STATE OF CALIFORNIA 2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

DISTRICT MAP INPUT MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Transcribed By:

Delores Gauntlett

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

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

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INTERPRETERS

ASL Interpreter Captioner/s

ALSO PRESENT

PUBLIC INPUT

Belia Ramos, Napa County Jesse Fraire, CNVP, Karuk Tribe, Siskiyou County Terry Nguyen, Little Saigon

PUBLIC INPUT - CONTINUED

Daphne Harris, ZIP 95823

Lucas Zucker, CAUSE, Central Coast Samuel Sukaton, CEVEF, Central Coast Martha Howard, Temecula Tammy Simms, Temecula Caller PMI-0-006B, Riverside Alberto Esquivel, LULAC, Riverside Janet Barnabe Sky Allen, IE United, San Bernadino Daniel Ichinose, OCCET, Orange County Caller PMI-011, Orange County Foothills Deanna Kitamura, AAAJ. AAPI, Overview Amrita Singh, AAAJ, AAPI, Assembly Map June Lim, AAAJ, AAPI, Southern California Sietse Goffard, AAAJ, Bay Area Rick Callender, NAACP CHSC Andrew Westall, NAACP, ERP

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1

PROCEEDINGS

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11:00 a.m.

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CHAIR SADHWANI: Good morning. And welcome to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, for our Public Map Input Session.

5

We'll begin by taking the roll. Ravi.

7

MR. SINGH: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

8

Commissioner Sinay.

9

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

10

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

11

Commissioner Toledo.

12

Commissioner Turner.

13

Commissioner Vazquez.

14

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here. Just in time.

15

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee.

16

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

17

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad.

18

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

19

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

20

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

21

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen.

22

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

23

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez.

24

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Presente.

25

1 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari. 2 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here. 3 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy. COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: 4 Here. 5 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons. VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Here. 6 7 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Sadhwani. CHAIR SADHWANI: Here. 9 MR. SINGH: Roll call is complete, Chair. 10 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thanks so much, Ravi. 11 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And Commissioner Turner, here. 12 CHAIR SADHWANI: Oh. Thank you. Commissioner 13 Turner, we definitely did not want to miss you today. 14 So welcome, again. My name is Sara Sadhwani. 15 will be serving as Chair today, along with my Vice Chair, 16 Antonio Le Mons, who is joining us as well. 17 First, a little bit of background on the Commission. 18 Every ten years after the Federal Government publishes 19 updated census information, California must redraw the 20 boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization Districts so 21 22 that the districts correctly reflect the state's 23 population. 24 The fourteen-member Commission is made up of five 25

Republicans, five Democrats, and four not affiliated with

1 either of those two parties.

The Commission must draw the district lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Californians.

For more information, visit our website at, WeDrawTheLinesCA.org.

Let me give a little bit of an overview of the next three days. We're meeting today, October 21st, from 11:00 until 6:00 p.m.; tomorrow, Friday, October 22nd, from 9:30 to 4:30; and also on Saturday from 9:30 until 4:30.

During these sessions we'll be receiving public plans, so we'll be receiving presentations of multi-district plans by the public, who will provide an opportunity -- it will provide an opportunity to showcase submitters' ideas, potential solutions, and specific district boundaries.

Some of these plans might resemble some of the visualizations that we've prepared ourselves, as some will only be partial plans, covering part of the state. Others may cover the entire state, and might resemble full draft plans.

We will start each day off with appointments for presentations, and then end the day with feedback to our

1 Line Drawing Team.

On Saturday, at the conclusion of all of the presentations, we will open for public comment.

Participating in the October 21st to 23rd Meetings is not the only way to submit public district maps to the Commission. The Statewide Database has created a fabulous tool called, Draw My CA Districts. It's an online tool for creating district maps, and there's a Draw My CA free-to-use plug in, for the open source GIS platform, QGIS, where you can submit maps to the Commission. For more information you can visit, DrawMyCalifornia.org.

A couple of housekeeping rules before we get started here. We just want to remind the public who have appointments for today, to please join fifteen minutes in advance of your presentation.

The Commission will be sticking to designated times for the presentations, and enforcing the designated time limits, and will provide a warning at one minute, and thirty seconds, remaining.

As a reminder, we have available: Small submissions, which included one to three district maps, those are sixminute presentations; medium submissions, which included four or more district maps, but not a statewide map, and those are fifteen-minute presentations; large

submissions, which would be one statewide map, for thirty
minutes; and finally, extra-large submissions, which
would include more than one statewide map.

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The Commission has enabled screen sharing for presenters, so please have your maps handy to enable screen share at the beginning of your presentation. All of our -- all of the maps that are being presented today are also posted on our website.

In addition, the Commission chose to not ask questions of presenters, so there will not be any follow up, after the presentations, from Commissioners.

And with that, I'm going to go to Katy, our wonderful comment moderator, to go over the directions and start us off with our first presenter.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

Welcome to the Public Map Input session. When it is your turn to speak, you will be identified by your assigned unique ID number. You will be reconnected to this session with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio, and to enable screen sharing. Please have your maps handy prior to your appointment start time in order to enable screen sharing.

The Commission will be enforcing appointment time limits with a warning at one minute, and thirty seconds, remaining. At the end of your public input, or at the

1 end of your time, you will be reconnected in a listen-2 and view-only mode.

Right now we will have PM-001. And then up next we will have PM-002. PM-001, I will be promoting you now. PM-001, you can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. Click on Screen Share in the bottom left of your screen. And you have done all of these things. The floor is yours.

MS. RAMOS: Thank you so much, and good morning to the Commission. My name is Belia Ramos. I serve as the Fifth District Supervisor in Napa County, which is the southern portion of Napa County. I have submitted this map to the Commission for consideration, along with a narrative. For purposes of my comments today, I'm going to focus on the Congressional district specifically.

One of the unique things about Napa County is how a rural county can be situated so closely to urbanized counties, and has so many commonalities in those rural heritage lands of Lake County, Sonoma County, and the agricultural lands of Solano County as well.

We have one daily serving newspaper in Napa County. We have one school district that serves, primarily, most of the county. We have one main highway that runs from the top to the bottom of Napa County, and we are known around the world as the Great Wine Capital for the United

States. We have a robust tourism industry, and we are a logistics hub in and around the North Bay. We have many of these commonalities with the counties of Lake, with

2.3

Sonoma, and with Solano.

- In addition, one of the things that makes Napa

 County, and specifically the southern region of Napa

 County, so unique, is that we play a vital role in that

 transportation system that involves connecting Highway

 29, Highway 37, and Highway 80.
- As some of you may be aware, the flooding and subsidence of Highway 37 really makes the partnership between Solano County and Napa County even stronger, as we advocate for the rehabilitation of this roadway together.
- In my narrative that I have included to the Commission, I have highlighted these points and others. It is important for Napa County to remain in the same Congressional, Senatorial, and Assembly district so that we can be able to advocate for ourselves as an agricultural region, to push forward that vital economic engine that we have, for the North Bay and for California as a whole.
- And I respectfully request the Commission's consideration of that particular strength that Napa County brings with its partners of Lake Sonoma, and

- 1 | Solano County. And when I refer to Solano County, I am
- 2 talking about that south and western portion of Solano
- 3 County.
- 4 Knowing that the Commission has a long day ahead of
- 5 | it today and tomorrow, I will submit, respectfully submit
- 6 the comments of the narrative that I have, the map, for
- 7 your consideration. And I very much appreciate the
- 8 | Commission's -- giving due, pardon me, to give due
- 9 consideration to the fact that Napa County is one of
- 10 those rural counties that should remain whole for
- 11 purposes of all Legislative representation. Thank you so
- 12 much.
- 13 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much.
- 14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And right now we will
- 15 have PMI-002. PMI-002, I will be promoting you now.
- 16 PMI-002, you can now enable your audio and video in the
- 17 | lower-left corner of your screen, and the screen
- 18 | sharing -- and click on the Screen Share -- oh. You
- 19 found it. Perfect.
- 20 MR. FRAIRE: Great. Thank you so much. Good
- 21 morning, Commissioners. Thank you so much for this
- 22 public input opportunity.
- We've had a chance to speak a little bit in the
- 24 past. My name is Jesse Fraire, I'm with the California
- 25 Native Vote Project, and really excited to share our

proposed maps with our Citizens Redistricting Commission
today.

As you can see, our proposal here is to -- our proposal and our main goal here is to keep the Karuk Tribe as one community of interest. Now, when it comes to, you know, reconsidering our current district boundaries, starting off with our proposed Assembly district, you'll follow -- it'll be the same theme for Assembly, or for State Senate, and for Congressional.

It's pretty minor in terms of the proposed impact we're -- you know, we're thinking. We originally received this request from Karuk Tribal members, it must have been in 2019, where they notified us about the split representation happening on their tribal homelands.

So the Karuk Tribe, I don't have it on here, but basically plots of land mostly in Siskiyou County, and crossing into a piece of Humboldt County, in the northeast corner -- or in the northeast section of Humboldt County.

So we do have, I believe it's a small Town of
Orleans that belongs to the Karuk Reservation, as part of
the Karuk Reservation. So our main goal is to keep this
COI together.

So as you can see here, the proposed line that we submitted, or the proposed redrawing of the line would

include them, the little plots of land being here, so kind of just expanding this boundary here towards the coast a little bit from -- to be included into District 1.

We will be in more conversations with some of our tribal leaders in Karuk to see how they would feel about a potential alternative. We have heard, you know, some of the testimony from some of -- from some groups in the state who would like to modify the line to include more of Siskiyou County within the coastal region, so within District 2. So we'll be bringing that up to our leaders at Karuk to see, you know, if that alternative would also work.

But for now, this is what we're proposing, so just a slight shift to the current line, to be inclusive of the Karuk Reservation, as a whole, within District 1.

So that would be the same for the Senate district, and also for the Congressional district, which I'm scrolling over now, so mostly this line that I'm highlighting here, would be slightly modified. But I believe that's the main piece I wanted to cover.

And you know, can definitely follow up with some more testimony, regarding any sort of preferences from the tribe moving forward. The conversation, especially with a potential modification, where Siskiyou would be a

- 1 bit more -- you know, a bit more split, but still with
- 2 | the same goal, of keeping the Karuk Reservation as a
- 3 whole community of interest within one single district is
- 4 key.
- 5 Thank you so much for your time, and you know,
- 6 again, really appreciate this opportunity.
- 7 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much.
- 8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
- 9 PM-003. And then up next after that, we will have PM-
- 10 004. PM-003, I will be promoting you now. PMI-003, you
- 11 | can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left
- 12 corner of your screen, and the Screen Sharing button is
- 13 | in the middle bottom of your screen. One more time,
- 14 unique ID PMI-0003, you can now enable your audio and
- 15 video in the lower-left corner of your screen, and the
- 16 | Screen Sharing button is in the middle bottom of your
- 17 | screen. It is your appointment time and your opportunity
- 18 to share your maps -- visualizations. One more time; you
- 19 were unmuted. There you are.
- 20 MS. NGUYEN: I'm sorry.
- 21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's okay.
- 22 MS. NGUYEN: New with this thing. Good morning.
- 23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Good morning. Thank you for
- 24 | joining us.
- 25 MS. NGUYEN: Good morning, Commissioners. Thank you

- for your time, and considering our community's request.

 MR. MANOFF: Good morning, PMI-003.
 - MS. NGUYEN: Yeah. Good morning.
- 4 MR. MANOFF: Do you have a map?
- 5 MS. NGUYEN: And so since there's --
- 6 MR. MANOFF: I'm sorry to interrupt.
- 7 MS. NGUYEN: -- a time limit, and my comments --
- 8 MR. MANOFF: I'm sorry to interrupt. Excuse me.
- 9 Excuse me.

3

- 10 MS. NGUYEN: Yeah.
- 11 MR. MANOFF: I'm sorry to interrupt. Do you have a
- 12 map that you want to display today?
- MS. NGUYEN: Yes.
- MR. MANOFF: Would you like us to share that for
- 15 you?
- MS. NGUYEN: Yes, please.
- MR. MANOFF: Okay. Just a moment, while we bring up
- 18 | your map; your time starts as soon as your map is
- 19 displayed.
- 20 MS. NGUYEN: Am I ready now?
- 21 MR. MANOFF: Yes, just a moment. I think we have
- 22 | the map up now. Go ahead.
- MS. NGUYEN: Okay. Hi. Good morning. Dear
- 24 Commissioner, thank you for your time and considering our
- 25 | community's request. Since there are time limits, my

1 comment will be shorter than the statement I submitted, 2 that has more details.

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I am Terry Nguyen (ph.), and I live and work with Little Saigon area since 1982. Founded my business in Westminster in 1987, and raised my children in this area. My extended families and friends are all within the area as well. My children, I have raised my children in this area and my extended family.

My children attend the following school; Thomas

Paine Elementary in Garden Grove, Sarah McGarvin

Intermediate School in Westminster, La Quinta High School
in Westminster. Most of these schools are in

Westminster, but are within the Garden Grove Unified

School District; and Fountain Valley High School, but
within the Huntington Beach, Union High School District.

The proposed map visualization that came out on October 4th for Orange County were concerning, and we have to, respectfully, disagree with these. It is clear that the maps were drawn by individual who does not live in the area, and unfamiliar with the history of our community, or unaware of the community's legacy and goals over the forty years.

Let me first state that over 250,000 Vietnamese-Americans call Little Saigon and Orange County as their home. Furthermore, Orange County has the largest number

- 1 of Vietnamese residents outside of Vietnam. The Fall of
- 2 | Saigon in 1975, brought over 2 million Vietnamese
- 3 refugees to the U.S. over the course of the next three
- 4 decades.
- 5 One of the first waves of Vietnamese refugees, who
- 6 left with Americans during the Fall of Saigon, is like my
- 7 dad and my sister were sent to Camp Pendleton in San
- 8 Diego. These Vietnamese refugees eventually migrated
- 9 north, and established Westminster as their new home.
- 10 | Westminster later became known as Little Saigon. The
- 11 | first Vietnamese grocery store, restaurant, doctors'
- 12 offices were established here.
- 13 Vietnamese refugees around SoCal would travel to
- 14 | this area to buy and enjoy traditional Vietnamese food,
- 15 and be around those who shared their tradition.
- 16 My father even found Little Saigon Radio in 1993,
- 17 one of the first Vietnamese radio stations in the Nation.
- 18 | Little Saigon began to expand in the late '80s; Garden
- 19 Grove, Fountain Valley in the '90s, and then more
- 20 recently, Huntington Park -- Huntington Beach, Rossmoor,
- 21 | Seal Beach, and Los Alamitos.
- 22 Why our family established their business forty
- 23 | years ago in Westminster and Garden Grove, we, the 1.5,
- 24 second generations have taken over those businesses, and
- 25 have started our own business in the same or surrounding

area, as mentioned above.

We have also tried to establish our own growing family within this same area to be close to our parents, churches, temple, and well-known and a lot of businesses while maintaining our connection to community that share our same interests, value, and culture.

The proposed map groups Vietnamese community with other minority communities in Orange County, which does a significant disservice to all the communities being considered. We have fought tirelessly to preserve and pass on tradition and culture to a latter -- later generation. Each of the minority communities in Orange they have their own needs and interests related to their heritage and American culture that needs to be reflected in each district's presentation?

Before I begin to explain the proposed map, please note I never draw maps, so it might not be perfect. So the first map a hundred percent of Westminster, as you can see, Midwest City, Fountain Valley, Rossmoor, Los Alamitos, and Seal Beach, each, eighty percent of Garden Grove, and little over fifty percent of Huntington Beach, including Huntington Harbor, the majority of 405 Freeway, and 22 Garden Grove Freeway touches the City of Westminster, Fountain Valley, Rossmoor, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach, and Huntington Beach.

1 Northwest border, the lines stop at West Street in Garden Grove, because as you drive east of West Street, you can significantly -- see the change in the Vietnamese 3 business, which indicates that the area is less populated 4 5 with Vietnamese-Americans. Going a little south, we stop at Missouri Lane in Santa Ana, since we also shared the 6 7 lines at the border Fountain Valley. I don't think I have enough time. So you can see, 9 the map, you can see the southern east border, northern 10 border, western border, which take parts of the 11 Huntington Beach. And then the second map, ninety-five 12 percent of Santa Ana, part of Garden Grove, east and 13 west, borders Santa Ana, moves north through Orange 14 County -- Orange and into part of Anaheim. 15 The two maps clearly respect the geographic divide 16 between the various community, and would better serve the interest, culture, tradition, and history of each, which 17 18 allows the community to flourish, and continue to 19 establish themselves. 20 MR. MANOFF: Hey, there. One minute remaining. 21 MS. NGUYEN: Yes. It would be the best interest of 22 the community to keep the current city that make up 23 Little Saigon, Westminster, Garden Grove, Midwest City, 24 Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Seal Beach, Los

25

Alamitos, Rossmoor, together.

