everybody was on vacation. And so that was it.

10 We heard repeatedly from organizations that were
11 trying to recruit people that that was the deadline. And
12 I think it was the initial deadline and not the
13 supplemental deadline, but it may have been the
14 supplemental deadline. I don't remember what the
15 deadlines were, but it was really, really difficult to
16 get -- to recruit the people they wanted because they
17 were not available.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And I think it was like taking
19 place during the summer.

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I think it was August when
21 we initially had applied, not supplemental. So you're
22 right, Helen.

23 MS. GOLD: I would say from our perspective that
24 there is no perfect solution to the alignment of the
25 census and the redistricting work. But we can live with

1 what is in the statute as it is right now.

2 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Oh, okay. We're two
3 minutes to break. Okay. I think I will -- I guess just
4 one comment, which is -- or one question, which is from
5 your perspective, do you think that there's a value in
6 trying to educate potential community members to serve on
7 Commission now?

8 Because I feel like one of the things that I've been
9 telling people is that, look, you should think about if
10 you want to serve on the Commission, you should start
11 thinking about it now. Read what is required because
12 there are things that are needed by a potential candidate
13 to be viable because you've had to of voted in X number
14 of elections and you had to do some of the things. And
15 I'm just wondering if there's a value in that kind of
16 education?

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Before we
18 respond, I was trying to keep us focused on these three
19 areas, Chair Akutagawa, who is also part of the
20 subcommittee. So this is a somewhat different
21 conversation. So maybe we can -- if we have time at the
22 end?

23 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Does that sound like a
25 good --



1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That sounds good.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- compromise? And I think
3 it is break time, so. Yeah.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. So let's go ahead --
5 to our panelists, if you could hang on for fifteen --

6 MS. GOLD: Yes.

7 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- minutes, you could take the
8 same fifteen-minute break that we all will. We will all
9 reconvene at 11:15. And we'll start with Commissioner
10 Yee. You don't have to worry about my question. It was
11 just something that was somewhat related, but a tangent.
12 So --

13 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

14 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, everyone. Thank you.
15 Welcome back. I'm going to turn this over -- back to
16 Commissioner Fernandez to -- and short panel.

17 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Hope
18 everyone had a nice break. So we will continue on.
19 Please focus on the three items that we've been
20 discussing. That would be preferable. If we have time
21 at the end, maybe we can venture into other areas. But
22 for now, Commissioner Yee.

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. And thank you to the
24 subcommittee for this panel. We've kicked around these
25 issues quite a bit in the past, but I feel this is a



1 really super helpful and substantive discussion. Thank
2 you. Also to our, again, to our panelists. I think of
3 your organizations and you individually really as a very
4 much vital partners in this whole process. And of
5 course, you've been doing this most of you, all of you,
6 for longer than we have. And so we've learned so much
7 from you and your organizations, as well as the ones that
8 weren't able to make it today. So I thank you for your
9 participation today.

10 A quick comment on the training -- or the earlier
11 start idea and then a longer comment about notice. An
12 earlier start -- another thing that it would provide for
13 is not only maybe more organized training, but just more
14 haste training. I mean, a well-paced training. It was
15 so much at the beginning, all crammed together one thing
16 after another, and just a lot to digest and probably too
17 much in too short of a time.

18 So an earlier start to pace out the training. I've
19 even heard suggestions maybe training should have started
20 in the finalist stage of selection, not even waiting till
21 the Commission is entirely seated. And that certainly
22 would have helped.

23 About notice, I think I'm hearing two things. And
24 I'm wondering whether pushing for a fourteen-day notice
25 throughout the entire process is kind of a sledgehammer



1 approach. Where it may not be necessary. And the
2 particular needs I'm hearing is number 1, especially
3 during the COI, community of interest, input feeds so
4 that is plenty of time to activate people in specific
5 regions for specific meetings. Obviously that's a huge
6 end task and very specific to geography and specific
7 efforts. And so that makes total sense to keep as long
8 as possible notice for those meetings.

9 The other need is simply just meeting dates, so
10 people can anticipate what day to clear out their
11 calendar or make arrangements for childcare or whatever.
12 It's not necessarily the agenda items that I'm hearing
13 is, of course, things come up of interest you want to
14 know about as far as possible in advance.

15 But it's really just the dates that seem to be key
16 for most of the ordinary business meeting phases of our
17 work. And it's not necessarily needing to know that two
18 weeks from now we will discuss the records, retention
19 policy or something like that.

20 I'm thinking particularly the early going before we
21 had the subcommittees organized, most of them organized,
22 and before we'd gotten into our rhythm of setting agendas
23 and so forth, there did come times when we just didn't
24 have it together enough to get items on the agenda and
25 then could not discuss them in a timely fashion. And in

1 time, we did move toward the more boilerplate agendas and
2 found ways to always get things in that we needed to.

3 But the boilerplate nature wasn't very helpful
4 anyone I don't think. It's just a kind of a clutch
5 workarround. So I'm wondering whether a more nuanced
6 approach to this might be possible to meet the actual
7 needs for just getting meeting dates out and getting
8 regional top -- regional meetings announced for the COI
9 input phase.

10 In terms of the last and final period before the
11 mapping and the three-day notice period and all that,
12 I've looked at the emergency provisions of Bagley-Keene
13 and I'm not sure it would help. They're pretty narrow
14 and they have to do with unforeseen natural disasters and
15 things like that, not just lack of foresight, to get
16 these agendized.

17 And the other clutch is -- and this was recommended
18 to us maybe just agendas every day for some period before
19 the maps are due. And I mean, that works, but nobody
20 wants to -- that's not helpful for anyone, right? So I'm
21 thinking those are really not helpful options.

22 And so I like the -- I like Commissioner Kennedy's
23 idea of three-day notice from the draft maps out, but
24 somehow to have those dates announced more than three
25 days in advance, obviously. So to find a hybrid approach

1 to that I think would satisfy everyone. Not quite sure
2 how that would look in terms of statute, but would be
3 more helpful overall. Thanks.