- 1 I thank you so much for your time and consideration.
- CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Ms. Nguyen.
- 3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
- 4 PMI-004. And then up next after that will be PMI-005.
- 5 PMI-004, I will be promoting you now. PMI-004, you can
- 6 now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner
- 7 of your screen. You can also enable your screen share in
- 8 the bottom center.
- 9 MR. ZUCKER: Hi. Thank you so much, Commissioners.
- 10 | It's great to be able to present before you. My name's
- 11 Lucas Zucker, I'm a policy director at --
- 12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment.
- 13 MR. ZUCKER: Oh.
- 14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Do you have maps that you
- 15 | would like to share?
- 16 MR. ZUCKER: I do. But I can -- screen share, it
- 17 | might be easier for me to show --
- 18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, please do.
- 19 MR. ZUCKER: -- the particular areas with the maps
- 20 and --
- 21 | PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah, if you would like
- 22 to start there, and then your time will start.
- MR. ZUCKER: Great. I'm Lucas Zucker. I'm the
- 24 policy director at CAUSE, We are a social justice
- 25 | community organization in the Central Coast, and we have

- 1 maps from the from the Assembly to Congressional level
- 2 | for all of Zone E, and I also submit these as written
- 3 comment with more extensive information.
- 4 I'll get to it. But really, I think the big picture
- 5 to understand is -- oh, and I think I was told I had
- 6 fifteen minutes. It looks like the timer is for five
- 7 minutes, is that?
- 8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We will reset that; one
- 9 moment.
- 10 MR. ZUCKER: So the Central Coast is really a region
- 11 of huge inequality from communities like Santa Barbara,
- 12 and Monterey, known worldwide for tourism, to
- 13 agricultural, farm-worker communities, and dealing with a
- 14 lot of economic and social challenges. And so
- 15 districting in our region is really important because of
- 16 those vast inequalities.
- So can I go ahead and start, start with maps then?
- MR. MANOFF: Yes, please go ahead.
- 19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes, thanks.
- 20 MR. ZUCKER: So in the Assembly here, we've got a
- 21 map here for Assembly district here combining most of --
- 22 or all of Eastern Ventura County. And Eastern Ventura
- 23 | County is really distinct from Western Ventura County. A
- 24 lot of kind of suburban bedroom communities more
- 25 connected to commuters to LA, high levels of education,

- 1 and homeownership, biotech industry.
- The division here is often at the Conejo Grade. And
- 3 | we talk about, you know, up the hill and down the hill in
- 4 Ventura County. We don't have it quite there for
- 5 population balancing. You know, we cut here in
- 6 Camarillo, which can kind of, potentially, be an either.
- 7 But on the west side of Ventura County we've got this
- 8 Assembly district, which is really a high priority for
- 9 us.
- 10 And this combines these communities of interest that
- 11 | we've highlighted a few times at the at the Commission,
- 12 | that Commissioners have kind of referred to as the Port
- 13 Hueneme to Piru kind of stretch, from Hueneme, Oxnard,
- 14 | Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru.
- 15 And these are really the kind of farmworker
- 16 | communities of Ventura County, Western Ventura County is
- 17 much more agricultural, working class, you know, more
- 18 racially diverse.
- 19 So this is a coalition district where the total
- 20 people of color, CVAP population is the majority, you
- 21 know, it can be kind of cut in different, different ways.
- 22 But our priority is really to keep that -- keep this
- 23 community of interest together, and to keep this a
- 24 coalition district.
- 25 Moving a little bit north: We aim to keep all of

- 1 | Santa Barbara County together in this Assembly district.
- 2 Our main community of interest here that we really work
- 3 | with is in the farmworker towns up here in Northern Santa
- 4 Barbara County, Santa Maria, Guadalupe, and Lompoc. And
- 5 so those communities are very connected, and really
- 6 | should be, should be kept together.
- 7 And there've been different districts in the past
- 8 that have either stretched them up to San Luis Obispo
- 9 County, or down with the rest of Santa Barbara County.
- 10 | We really prefer to have our communities here
- 11 | connected with the rest of Santa Barbara County, as
- 12 | Southern Santa Barbara County has some significant Latino
- 13 enclaves, historically strong neighborhoods that really
- 14 had a major political voice. And whereas, San Luis
- 15 Obispo County, you know, really is, is one of the least
- 16 diverse counties in California, and has made it hard for
- 17 | folks in this kind of Northern Santa Barbara County area
- 18 | to get adequate representation.
- 19 And of course, you know, especially with COVID,
- 20 we've seen the importance of kind of county services, you
- 21 know, and keeping counties whole if possible.
- 22 We did include some of these, kind of southern towns
- 23 of San Luis Obispo County, which we see as connected to
- 24 Northern Santa Barbara County. This is Oceano, Grover
- 25 Beach, and Nipomo, especially Nipomo, is pretty connected

to Santa Maria.

We actually put a lot of -- the bulk of San Luis
Obispo County with West Bakersfield here. And so this
has been done in the past. It's not in the current
districts, you know, that the state has right now, but
one of the issues we really tried to focus on was VRA
considerations in the Assembly, where there is much more
potential to draw majority-minority VRA districts.

And so we worked with organizations in other areas, in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Central Valley. And so our conversations with folks in the Central Valley, like the Waterford (ph.) Foundation, we really found that this connection of San Luis Obispo County to West Bakersfield would help draw four Latino VRA seats in the Central Valley.

And we also do see those as connected. Certainly, many people from the, you know, West Bakersfield area, you know, go to San Luis Obispo County for recreation, whether that's, you know, off-road vehicle recreation, and in Pismo, or you know, sending their kids to Cal Poly, and that kind of that world-renowned ag program there.

But you know, this is kind of a part of rural

California that I would say, it's way more likely to find

farm owners than farm workers. You know, it's rural, but

- 1 it's different, you know, kind of much more middle-class,
- 2 and White, rather than Latino. Compared to, say, the
- 3 | Santa Maria Valley to the south, or the Salinas Valley to
- 4 | the north, which can be really distinct from San Luis
- 5 Obispo County.
- 6 So moving up a little bit, this here is the main
- 7 VRA, Latino district area, that's been a really important
- 8 protected district for years now. And it includes the
- 9 | Salinas Valley, the big City of Salinas, as well as the
- 10 | small Towns of Soledad, Greenfield, King City, and
- 11 | Gonzales, as well as Hollister, Gilroy, Watsonville.
- 12 So these communities really form an important Latino
- 13 VRA district. We've tweaked it a little bit from the
- 14 | current district, and took out Morgan Hill, which is
- 15 included in the current Assembly district. I think it
- 16 was probably included last time around for population
- 17 balancing. But it is much more kind of, you know,
- 18 suburban and affluent than these farmworker towns here.
- We keep the Assembly district along the Monterey Bay
- 20 | Coast, similar to how it currently is. It allows, and
- 21 this, you know, is different from the Commission's draft
- 22 Assembly maps, but keeping Monterey and Santa Cruz
- 23 together I think is valuable for community of interest
- 24 purposes.
- 25 And certainly there's a lot of environmental

- communities of interest along the Monterey Bay, but
 there's also a lot of connection with tourism, folks go
 and stay, stay in Monterey or Santa Cruz, and you know,
 go to the Aquarium, and the Boardwalk. And so it's kind
 of connected economically. You know, as well as the
 universities, both here and here, UC Santa Cruz, and CSU
 Monterey Bay.
 - That does require for population balancing to include this little bit of South San Jose and Morgan Hill. You know, these areas, I would say, are a little bit more connected to the suburban Bay Area. But they're a little bit kind of at the fringes of the Bay Area, and so maybe less urban than core of the Bay Area. And so there's some connection there in terms of, you know, conservation issues, and environmental issues, and they happen they are currently connected in the Assembly.

So the other reason is in our communications with folks in the South Bay where there's a large, I mean, probably the largest Latino population in the Bay Area is on the east side of San Jose. And then really large portions of Islander communities of interest in the South Bay as well. But this helps kind of protect some of those communities, districts by, you know, doing this in configuration.

Let me go to my Senate maps. So in the Senate, we

- 1 | connect, as it is currently, Eastern Ventura County with
- 2 | the Western San Fernando Valley. And these communities,
- 3 | although they cross the Ventura and LA County line, have
- 4 | a lot in common with each other. There are many kind
- 5 of -- many of them are really bedroom communities that
- 6 | are commuters into Los Angeles. You know, not really
- 7 marks a lot of the difference between Eastern and Western
- 8 Ventura County.
- 9 You know, they are kind of middle- to upper-class, a
- 10 lot of kind of single family zoning, you know, well-
- 11 | funded schools, you know, neighborhoods really concerned
- 12 | with quality of life issues, so there's a lot of
- 13 | connection between these areas.
- 14 | Western Ventura County is much more connected to
- 15 | Santa Barbara County. And you know, I'll talk a little
- 16 bit about this, this is one of our biggest priorities.
- 17 You know, you note here that this is the only place,
- 18 actually, where we're able to connect two of our kind of
- 19 main farmworker town community of interest in the kind of
- 20 | Santa Maria Valley area here, and kind of the Oxnard
- 21 Plains, Santa Clara Valley area here. And they're both
- 22 able to be connected in one Senate district. And we
- 23 think that's really important for maximizing
- 24 representation at the Senate.
- 25 But also this region, this blue district, has been

- 1 | connected really dating back to -- really prior to the
- 2 United States. I mean, this is kind of the core of
- 3 Chumash territory, you know, historically. And then in
- 4 | that -- in the Spanish, you know, Colonial period was
- 5 | really kind of a governing unit of the Mission System,
- 6 governed out of the Presidio in Santa Barbara, and you
- 7 know, continue to be connected.
- 8 Actually, Ventura County and Santa Barbara County,
- 9 | in the original founding in California were one county;
- 10 and Ventura County split off of Santa Barbara County
- 11 | later. They're connected by the Los Padres National
- 12 | Forest, which really stretches through here, the Channel
- 13 Islands. And so a lot of kind of environmental
- 14 | connections as well as, you know, it's a district that's
- 15 been hugely impacted by wildfire. You know, certainly
- 16 | myself as well as, you know, many of our communities, we
- 17 have really dealt with that climate change.
- 18 Ventura and Santa Barbara County are actually the
- 19 fastest warming communities in the United States. And
- 20 issues like oil spills and that -- you know, and
- 21 environmental disasters from that. This is really one of
- 22 the first places where oil industry was developed in
- 23 California, and had the historic oil spill in Santa
- 24 Barbara that really stressed all along the coast; even
- 25 | though we mostly hear about the Santa Barbara issue.

And particularly, Oxnard and Santa Maria are very connected. They've been immigrant farmworker communities since the sugar beet boom in the turn of the century. A lot of those sugar beet towns are now strawberry towns that, you know, were also big places for the Bracero Program, and during the World War II era. And are all communities now that have some of the largest in the state, populations of indigenous communities from Southern Mexico, specifically the State of Oaxaca, like the Mixteco Community. And you've heard COI testimonies from some of those folks as well.

2.3

Also, unique issues with pesticides, strawberries are at the top of that Dirty Dozen list of pesticides, and you know, groundwater contamination.

So yeah, this area is really connected to a lot of the middle-class professionals in this community. You know, what, graduate from UCSB. You know, this is really the -- in the Senate, you know, we really see the distinction between the southern and northern regions of the Central Coast. I think as we were talking about bigger districts, you can look at more of a regional level.

So you know, we can -- refer to it as the Northern Tri-Counties and the Southern Tri-Counties. But the Southern Tri-Counties is Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San

Luis Obispo; Northern Tri-Counties is San Benito, Santa
Cruz, and Monterrey.

And these even have different area codes, so 805 is these area codes, and 831, is these. Certainly have a lot in common environmentally, but this area up north is more kind of redwoods, this area down here is more like chaparral. You know, there's they both have a lot of berries, and grapes in agriculture, but up here is more lettuce, and down here it's more citrus.

You know, down here folks are more likely to be Gauchos from UCSB. And up here, folks are more likely to be Banana Slugs from UC Santa Cruz. So we try to, in our Senate and Congressional maps, there's much more ability to kind of divide those two regions.

It's a little hard to because the Southern TriCounties has much more population than the Northern TriCounties, but that you see those kinds of lines playing
out.

San Luis Obispo County ends up kind of in the middle
And it is kind of part of the Southern Tri-Counties, but
here, this kind of southern part of San Luis Obispo
County, the Five Cities area around Pismo, is somewhat
connected to Santa Barbara County. You know, there's a
lot of commuting between Northern Santa Barbara County
and here. You know, there're certainly connections

around the kind of coastal, coastal issues and coastal tourism between Pismo and Santa Barbara as well.

Northern San Luis Obispo County is more connected to, you know, kind of Big Sur, up here, right? So there're some connections, as well as, you know, you've got, you've got kind of the Wine Country. It really is throughout the whole region, right, but this is really, San Luis Obispo County can kind of go either way, but here we put most of it up with the Northern Central Coast; so getting most of San Luis Obispo County,

Monterey County, San Benito, and Santa Cruz on the -- in the same district, in the Senate here.

So you know, as I've talked about before, there're huge disparities between some of the agricultural farmworker towns, that are probably Latino, and they're working class, and some of the coastal, kind of more affluent, and kind of tourism, and university-based communities that are -- that are here.

But ultimately, when we get to the Senate level, we're often talking more regionally. You're not able to create VRA districts as much in the same way. And you know, these communities are really connected in many ways. There's commuters who, you know, work in tourism and domestic work in places like Santa Cruz and Monterey that are more affluent communities, but extremely

- expensive. And so folks live in places like Watsonville and Salinas, and commute in.
- 3 You know, a lot of the environmental issues, the
- 4 runoff from the ag industry, you know, pesticides and
- 5 | fertilizers; where those end up? Well, they end up in
- 6 Monterey Bay. If there's a fire in the Santa Cruz
- 7 Mountains, who is breathing in that smoke more than
- 8 anybody? It's farmworkers in the Salinas Valley who are
- 9 working eight to ten hours doing heavy manual labor in
- 10 | the fields, right.
- 11 So there's a lot of connection between these areas.
- 12 You know, even if kind of demographically, and kind of
- 13 economically, they can be somewhat distinct.
- 14 Finally, I'll go to our Congressional maps. In the
- 15 | Congressional level, we're actually almost able to put
- 16 | the entire six-county, Zone E, Central Coast region into
- 17 | three districts. It's the best kind of fit in that way.
- 18 | So we really try to do that.
- 19 The Congressional, our understanding is under, you
- 20 know, Federal law --
- 21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One minute.
- 22 MR. ZUCKER: -- the Congressional maps have much
- 23 more deviation than our State maps; so you see here,
- 24 where we kind of have a little bit of cuts in. We have
- 25 | Ventura County district, and you know, Ventura County is

- 1 definitely, by far, the most densely populated of the six
- 2 | counties of the Central Coast. And so you know, in
- 3 | itself, is more than one Congressional district.
- 4 So what we do is, we cut here a little bit of Simi
- 5 | Valley. Currently, Simi Valley is with the Santa Clarita
- 6 | area in Congress, and so that's --
- 7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thirty seconds.
- 8 MR. ZUCKER: -- somewhat the same. Sorry, how much
- 9 more time?
- 10 MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.
- 11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Twenty-four seconds.
- MR. ZUCKER: Twenty-four seconds. Okay. Then we
- 13 put the -- Ohio Valley has some connections with Santa
- 14 Barbara, so we cut that that way, as well as putting all
- 15 of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties in one
- 16 Congressional district. And a little bit of this very,
- 17 | very sparsely populated area here to get to population
- 18 balancing.
- And then we have this kind of Northern Central Coast
- 20 | Congressional district here, with a little bit of the
- 21 | Santa Cruz --
- 22 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Mr. Zucker.
- 23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And at this time we will
- 24 have PMI-005, at forty-five minutes. PMI-005, I will be
- 25 promoting you now. PMI-005, you can now enable your

- 1 audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen,
- 2 and your screen share in the bottom center. And if you
- 3 | will, please, share your maps prior to beginning your
- 4 narrative. And you are -- there you go. Now you're
- 5 unmuted.
- 6 MR. SUKATON: Just going to get my timer set,
- 7 because so I don't think I'll be able to see yours.
- 8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect.
- 9 MR. SUKATON: All right. Good morning, members of
- 10 | the Commission. I also want to thank Lucas, because he
- 11 has made my job a lot easier to talking to you about the
- 12 | Central Coast.
- As you may know, my name is Samuel Sukaton, I'm from
- 14 | California Environmental Voters, Enviro Voters Education
- 15 Fund, you know as CLCV; just very happy to be here.
- 16 I'm just going to click through -- if it's going to
- 17 let me. You have these in front of you. This is mostly
- 18 for reminders and notification of others. You know,
- 19 | we've been around since '72. Our emphasis is on clean
- 20 air, clean land, and water, climate justice, and we
- 21 recognize that a big part of that is participating in
- 22 expanding democracy, particularly for historically
- 23 disenfranchised communities, which is, if you're
- 24 | wondering why our environmental organizations been around
- 25 here, all year, that's kind of why we've been here. And

1 | that's the role that we are, there.

So just guiding principles for the conversation,

California has a number of bio regions, environmental

justice questions, polluters that create different policy

priorities to create different -- that shape communities

in different ways. And you know, this leads to unjust

impacts on communities, and some habitats, exploitation

of natural resources up and down the state.

And I will emphasize, our concerns map not neatly or perfectly, but substantively with other COIs, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, economic corridors through geographic proximity. And I will be noting a couple of conversations from partners we work with, who you have already heard from, or who you are yet to hear from, through this broader kind of mapping process. We don't always agree exactly on lines, but it's the principles on racial justice, on contiguity, on expanding the VRAs.

So with that in mind, the districts you will see we specifically drew these to stay out of VRA seats, to offer you freer hand, to kind of frame the comments of some of our partners. There is some overlap. Sometimes it's agreeable, sometimes it's not, and I'll actually note the alternatives when we come -- when they come up.

These are some of the places I'll be taking you

- 1 today: The North Coast, the Sac Bay Delta, the Sierra
- 2 | Nevada, the Angeles Crest, or High and Low Deserts, our
- 3 | South and Central Coast, and two kinds of major
- 4 environmental justice area, the Inland Empire
- 5 | Warehousing. I call it "America's closet" -- "America's
- 6 front door", and "America's closet", so the LA-Long Beach
- 7 Port Complex, and the Inland Empire warehouse logistics
- 8 area.
- 9 Taking it from the top, as one might say, we do
- 10 | believe, and you probably remember our conversation in
- 11 April, where I emphasized the North Coast articulates the
- 12 | specific community of interest, running from the Oregon
- 13 border down to the Golden Gate Bridge. While it's not
- 14 necessarily compact, it is clearly defined by both the
- 15 Klamath Range and the Pacific Ocean, and a number of
- 16 | national forests, Six Rivers, Klamath, and Shasta, Mendo
- 17 (ph.).
- I do want to before -- I think Paul Mitchell said
- 19 this in the redistricting room, but I liked the kind of
- 20 questions about wine, water, and need, they kind of
- 21 | articulate how they're dealt with on one side of the --
- 22 one side of the Cascades, on one side of the Klamath
- 23 versus the other.
- We're asking in that case, so our broader corridor
- 25 kind of looks very similar to both what currently exists

- and what the California Native Vote Project is working

 on. As you can see, kind of what maintains the coastline

 with rivers that flow west, and I do actually want to

 note, the Supervisor -- and let me just make sure I have

 my notes right -- Supervisor Belia Ramos' comments about

 how, kind of, there's an Eastern Sonoma, Napa, Solano
- 7 Lake community of interest at the bottom. And so as you go down, it's going to kind of trigger some decision 9 trees.

2.3

And we do recognize that there's kind of 101

Commuter Corridor near Petaluma, as Santa Rosa's that -
logistics that shades into kind of an agricultural, and

then a cultural kind of leg in Solano and Napa space. My

mom grew up at Angwin at the PC, so definitely recognize

that that's very separate from the space.

We have the county line -- the county border between Shasta and -- excuse me, between Siskiyou and Humboldt, as our border. Did have conversations with Jesse of the Native Vote Project, I'm glad to hear back about that. We are willing to take in as much of Siskiyou as necessary, to keep Karuk line whole, recognizing that that's a priority for them.

So we do want to offer that be drawn out west rather than east, because our partners at the Environmental Protection Information Center at Arcade and Humboldt were

very insistent. And we support this of a unified and a
whole Humboldt within a 101 North Coast Corridor
District.

2.3

- State Senate looks pretty similar. Again, I want to note the Siskiyou piece, and the Assembly. As you can see, our ten doesn't change much, it's marine dominated with kind of a bit of the Sonoma County piece there, because kind of there's a -- kind of we started to shade off there.
- To emphasize though, if we are going to be splitting in the Assembly, I do want to make sure that a lot of them are in coastal communities. Your Point Reyes, and such, kind of remained tied in with the broader coastal district. There's a kind of questions of stewardship that overlap the same, and wanted to kind of land on and emphasize that.
- Moving on, let me just make sure I have -- I'm just blowing through this, and the time isn't so much. But yes, so Sonoma is the most populated, you're going to have to split it. I just want to make sure that kind of the Marin County, the Headlands, and the Tomales Bay kind of stay with that broader North Coast district.
- Moving over to the Delta, super interesting here,

 Stockton is generally seen as agricultural, but kind of
 the Bay Delta, opens up to a number of ports, right. The

deep water channel, Benicia, you got the confluence of the Sacramento, and San Joaquin River, Suisun Bay, fiftyseven reclaimed islands.

Bay core.

- So like, there's a lot of really interesting kind of moving parts at play here; questions of conveyance of water, and a number of counties, Stockton has been huge right now, I think -- I believe San Joaquin County just can't fit in any single district on its own. So I kind of want to kind of explore that with all of you.
- With that in mind, so starting at Congress, as you can see, here is CD 9. I think of Stockton as a saloon door. Some doors open in one direction, saloon doors swing in both. You've heard me use that metaphor before. In this case, where Stockton is opening up west to Antioch, and to the broader Bay Delta, so reflect to Delta COI, but also kind of maintains distance between other -- you know, your big Sacramento core, your big
- But there are maritime and recreational components that are rooted in San Joaquin, but look to the whole Delta to Benicia Bridge.

Central Valley core, and your big East -- your big East

Moving to the Senate; and this is the door swinging
both ways; if you're pushing it and it's swinging both
ways, it swings out to 680 again, similar to CD 7, but

also swings south and east into Tracy in that -- like
you've got a Senate seat that -- recognizing that
stopping is not at the periphery of another region, but
the center of one of its own.

- So you have that Lodi, Stockton, Tracy Corridor, going as far south as Patterson, and then going is -going east to 680, with Senate District 8 to the side. I don't know if you can see that there in Valley Springs.
- You know, the counties are split to maintain population, but it reflects kind of San Joaquin COIs, and it does keep it separate from the Bay Area, because there're VRA questions there, as Lucas mentioned there that we don't want to -- we don't necessarily want to trip over them, because I know that that creates a different -- a different set of moving parts.
- You'll notice that that district nests two Assembly districts very neatly, 13 and 12, and so 13 follows the Delta, AD 12, kind of looks again south of the Tracy.
- You have heard me talk about the Sierra. You have heard me testify about the Sierra. Big thing, super large, from Tehachapi to Fredonyer, a number of watersheds, very much part of the lungs of -- the lungs of the west, as it were, running through really all the way to the Oregon border. But we really wanted to emphasize, and you've got the calls, the entirety of Zone

G, most of the eastern parts of Zone D, and a fair amount of Zone B.

I'm going to take that into districts now. So these are the counties, as you can see. Again, Zones D and G, and wanted to pop open our seat. So there's going to be a number of Congressional districts submitted. But the first thing I heard when I came here, was very clearly: Please, you know -- that we don't feel a commonality with the Desert, we don't feel a commonality with Victorville.

So you can see this is very much kind of the existing forth, with a hard line at the Inyo County line, which is very, very important to us. We recognize that there're kind of other Sacramento watershed seats, but as you can see here, like the Desert; the High Desert, the Low Desert, which you'll see later, and the Sierras are all distinct and separate, running as far north.

I do want to note also that, historically, and even now, the Sierras have been drawn in with Fresno, with Visalia, with Bakersfield, and with Roseville. If you're going to have to draw on the pop (ph.), and I know you're going to have to do it, I would ask that you do it once, and I would ask that you do it along the I-80 Corridor, in that like it's been clearly articulated. Like, you know -- but folks don't identify with the Central Valley, folks don't identify with Visalia.

I know there're some options that point there, if you're going to draw in for pop, I would request that -- kind of that you look at Tahoe-Truckee Corridor going into Roseville, Eldorado Hills, kind of that Sacramento interface.

2.3

Otherwise, you know, too many straws outside of the Sierra is going to kind of dilute the character of the district, and we really want to emphasize that. As Lucas even mentioned, like united by the forest, and that is very clear, with the Stanislaus Assembly, the Sierra, and Sequoia.

Moving to the Senate: The Senate has, again, we are thinking regionally, it does capture from Sierra County in the north, to Inyo in the south, as well as all of Sequoia. And it leaves separation from the 99 Corridor in the valley because, again, VRA seats there. It takes in more than the Congressional seat. We think that -- we want to make sure that this kind of -- the broader Nevada to Mono Corridor, or Nevada to Inyo Corridor is captured wherever possible. And I know the IVE Alliance has some thoughts about that later this -- later this month.

Assembly here; you have got kind of a very specific kind of Tahoe-Truckee Corridor on the one hand, and in District 23, kind of a broader Gold Country Corridor. So you have this I-80 here, but then it stops, and then you

- have like the Coloma running all the way down into
 Sequoia, there.
- Moving to the desert, it runs across a number of

 counties. I didn't know this, actually; Los Angeles,

 Orange, Kern, San Bernardino, and Riverside, well, part

 of the same county, initially during the states'
- 7 incorporation.

- Inyo, of course, they've been very supportive of:

 Please draw north, I want to make sure that's the case,

 and a distinction is often drawn between High Desert and

 Low Desert. That's often kind of like, conflated as San

 Bernardino, Riverside. It's not quite the same, as

 Commissioner Kennedy well knows.
- And historically, also, the Low Desert and the Imperial Valley have looked to each other, going back to, I believe, Congressman Sonny Bono. They've got each other then.
- Moving to the High Desert components, you've got the Mojave, generally articulated by the presence of Joshua Tree, or not, and bordered by the San Gabriel Mountains and San Bernardino Mountains. Places like Joshua Tree and the Victor Valley, as well as Death Valley and Big Bear. But again, you know, pointing Inyo north and to fourth.
- Low Desert components, you've got the Sonoran

Desert, the Salton Sea, and Coachella. Again, it's
lower, like its elevation is literally lower, and again,
that's more of a Riverside, Imperial, San Diego Corridor.

In Congressman then, as you can see, are my new CD 8, does incorporate kind of that broader Victor Valley Corridor. And then goes west and east along the High Desert, straight to Nevada, but ends at the Cajon Pass. And Inland Empire and Victor Valley partners, will also join in when emphasizing, that the Cajon Pass is a clear boundary in San Bernardino County. As somebody who grew up very close to the Pass; I rarely went up, and folks rarely went down.

Like the High Desert and the Inland Valley are very, very separate communities, and we're splitting counties to accommodate, you know, majority-minority areas in Kern and San Bernardino. You can see the existing 31 takes in San Bernardino and Rialto, but does not go north of the Pass.

And then moving to the Congressional seat, a little bigger than you might think, but again, as I mentioned, so the existing 36 incorporates the broader Low Desert and Eastern Riverside County, Imperial has always had kind of an affinity there. Folks move back and forth across it. In conversation with some of our partners in San Diego, we felt more federal representatives

1 representing the border was really crucial.

And then recognizing that, you know, there's an Imperial Valley, Coachella Valley community of interest that kind of shades into the Low Desert, and we honor that here, by taking 36 up into San Bernardino.

And again, speaking as a local San Bernardino boy, like just the broader kind of desert communities, even at the supervisory level, it's hard to navigate because it's just so damn big. And again, so we're having 8, kind of takes in part of the High Desert, and then runs to Kern along the High Desert, and then the Low Desert, and the Salton Sea are in one district.

You've heard me mention this before, in April, about a really strong emphasis on -- the Salton Sea is not an environmental catastrophe waiting to happen, it's happening right now. And so we've noticed at the Assembly level that keeping the Salton Sea in one Assembly district has focused a lot of attention around that. And we want to make sure that's the case wherever we can.

Moving to Senate: We don't actually get a chance to do that here, in that, we do feel like there might be a San Diego, Imperial, Latino VRA district; if there was another way to draw them, I think we would like to see the Salton Sea in other places; but this 28 here,

maintains the existing kind of Coachella is the piece,
right; and then shades off in High and Low Deserts as far
north as the Mojave National Preserve.

- But again, you can see that hard line in your county where we believe kind of the Sierra counties began. And it was something very strongly articulated by our partners in the Sierra; takes in Big Bear, Mojave, Colorado River, as well as, again, the existing entirety kind of Eastern Riverside Corridor, as far as the San Bernardino Pass. And I can see my sister's place in Banning in there.
- Moving to Assembly: So 56, no really great surprises here, this is very much in line with the existing districts. It is Latino majority, at 54.5 percent, and is going to be -- again, when we're going to deal with the climate crisis, both the problems of the Salton Sea, and the solutions, clean energy, when solar are going to be happening here. And a lot of people are already kind of living in this space, and thinking about this.
- Moving to 42: So 42 historically had been centered on Yucca Valley, very similar here, but it's also overlooking into the High Desert, Palm Springs in the Mojave Preserve, and those I-15, I-40 corridors; you'll notice that I carved out the Victorville area there, there's a rising African-American and Latino population,

1 I don't know if it's enough to justify a VRA district for either community. But I think that like there's a majority PLC (ph.) Corridor running from Victorville as 3 4 far west as Lancaster. And I want to make sure that, 5 like we're leaving a freehand for you all to think about that, to make it so it kind of maximize representation 6 7 from, historically, disenfranchised communities of color. Moving to the Angeles National Forest, to the Crest, or as I tweeted at -- Dr. Sadhwani a while back, Bear 10 Country. So clearly, wildland, urban interface, right? 11 The San Gabriel's National Monument was established 12 during the last redistricting cycle, but it's bordered by 13 the Antelope Valley in the north, the San Fernando Valley 14 in the south. And it looks towards the San Bernardino 15 and Los Angeles Basins. 16 I have tweeted, I have joked with you, I say "Bear" 17 in every single one -- every single time I testify, to 18 kind of really emphasize that this was something that was 19 very important to us in the last cycle, and it remains 20 important to us. 21 We look at it slightly differently from some of our 22

partners, John Munson from Nature for All speaking to on Saturday, and we very much enjoyed his maps as well, but wanted to note kind of some of the major components, 214 and 39, Baldwin, and San Antonio, and the Monument.

23

24

1 So before I go deep into this district, you will note I have Glendale and Burbank here. I mostly did that just to give folks a freer your hand elsewhere. I will 3 4 note that one of our partners, Nature for All, is based 5 in El Monte, primarily African -- excuse me -- Asian-American and Latino, and working to expand access to the 6 7 Monument. I am perfectly willing to exchange Burbank and Glendale here for Alhambra, San Gabriel, El Monte, and 8 South El Monte in the 27th Congressional District. 10 John Munson will talk more about that, and some of our other partners, but I just want to mention, like 11 12 going back to the saloon doors, Pasadena is a door that 13 opens two directions. It opens south to an Asian-14 American and Latino community. It's growing to access 15 the Monument, and it opens north into the Monument 16 itself. And so kind of Pasadena District at the center 17 of that would be crucial for us. 18 As you can see, kind of -- we leave 32 kind of in 19 that Latino San Gabriel Valley area. Burbank and 20 Glendale, backing up to the 210, I think, would probably be in a kind of a more -- or a wider district as it is 21 22 now. And then kind of recognizing, we did keep Arcadia 23 and these seats out, out for VRA reasons. But this could 24 be -- this could be this is, and I would support an Asian

25

influence in here.

Assembly, here in the 36, as you can see, kind of Pasadena looks north. Pasadena currently is separate from the Asian-American majority district in Alhambra. We'd like to see that continue. So kind of La Canada, Crescenta National Forest district (sic) here, and then leaving space for Azusa and Duarte for a Latino seat, as well as the VRA seats in the San Fernando Valley, I believe there's two Latino -- a possibility for two Latino seats there.