4 MS. HUTCHINSON: So I want to respond a little bit
5 about the fact that organizing community is mostly
6 happening in the in the COI period. No, it happens also
7 around the draft maps that there is a lot of -- you saw
8 the interest really the start once the draft maps get
9 up -- go out people get really interested.

10 And if you reduce that notice, period, right, with
11 the draft maps, you are going to hear from the people who
12 already have power, who have the ability to respond
13 quickly. You aren't going to hear from the smaller
14 groups who don't have the ability to organize themselves
15 quickly. And they're the ones that we want to make sure
16 you're hearing from. And that's why the fourteen-day
17 notices in there.

18 MS. GOLD: And I would also agree with Helen's
19 comments. And the other thing I think would be helpful
20 is in your Lessons Learned document, the more that you
21 can put in about what would be helpful in providing
22 information that's not on the agenda, but more nuanced or
23 deeper information in formats, whether it's run of shows
24 or materials that are provided, right, things that are
25 not the level of detail that is not required to be

1 agendized, right, because you can always put that out.

2 Okay?

3 And I think using your wisdom and insight about what
4 formats, what approaches to use for that information, I
5 think incorporating that in your Lessons Learned memo
6 would be very, very helpful. I think even talking about
7 what were the administrative issues at the beginning
8 where there was a learning curve, a very understandable
9 learning curve, to sort of put that on the radar of the
10 next Commission and incorporating that in the Lessons
11 Learned.

12 So as to, again, you can't completely eliminate
13 unanticipated things happening, but to maybe reduce the
14 number of unanticipated things that the next Commission
15 and future Commissions would face in that regard.

16 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And I did want
17 to add, even for some of our business meetings,
18 especially early on when we had some of the panels, I
19 know with Chair Akutagawa and I when we had some of the
20 language access panels, some of the community
21 organizations did have to -- or didn't have to, but they
22 did reach out to committee members that also phoned in.

23 So that did take some coordination to do that, which
24 was very helpful to us. And then also, I believe when we
25 did the incarcerated population, the state incarcerated

1 population, there were community organizations that also
2 reached out to community members and provided input or
3 comment, I shouldn't say comment, but input regarding the
4 specific topics that we had. And I do know that the
5 fourteen-day was very helpful to them because as
6 Rosalind, and Helen, and Julia have all talked about the
7 efforts it takes to organize.

8 MS. GOLD: Oh, I'm sorry, I -- am I interrupting
9 you? My apologies. Because there was one other thing I
10 wanted to respond to with respect to Commissioner Yee's
11 very helpful comments. Would that be okay? Great. So I
12 did want to talk about what kind of training the first
13 eight commissioners should get.

14 I would actually feel that when it comes to things
15 related to all of the work that the Commission has to do,
16 that they're not the initial training for the eight
17 because you want everybody to hear the same thing. You
18 want all fourteen commissioners to hear the same thing.

19 There should be training on, you know, what are the
20 criteria for choosing the remaining six, what do you need
21 to be looking at in the applicant pool, the whole process
22 for the selection. But in terms of training on the
23 process itself as good -- for good learning curve for the
24 first eight to get started, we think that that's
25 outweighed by the need for all of the commissioners to be

1 hearing the same thing.

2 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. We appreciate
3 that. If there are -- I mean, these are wonderful
4 comments. And if they are beyond the three topics, we
5 would love to have that forwarded to us. And hopefully,
6 if we do have some time at the end, we can maybe go
7 into -- delve into that a little bit more.

8 Commissioner Andersen?

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Thank you. I also
10 want to echo what Commissioner Yee and Commissioner
11 Fornaciari said, and that we really appreciate your
12 panelists being here and the groups that you represent.
13 And all of our participation has been very valuable and
14 it's really been appreciated. I thought the time's been
15 very good on it. And you've really been looking for what
16 is the best for California. And I just wanted to really
17 thank you for that.

18 I do want to get into a couple of things that
19 because I actually worked on the line drawing
20 subcommittee. So I was really involved in the nitty
21 gritty of getting the maps out. You very accurately
22 brought the idea of what's the problem with -- from the
23 Commissioner's perspective of fourteen days? Did you
24 ever have any trouble? And I just want to say we
25 absolutely did. And it was with contracts.



1 And you may not have known that. But specifically,
2 like the legal contracts. We had to delay those several
3 times because, again, we didn't understand the idea of
4 you have -- what you have to put in an agenda, what you
5 don't have to put in so you can then speak about it at
6 the next meeting.

7 And the one thing that -- remember, you are all
8 executive directors of your groups. You understand the
9 whole process involved of getting a document out, but
10 commissioners are not. We're supposed to be just general
11 public. And many of us had no -- like the idea, okay,
12 you have to write up this drawing, this document here to
13 hand in so it can be three days in advance of the next
14 meeting.

15 You're like, wait a minute. What? How? And we
16 were trying to get non-administrators in our positions as
17 Commissioners. So just I want you to think about that as
18 it's a different perspective that Commissioners have.
19 But what we did try to do specifically, this is really
20 what I want your input on is we found that basically no
21 one paid attention to anything until the census data came
22 out. And then everyone wanted to say about everything.

23 And quite frankly, there really isn't time from when
24 the census data comes out till we have to turn the
25 draft -- have the maps done to do -- get all communities



1 of input, get all these sort of things done unless it all
2 happens at the same time. And it's a crossover. It
3 doesn't give you adequate time to bring the people in.
4 And so we tried to do something different this time
5 because we had the extra months because of the census
6 delay.

7 And we actually tried to move the entire COI process
8 ahead of the census data. Which I think everyone said
9 that was very, very helpful. But we still have a huge
10 resistance. A lot of people -- and I'm sure you kind of
11 got the same thing, they did start telling us about it,
12 but a lot of them didn't. It was still a bit like, yeah,
13 but that doesn't really matter because you're not going
14 to draw drawings yet.

15 But as you know, we need that information. And what
16 I was going to ask you, what you thought about that,
17 because we're, again, trying to do things differently for
18 the 2030 Commission. We did stuff that -- the 2010 did
19 what they needed to with the rules they had. And then
20 they said, but you guys should do things differently and
21 accept and change the rules, that we could do things a
22 little differently, which is what we tried to do.