Moving to my hometown; so you know, forty percent of the nation's consumer goods come through the ports of LA and Long Beach; that's our front door, this is our closet. Super heavy impacts on the logistics industry; you'll hear about that from IE United, you'll hear about that from the Black and Brown Redistricting Alliance, you'll hear about that from a bunch of folks. But massive air pollution and transportation hazards, disproportionate impacts on people of color.

I remember a couple of years ago that, if you were Black or Latino in San Bernardino County, you were six times more likely to die of cardiovascular disease, for this reason. This is why we wanted to emphasize this. There's a lot infrastructure, you've got the Ontario Airport, you've got the San Bernardino Airport, which is kind of -- the Amazon Logistics Center, you've got the

- 1 World Logistics Center in Moreno Valley, and then major,
- 2 major shipping corridors, the 210, 60, the 10, the 15,
- 3 and the 215.
- The 15, the 215, and the 57, also operate as
- 5 | boundaries in this way. And I'll actually pop that up
- 6 | right here. Here's kind of our Congressional lines, you
- 7 recognize our 27th, Angeles National Forest, our 36th,
- 8 Low Desert, and our 8th, north of the Cajon Pass that
- 9 | we've talked about. Here's 31, which is San Bernardino
- 10 and Rialto together in a Latino majority seat with a
- 11 | constant -- with African-American -- uniting African-
- 12 American populations in historic, kind of, San Bernardino
- 13 and Rialto.
- San Bernardino is currently split at every level of
- 15 | government. And that's something that we'd like to see
- 16 changed. And I know the IE industry the thought concurs.
- 17 | 35, as you can see here, splits Rancho Cucamonga and
- 18 Fontana, but takes in its kind of historic core of
- 19 Pomona, Chino, that's also fifty percent -- point one, 50
- 20 percent point 1 -- fifty percent Latino. And then CD 32
- 21 | shades off into Los Angeles County. Kind of a San
- 22 | Gabriel Valleys, Angeles Crest seat as well.
- Moving to Assembly: As you can see, so any two of
- 24 these three, so 52, 40, and 47 can be nested into a
- 25 Latino seat, they're all at, or very close to majority

- 1 Latino CVAP, and similarly, we're acknowledging like
- 2 | there's a Pomona kind of region, there's a Rancho
- 3 | Cucamonga region, and there's a San Bernardino region,
- 4 | all dealing with kind of shipping corridors, in different
- 5 | ways. And then as you can see, that's up on 42, my High
- 6 Desert seat that I'd shown you earlier.
- 7 We don't go to Riverside County much, but because of
- 8 | the high Latino population, there are a number of ways to
- 9 | slice the salami on this one. And I know that. Again,
- 10 | IE United, the IE Redistricting might some thoughts about
- 11 that as well.
- Moving to the coast: So the South Coast runs, some
- 13 folks call the Bay of Santa Monica or -- not the Bay of
- 14 | Santa Monica, the broader one is the Bay of Southern
- 15 California; coastal beach access, climate, biodiversity.
- 16 A lot of it is urban, so there's runoff, but there's also
- 17 kind of a wealth disparity, as Lucas mentioned in the
- 18 Ventura case, that also plays out here in the South
- 19 Coast.
- You can notice some of the components, the Santa
- 21 Monica Mountains is a major -- has a boundary. You've
- 22 got the Ballona Wetlands, Catalina, a number of beaches,
- 23 | the Ports of LA and Long Beach, which I mentioned
- 24 earlier, and some marine-protected areas.
- 25 Sea level rise, San Onofre decommissioning. We just

had an oil spill in Huntington Beach, all of these things kind of articulate the very specific, kind of communities of interest here.

- We'll start with Congress: As you can see, kind of where 26 isn't -- it doesn't map neatly, but it does substantively with CAUSE's, kind of Ventura County map. But you can see here there's kind of a Santa Monica, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, to Torrance, to RPV Corridor, 47.
- I've heard a lot of testimony about Long Beach. I hear that there's definitely pushes to keep it together, but with the VRA and with the ports, Long Beach, like Stockton, is a saloon door, it swings in two directions, it swings north and west, to the ports and to -- you know, historic Latino, Black communities; and it opens south in Orange County. And you know, that was one of my earliest interlocutions for this Commission, as some of you may remember.
- I'll come back to the ports in a second. I wanted to go through Orange County; as you can note, kind of existing 47. So Long Beach does open up into Orange County. There is like, Long Beach, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach Corridor. But one of the ways I think about this is, folks that drill and folks that deal with the spill. So Long Beach, Huntington Beach, you have the

oil fields directly underneath them. There is a balancing, as it were, of kind of drilling and kind of recreation.

And then here in 49, there's kind of -- these are the folks that they don't have any oil drilling, but like the spill has come down to them, as some of you have been following the Huntington Beach news, if it happens in Huntington, it lands in San Clemente, it lands in Carlsbad, it lands in Oceanside.

And so you know, actually I have had a conversation with somebody in San Clemente, was like: Listen, we're from Orange County, we appreciate it, but Huntington is an hour away. And so as you can see, you've got this kind of South County, and what San Diego calls the North Coast, the Tri-Cities, framing MCB Camp Pendleton in a separate kind of community there. And that stretch of five articulates a different kind of lived experience, similar but not exact to the kind of this Pacific Coast Highway Corridor here.

Moving forward, I wanted to note we're also, as I said earlier, we're trying to create space for -- to free up your hands, to think about VRA, inland seats as much as possible. As you can notice, we're trying not to touch a lot of these community maps that were brought up right before me as well.

1 The Senate seat again, here, kind of encompasses, as Lucas mentioned actually, kind of a more regional community of interest, but still coast dominating and not 3 4 inland. And then some of you -- some of you 5 Commissioners, may remember the conversation I had about 33, where we're creating a community of interest, where 6 7 the port opens north into I-710 and massive, massive pollution -- pollution consequences and externalities 8 along that I-710 Corridor through South LA. 10 Historically, Latino and African-American, you know, 11 historic, like majority foreign-born, a lot of folks 12 dealing with asthma, but are also dependent on kind of 13 the shipping -- the shipping and trucking kind of pieces 14 that connect the port to South LA, and Southeast LA to 15 the rest of the world. 16 Breaking up Assembly here, again, so there's a specific like Huntington, Laguna, and then Tri-Cities 17 18 kind of districts here. And again, it leaves space for 19 you to consider majority-minority seats elsewhere. 20 Really emphasizing the port complex here at the 21 Federal level, you'll notice CD 33 takes in PV, PV and 22 Torrance, 44 specifically emphasizes the Port of Los

Angeles, so that is like Pedro-Harbor Gateway Corridor, and then 47 more of a Long Beach Corridor; again, not neatly, but very closely. The border there is California 1, and then 710, and then California 110 on this side. Here again, in the State Senate, wanted to emphasize that, you've got a Port of Long Beach, like a Long Beach-dominated Senate district, but also looks into -- looks broader at the south, Southeast Los Angeles.

Lucas, in his fifteen minutes, very much cleaned up on the southern part of the Central Coast. And I will not belabor his points. They were excellent; particularly his recognition of kind of this community was a community before the United States existed. You've got Chumash, you've got Mission, you've got the Presidio, kind of articulating a really specific kind in community and governance along the Central Coast. And I will not, I will not belabor that.

But I will note some of the northern questions, which again map neatly, but not exactly. We've got kind of a Monterey, San Benito community of interest here. So again, similarly agricultural, but also staying off of the 5 and 99 Corridors, and these are -- you can see the San Bernardino County border there. And then our 24 is, as Lucas', is dominated by the Southern Tri-Counties here; San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Santa Barbara, which you can see more adequately here. You've got that broader kind of Los Padres District there.

What he didn't mention actually, is the Santa

Barbara oil spill. The Santa Barbara oil spill was one

of the major military's for the first Earth Day in 1970.

So that's the whole thing, that California kind of looked

like, again, with Huntington Beach oil spills, and then

people who have to live with them.

- Moving here, as you can see, kind of, a Ventura

 County district that includes Santa Clara River Valley,

 and that eastern-southern half-whole (ph.), again, not

 quite matching up, but glad to have that conversation.

 And as with other things I've mentioned, you know,

 conversations are ongoing, and we do feel like our

 architecture is sound that we're willing to see a line

 shift a little.
- Assembly here, again, moving back up the Central Coast, as you can see, there's kind of a San Benito, Monterey here, and then there's a Monterey, San Luis Obispo here, which nests, again, neatly into a single Senate seat.
- Recognizing that again, regional questions, and you may not be able to nest, wanting to try and offer as many ways to kind of think that through with you as possible. So that actually concludes my presentation. But I will end with just a couple of broader comments.
 - You'll see other iterations from some of our

partners in other parts of the state. So I know the

people's bloc is on deck. I know that the Inland Empire

Redistricting Hub is on deck. I know that the Orange

County People's Redistricting Alliance is going to be

reaching out. And all of those partners like we

recognize that their emphasis, as ours, is emphasizing

kind of racial and environmental justice.

We've framed our presentation in ways to kind of not speak directly for them when they're going to speak for themselves; and recognizing that there are a number of ways to kind of think through environmental issues. We have Shapefiles of major hydrologic basins, national parks, kind of other environmental features. We are glad to share with the Commissioners as they continue thinking through this on live line drawing.

And as I mentioned, in places where there are, like, clear or minor disagreements, for example, on the North Coast with CNVP, glad to have the conversation and kind of make some adjustments there; but we do feel like our broader architecture, our North-South architecture in the North Coast, our High Desert, Low Desert architecture, in the desert, or one Sierra wherever possible, in our Tahoe-Truckee versus Gold Country Corridors. We feel that those broader kinds of outlines are sound.

It's hard to move a mountain, so making sure that

- those pieces are thought of as we're kind of overlaying elsewhere; glad to have the conversation.
- It is always -- as always, has been an absolute
- 4 pleasure working with you. I'm looking forward to
- 5 | continuing this process. And I know that you're going to
- 6 be bearing a lot today, but I trust that you've got the
- 7 resources; that you've cached the resources for this long
- 8 hike. That's my time.
- 9 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Mr. Sukaton.
- 10 Indeed, we do bear a heavy load. So thank you so much
- 11 for your presentation.
- 12 And I believe with that, we are going to go to a
- 13 break. We will be back at 1:00 p.m. for a second session
- 14 of presentations.
- 15 I want to offer a reminder to folks who are
- 16 presenting later this afternoon, to please log in fifteen
- 17 | minutes in advance. As you might notice, not everyone
- 18 uses the entirety of their time, so it's possible that
- 19 | your time could start a little earlier.
- In addition, when folks are logging on, and it's
- 21 your turn, please be sure to share your screen, or let us
- 22 know if you need us to share our screen with your maps.
- 23 And the timer will start after you have shared your
- 24 screen. Okay.
- 25 Katy, any additional, anything? We're good?

```
1
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: (No verbal response)
 2
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. Perfect. So with that,
    we'll be on break until 1 o'clock.
 3
              (Whereupon, a recess was held until 1:00 p.m.)
 4
 5
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Welcome back to the California
    Citizens Redistricting Commission, as we continue to
 6
 7
    receive public map inputs from the public.
         With that, I know we have a number of appointments
 9
    in this next session. We will go until about 2:30.
10
         And so with that, I'll turn it over to Katy, our
11
    comment moderator.
12
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.
13
         Welcome to the Public Map input session. When it is
14
    your turn to speak, you will be identified by your
15
    assigned unique ID number. You will be reconnected to
16
    the session with the ability to enable your own video
17
    and/or audio to enable screen sharing. Please have your
18
    maps handy prior to your appointment time -- prior to
19
    your start time, in order to enable screen sharing.
20
         The Commission will be enforcing appointment time
21
    limits, with a warning at one minute, and thirty seconds,
22
    remaining. At the end of your public input, or at the
23
    end of your time, you will be reconnected in a listen-
24
    and view-only mode.
```

Right now we will have PMI-006A, and PMI-006B, we'll

```
1 be joining them at this time. PMI-006A, I will be
```

2 | promoting you now. And PMI-006B, I will be promoting you

- 3 now.
- 4 MS. HOWARD: Hi. Hello.
- 5 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment.
- 6 MS. HOWARD: My name is Martha Howard, and I --
- 7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Ma'am, one moment,
- 8 | please. If you have maps to share, if you will, please,
- 9 | share those before you begin your presentation?
- 10 MS. HOWARD: Yes, I will. Thank you. I couldn't
- 11 | access that until you came back. But I'm ready. Okay.
- 12 Oh.
- 13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Your screen share is
- 14 going to be the button in the middle bottom of the
- 15 screen.
- 16 MS. HOWARD: Yeah, but my -- it's on my desktop, so
- 17 | just give me a -- God. Okay. Look, I'm just going to go
- 18 | with my --
- 19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We can help you. It's
- 20 okay. I believe we have your maps, and we can share them
- 21 for you.
- 22 MS. HOWARD: Oh. You know what? That will be
- 23 | wonderful. And that's one of my comments that I'm going
- 24 to have at the end of my -- oh. Thank you.
- 25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Here is your map, and

1 your time will again? MS. HOWARD: You're wonderful. Okay, so perfect. 3 So you can hear me now. So basically what I would like 4 to do is -- and can you share the maps on the page? I 5 believe 3 and a -- uh-huh, a little bit higher. Okay. These are the proposed math maps that we have 6 7 for Assembly -- Congressional District 42. As you can see on the right, it is a little head of like -- I call 8 it "the head of the dragon", so the proposed map is to 10 bring them all from San Diego and to stay in one. 11 Can you go to the top, please -- I mean, to the 12 bottom of the other one for the Assembly district? For 13 the -- uh-huh; and this is the proposed map for the 14 Assembly District 67. We want Temecula out of San Diego 15 completely. 16 And I know it doesn't look professional, and I 17 apologize for that. But I do want to give my 18 testament -- my testimony and my -- I'm sorry, I have 19 COVID, so I'm doing my best to be with you today. 20 here I go, okay. 21 Respective Members of the Redistricting Commission, 22 my name is Martha Howard, and I thank you for taking in 23 consideration of a request to include Temecula

25 County.

Congressional and Assembly district entirely in Riverside

Under the current districting, Temecula had to go to San Diego County to attain representation, isolating

Temecula and the surrounding areas in the districts that are completely dominated by North San Diego County, with Temecula and the surrounding Riverside County area, are almost nothing -- have almost nothing in common.

It leaves the community and portion of Southwest Riverside County with virtually no Congressional or Assembly representation, and in great disadvantage.

Our community has effectively been without representation for the past ten years, because the Temecula area has been so damaged by isolation from Riverside County, and almost totally controlled by North County -- by North San Diego County, we are stressing to this Commission that for the past ten years it has lived with fragmented communities of interest.

Therefore, it would now be unfair for the CRC to once again saddle us with that burden. Instead, the CRC should do everything it can to include Temecula Congressional and Assembly districts entirely in Riverside County, where many communities of interest, like public schools, its sport centers, and activities, freeways, and transportation facilities, eating establishments, entertainment venues, and job centers like laboratories, Old Towne, Wine Country, Pechanga are

1 shared.

Our area has very little in common with much of

North San Diego County, which is much more rural and is

spread in the Temecula area. And our area does have a

lot in common with jurisdictions like Murieta, like Lake

Elsinore, Wildomar, and Menifee.

We share our water supplies, infrastructure, and I'd like to add from Ida Robinson (ph.), as the Commission is aware, the 2011 Redistricting placed much of Temecula, which is in Riverside County, in the 5th Congressional District, and the 75 Assembly District, both of which are located, primarily, in North San Diego County, an area with which Temecula has little or nothing in common.

Perhaps the best evidence that North San Diego

County has little, if any, in common with the City of

Temecula, can be found in the October 10, 2021,

Newsletter from the 75 Assembly District representative;

and I quote from her, "From San Marcos, to Escondido, to

Temecula, and every rural community in between; and I'm

always proud of our amazing district, and the wonderful

people who live here."

It should be noted that the City of Temecula is not a rural community. Also, the San Diego County-based Cities of Escondido and San Marcos are roughly 29 to 32 miles respectively, side of Temecula.

1 Assemblywoman, correctly described the communities between those cities and Temecula as rural communities. 3 It should also be noted that the Riverside County-based City of Murrieta adjoins Temecula. The neighboring 4 5 community of Orange Valley, a portion of which is included in the Temecula Valley Unified District, adjoins 6 7 Temecula. And the Riverside County City of Wildomar, Lake Elsinore, and Menifee are all located with proximity 8 9 of 20 miles of Temecula. None of these locales are rural 10 communities. 11 And lastly, I want to apologize. Like I mentioned, 12 I'm recovering from COVID, but I also want to make a very 13 important point to this Commission. On the last stage of 14 the redistricting, we do need an access centered --15 MR. MANOFF: One minute remaining. 16 MS. HOWARD: -- in Riverside County. Okay. And so 17 I respectfully request that you provide us with 18 professional demographers and statisticians to help us 19 with the IT that is so important for the common citizen 20 to participate. 21 Thank you so much for everything you do. 22 apologize for not presenting my maps so professionally 23 with my PowerPoint. But I hope I can -- I could make my 24 point across for everyone in this community. Thank you

25

so much.

```
1
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much. No need for
 2
    apologies. You were absolutely perfect. Thank you so
 3
    much for your testimony.
 4
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And at this time we will
 5
    have PMI-006B. And will you be needing assistance with
    showing the maps? Or are you able to share yours?
 6
 7
        MS. SIMMS: I require assistance as well.
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.
 9
        MS. SIMMS: Thank you so very much. Appreciate
10
    that.
11
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely. So that will
12
    be PMI-006B, joined with our wonderful PMI-006A.
13
        MS. SIMMS: Perfect. Thank you so much for having
14
    us, and allowing us to go ahead and speak with you today.
15
    I basically do have the same maps. Martha and I have
16
    tried to work together a little bit. And I agree with
    Martha, in that it's very difficult to navigate the
17
18
    system, and be able to come up with something that is
19
    maybe a little bit more presentable to you. I hope that
20
    you do get to the point of what we're trying to put
21
    across.
22
         If you would just, yeah, go down to the very bottom
23
    map, that would be great. And we share the same maps.
24
    So you can what we're trying to do. And this is showing,
25
    you know, what we would hope to be able to achieve.
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What we currently have, obviously is -- our Temecula area is in Riverside County. That's where we reside, but we are currently represented by San Diego County. We have just a very small sliver of our county that has been removed to go ahead and go into San Diego.

The problem is that we do not have representation here. I've been a resident here for thirty-four years, and I've, many times reached out to my Congress people, to my Assembly district people, and I've gotten nowhere with them, because they don't have any interest in our community, because we really aren't part of them, and let that be known.

If you want to go to number 4, that would be great.

If you could, yeah, bring it up. And on our map here, it shows, literally, that there is a solid line that goes across the bottom for the 42nd, and that little tiny sliver that comes up, that is, that is us. That is

Temecula. But our Temecula Town is also in two different districts. Part of it is in 42nd, part of it is in the 50th.

So we -- again, we don't have direct representation because of this. So I hope that that makes, you know, a little bit of sense to you. And I'll just start with, you know, what I wrote out.

Honorable Commissioners, thank you for the

opportunity to share my concerns for the upcoming redistricting. My name is Tammy Simms (ph.), and I'm a thirty-four-year resident of Temecula.

- Temecula is in Riverside County, yet much of our representation; that is the 50th and the 75th Districts, is in San Diego County. We currently are split, part of Temecula falls in the 42nd District, and the majority lies in the 50th District, which is San Diego County.
- We are asking to be removed from San Diego's 50th District as we have had no voice, no representation, and have very little in common with San Diego County. Our community has effectively been without any representation for the last ten years.
- I urge the CRC to remove us from the 50th and the 75th Temecula Congressional and Assembly districts, and place us back into Riverside County's, the 42nd and the 67th Districts.
- Our county is Riverside, and our communities of interest are also in Riverside County, such as, schools, shops, entertainment, and restaurants, along with our wineries, Pechanga Casino, which we share with our sister cities, Marietta, Wildomar, Lake Elsinore, not San Diego County.
- Please do not allow us to be separated from our communities of interest, and allow us to have

- 1 | representation with Riverside County. Dividing our
- 2 | community is counterproductive, and it is my hope that
- 3 you will be able to correct this with the current
- 4 redistricting and drawing of the maps.
- 5 I thank you very much for your time, and appreciate
- 6 your consideration for the betterment of my community.
- 7 Tammy Simms, resident of Temecula for thirty-four years.
- 8 I thank you very much.
- 9 And I'd like to also extend a great big thank you to
- 10 | Sulma Hernandez, if she is present. She was very kind
- 11 and was very patient with me, and getting back to me when
- 12 I had questions. I just wanted to say thank you.
- 13 Thank you again.
- 14 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Mr. Simms.
- 15 MS. SIMMS: Thank you.
- 16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And at this time we will
- 17 be going to PMI-008A, and PMI-008B. PMI-008A, I will be
- 18 promoting you now. And PMI-008B, I will be promoting you
- 19 | now.
- 20 | CALLER PMI-006B: Can you hear me?
- 21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can, and the
- 22 other -- one moment -- so PMI-008A.
- 23 CALLER PMI-006B: Yes.
- 24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: If you would, please
- 25 | share your maps prior to your narrative.