23 We did, given our time frame, we had a little bit
24 longer. We had the extension into December 15. Those
25 sorts of things happened for us. And what we're trying

1 to do is knowing what happened negatively for us, do the
2 same for 2030. And in that, can we get things done
3 earlier working with the census, working with your groups
4 in terms of let's get everybody activated on this earlier
5 so our community of input information isn't just who are
6 you, where are you, but who are you, where are you, who
7 would you like to be with in a district, and who would
8 you not like to be with in a district?

9 Because we often like the same groups we heard from
10 in the COI input. Then they call back in when the maps
11 are being drawn, where they could have done all this
12 stuff at the same time. And we were thinking that would
13 really help. Because quite frankly, it's really hard to
14 do the all the line drawing live. But we try to be
15 extremely transparent. And that's where we did run into
16 trouble with just straight time frame.

17 We originally wanted to do two drafts. But if we
18 had fourteen days, there's absolutely no way that could
19 even happen in fourteen days. We understand we can work
20 on the maps, but it's --we need a little give-and-take on
21 this almost in that I completely understand the fourteen-
22 day notice for input the three days.

23 The three days -- if we didn't have the three days
24 as last time, it would have been almost impossible to do
25 that -- to make the maps -- to actually create them and

1 have the input and the awareness of all the public by
2 doing our sort of run show and everything, we're putting
3 out the agendas continually, almost. It's not ideal, but
4 given the size of the state and that we draw the lines
5 live, that's kind of what we ended up doing.

6 And so I'd like you to consider just a little bit
7 more of -- the fourteen days hard is what you are trying
8 to do the best for the public of California and the
9 Commissioners are too. And I think as a group, we can
10 come up with some ideas that certain time things -- give
11 leeway is required just to actually get the work done
12 without preventing input.

13 Because what I think is, Ms. Hutchinson said, if
14 it's all organized, the people who have -- and it was
15 that -- professional groups, they get their opinions in
16 right away. And the hard ones to hear from are the ones
17 who -- are the ones who don't get heard. We want to try
18 to make this process work for everybody.

19 So if you could consider, are there any things
20 different that we could do ahead of time? Like, can you
21 and your education help the next Commission really have
22 an active COI input ahead of the census data? What can
23 we do ahead of that time frame? And we tried to
24 incorporate doing some mock line drawing. Was that
25 beneficial? Because again, if we have these sort of

1 things we do ahead of time, getting the inputs in these
2 last couple of days, it might not be such a problem.

3 You don't have to try and do everything from start
4 in fourteen days. You've actually put a hard time ahead
5 even in the couple of years before the next redistricting
6 cycle to plan out when these things would happen and
7 assist the next Commission, who, again, will not know
8 what we know now, and they will not be executive
9 directors.

10 They'll be your average Joe on the street or -- and
11 they will need assistance. And we're trying to do a time
12 frame for those people. So if you -- I'd like some input
13 on what do you think went well for our COI -- our changes
14 that we tried to make.

15 And I had one other question about, oh, a run up --
16 in a run up for the -- I really appreciated the point you
17 said about don't start too soon in terms of -- because it
18 conflicts with the census. How can we actually work with
19 modifying both of ours so we work together through that?

20 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. So I'm going to ask
21 you --

22 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- Commissioner Andersen,
24 took us all the way up to the end of -- no, quite a bit
25 of what you're asking for, Commissioner Andersen, was not

1 part of the initial three. So what I'd like to do first
2 before we venture into other areas beyond the three,
3 is -- are there any Commissioners that have questions
4 relating to the three items that we discussed: potential
5 legislative changes, which would be the three days public
6 notice, extending that time period out, clarifying taking
7 public comment during regular non-mapping business
8 meetings does not constitute receiving input, and then
9 also earlier start date for Commissioners?

10 Are there any other questions related to those
11 three? And I see Commissioner Turner's hand is up.

12 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. Thank you chair or
13 thank you, Chair, and Commissioner Fernandez for leading
14 this conversation. I just wanted to say to the
15 panelists, it has been extremely helpful to hear your
16 thought process and for you to be here, particularly when
17 you spoke in reminding us that it's not just important to
18 be able to have the advanced notification of pull to
19 gather people you talked about you needed to be able to
20 analyze, work together, gain agreements with other
21 partners and all of those piece parts.

22 I wanted to go back to that because that to me is
23 really helpful in the work that we do because if we have
24 everyone standing isolated, submitting what they want, we
25 are kind of -- we kind of get to that place where we were



1 oftentimes at a crossroads. This group wants one thing.
2 This other group wants the other thing. They've not
3 talked together. There has been no give-and-take. And
4 then it leaves us with harder decisions to make.

5 And I just wanted to name that it was absolutely
6 beneficial and appreciated from my perspective where your
7 groups all came together. And I know that I'm very much
8 aware that you had to work through some give-and-take on
9 your own to be able to just come to this commission. So
10 I just wanted to name that and just kind of express
11 appreciation for what you do do and just say thanks.

12 MS. HUTCHINSON: Thank you very much for that. That
13 that is very nice to hear.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Did we lose Rosalind?
15 Rosalind? Okay. We'll keep going. Thank you,
16 Commissioner Turner. Are there are there any other
17 Commissioners that would like to talk about the three
18 potential legislative changes? And if not, we will move
19 on to other areas as long as our panel members are
20 willing to hold on and provide feedback, which is very
21 helpful to us. So thank you.

22 So with that, I don't see any other hands we can
23 venture into other areas. And I believe a Commissioner
24 or Chair Akutagawa had brought something up first and
25 then we have Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner

1 Andersen. And I'll try to summarize Commissioner
2 Andersen's information. And so Chair Akutagawa was
3 talking about whether or not it was helpful to start
4 educating the community now on redistricting and
5 potentially applying for it. I mean, given it is a few
6 years out, but we would really appreciate your feedback
7 on that. Thank you.

8 MS. HUTCHINSON: I think it's never too soon to do
9 that education in one sense. But in another sense, you
10 aren't going to get people's attention no matter -- I
11 mean, I don't want to be a Debbie Downer, but we've tried
12 a lot of different ways to get people's attention, and
13 it's the same thing that happens with the redistricting.