```
1
        CALLER PMI-006B: Do you have to share -- ability,
 2
   if you could --
 3
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Yes, we can help
 4
   you with that.
 5
        CALLER PMI-006B: Yes.
        PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, one moment.
 7
        CALLER PMI-006B: Ours are the last three maps.
 8
   Let's see. I don't know if these are the -- no, these
   are not the ones. It's the ones that don't have any --
10
        PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Is that it?
11
        CALLER PMI-006B: All right, this is it. Uh-huh.
12
   Okay.
        MR. ESQUIVEL: Let's start with the State -- the
13
14
    Senate.
15
        MR. MANOFF: Your time will begin now.
16
        MR. ESQUIVEL: Thank you. Hello, Commissioners.
   name is Alberto Esquivel. I live in the City of
17
18
   Riverside for the last thirty years. And I'm associated
19
   with an organization known as LULAC, the League of United
20
   Latin American Citizens. I'm a retired Spanish
21
   broadcaster.
22
        And I want to present to you our idea of Assembly --
23
    I'm sorry -- the State Assembly -- State Senate, I'm
24
    sorry, State Senate map that covers our areas of
25
   interest. This is basically the same map that we are --
```

- 1 have been under for the last ten years, with the
- 2 exception of a few little changes that we have made. But
- 3 this is an area that covers the -- it starts with
- 4 Riverside, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Perris,
- 5 Eastvale, Palm Gardens, and El Cerrito, Mid-Valley, and
- 6 Homeland, and other areas around.
- 7 We are in the western portion of Riverside County,
- 8 and we have been working with numerous community
- 9 organizations to bring about a community that is well-
- 10 organized and is moving forward. We are doing many
- 11 things that help the community as a whole, we're having
- 12 | health fairs, free health fairs for people, we're
- 13 registering voters, we're giving all kinds of PPE --
- 14 | articulate -- I'm sorry, articles for the COVID, people
- 15 | that need these things for COVID.
- 16 We've been working with the school, spreading all
- 17 | these articles around. We've been helping the schools,
- 18 | we're helping the churches, and we have been helping each
- 19 other as organizations. We are a united community that
- 20 has been progressive for the last ten years. We have
- 21 been moving ahead. We have made quite a few gains. We
- 22 still have to make more, but that's in the near future.
- Right now, we need to stick together, we need to
- 24 | work together, we need to keep the same boundaries. And
- 25 one of the things we need to ask you, because there have

- 1 been other rumors about people trying to bring in other
- 2 | areas into our area. We cannot work with the area called
- 3 Norco, or with the Corona area. These areas have never
- 4 | worked with us. So therefore, we would like for them to
- 5 stay where they're at, and we'd like to continue where we
- 6 are at, with your help.
- 7 I'd like to move on to the Assembly map. And again,
- 8 that's basically the same areas. The difference with the
- 9 Assembly map is very, very little from the State Senate,
- 10 otherwise, and it's smaller. But Riverside, Moreno
- 11 Valley, Perris, Mid-Valley, Good Hope, Romoland, and all
- 12 | the immediate areas around them, form our Assembly
- 13 district.
- 14 | We need your help, again keeping it together,
- 15 because we're a community that is working together, and
- 16 has accomplished quite a number of things. And we need
- 17 | the help to continue working. We have been working with
- 18 our state representative, and we need to continue working
- 19 | with whoever represents us in Sacramento.
- 20 So again, we ask you to consider keeping us
- 21 | together. And also, we ask you, to keep Norco and Corona
- 22 out of our area.
- Let me add something here. There is a number of
- 24 organizations that are professionals, that have
- 25 professional demographers, that have come in and are

- building new districts, that I assume they're going to be
 presenting to you. But these are not the people living
 in the community. These are people that are coming in
 from the outside, and they have political ambitions, and
 they want to do different things in different areas.
 - I can understand why they're doing it. But we are working with our communities of interest. You have told us that we should consider working in our communities of interest. We consider a community of interest a place where we live in, not somebody in San Bernardino, or in Los Angeles doing the work that we're doing here as far as the drawing the lines. So please, we appreciate that.
 - We need to go into the Congressional map as well, if you will, please.
 - The Congressional map is slightly, a little different, because we're involving an area called the Jurupa Valley. We bring in Jurupa Valley also, and besides the other areas there, I mentioned before.
- 19 MR. MANOFF: One minute remain.

MR. ESQUIVEL: Again, we ask you to keep us basically where we're at, not bringing in any of the other areas outside. We want to keep Corona, Norco, and Hemet out of our areas. So anything you can do to help us maintain our motivation to keep it going, and to bring about better, better living for our residents, we would

- 1 greatly appreciate it.
- 2 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.
- 3 MR. ESQUIVEL: Thank you so much for your time.
- 4 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much.
- 5 MR. ESQUIVEL: Now, I'd like to introduce our next
- 6 | speaker, which is Janet Barnabe.
- 7 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Up next, we will have
- 8 PMI-009A. And I don't believe PMI-009B is here yet.
- 9 PMI-009, I will be promoting you now. PMI-009A, you can
- 10 | now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner
- 11 of your screen. You can also share your screen in the
- 12 center.
- And will the other -- will PMI-009 be joining you?
- 14 | MS. ALLEN: He will not. No. That'll be just my --
- 15 me today.
- 16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. Okay. The
- 17 floor is yours.
- 18 MS. ALLEN: All righty. Thank you so much. Good
- 19 afternoon, Commissioners. Thank you so much for allowing
- 20 us to be with you -- be here with you today.
- 21 My name is Sky Allen, I use she/her pronouns. And
- 22 I'm the program director with Inland Empire United, or IE
- 23 United. Today, I'll be sharing Assembly and
- 24 | Congressional maps for San Bernardino and Riverside
- 25 | Counties as proposed by the Inland Empire Redistricting

- 1 | Hub. We'll also be sending a Senate map later, but
- 2 Assembly will be our priority for this presentation.
- 3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Here we go.
- 4 MS. ALLEN: All righty. The IE Redistricting Hub,
- 5 is a regional coalition born out of Census 2020 Outreach
- 6 | in the Inland Empire, comprised of twenty-two different
- 7 local community-based organizations.
- 8 Our partners all serve, primarily, low-income and
- 9 working class communities of color, in the two-county
- 10 region, and specialize in a wide range of issues,
- 11 | including education, housing, workers' rights, immigrant
- 12 | rights, environmental justice, criminal justice, and
- 13 more.
- Our partners cover most of the two-county region.
- 15 We have partners in the High Desert, in the Coachella
- 16 Valley, and in the more metropolitan areas of the county.
- 17 | We have less organizational coverage in the Morongo
- 18 Valley and in Temecula. The Hub is facilitated by my
- 19 Executive Director and I, from IE United, and coordinates
- 20 | with other regional and statewide alliances and
- 21 organizations, primarily, through IE United.
- The maps I'll be presenting on the Hub's behalf
- 23 today were constructed first and foremost with the State
- 24 and Federal redistricting criteria in mind, but given our
- 25 areas of expertise, and our organizing with working class

- 1 communities of color, it was critical for us to ensure
- 2 | that VRA-compliant districts were drawn wherever
- 3 practicable, and that communities of interest we
- 4 recognized on the ground were kept together.
- 5 We, at the Redistricting Hub, also did not draw
- 6 these maps alone. We want to thank Advancement Project
- 7 for facilitating the IEU Redistricting Alliance, and
- 8 providing space for coordination and collaboration
- 9 throughout this entire process.
- 10 We also want to thank the Orange County Civic
- 11 | Engagement Table, without whom, these maps likely would
- 12 | not have been. And we also want to uplift Alliance San
- 13 Diego, the People's Bloc, the Black Census and
- 14 Redistricting Hub, and California Environmental Voters,
- 15 just to name a few.
- 16 The IE does not exist in a vacuum. I have the
- 17 | confidence to share these maps with you today because I
- 18 know that they are in alignment with community voices in
- 19 | neighboring counties, and bordering communities, as well
- 20 as our own.
- 21 Lastly, before I dive in, I also want to say that
- 22 some of our districts may resemble existing Assembly or
- 23 Congressional districts, but most of them do not. There
- 24 | are definitely some areas where communities have not felt
- 25 entirely heard. So when we were drawing new districts,

- we drew districts equal in population around our COIs, not around incumbent addresses or existing maps.
- All righty, community of interest time, so I'm going
 to go from north to south, and from west to east, as I go
 through these. We are very protective of our High Desert
 community. The High Desert region is a region in San
 Bernardino County comprised of the Cities of Hesperia,
 Victorville, Adelanto, and Apple Valley, and in some

conversations, Barstow as well.

- This region is separate from the more densely populated areas of the county by the San -- and below the San Gabriel Mountains, and are connected to those only by a freeway, for some, the High Desert is a community you drive through on your way to Vegas, but for our partners and our community, is a vibrant rural community with a deep sense of community.
- As a rural area, there is a very particular kind of hunger for investment, which allows for really meaningful community building and organizing. The socioeconomic desires of the region are shared between all of the cities. But as you can see on the screen, the Black and Grown communities mostly reside in Adelanto, Victorville, and Hesperia.
- In this slide, and in future slide, Latino
 communities are in blue, and the Black communities are in

1 green.

Moving on to San Bernardino City; it's the namesake of our county, the heart of our county, and one of our top communities of interest, this cycle.

As you can see it, is densely populated and incredibly diverse. Additionally, we are a coalition of movement building organizations, and there's a lot of movement building and organizing in San Bernardino, from housing, to education, to the fight for clean air and good jobs, the fight to rethink public safety, you name it, San Bernardino organizes for it.

Currently, though, the city and its residents are divided into two different Assembly districts, and we urge you not to let that continue to be the case.

Moving on south to Riverside County, in the very top-left, northwest corner of the county, you have Jurupa Valley, Riverside, and Corona. One of the beating hearts of the Latinx immigrant communities in Riverside County. From language, to food, to shopping, to religion, this community embodies the definition of a community of interest. And in this presentation, we have outlined a really incredible way to keep them whole.

Moving east, we have a community neighboring
Riverside, but with unique needs, and a blossoming
population, with similarly grouped Latinx immigrant

- 1 | communities, but also a rapidly growing Black community.
- 2 Here is an area with a lot of people, but not a lot of
- 3 development. So it's beginning to see a lot more
- 4 developers, and residents, alike, flock to the region.
- 5 They need representatives that are truly responsive
- 6 to the cultural needs of the community, and their
- 7 opinions on how the district should be growing in the
- 8 | next decade. The last thing I want to spotlight before
- 9 breezing through our map proposal, is the Eastern
- 10 | Coachella Valley.
- As you've heard at the public hearings this summer,
- 12 the Coachella Valley is a community with a very strong
- 13 sense of self, and a strong sense of community. Truly,
- 14 | if you're looking at the macro level, that extends from
- 15 | Palm Desert all the way down to Oasis. But with respect
- 16 to Assembly maps that are a little bit smaller, it is
- 17 | really crucial to keep the valley east of Indio together.
- 18 Here is the most rural part of the area, with the
- 19 highest concentration of Spanish-speaking communities,
- 20 families with immigrants and residents impacted by the
- 21 | Salton Sea.
- I know I have limited time with you all this
- 23 afternoon. I think if you understand these sorts of
- 24 | larger through lines with our COIs, you'll find our map
- 25 proposal really can just fall into place. And again, I'm

going to go to these quite quickly because you already
have access to them. But hopefully this will still be of
use as you have your conversations.

- So this first one here: County boundaries are sometimes meaningful, but oftentimes, at least on the ground, they're a bit arbitrary. Our first district here, though spanning two counties, is a single community united by businesses and organizations serving all nested cities, and it is also a VRA district.
- To the east of that district, immediately, we have another VRA district. At the heart of this one, are not one, but two large malls that connect residents from all over, to eat, shop, and be merry. We also have the Ontario International Airport that brings many people to the area, and forgive me, an absolute explosion of warehouses that push people away.
- We are very proud of this district. As I mentioned a few minutes ago, San Bernardino City is the soul of the county, but it is currently split in half by (Indiscernible). Our version of the 2021 districts, keep the city whole and connected to its neighbors in Highland, Colton, and MusCOI, Rialto. You may also recall the demographic maps that I showed you in briefing our priority COIs, if so you will see that this district keeps those Black and Brown communities together, and is

a very strong VRA district.

Moving north now: As I mentioned earlier, we are very protective of our High Desert communities. So trying to find ways to ensure VRA compliance, honoring communities of interests in our region, and honoring — and respecting communities of interest in other regions, left us with having a lot of really long, thoughtful discussions; and the agreement we walked away with feeling pretty good about, are illustrated on the screens and the ones to come.

Here, we have a VRA-compliant district that also unites Black voters in the High Desert, and Antelope Valley. Immediately north of that district, we have an Assembly district connecting the rest of Antelope Valley with California City and Barstow. And then immediately south of that VRA district, we have the San Gabriel Mountains kept together.

We really feel this configuration empowers voters in a community where, historically, have not had significant voting power, while also honoring COIs in a practical way.

I'm going to hop south now to Riverside County and share what we think is a really strong VRA district. If you recall the COI that I shared with you earlier, you'll find that this Assembly district lines up perfectly with

- 1 the map I shared, making this a very natural and
 2 empowering, no-brainer of a district.
- Similarly, we were able to draw a second Riverside VRA Assembly district, in alignment with our COIs in this I remind you that Moreno Valley and Perris have very strong Latinx communities making up those two cities. But we also have a growing Black population, a growing population, period, in San Jacinto and Hemet, and really deeply feel it is important that the district is drawn in the way that we have it to empower those communities as well.
 - IE-5 as labeled here, is sandwiched between the two Voting Rights districts I just described. And this also makes way for VRA districts in Orange County.

- Here is the rest of San Bernardino County, and the tip of the Coachella Valley, as well as it includes the San Gorgonio Pass. This district allows for the Sierra Nevada region to be kept whole to the north of San Bernardino County. It also allows for the VRA districts we have in other areas to exist in order to properly balance population.
- One more connected district. We have what is labeled IE-7 here, which allows for VRA districts to exist in every direction around it.
- 25 All right; as you can see here, by combining

- 1 | Imperial County with the Coachella Valley, we were able
- 2 to have a VRA district for this Latinx immigrant
- 3 | community as well. And hopefully a representative that
- 4 understands community environmental justice concerns
- 5 around the Salton Sea.
- 6 My last Assembly map here. We have connected
- 7 Temecula, Aguanga, Anza, and Lake Riverside with the San
- 8 Diego County.
- 9 All righty; very quickly here, I'm going to uplift a
- 10 | few Congressional VRA districts that we were able to put
- 11 | together. And I'll remind you that we'll be sending a
- 12 proposal, the PDF and narrative of Senate maps as well.
- 13 So this district actually does, unintentionally,
- 14 resemble the existing Congressional District 35. But
- 15 here it really does track with community preference.
- 16 Pomona, though technically a part of LA County, is very
- 17 | much connected to Ontario, Montclair, and Chino.
- Going back to our core COIs, you see that the
- 19 Greater San Bernardino area is able to be kept whole in a
- 20 | single Congressional district as well, paired really
- 21 | naturally with the surrounding cities and communities.
- In Riverside, we were able to loosely pair our two
- 23 | western VRA districts together to create a strong
- 24 | Congressional VRA district.
- 25 And for the Coachella Valley, we've extended the

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1 Assembly version of the map to include the San Gorgonio 2 Pass.
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2.3

In conclusion, redistricting is fundamentally a way to ensure that democracy is doing its job. That our political landscape is a reflection of our communities, and our political power matches our people power.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to share today, how we can make real that promise for our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my Executive Director, Michael; or I, if you have any questions, or need feedback. Thank you.

CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Ms. Allen.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And up next, we will have PMI-010, I will be promoting you now. PMI-010, you can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. And are you able to share your own maps?

MR. ICHINOSE: Yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. If you will

share your maps, then your time will begin.

MR. ICHINOSE: One moment. Pardon me, just one second. I'm sorry. One moment; I'm just having some technical difficulties here.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You're fine. We are running a few minutes early.

MR. ICHINOSE: Okay, great. Perfect.

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1
         CHAIR SADHWANI: While we wait. I'll just also
 2
    offer for Commissioners. I believe one of our previous
    submitters was cut off. He ran out of time and didn't
 3
 4
    have the opportunity to present the last set of maps.
 5
    But as a reminder, all of those maps are posted on our
    website. Thank you.
 6
 7
         MR. ICHINOSE: Okay. Thank you.
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Are you ready?
 9
         MR. ICHINOSE:
                       Yes.
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. You may start.
10
11
         MR. ICHINOSE: Great.
                                Thanks so much,
    Commissioners. My name is Daniel Ichinose, last name is
12
13
    spelt I-C-H-I-N-O-S-E. I'm research director of the
14
    Orange County Civic Engagement Table.
15
         I'm presenting a multi-district public submission,
16
    public map submission, on behalf of the People's
17
    Redistricting Alliance.
18
         I'll start a little bit with an overview of the
    Alliance. It's a multiracial coalition of sixteen
19
20
    community-based organizations that's been working to
    center low-income communities of color and working
21
22
    families in statewide and local redistricting.
23
    aligned with the work of statewide and regional partners.
    That includes Asian Americans Advancing Justice; we serve
24
25
    as their Orange County lead.
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And I've been in discussion with statewide groups
like, Black Census and Redistricting Hub, MALDEF, NALEO,
and working to align with regional partners like the
People's Bloc in LA County, IE United, who you just heard
from, in San Bernardino, Riverside Counties, and Alliance
San Diego and San Diego Hub, recognizing that any map
that is focused on a county, needs to be viable as part
of a regional and statewide map. So coordination with
these groups was really key.

I'll talk a little bit about the work that we've done. We started in January educating community-based organizations about the redistricting process. We held several meetings starting in March, to identify communities of interest, again focused on communities in need.

We've mobilized communities to participate in hearings, both July 8th and September 1st Communities of Interest Hearings that the Commission held. And then obviously map. So you'll see today Congressional, and State Senate, and State Assembly maps that respect those communities of interest.

So I think folks generally understand that Orange County has experienced quite a bit of change over the past three decades, transitioning from a county that was sixty-four percent White in 1990, to one that is now

sixty-two percent people of color, according to the 2020 Census. Given that change, it's important to be mindful of the related social and economic dynamics that have emerged as a result.

- So I want to go through a little bit of this. This map shows the distribution of low-income population countywide, and it illustrates, I think, what we see is three clusters that are useful to keep in mind as we draw maps.
- First, we see a coastal community of interest. This higher-income coastal area, we see an inland low-income area along the 5 Freeway Corridor, from the county line down to Irvine; and then a more affluent hillside area.
- And this kind of clustering we see across a whole host of social and economic characteristics. You know, we just saw income. This map looks at immigrant populations, and shows clustering of disproportionately native-born populations along the coast, and the hillside area, and immigrant communities along the 5 Freeway Corridor.
- This map is looking at Cal environ screen data. It shows environmental hazards that demonstrate very similar clustering, right, communities facing fewer environmental hazards on the coast and hillside areas, and communities facing greater environmental hazards along the 5 Freeway.

So across a whole host of socioeconomic indicators, we see these three areas of alignment, a higher-income coastal area, a lower-income area along the 5 Freeway Corridor; and then again, a higher-income, more affluent hillside area. And we ask that you keep these population dynamics in mind as you draw lines.

2.3

Communities of interest were a major focus for our line drawing. We have six listed here. I wanted to just quickly go into three of these that I think are -- not necessarily more important, but I think worth noting.

VRA partners, the Council on American-Islamic Relations and South Asian Network identified the AMEMSA community as a core community of interest.

This map shows the geographic distribution of AMEMSA communities along the border between Los Angeles and Orange County; so with clear concentrations in Bonaparte, La Palma, Cypress, in Orange County, and Cerritos, Artesia in LA County. So this is a community of interest that crosses county lines. As part of their daily lives, AMEMSA communities in Orange County crosses into Los Angeles County, to shop in ethnic markets, dine in restaurants, worship, and access social services in Artesia and Cerritos.

PRA member organizations ask us to keep Buena Park south of the Freeway -- 5 Freeway, La Palma, and Cypress,

1 together; with Cerritos, Artesia, in Orange County-based 2 districts.

A second Community of interest we wanted to raise was that in South Fullerton and West Anaheim. This map shows the distribution of low-income populations in the area. In Fullerton, data on low-income populations show that the lower-income area of South Fullerton, which you see here, in the higher-income area of North Fullerton, roughly divided by Chapman Avenue. Okay.

In Anaheim, we see the lower-income, West Anaheim area, and the higher-income Anaheim Hills area, roughly divided by the 55 Freeway.

So low-income residents in South Fullerton and West Anaheim share common challenges, including environmental justice concerns, and access to affordable housing.

The guidance we received from groups like Orange

County Environmental Justice was to keep these lower

income communities in South Fullerton and West Anaheim

together, and drawn in different districts than more

affluent communities in Yorba Linda and Anaheim Hills.

Okay.

Our final community of interest that we wanted to note before getting to the maps was around Irvine. You may know that Irvine is one of the fastest-growing cities in the state, and that this dramatic increase has been

fueled by growth in immigrant communities.

So with growing numbers of Asian-American, Pacific Islander, and AMEMSA residents, the city is also home to an emerging low-income population with needs that are similar to those of Latinx communities in Costa Mesa.

So this map shows the distribution of low-income population, which you can see between Costa Mesa and Irvine. You know, recognizing common needs related to affordable housing, language access, and other concerns, and we even see public programs that provide rental assistance and workforce development targeting both cities.

So PRA partners, Orange County, Asian-Pacific
Islander Community Alliance, and RA for Justice, asked us
to keep Irvine and Costa Mesa whole, drawn together with
parts of Tustin, where possible; and apart from more
affluent coastal communities like Newport Beach, and
Laguna Beach.

So it's important to note here that given the concentration of low-income and immigrant communities in Costa Mesa, we don't consider the city to be part of the higher-income coastal community of interest. One other thing to note here, this map shows immigrant communities. It may be tempting to divide Irvine, but this map shows immigrant communities northeast, and southwest of the 5

Freeway that should be kept together. So this is why we want Irvine to remain whole at all Legislative levels.

2.3

So let's go ahead and dive into the maps, again, starting with the State Assembly level. Certainly, you know, all of our work starts with legal compliance. We see a Federal Voting Rights-complaint district in Central Orange County. This one is labeled OC-1. Okay. It's built with a Latinx CVAP of about fifty-six percent, that includes Santa Ana, East Garden Grove, West Anaheim, and Orange. Okay.

We see a second district labeled here, OC-2, that unites immigrant and low-income communities of interest in South Fullerton and West Anaheim; Korean-American communities in North Buena Park and West Fullerton, and maintains the integrity of the Little Arabia community.

Our third Assembly district is labeled OC-3, and this brings together two communities of interest, the AMEMSA community to the north, and the Garden Grove, Westminster, Fountain Valley, again, Vietnamese, Pacific Island communities to the south. We want to recognize that as we draw districts, right, we have Voting Rights Act obligations in LA and Orange County, that really constrain the orientation of these districts.

So you may see some districts that seem a little springy. But again, they're built to both comply with

1 Federal law, and respect communities of interest. Okay.

Our fourth and final State Assembly district is here labeled OC-4. And this brings together low-income and immigrant communities in Costa Mesa and Irvine. Again, with shared needs and concerns that are much different than those in affluent coastal communities, like Newport Beach, and Laguna Beach. Okay.

At the State Senate level, this was probably the most difficult level for us. We started with VRA compliance, and this district labeled OC-1 can be drawn with a Latinx CVAP of just over fifty percent; 50.4 percent. That includes parts of Santa Ana, West Fullerton -- sorry -- South Fullerton, West Anaheim, East Garden Grove, and La Habra. Okay.

And this is also uniting disproportionately Latinx immigrant and low-income communities, and maintains the Little Arabia community of interest in West Anaheim.

This is our second Senate district, which brings together our community -- AMEMSA community of interest to the North, Vietnamese and Pacific Islander community of interest in Garden Grove and Westminster. Both communities of interest share experiences as immigrants, and common needs related to language access. You can see it also maintains a coastal community of interest between Seal Beach and Laguna Beach. Okay.

Our third district includes the immigrant communities in Irvine, because of VRA compliance dynamics we did have to divide our community of interest between Costa Mesa and Irvine; so recognizing that the VRA does place this kind of constraints on our line.

At the Congressional level, finally, again starting with VRA compliance in this district labeled OC-1, as is other levels, bringing together communities at Santana, South Fullerton, West Anaheim, including places like East Garden Grove; again, disproportionately immigrant income communities, and also maintaining the Little Arabia community of interest.

This is our second Congressional district, labeled OC-2, which brings together Korean-American communities of interest, AMEMSA communities of interest, and our Vietnamese and Pacific Islander communities of interest, around Westminster and Garden Grove.

Again, this is a little bit of a stringy district, but it's drawn to align with Federal Voting Rights Act compliance in LA and Orange County, while respecting, again, these communities if interest. Okay.

This is our third Congressional district, labeled here OC-3. And again, as on other levels, it works to maintain the integrity of low-income and immigrant communities in Costa Mesa and Irvine, while drawing in

- 1 low-income -- similarly low-income communities and
 2 immigrant communities in and around the City of Orange.
 - Okay, so that's a quick presentation. You obviously have our overarching narrative. And we wanted to leave you with a few takeaways from our maps. First, that there are Voting Rights Act compliance obligations at all levels, State Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional.
 - We also feel it's important to recognize that the VRA districts in LA, and Orange County, and the Inland Empire, shape surrounding districts, right; and in some cases force less-compact configurations, and the crossing of county lines.
 - You'll see from our proposal, there is some flow of population between LA and Orange County on the coastal side. Certainly our communities of interest --
- 16 MR. MANOFF: Forty-five seconds.

- MR. ICHINOSE: -- in Buena Park, Cerritos, Artesia area, and then between the VRA districts in LA and OC -- I'm sorry -- LA and the Inland Empire --
 - MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds remain.
- MR. ICHINOSE: -- there. Finally, we ask you to recognize these coastal communities of interest -- I'm sorry -- these communities of interest clusters on the coast, in inland urban areas along the 5 Freeway Corridor and on the hillsides, and recognize that the alignment

between low-income and more affluent coastal and hillside
communes of interest is possible.

Thanks so much for your time and we look forward to continuing to work with you in this redistricting --

CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much, Mr. Ichinose.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And right now we will have PMI-011. And then up next after that will be PMI-012A, and PMI-012B. PMI-011, I will be promoting you now. PMI-011, you can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. And you can share your maps with the Share Your Screen button in the middle bottom of your screen, as you have done. And the floor is yours.

CALLER PMI-011: Good afternoon. I'm calling today to speak about the map that I am proposing for Assembly district in those Orange County Foothill communities that Daniel just spoke about. I realized, having watched the earlier presentations, that my map does not have labels for the cities or the communities I'll be speaking about; so if I may, I'd like to just quickly orient, again, the Commissioners to the area that I'll be speaking about.

And I'd like to display this Google Map that shows the layout of this region just south of LA County line, where we have the cities to the east of 57 Santa Ana Freeway, Yorba Linda, Placentia, Villa Park, this region

1 | that I'm calling the Foothills.

And what I'd like to just share as my narrative today around this Foothills Assembly district proposed is that the cities east of the 57 Santa Ana Freeway Corridor, and west of the Orange County, San Bernardino County border, including those cities I just mentioned, and the unincorporated Silverado Canyon area, are part of the same county Supervisorial district, and Board of Education districts. They share very similar profiles, and will best be represented relative to common issues of concern, around open spaces, environmental protection, property values, transportation, and commuting, public schools, employment, access to quality, commercial retail and entertainment.

So to achieve effective representation, the Cities of the proposed Orange County Foothills Assembly District should not include cities outside of Orange County or west of the 5 Freeway or 57 Corridors, which are very dissimilar to these foothill communities.

The region is particularly vulnerable to environmental threats related to fire. It's highly sensitive, ecologically, and in terms of animal population, as well as transportation, and severe traffic impacts. My proposed district map population totals approximately 494,000. It includes Asian population of

- 1 | 31.33 percent; Latino population of 21.55 percent; and
- 2 White population of 43.61 percent.
- 3 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to
- 4 advocate for fair representation in this area of Southern
- 5 California, by way of Assembly district boundaries that
- 6 reflect the Orange County Foothills communities of
- 7 interest. Thank you.
- 8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much.
- 9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And at this time we have
- 10 PMI-012A, and PMI-012B. And following this presentation
- 11 | will be a fifteen-minute break.
- 12 | PMI-012A, I will be promoting you now. And PMI-
- 13 012B, I will be promoting you now. And to both of our
- 14 presenters, A and B, you can now enable your audio and
- 15 video. And will you be needing assistance for sharing
- 16 | your maps?
- 17 MS. KITAMURA: No. We should be good. Thank you.
- 18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. If you will,
- 19 please share your maps, and then begin your narrative.
- 20 And that will start your time.
- 21 MS. KITAMURA: Can. Can you see our screen?
- 22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.
- MS. KITAMURA: Great. Good afternoon,
- 24 Commissioners. My name is Deanna Kitamura. I am senior
- 25 | staff attorney with the Voting Rights Program, and Asian-

1 Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus.

I'm here with my colleague, Amrita Singh, senior research analyst at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles.

Thank you for providing time for us to present to you. Our two organizations spearhead the AAPI, and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative. Our goal is to empower the Asian-American Pacific Islander, Arab, Middle Eastern, and Muslim communities in California during the redistricting process.

Building on what we did in previous redistricting cycles, we created a network of local organizations in six regions that goes from Sacramento to San Diego. We held a series of workshops in these regions for local organizations, residents, and community leaders. All told, we ended up holding over thirty web-based workshops. We focused on educating the community on redistricting and the state redistricting process and how to get engaged.

We helped people submit COI testimony by creating and sharing a fact sheet and template, and we walked through the process with some community members.

Workshop participants defined the COI for us, provided maps and priorities, and provided feedback on our proposed district configurations.

In addition to our workshops, we engaged AAPI and AMEMSA's community leaders directly, and worked with stakeholders in other communities to understand their priorities, and find compromise.

Here are the locals of the anchor organizations for our collaborative. Each anchor organization invited other local organizations, local leaders and residents to be part of the collaborative. We have some statewide anchors, such as AAPI specific empowerment, and EPIC, which stands for, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities.

But many are grassroots organizations working in specific counties such as, Asian Solidarity Collective in San Diego, Hmong Innovating Politics, and Jakara Movement, both working in Sacramento and the Central Valley, with Jakara Movement also in the San Francisco Bay area. OCCET, who just finished about ten minutes ago, has our Orange County anchor, as Daniel Ichinose pointed out.

They conducted their own set of meetings, some of which we attended. We have adopted their Orange County districts into our proposals. We invite you to read more about each of our anchoring partners in our submission introduction.

We have three principles in how we develop our maps.

- 1 | The first is that we want our proposals to respect the
- 2 | Federal Voting Rights Act, not just because it's required
- 3 by law, but we want to ensure that underrepresented
- 4 | communities have equal opportunities to participate in
- 5 their political process, and elect candidates of their
- 6 choice.
- 7 The second principle is that districts should
- 8 respect communities of interest in neighborhoods while
- 9 also respecting other traditional redistricting criteria.
- 10 And the last is that while our goal is to uplift the
- 11 AAPI and AMEMSA communities, we did not want to do it at
- 12 the expense of others.
- Therefore, we collaborated with other stakeholders
- 14 | such as Black, Latino, LGBTQ, immigrant refugee, and
- 15 environmental groups in order to respect the integrity of
- 16 other historically disenfranchised communities. We also
- 17 | monitored many of the COI Input calls, to understand
- 18 other interests as well.
- 19 Our proposal includes all eighty Assembly districts
- 20 | within plus or minus 1.5 percent deviation. We include
- 21 | twenty-three districts that are over fifty percent Latino
- 22 citizen voting age population. And we include three
- 23 districts that are over fifty percent Asian citizen
- 24 voting age population.
- 25 Our districts are based on input received at our

- 1 | workshop, as well as discussions we had with our regional
- 2 anchors and local leaders. In Appendix B of our
- 3 | submission, which is in multiple parts due to its volume,
- 4 | we included community testimony from those who have
- 5 appeared before you, who represent our collaborative.
- 6 Some of the community members supplemented their
- 7 testimony, so the submissions may not be identical with
- 8 | what you already have. We also want to note that we
- 9 previously submitted Shapefiles for many of the COIs
- 10 discussed in the community testimony, and which will be
- 11 discussed today.
- 12 If you compare our districts with other civil rights
- 13 and environmental organizations, you may notice
- 14 | similarities. And in some regions you may see exactly
- 15 the same districts. That's because we work in
- 16 | collaboration with those groups to develop proposals that
- 17 | would respect underrepresented communities.
- I want to now turn it over to my colleague Amrita
- 19 | Singh, to present the Assembly districts, starting in
- 20 Sacramento and moving south.
- 21 We encourage you to review our entire proposal since
- 22 | we are only providing highlights today. Thank you.
- MS. SINGH: Thank you, Deanna. As Deanna mentioned,
- 24 my name Amrita Singh, I am the senior research analyst
- 25 | with Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles.

As Deanna mentioned, we submitted a statewide

Assembly map proposal. In this presentation, we are

going to emphasize and -- we're going to emphasize the

priorities of the AAPI and AMEMSA communities of interest

specifically.

Beginning with the Sacramento region: So here is an image of Assembly Districts 6, 7, and 9, within the Sacramento region. Beginning with Assembly District 6, within Assembly District 6, the Afghan and Syrian refugee communities of interest are kept whole in the Arden-Arcade and the Carmichael neighborhoods.

Also in Assembly District 6, the Sikh community requested that the City of Antelope be kept in a district with Roseville and separate from Granite Bay. They expressed a misalignment with regards to priorities with SES (ph.). Also, the Sikh community mentioned that the Sikh members within the City of Antelope and Roseville are a unified community that's anchored by the local Sikh Temple as well — the Roseville Gurdwara.

Moving on to Assembly District 7: Within Assembly District 7, the Southeast Asian communities of interest, Del Paso Heights and Lemon Hill are kept together, the Southeast Asian community have common interest in tenant protections, language needs, and access to safety net programs.

In Assembly District 9, Elk Grove is kept all with South Sacramento. Many residents within this region are low-income, and are immigrants, and face challenges with regards to hate crimes, housing affordability, and limited English proficiency.

Also, within Assembly District 9, you can see that the neighborhood of Evergreen is kept whole. This particular community of interest have shared interests — they're adjacent to the Sac River, and have shared interest in maintaining and preserving the Sac River levee system.

So moving on from the Sacramento region to the Bay area here is -- here are our proposed Assembly Districts 17 and 19, within San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

Assembly District 17 has Chinatown and Japantown whole and together. With respect to AD 19, the Asian-American community expressed that the Excelsior neighborhood should be kept all with Ocean View, Merced, and Ingleside, basically, the Outer Mission -- the Outer Mission neighborhood along with Portola, this valley, and Bayview; so this region here.

Also, within Assembly District 19, the Sunset and Richmond districts are kept whole, and within that area, it is primarily family-oriented neighborhoods with many Chinese-Americans with shared interest in education,

- 1 public safety, and language access.
- 2 Another feature of Assembly District 19 is that Daly
- 3 City is whole, and kept with Filipino-American
- 4 communities in Westborough, and Buri Buri (ph.). The
- 5 | Filipino-American communities have shared concerns about
- 6 language access, protections for essential workers, and
- 7 health care access.
- 8 One thing to note also is that given the
- 9 concentration of Filipino-Americans and how their
- 10 | community extends beyond the Daly City boundaries, to
- 11 | accommodate that, Assembly District 19 reaches below
- 12 | those COIs, but also part of the San Francisco Peninsula
- 13 is drawn in with Assembly District 10 with Marin. Also,
- 14 | Assembly District 19 is an Asian-American opportunity
- 15 district with over fifty percent Asian CVAP.
- 16 | Moving on, just below Assembly District 19, two
- 17 Assembly Districts 22 and 24, so within these districts,
- 18 | the Pacific Islander communities identified several
- 19 communities of interest. And just to note, the Pacific
- 20 Islanders face systematic disparities in areas of
- 21 education, health care, employment, and housing.
- 22 | With respect to Assembly District 22, many of these
- 23 COIs have been kept together. So I know it's difficult
- 24 to see here, but the Pacific Islander community
- 25 | identified three communities of interest in Redwood City,

all of them are kept whole and together, along with two
communities of interest in Northern San Mateo County, one
in San Bruno, and one near the San Francisco Airport.

- With respect to Assembly District 24, the Pacific Islander community identified the North Fair Oaks neighborhood, along with the Belle Haven triangle, both are kept all with East Palo Alto, due to shared interest around education, employment, and housing affordability.
- Moving on to the East Bay, to Assembly District 18: Within Assembly District 18, the Oakland Chinatown area is kept whole, along with a Cambodian community of interest, both are within and overlap the East Lake, Little Saigon neighborhoods, as well as San Antonio.
- These neighborhoods have many Asian-American immigrants and refugees who face pressures of gentrification and displacement, and have shared needs for language access and social services.
- Another feature of Assembly District 18 is that the Koreatown North business district is kept whole, within the Temescal neighborhoods, so this region in its entirety. This area is home to many Korean, Yemeni, and Ethiopian small businesses, as well as restaurants and residents, with shared interest in small business support, language access, and neighborhood safety.

25 Moving on just south to District 20, also in the

East Bay; in Assembly District 20, San Leandro is kept
with Ashland and San Lorenzo, along with the City of
Hayward, which is kept whole along with Union City.

parks, and community spaces.

So these cities have a large Filipino-American population, as well as a large working class Asian-American population. Both have shared interests around immigration, employment, and education. Another thing to highlight with regards to Assembly District 20, is that the Centreville neighborhood is kept whole, the Centerville neighborhood within Fremont. There are many Afghani-American immigrants residing there with shared interests around immigration access, language services, and culturally specific social services, education,

Moving on from the East Bay, just south, to proposed Assembly District 25, in the South Bay. In Assembly District 25, several Fremont neighborhoods are kept together, specifically Irvington, Mission San Jose, and Warm Springs. In addition to South Fremont being in this district, Santa Clara is kept whole, as well as Milpitas, and the neighborhood of Berryessa.

So one thing to note about this specific district; is that there are many Asian ethnic, and religious groups residing here, as well as Muslims that have multiple COI concentrations in these cities.

Now, all of them are not depicted here. We did give an extensive, I believe it's called Appendix B, with all -- a list of all of our COIs and a narrative going along with them. So please reference those.

But these communities do have a number of overlapping COIs within the region, and they have strong cultural ties to religious institutions, schools, and ethnic businesses. Another common interest among residents within this area, are that they share economic ties to the tech industry.

And finally, Assembly District 25 is drawn as an Asian-American opportunity district; more than fifty percent Asian CVAP.

Moving on from the Bay Area to the Central Valley, to proposed Assembly District -- oh, sorry -- we have proposed Assembly District, South Bay. I forgot about one more district.

So Assembly District 27: Within Assembly District 27, the Alum Rock neighborhood is kept whole. Many Filipino-Americans and Latinos reside in this neighborhood, which is adjacent to a Vietnamese -- adjacent to two Vietnamese COIs along Story Road, also within this district is the Evergreen and Silver Creek neighborhoods. Within this specific COI many Punjabi, Sikh, Vietnamese, and Filipino families are residing

- there with strong cultural connections, as well as shared
 interests in education and language access.
- Now, moving on from the Bay Area to the Central
- 4 Valley: So here is our -- is the proposed Assembly
- 5 Districts 23 and 31. Just to note, Assembly District 31
- 6 is drawn as a Latino VRA District. One goal that I want
- 7 to be -- that wants to be uplifted here is that the
- 8 | Southeast Asian community here, specifically the Hmong
- 9 community, has requested that their communities of
- 10 | interest be kept whole, and within Assembly District 31,
- 11 if possible.
- 12 This proposed Assembly District 31, does keep many
- 13 of the Hmong COIs whole. Also, I'd like to uplift the
- 14 AMEMSA COIs, one is Masjid Fresno. These are Arabic-
- 15 | speaking COIs within Assembly District 31. Masjid Fresno
- 16 | is near Fresno State, and then Masjid Badr here in the
- 17 | northern portion of the Assembly district.
- 18 The community asked that their COIs be kept whole
- 19 and together. Masjid Badr, does have some overlap with
- 20 | the Sikh COI, right here, which runs along the west
- 21 Fresno 99 Corridor.
- 22 The Sikh community has shared priorities when it
- 23 comes to local school districts and the need for more
- 24 | language access. They also have concerns with
- 25 environmental and health issues caused by pollution from

Highway 99, and a desire for more recreational activities
and access to parks.

Moving on from the Central Valley to the Los Angeles area, here is proposed Assembly Districts 51 and 53. So both Assembly Districts 51 and 53 are drawn as Latino VRA Districts, in Assembly District -- in both districts, there are five Asian-American ethnic neighborhoods that are whole and together within both districts. They include Chinatown, Little Tokyo, historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, and Thai Town.

So all five Asian-American neighborhoods have been recognized by the City of Los Angeles, and have strong historic preservation goals of projecting and celebrating AAPI culture and heritage. One thing to note, in particular, is that they are all in close proximity to Downtown Los Angeles, and share similar social and economic characteristics.

Additionally, Chinatown and Little Tokyo should be in a district together, as both are densely populated with low-income, and limited English-proficient renters, who are at risk of displacement from gentrification.

So again, I just want to reiterate, with respect to both of these districts, are that they are drawn as

Latino VRA districts, and they do keep what the AAPI community requested, was that these specific

neighborhoods be kept whole and within the two-district configuration.

So moving on to Assembly District 49 in West San Gabriel Valley: Ten years ago -- AD 49 was the first Assembly district in California with over fifty percent Asian citizen voting age population; since then, the Asian-American community has grown and has been able to elect their candidate of choice.

As it's currently proposed here, it remains an Asian-American opportunity district with over fifty percent Asian CVAP. Within the boundaries of AD 49, Alhambra, Arcadia, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City are kept whole since nearly all of these cities are majority AAPI, and have a large proportion of limited English-proficient immigrants. One thing to note with this particular district is that the AAPI community members did request that San Marino remain separate from the district. There were concerns about differing SES priorities that may conflict with working class AAPI communities within the district.

Moving on to East San Gabriel Valley to Assembly
District 57: Assembly District 57 is drawn as a Latino
VRA district, and the AAPI community, the core of the
community of interest includes Hacienda Heights, Rowland

Heights, Diamond Bar, and Walnut, these cities are either
majority or near-majority Asian-American, and share
common interests, and it's been requested that the four
of them remain together.

2.3

Moving on to Assembly District 46 in West Side Los Angeles: Within AD 46, there are two Japanese-American enclaves, Sawtelle, also known as Little Osaka, and the Venice Culver City COI; so both are home to Japanese-American community centers, religious institutions, and shops that are a magnet for the local Japanese-American community.

Just south of District 46 is Assembly District 66 in the Los Angeles South Bay. So here I'd like to emphasize that the AAPI community does want to keep Torrance whole and with much of Gardena. South Bay is home to the largest concentration of Japanese-Americans and Japanese immigrants in Mainland U.S., and it is also home to a growing Korean-American community.

Both cities have an important -- have important cultural institutions, and both share a business corridor that's filled with culturally sensitive shops along Western Avenue, which runs from Gardena to Torrance.

Moving on to Assembly District 62 and 64, also within the South Bay: Here, I do want to emphasize that throughout the Assembly map proposal, we have

- 1 | collaborated with other groups, but specifically with
- 2 | regards to 62 and 64; we engaged in a great deal of
- 3 discussion with South LA community groups, and in
- 4 particular, Black community partners. So with that said,
- 5 Assembly District 64 is a Latino VRA district.
- 6 With regards to Assembly District 62, West Carson is
- 7 kept whole with Carson. Carson is home to a large
- 8 | Filipino-American population that holds many educational
- 9 programs and festivities in Carson. The growing Filipino
- 10 | community is moving west -- is moving west to West
- 11 | Carson, however; so that we request that West Carson --
- 12 | if Carson be cut, that West Carson be kept whole to the
- 13 adjacent area.
- In addition to the Filipino-American community,
- 15 Carson is also home to a Samoan community with many
- 16 | Samoan institutions, including churches. Also, within
- 17 Assembly District 62, Hawthorne, Lennox, and Inglewood
- 18 are kept whole.
- 19 The Tongan community members have been living in
- 20 these three cities since the 1970s and within them is the
- 21 largest concentration of Tongan churches.
- 22 Moving on from 62 and 64, still in the South Bay of
- 23 Los Angeles, is Assembly District 63 and 70. The
- 24 proposed Assembly District 63 is drawn as a Latino VRA
- 25 district. You'll notice here that there is a Cambodian

community of interest. The Cambodian community has
requested that if the community of interest is cut, that
it be cut along the Signal Hill boundary, and that the
southeastern portion will remain with the Latino VRA
district.

Long Beach is in fact a gateway community for

- Long Beach is in fact a gateway community for Cambodian immigrants, and has the largest Cambodian American population in the U.S. As a predominantly immigrant refugee community, the COI has many policy interests related to their low-income and limited English proficiency.
- Moving on to Districts 72 and 68 in Orange County, I believe you just saw this configuration for the -- for these Assembly districts, from OCCET. So just really briefly, just want to, you know, uplift the AMEMSA community of interest, of Cerritos and -- Cerritos, Artesia, crossing the county line and being paired with Buena Park and Cypress, also keeping the Vietnamese community together, as well as recognizing the growing community -- the AAPI and the AMEMSA communities in Irvine, within Assembly District 68.
- So moving on to San Diego, Assembly District 77: Within Assembly District 77, the Convoy District is kept whole, with the larger Kearny Mesa neighborhood, and it is kept in a district with Claremont, Linda Vista, and

Mira Mesa, the Conway District is a crucial business and cultural center for the AAPI community in San Diego, and is home to many small businesses and community centers.

And finally, within San Diego is the Assembly

District 79. Within this Assembly district, the broader

City Heights area is kept whole. This particular

community of interest has long been home to a refugee -
of two refugee communities arriving to the San Diego

area.

The shared challenges and priorities of this community include high levels of limited English proficiency, extremely low-income, and the need to access culturally competent in-language supportive services.

In Assembly District 79, I will also want to note that the northeastern section of National City of the AAPI community within this region, identifies, or is strongly connected to the Paradise Hills neighborhood. So it's essentially an AAPI community of interest here, which is kept whole, also within Assembly District 79.

And that brings us to the end of our Assembly map proposal presentation. Thank you so much for your time. This proposal specifically uplifts priorities from the AAPI and the AMEMSA communities of interest, and also respects Voting Rights Act, and other COIs, and other traditional redistricting criteria.

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1
         Thanks again for your time. And I believe my
 2
    colleague, June Lim, will follow and share our
    Congressional maps for Southern California.
 3
 4
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thank you so much.
         And with that, Katy, I believe that we are at the
 5
    end of this session?
 6
 7
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, correct.
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Okay. So we will be going on a
    short break. And we will come back at 2:45 for our third
10
    session of the day, for those submitters with
11
    appointments.
12
         Thank you so much. I'll see you at 2:45.
13
              (Whereupon, a recess was held from 2:30 p.m.
14
              until 2:45 p.m.)
15
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Welcome back to the California
16
    Citizens Redistricting Commission, and our Review of
17
    Public Map Input.
18
         I believe we have a number of submissions for this
19
    afternoon with appointments.
2.0
         So I'm going to hand this over to Katy, our
21
    wonderful comment moderator, to get us queued up.
22
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.
2.3
         Welcome to the public Map input session. When it is
24
    your turn to speak, you will be identified by your
25
    assigned unique ID number. You will be reconnected to
```