14 We try really hard to get people out there to talk
15 about their communities and talk about the communities of
16 interest. But until they see those draft maps and say,
17 oh my God, they're cutting -- that line's going to go
18 right through my community, you aren't going to get the
19 same reaction. And I mean, at least that's the
20 experience we have. If somebody has some great ideas
21 about engaging people, we're all for it.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I would probably agree with
23 you on that. Thank you. Julia, do you have anything to
24 add to that -- to that one?

25 MS. MARKS: Yeah, I know. I agree with the general



1 sentiment. I think it's always beneficial to be sharing
2 what the Commission does and keeping people interested in
3 the work and inspired by it. I think closer to -- closer
4 to the next seating and application process would be the
5 best investment of your time. But closer is actually not
6 that far away, right? So having that outreach really
7 kicking off in 2028, it will be really important.

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you so much.
9 And so now I will try to get a hold of Rosalind. But
10 with that, we will go over to Commissioner Kennedy.

11 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Fernandez. Just following up very quickly on the point
13 that we just discussed, I would point out the
14 Constitutional provision of someone who has not changed
15 political party affiliation for five or more years
16 immediately preceding date of appointment. So in my
17 mind, that would be an important point to be getting out.
18 Not next year necessarily, but certainly by 2024. I
19 think that's the point that we want to be making to
20 people statewide.

21 But the issue that I wanted to bring up, I was
22 prompted by experience, is with last week's general
23 election and more specifically, the voter information
24 guide. You may all recall that our staff had initially
25 approached the Secretary of State's office about having



1 some space in the Voter Information Guide during the, I
2 believe, during the primary election back in June to
3 highlight changes brought about by redistricting. And
4 Secretary of State basically was amenable but came back
5 and in the end said, we're sorry. There's no space
6 available. We'd love to give you space, but there's no
7 space now.

8 And I'm particularly sensitive being a San
9 Bernardino County resident looking at the map of Board of
10 Equalization Districts in the Voter Information Guide and
11 saying, essentially, if you take a quick look at the map,
12 it looks like all of San Bernardino County is in District
13 1. But we know that the valley portion of San Bernardino
14 County, the metro section, a lot of it is actually in, I
15 believe, District 4.

16 And there was no explanation of that whatsoever.
17 The map could have had an enlarged segment to show which
18 part of San Bernardino was in District 1, which part was
19 in District 4. There could have been a lot better
20 presentation of that information. And Secretary of
21 State's office basically said no.

22 And so I'd be interested in getting your thoughts on
23 our putting forward a proposal, legislative proposal to
24 require the Secretary of State in 2032 to dedicate some
25 space in the Voter Information Guide to an explanation of



1 redistricting. I mean, we've had public comment from
2 people who were like, why am I in this District? There
3 are people who show up expecting to vote for one
4 candidate and find out when they get to the polls that
5 they're not able to vote for that candidate.

6 I just think that we could all work together and do
7 a better job. And that part of that in California really
8 should be mandating that the Voter Information Guide
9 include information about redistricting and the impact of
10 redistricting. And so I'd be very interested in your
11 thoughts on that. Thank you.

12 MS. HUTCHINSON: I can't say that we would
13 definitely support that because I can't speak for the
14 League in that and beyond redistricting, things that I
15 know where our policy is. But we're all for voter
16 education. And I'll say that the League's voter
17 education material this time around included information
18 about new districts and where there are groups that work
19 consistently with the Secretary of State on making the
20 voter information guide more usable, more user friendly.
21 So I would look at those groups and see -- work through
22 them and see where you get.

23 MS. MARKS: Yeah. Similarly, I can't take a
24 position on behalf of Asian Law Caucus on that
25 suggestion, Commissioner Kennedy. But I think it's a



1 creative idea and certainly an area of need, right, to
2 continue community education. So I'm glad you're
3 exploring it.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Akutagawa, we're
5 not hearing you.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Are you able to hear me now?
7 Okay. Alicia, can you take over?

8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Anybody get it?
9 Okay. Let's see, we had Commissioner Kennedy, and we had
10 feedback on that. Oh, and then the next one was --

11 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Andersen.

12 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen? And
13 hers was -- I'm going to try to summarize what you asked,
14 Commissioner Andersen was in their opinion, what areas or
15 items could be done earlier ahead of the census data,
16 correct?

17 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yep.

18 MS. HUTCHINSON: And you know, it's the same answer
19 that we gave earlier that we'd love to -- we'd love to
20 get people engaged earlier. Our organizations all
21 really, really, really tried to do that. But until there
22 are maps ahead -- in front of people, we did -- through
23 two cycles of this, we can tell you that having draft
24 maps is what piques the interest.

25 MS. GOLD: My apologies. Can I be heard now?



1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

2 MS. GOLD: Okay. I'm so sorry. Internet went down.
3 Finally figured out how to work on my cell phone. I'm
4 sorry if I could ask the question that's on the table,
5 I'd sure appreciate it.

6 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, go ahead, Rosalind.

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, she didn't know what
8 the question was. So the question was, Commissioner
9 Andersen was asking what efforts or what activities we
10 could do ahead of the census data. And I think you were
11 here -- were you here when she talked about it,
12 Commissioner -- Rosalind? Okay.

13 MS. GOLD: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So if you can respond to
15 that, that'd be great.

16 MS. GOLD: Yeah. So first of all there's a kind
17 of -- a kind of a sweet spot between when community
18 members are focused on mobilizing their communities to
19 participate in the census. And let me just -- I'm trying
20 to visualize what moving things earlier would do with
21 respect to when the Commission is educating people about
22 communities of interest and getting a community interest
23 testimony.

24 Because, again, while people are focused on census,
25 they are not focused on redistricting. So if we have a

1 census that is not delayed by the pandemic, okay, April
2 1st, 2030 is a big day. That is census day. And that's
3 when we talk to people about the fact that, hey, your
4 forms are being mailed out or there's other ways that you
5 can respond to the census.

6 That is -- really that month and the months, a
7 couple of months after that, are very focused on getting
8 people to respond. If they have not responded by
9 internet, by phone, or by mailing their forms back in,
10 there is then the period that the Bureau calls
11 nonresponse follow up, which is where the bureau sends
12 enumerators out to the community to go door-to-door and
13 get people to complete their census forms.

14 So I think there are some issues with if you're
15 trying to solicit community of interest testimony and
16 educate people about redistricting, pretty much the
17 second half of 2030. So when you think about your
18 schedule for when the Commission gets started and when it
19 starts its community of interest activities know that
20 it's really for at least the communities that we work in,
21 it's going to be very hard to get people to focus on
22 communities of interest during that second half of 2030,
23 with April 1 being census day.

24 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I'm just going to interrupt
25 here because we're now four minutes past the scheduled

1 end time. Just out of respect to Julia, Helen, and
2 Rosalind, I just want to ask you if you could perhaps go
3 for maybe another ten more minutes. I see that we have
4 three more hands again. Commissioner Andersen, Kennedy,
5 and Yee are -- have some questions.

6 And if we could squeeze this in in the next ten
7 minutes between questions and answers, then if that works
8 for the three of you, let's go forward. Otherwise, if we
9 need to wrap up we would -- we'll most appreciatively
10 wrap up.

11 MS. HUTCHINSON: So thank you so much. I certainly
12 can stay.

13 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

14 MS. MARKS: Yep, I can too.

15 MS. GOLD: And I can too.

16 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thanks, Julia. Thanks,
17 Helen. Okay. Just real quick, Commissioner Fernandez,
18 do you want to just go ahead and take back over?

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Sure. I'm herding the
20 cats. Here we go. Commissioner Andersen?

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Thank you very much,
22 everybody. What I would like your input on is if, like
23 you say, the census day, census day. But are you
24 meaningful to saying, yes, it's census day? But we've
25 already wrapped into its census day. And with that, we



1 do redistricting. We're trying to change things from the
2 way it has always gone. It's census day. Okay. And
3 then later you do redistricting.

4 No, it's like let's go back. Let's actually say the
5 reason why you do census is because then that's
6 representation. We as a Commission are trying to push
7 that forward or back -- or forward to get it. So it
8 makes it essentially our job and then ultimately your
9 job's much easier because they go hand in hand because
10 that's what we're trying to do. And we don't want to
11 step on anyone's toes.

12 And we don't know what your timeframes are. And
13 maybe if we get them thinking of that, hey, you do that
14 and then you do -- you tell us about who you are, kind of
15 like, are you amenable to that -- willing to work with
16 us? And please let us know what roadblocks or time-frame
17 roadblocks we would run into as we try to do this sort of
18 thing.

19 MS. MARKS: So I can --

20 MS. GOLD: Sure.

21 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Julia.

22 MS. MARKS: Sure. I can share some reflections.
23 And Rosalind, I'm sure you have thoughts on this as well.
24 So we definitely, in this last cycle emphasized the
25 relationship between census and representation. That was

1 such an important reason people were getting involved and
2 cared about the census. And that messaging, I think,
3 landed quite strongly. And it was exciting to see coming
4 out of census how enthusiastic a lot of community members
5 and smaller organizations were, including organizations
6 that don't traditionally work on democracy topics.

7 So I think there was a lot of interest there. We
8 wouldn't want to include questions about COI or get
9 people defining their communities during the census
10 process because it would be too confusing and so much is
11 at stake with getting an accurate count. Confusing the
12 messaging and the ask could be problematic, but getting
13 the interest is certainly something we've done in the
14 past we would want to see happen again in the future.

15 One of the challenges, though, is that folks came
16 out of census with strong interest in redistricting, but
17 the infrastructure and specifically funding ended at that
18 point. And so a lot of organizations that had really
19 modest grants to do some census outreach had staff who
20 cared about redistricting but just couldn't devote the
21 time to carrying that work forward.

22 So if there's a way to get both public sector
23 funding and philanthropic funding to create a stronger
24 bridge between census work and redistricting work, I
25 would keep those folks engaged in conversation with

1 community and do that bridge more quickly so we can still
2 be respectful of kind of discrete census messaging and
3 then launch into redistricting more effectively and more
4 efficiently as the census day passes.

5 MS. GOLD: Yeah, I completely agree with what Julia
6 said. And I think just to give a sense of the kinds of
7 things that we are educating community members about
8 during the census period and why there could be some
9 confusion if we tried to also do education specifically
10 about how to draw your communities of interest. What's
11 involved in testifying?

12 During the census outreach campaign, yes, we are
13 definitely educating people about why the census is
14 important not only for redistricting, but also for the
15 fair allocation of resources to our communities. But
16 there is also a lot of detailed information that we're
17 giving community members. We're giving community members
18 information like, okay, here's all the different options
19 you have for returning your census form.

20 If you didn't get a census form in the mail and you
21 might have expected one, here's where you need to go to.
22 People may have questions about, well, this person wasn't
23 living at my household on April 1st, should they fill out
24 their own form? Should they -- what forms -- what
25 questions about how to correctly provide the information

1 that the bureau wants. So just as information and
2 education about drawing a community of interest can be
3 very detailed, so can the information about -- that you
4 do during a census campaign.

5 So again, we very much agree with the idea of
6 connecting the two and using that as a wave and a
7 momentum, but trying to actually do both of those
8 campaigns with a level of detail, which is census
9 outreach, how to participate, and how to participate in
10 redistricting and draw your communities of interest, I
11 think that would be very challenging.

12 One of the things I know we probably wouldn't have
13 this again, but one of the challenges we also had this
14 time around was the fact that we were doing nonpartisan
15 voter engagement work as well all around the same time.

16 So we would just say, like I said, a great idea
17 regarding making that connection, including it as part of
18 the messaging, but trying to do two very detail-oriented
19 campaigns to really help educate your community members
20 on to different kinds of civic participation would be a
21 challenge.

22 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I appreciate
23 that. And I'll add my \$0.02 worth before I go to
24 Commissioner Kennedy. And I think Commissioner Toledo
25 would also agree with me, I always try to step back and



1 say, okay, if I try to explain it to my mom, who is
2 Spanish speaking, how difficult would it be to, one, talk
3 about senses and then try to also talk about
4 redistricting at the same time? And I think that's what
5 brings it home to me. So thank you so much for reminding
6 me about that.

7 The majority of Californians, we want to do a census
8 first, of course, we want to get them counted. And maybe
9 we can work with the census in terms of maybe
10 coordinating with some a message regarding redistricting.
11 So thank you for that. And then we'll go to Commissioner
12 Kennedy.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner
14 Fernandez. I really, more than anything, just want to
15 make sure I understood Rosalind point earlier about
16 timing and maybe put something on the table that we can
17 consider. Did you say that it would be difficult to do
18 any work on COI during the second half of 2030? Or was
19 that more the fourth quarter of 2030 could in fact be
20 focused on COI?

21 MS. GOLD: So I think if you're talking about basic
22 community education, there could be some done. But when
23 you're talking about fourth quarter 2030, again, if you
24 look at, you know, many of our group see civic
25 participation as a continuum of census, completely

1 nonpartisan voter engagement, right, and redistricting.

2 So when it comes to fourth quarter 2030, many of our
3 groups are going to be pivoting from -- continuing to
4 encourage anybody who hasn't participated in the census.
5 I would have to look again on the exact cut-off date for
6 when nonresponse follow up. But then there's okay, we
7 have an election coming up.

8 In California, we have all these different ways
9 people can vote. And we're still going to have all those
10 ways or things. But I'm not sure what it's going to look
11 like in 2030 --

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Um-hum.

13 MS. GOLD: But we know for each election in a
14 nonpartisan way, again, we have to answer questions about
15 where are your -- if you have vote centers in your
16 community, where are the vote centers? How do you get to
17 vote by mail ballot?

18 So really, again, I think trying to, in a
19 fundamental way, connect all of these things is being
20 important to our democracy. But realizing that each of
21 these time frames has different implications for the kind
22 of information we're providing to the community.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, of course. The whole
24 rationale of how of why we did it the way we did it was
25 to try to collect community of information -- community

1 of interest information in a period of time when people
2 were not focused on what the maps would look like.

3 We wanted to get communities of interest defining
4 themselves without regard to elections, truly, what is
5 your community of interest -- so that we, the Commission,
6 could then take those communities of interest and their
7 input about who they did and did not want to be grouped
8 with and build districts.

9 So I would again hope that the 2030 Commission,
10 whether through personal travel or through community of
11 interest input hearings, would try to get that community
12 of interest input at a point in time when it is as little
13 colored by goals and objectives as possible,
14 understanding that it will never be completely divorced
15 from that.

16 But if we if we -- if they could collect it when
17 it's as untinged with the politics of where are the lines
18 going to go as possible, I think that would be a positive
19 thing. Thank you.

20 MS. GOLD: And we very much agree. And I hope
21 that -- I just want to make sure that my statements about
22 voter engagement are not being construed as saying, well,
23 voter engagement, by the way, when we do it with
24 nonpartisan voter engagement, our voter engagement is
25 certainly about the importance of voting, but it is not

1 about who to vote for what party to vote for. None of
2 that comes into it. We just want people to have a voice,
3 right?

4 And so I wasn't sure if you were suggesting that
5 somehow there was a connection between voter engagement
6 and having people think of redistricting as line drawing.
7 But I did want to clarify that. But we very much agree
8 and appreciated the time to have focus on just
9 communities of interest input. You are absolutely right
10 because that's how we work with our community members,
11 right.

12 We don't go in and say, oh, by the way, we draw a
13 perfect map. We say, what are the things that unite you?
14 What are the things that you have in common? What are
15 the things that would you would want to keep your
16 community members together as opposed to that make you
17 different from other communities. So again, we're very
18 much in agreement on that.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And thank you for that.
20 We've gone a little bit over, but we'll just --
21 Commissioner Yee and then I will wrap this up. Thank
22 you.

23 Commissioner Yee: Thank you. Different topic,
24 meeting formats. So 2010 public input was all in-person,
25 2020 was all virtual. What should 2030 think about?

1 MS. HUTCHINSON: I think public meeting. The people
2 are really liking the ability to do the virtual. So some
3 kind of a hybrid meeting I think is called for. We're
4 finding that in local governments all over the state that
5 everybody really likes being able to meet from home and
6 testify from home. But we also -- the in-person quality
7 is also valuable. So I would hope we don't give up on
8 being allowed to testify virtually, but that we can add
9 the in-person to it.

10 MS. GOLD: And I agree that a hybrid would be ideal
11 just because it would also give the Commissioners a
12 chance to really see people face-to-face, see community
13 members face-to-face, see the areas face-to-face. I
14 think there's an extra value, for lack of a better word,
15 of the Commission taking a road trip.

16 MS. MARKS: And I'll add my agreement. It really
17 democratizes it and makes it more accessible if people
18 can join virtually as well.

19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Well, thank you so
20 much. We really appreciate you spending the time with
21 us. This was very helpful and we appreciate you staying
22 on even longer to discuss some of the other, I guess,
23 burning questions that our Commissioners have. So thank
24 you, Julia, Rosalind, Helen. We really appreciate your
25 time. Chair Akutagawa?



1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you. And I just
2 want to add my thanks and my very sincere appreciation to
3 the three of you for making time to join us and to really
4 share perspective. And I think it was helpful in helping
5 us to really understand some of the nuances from your
6 perspective and hopefully having heard from some of the
7 commissioners, the kind of -- the perspectives that the
8 commissioners have as well too. But this was super
9 helpful. And then also taking part in the additional
10 questions related, but not necessarily exactly related to
11 what we wanted to make sure that we covered. So thank
12 you to the three of you. And we really do appreciate the
13 extra time that we had.

14 MS. HUTCHINSON: Thank you.

15 MS. MARKS: Thank you.

16 MS. GOLD: Thank you.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. All right. So for our
18 Commissioners, we still have a little bit of time. We do
19 have one subcommittee update that I'd like to make sure
20 that we can get to. And then following the conclusion of
21 that subcommittee update, I believe we will then be
22 finished with our subcommittee updates.

23 And then what we could do is then take I believe we
24 can then take public comment on that. Is that correct?
25 We should take public comment after the subcommittee



1 reports, I think. And then we'll break for lunch right
2 after that. And so I don't want to jinx it by saying
3 maybe a little earlier, but I will confess to being a
4 little hopeful, so. Okay. So Website subcommittee, I
5 believe that is Commissioner Andersen and is it
6 Commissioner Taylor?

7 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Taylor.

8 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: But I don't -- I believe,
9 Commissioner Taylor -- I don't know if he's on with this.

10 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I don't think he is. He got
11 called away.

12 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick -- was the
14 legislative panel -- do we take public comment on that?

15 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. All right.

17 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: But it's all part of the
18 subcommittee.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Okay. Website
20 subcommittee. Basically, things are going very well.
21 They're not going as quickly as we like. But when we
22 last -- last meeting, we brought up the issue of -- we
23 actually have two Web sites right now and we will
24 ultimately have to go down to one website, which is the
25 dot CA dot gov.

1 Our 2020 has been on wedrawthelineca.org for reasons
2 that I can go into but I won't right now. And we have to
3 transition everything back to the dot CA dot gov so it
4 can be maintained. And we did put some funding in to
5 keep this going through -- until we turn it over to the
6 2030 Commission.

7 The issue was and part of the reason why we didn't
8 just jump in and continue to use the 2010 website, which
9 was the dot ca dot gov is because it was not ADA
10 compliant. And to make it so would have required quite a
11 bit of time on a platform that wasn't really that user
12 friendly. And we did not have time to do it, so. But we
13 did not want to lose administrative access to all the
14 2010 website.

15 Most of the information has been archived. There
16 are ways to get to it. But if we lose administrative
17 access, then we cannot -- actually should need to be
18 modified a little bit in the future to make sure it is
19 compliant. We can see it. We would not be able to. We
20 have solved that problem. We did tuck it into a pocket
21 essentially on the website and we will be able to
22 transfer our dot org contents onto the dot CA dot gov.

23 That is essentially being worked out as we speak.
24 You already heard from Commissioner -- not
25 Commissioner -- from Executive Director Hernandez that



1 our data is being handled by Snowflake and that has been
2 sort of done, the transfer, and the reason why that is
3 being done is so we can continue to maintain it all the
4 way through. The 2010 Commission, their website and data
5 crashed in about 2015 and it was never quite the same
6 since.

7 And we sort of put steps in in -- we've made steps
8 rolling along to make sure we do not have that issue.
9 What we are doing, the Website committee is going to be
10 getting a essentially a mock-up of everything that we are
11 going to go over -- review in the next say couple of days
12 and before Thanksgiving.

13 The plan is we will be submitting basically to the
14 full Commission and public after Thanksgiving, towards
15 the end of that week is basically here is what it's going
16 to look like. If you have any comments and things,
17 please let us know by this date and then at the next
18 meeting we will actually have a couple of motions to move
19 forward as one is essentially to accept it and we make
20 the move.

21 So it's everything -- the dot CA is gone. It'll
22 have a place card there and say, go to dot CA dot gov.
23 We'll have all our information and continue forward on
24 the dot CA dot gov and we'll have a 2010 tab. And so
25 that's the plan. And moving forward, we'll also at that

1 time bring forward a when we need to do more with the web
2 site and in the future, i.e. 2027 to get this up, make
3 sure it's funded, updated and continuing on for the 2030
4 Commission to take over.

5 So that's the plan. Look, basically keep your --
6 look at -- keep your inboxes open for right after
7 Thanksgiving and you'll also be getting updates that you
8 will have to review. Any questions?

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I see one question from
10 Commissioner Yee.

11 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you so
12 much, Website Subcommittee. I'm super grateful that this
13 is all being consolidated and that a link forwarding will
14 still remain as well because so much material out there
15 is already published linking our dot org address and we
16 need to keep it alive.

17 I wonder if you can explain the snowflake UI
18 connection and how that will interface with the website
19 going forward. I just have no idea what it features.
20 Thanks. So how will we access our data through our
21 website and how does that work with the Snowflake UI
22 that's being developed, I guess, the user interface?

23 COMMISSIONER Andersen: Okay. Well, basically, it's
24 going to look the same, our map viewer still the same.
25 That doesn't change at all. It will have -- we're trying

1 to make the user interface of what it looks like now to
2 be -- how actually on Airtable, it's a little tricky?
3 You kind of have to -- you have to know a bit more about
4 it to try to use things. And we're actually going to
5 make that -- try to make it simpler.

6 The idea of the Website subcommittee is we might
7 actually have a how-to session when we actually get the
8 user interface up and going. So we can actually teach
9 all of us and hence the public this -- the changes with
10 the easiest way to access all the data. So I don't
11 know -- I don't know what language they're using. I
12 don't quite know.

13 I might ask even the Corina if she wants to have
14 some input or Director Hernandez on what the intent is.
15 But essentially the intent is to make it a little more
16 user-friendly right now than the Airtable has been.
17 It'll still have the same information, but it'll be a
18 little more user friendly.

19 It'll still be on the same tab, location. It'll
20 just look a little different. Anything that either
21 future Executive Director or current Director --
22 Executive Director want to add to that?

23 COMMISSIONER YEE: So the Airtable interface is
24 going away, but all the underlying data will now be
25 accessed through our website, through a new UI that's



1 been developed with Snowflake.

2 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER YEE: Okay. Thanks.

4 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: It sounds like you know it. I
5 guess maybe the simplest way is, instead of using Google
6 Drive, we're going to move into Dropbox. So the concept
7 of it is still the same. It's just a different server
8 service. I see the Executive Director Hernandez has his
9 hand up.

10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Just wanted to clarify,
11 Commissioner Yee just pretty much summed it up for me.
12 It's just going to make it easier. It's not going to be
13 artificial intelligence where it's going to get ahead of
14 you and tell you what you want to hear or want to see
15 yet.

16 But it's going to make it a lot easier to access the
17 information. It won't be the clunky database style.
18 It'll be set up a little bit differently, more intuitive
19 to some extent, and easier for people to follow and find
20 the information that they want to see.

21 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you. And Corina, I
22 may have oversimplified it, so I don't know if you wanted
23 to comment on it. I saw your hand up. Yeah, I was
24 basically going to share with Commissioner -- with what
25 Alvaro mentioned and it's -- it'll handle storing our

1 data and they'll be able to use it and it'll be able to
2 handle the videography files, their large files.

3 So that's basically what it is. It's a storage and
4 it's also a database and it's highly recommended. A lot
5 of state agencies and companies use Snowflake, so it's
6 very highly recommended, is what I understand. Yeah, I
7 know this.

8 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. No, the website --
9 the subcommittee has not seen -- well, we don't have the
10 contract yet for the user interface group, so. We don't
11 have the information about even proposals about what it
12 might look like. So that's why I'm not giving you more
13 of a, hey, it's going to look just like this.

14 And unfortunately that what's been delayed, but we
15 still hope to have that going for all the data has been
16 transferred instantly. It's literally just what it's
17 going to look like still has to be worked out.

18 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And I see Commissioner Yee has
19 another question.

20 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to
21 read Commissioner Kennedy's mind. So the auditor's
22 website, any hope that that will get consolidated
23 together as well?

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Remember what I said
25 about getting funding together for later on? Remember,

1 right now our task has been while we have staff through
2 the end of the year, is to get everything what we have,
3 what is 2010, get it all into one site, all working and
4 enough that we haven't lost any access to anything, so we
5 can then continue in the next few years to then do these
6 tasks that we wanted to.

7 One of which will be to restore to 2010 to what it
8 was. We took 2010 try to sort of modify it a bit and
9 then we abandoned it, went to the dot org site, we'll
10 clean that up. And so it will actually say that the 2010
11 information.

12 And ultimately, the idea would be by the time we do
13 this 2029, we'll actually have our 2020 information also
14 condensed into -- so we can actually turn into a tab, a
15 2020 tab, and we turn over the basic information -- basic
16 website over to 2030, so they can just take that and then
17 modify it and go from there and still have our all the
18 2010 and 2020 content. But it's not slowing them down.
19 It's not going to give them any kind of trouble.

20 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for all that work.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sure.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And it sounds like you're making
23 some good progress. So that's really heartening to know.

24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I do want to say,
25 just on the progress level, this is taking a lot of time

1 and the staff has really been good about this. It sounds
2 really nice and simple to say, oh, we just did this.
3 It's actually taken a lot. And so I really want to give
4 them the credit where credit's due. We have just been
5 kind of doing overseeing and they've been doing the bulk
6 of the work.

7 So Martin gets a lot of credit on this -- huge
8 credit role, Corina, Paul, Alvaro running it. So just
9 want to make sure everyone knows. And thank you.

10 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Wonderful. Thank you. And thanks
11 for also looking at some of the future one -- kind of
12 questions that have been brought up in the past and
13 probably will continue to get brought up. So thank you
14 for working with the staff on that.

15 Okay. Is there any other questions at this time?
16 Any additional questions on the website report? And not
17 seeing any -- and if not, then we could go ahead --
18 Kristian, let's go ahead and take public comment on this
19 Agenda Item Number 3, which is the subcommittee updates.
20 Oh, no, no finance and admin already went, but they
21 already reported. Okay, Kristian.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. The
23 Commission will now take public comment. To give
24 comment, please 877-853-5247 and enter meeting ID number
25 83969435598. Once you've dialed in, please press star 9



1 to enter the comment queue. The full call-in
2 instructions are read at the beginning of the meeting and
3 are provided on the livestream landing page. We have no
4 comments at this time.

5 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. We will wait a couple of
6 minutes for the live stream to finish the instructions.

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

9 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you so much,
10 Kristian. Okay. We're going to break for lunch a little
11 early, so I know that -- let's see, I guess if -- perhaps
12 just in the interest of time, we could go ahead and break
13 early. I think what we'll do is I'll give you ten extra
14 minutes. I won't give you twenty-five, but I'll give you
15 ten extra minutes for lunch. Let's reconvene in closed
16 session.

17 So anybody who is watching on the livestream, when
18 we reconvene after lunch, we will -- the Commissioners
19 will reconvene in closed session. So let's reconvene at
20 1:30 p.m. and then that -- we will hopefully be in closed
21 session from 1:30 to at least 3 o'clock, I think is what
22 it'll work out. Okay. Thank you. And (audio
23 interference) I'll see you back at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

24 (Whereupon, a recess was held)

25 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much,



1 Kristian. And to anyone who is still watching and on the
2 livestream with us for this meeting, thank you very much
3 for your patience. We had quite a robust conversation on
4 litigation, the matter. In terms of pending allegation,
5 we did not take any action on that. We also had robust
6 conversation on personnel matters.

7 And I will say that we did take action and we
8 established an end date for staff of January 15. And
9 with that, we're ready to move to all of our other agenda
10 items except for taking general public comment is our
11 last action for this meeting.

12 Kristian, if I can ask you to call for public
13 comment.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. The
15 Commission will now take public comment -- general public
16 comment. To give comment, please call 877-853-5247 and
17 enter meeting ID number 83969435598. Once you've dialed
18 in, please press star 9 to enter the comment queue. The
19 full call-in instructions are read at the beginning of
20 the meeting and are provided on the live stream landing
21 page. And there are no callers at this time, Chair.

22 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thanks, Kristian. Just let me
23 know when the instructions are finished.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And those instructions
25 are complete.



1 CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you so much.
2 Given that we have no public comment, I just want to say
3 thank you to all of the Commissioners and staff and all
4 of our video services team for being on with us. It is
5 the week before Thanksgiving, so I just want to say Happy
6 Thanksgiving to all of you. I hope you have a very
7 delicious and yet safe one. And we'll see you back here
8 in December. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned
10 at 4:30 p.m.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

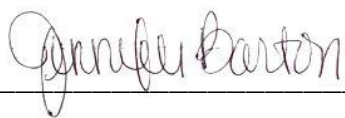
24

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 28, 2022

JENNIFER BARTON