- the session with the ability to enable your own video
 and/or audio, and to enable screen sharing. Please have
 your maps handy prior to your appointment start time to
 enable your screen sharing.
 - The Commission will be enforcing time limits with a warning at one minute, and thirty seconds, remaining. At the end of your public input or at the end of your time, you will be reconnected in a listen- and view-only mode.
- Right now we will have PMI-013A. And then up next after that will be PMI-014A, and PMI-014B. And PMI-013A, I will be promoting you now.
- 12 And I have a question.
- 13 CHAIR SADHWANI: You have a question?
- PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: PMI-013A, you can now
 enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of
 your screen. Is PMI-012A going to be presenting with you
- 17 instead of 012B?

6

7

- MS. LIM: Oh. I'm going to be presenting by myself.
- 19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You are going to be
- 20 presenting by yourself. Okay well that's fabulous. If
- 21 | will please -- do you have your maps to share?
- MS. LIM: Yes.
- 23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Wonderful.
- MS. LIM: I'm sharing it right now. Can you see it?
- 25 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can. And your

- 1 | time begins now.
- 2 MS. LIM: Great. Thank you. Good afternoon,
- 3 Commissioners. My name is June Lim, and I am the
- 4 demographic research project director at Asian Americans
- 5 Advancing Justice, Los Angeles. I will be presenting the
- 6 AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting Collaborative's
- 7 | proposed Southern California Congressional Maps.
- 8 Right before the break, you just heard about our
- 9 collaborative and our process for engaging with and
- 10 gathering information from community members across the
- 11 | state. So I'll proceed to the next slide.
- 12 Here, again, are the logos for our anchor partners.
- 13 Advancing Justice Los Angeles is here in Los Angeles, and
- 14 our Southern California regional anchors are EPIC and
- 15 APCON, also in LA, OCCET Orange County, and Asian
- 16 | Solidarity Collective in San Diego.
- Each anchor brought other local organizations,
- 18 community leaders, and residents to the discussions. And
- 19 as with at the Assembly level, we adopted OCCET's
- 20 | Congressional districts which were presented earlier
- 21 | today into our proposal for Orange County.
- Here, we visit our three principles for drawing
- 23 districts, which are to: Respect the Federal Voting
- 24 Rights Act, respect the integrity of communities of
- 25 | interest and neighborhoods, while also respecting other

traditional redistricting criteria, and working in

collaboration with other diverse stakeholders to respect

other disenfranchised communities' priorities.

2.3

Our Southern California Congressional proposal consists of twenty districts covering the San Gabriel Valley, Metro Los Angeles, the west side of Los Angeles, and the South Bay, all of Orange County, and all of San Diego.

All districts are drawn within a deviation of plus or minus eight residents from the ideal. Seven of these twenty districts are over fifty percent Latino citizen voting age population. Our districts are based on input we received during our workshops, and direct discussions with local leaders and residents. We take into consideration the region's COIs, many of which were shared in the presentation before this, by my colleagues, Amrita Singh, and Deanna Kitamura.

As with our Assembly proposal, our Southern
California Congressional submission includes the
community testimony previously submitted to you by those
that represent our collaboratives, which you can find an
Appendix B.

Again, our districts were drawn in collaboration with other civil rights and environmental groups, some of which have submitted mapping proposals similar to ours.

And our goal, again, is to uplift the AAPI and AMEMSA communities, while respecting Black, Latino, LGBTQ, immigrant, refugee, low-income, and environmental communities of interest.

So in this slide are the proposed Congressional districts in metro Los Angeles, CD 34, is drawn as a potential Latino Voting Rights district. In these two districts, we keep the COIs of key ethnic neighborhoods whole. These are, Chinatown, historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Little Tokyo, and Thai Town.

As mentioned in the previous presentation, these five enclaves are recognized by the City of Los Angeles as distinct neighborhoods that are well known to city and larger county residents alike. They've long served as gateway communities for immigrants, and these enclaves are all significant cultural centers for their respective ethnic communities, where long, established landmarks, institutions, businesses and restaurants are located, owned, and frequented by community members.

To reiterate what was shared earlier in our Assembly map presentation, Chinatown and Little Tokyo residents have shared policy interests, and community members in these two ethnic neighborhoods have similar socioeconomic statuses, or SES, and face similar challenges. As such, community members in these two COIs, specifically

- 1 requested to be put together in one district.
- 2 Here, we have our West San Gabriel Valley
- 3 Congressional District. It includes the Cities of
- 4 | Alhambra, Arcadia, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel,
- 5 and Temple City. The percentage of AAPIs in these cities
- 6 range from forty-five to sixty-two percent, the
- 7 percentage of AAPIs in the cities who do not speak
- 8 English very well, range from forty-five to sixty-two
- 9 percent, which is also a reflection of the large share of
- 10 | immigrants that make up these communities.
- 11 These communities have shared policy interest due to
- 12 residents having similar social and economic
- 13 | characteristics with other communities in the area. As
- 14 | such, they should be paired with communities with similar
- 15 demographic profile and needs.
- 16 Here, in this slide, we have our East San Gabriel
- 17 | Valley district. It is drawn as a potential Latino VRA
- 18 district. It keeps whole and together the core four
- 19 cities that are considered the AAPI community of interest
- 20 | in the East San Gabriel Valley. These are: Hacienda
- 21 | Heights, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, and Walnut. To
- 22 the extent feasible, these communities should not be
- 23 paired with those, west of the 605.
- 24 Moving on to the South Bay area of Los Angeles:
- 25 Here is one of our South Bay districts, here, our

community is asked to keep Gardena whole with the noncoastal portion of Torrance, and with other communities
with similar socio economic interests. The residents of
Torrance and Gardena are pretty economically diverse, and
while both have a solid middle class, many low-income
AAPI seniors reside in both cities.

Because of this, Gardena should be paired with North and Central Torrance, and paired with South Los Angeles, rather than the higher-income areas of West and South Torrance, Palos Verdes, and other coastal cities.

Kept whole and together in this district are also the Cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Lennox, as they are in our Assembly maps, where many Tongan community members have lived for several decades. These cities are considered a major hub for the Tongan community, as there are several established faith-based institutions where the Tongan community members gather and provide support for one another.

Here, we have two more of our South Bay districts, the Pacific Islander and Filipino-American community members in Carson strongly expressed that the City of Carson should be kept whole to the extent possible. Due to population equality limitations, we actually had to split Carson into two districts in our Assembly plan, but given the larger population in Congressional districts,

1 | Carson should be kept whole at this level of government.

Additionally, the Carson and West Carson

communities, Carson and West Carson communities should be

kept whole and together as they share cultural and

socioeconomic interests.

In CD 43 and 39, there is a Cambodian COI in Long Beach and Signal Hill that should be kept whole to the extent possible, if not kept whole the COI can be cut at the Signal Hill-Long Beach boundary. There is a potential Latino VRA district and Long Beach, drawn here as District 43.

Therefore, the Cambodian COI is cut in our proposed map along the Signal Hill boundary. The southwest portion of this COI is paired with Latino communities to the west, as they share many policy concerns related to language access, and are of lower income than communities to the east and Signal Hill.

And our last district in Los Angeles: Here is our
West Los Angeles district, which keeps whole and together
two Japanese-Americans COIs located in West LA. As
shared in our Assembly plan, both Sawtelle, Japantown,
and Venice, Culver City, are home to many JapaneseAmericans in the area and -- Japanese-American residents
and cultural institutions, and many residents in the area
are members of and attend the cultural centers, faith-

based organizations, and gather as a community, and for
community events at these institutions, and other
culturally significant stores, and shops.

2.3

- As mentioned at the beginning of this presentation, we adopted OCCET's districts, and since they were presented by OCCET earlier today, I'm going to continue southward to San Diego.
- So here we have our Districts 50 and 52. And in this proposal, CD 50 is drawn as a potential Latino VRA district, it and 52 are drawn while respecting a potential Latino VRA district, an adjacent Imperial County.
- And CD 52 is one of the COIs that community members identified. That COI includes the Convoy district within the larger Kearny Mesa neighborhood, and is kept whole and together with the neighboring communities of Claremont, Linda Vista, and Mira Mesa.
- The Convoy district is a crucial and growing business and cultural center for the AAPI community in San Diego. The district prides itself in having many minority-owned small businesses, multicultural community centers, and pan-ethnic religious groups that cater to diverse communities.
- The City Heights COI is defined by our community
 members, is larger and extends beyond its historic

- boundaries, eastward all the way to La Mesa, and
 overlapping with the Oak Park neighborhood.
- This expansion reflects the growth of the diverse

 community that resides in and calls City Heights. The

 largest City heights COI has a significant number of AAPI

 and refugee residents, that share challenges, priorities,

 and needs. Over sixty percent of City Heights AAPI

 residents are immigrants. Over half speak English less

 than very well, and over half of its community members

 are low-income.
 - If the broader, larger City Heights COI has to be cut to respect the potential Latino VRA district, we ask that the traditional boundaries of City Heights be kept whole.

- In CD 50, the AAPI community in the north eastern corner of National City identifies closely with the community in Paradise Hills. They share many businesses, community centers, and schools that bring them together despite city boundaries. Community members in these areas have asked to keep them together with the southeastern part of San Diego.
- In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to present to you our proposed Southern California Congressional districts.
- The next presentation will be from my colleague who

- 1 | will present our Bay Area Congressional proposal. Thank
- 2 you very much.
- 3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
- 4 And right now we will have PMI-014A. And joining
- 5 them will be PMI-014B. And then up next after that, will
- 6 be PMI-015A, and PMI-015B. PMI-014A, I will be promoting
- 7 you now.
- 8 PMI-014A, it appears PMI-014B is not here. Are they
- 9 not joining you today?
- 10 MR. GOFFARD: Ah, yeah, that's correct. It'll just
- 11 be me presenting.
- 12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Wonderful. And do you
- 13 | need assistance with sharing your maps?
- MR. GOFFARD: No. It should be -- it should be all
- 15 good. Let me -- no.
- 16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect.
- MR. GOFFARD: Is that working? Can everyone see
- 18 this?
- 19 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.
- 20 MR. GOFFARD: Okay.
- 21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You may begin.
- MR. GOFFARD: If there any issues, please stop me
- 23 and just let me know. Okay.
- 24 | Well, good afternoon, Commissioners. It's really
- 25 nice to be here with you all today. My name is Sietse

- Goffard, I'm a senior voting rights program coordinator
 at Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus.
- Thank you for your service on this Commission. And thank you for inviting us to present the AAPI and AMEMSA

 Bay Area Congressional proposal today.

- I think you all already heard a lot about our AAPI and AMEMSA State Redistricting collaborative. So I'll probably skip this slide, but I will highlight some of the organizations that we work with.
- Our Bay Area map proposals are based on more than ten community workshops we held around the region. Our organization, Asian Law Caucus, is based in San Francisco, Chinatown, and we worked with regional partners, including the Asian Law Alliance, CAIR-SFBA, and the Jakara Movement.
- My colleagues, earlier, in previous presentations, also went through the principles. These are the same ones we followed previously. So I'll also skip this slide.
- But I will share some Bay Area regional highlights of our maps. Our Bay Area Congressional proposal includes ten districts. They've all been drawn within a deviation of plus-or-minus four residents from the ideal population. Each of these districts has been drawn in collaboration with other civil rights and environmental

groups, resulting in a proposal similar to some other CRC submissions. So you may see some -- you will see some similarities.

2.3

- Now, let's dive right into the maps. And we'll begin with a map of Congressional District 12, which contains most of San Francisco. San Francisco is home to several important COIs that should be kept both whole and together.
- First, is San Francisco's Chinatown, a cultural center for Chinese Americans and home to many senior, limited-English proficient immigrants; many residents of Chinatown are working class, and are low-income tenants with shared policy needs, including tenant protections, language assistance, and access to community services.
- San Francisco's Japantown is one of the few remaining Japantowns in the United States, and is the site of many Japanese cultural events and businesses. Many seniors live in the area, which struggles with issues of affordable housing and displacement.
- And finally, the Excelsior neighborhood has a significant number of low-income Asian residents, many of whom have been displaced from other parts of San Francisco due to rising housing costs.
- Portola, Visitacion Valley, and the Bayview should be kept whole, together, and with Excelsior. These are

- 1 working-class neighborhoods where residents face similar
- 2 economic challenges. They are also home to many recent
- 3 Asian immigrants with limited English proficiency, as
- 4 | well as Pacific Islander communities that have shared
- 5 cultural interests.
- Now, moving south, we have District 14, which covers
- 7 | most of San Mateo County, AAPI communities in Daly City,
- 8 | Westborough, and Penn, also known as Buri Buri, have
- 9 requested to remain whole and together, these
- 10 | neighborhoods make up a major Filipino-American community
- 11 of interest.
- 12 Nearly one in three residents of Daly City are
- 13 Filipino, and there are significant Filipino residential
- 14 | concentrations and community spaces in Westborough and
- 15 Buri Buri as well. Many Filipinos in these areas are
- 16 | immigrants, essential workers, and health care workers.
- 17 | This district is also home to significant Pacific
- 18 Islander neighborhoods that wish to be kept whole and
- 19 together as well.
- 20 And as a community that has been historically
- 21 underrepresented, Pacific Islanders face many systemic
- 22 disparities in the areas of education, health care,
- 23 employment, and housing. Buri Buri, in addition to being
- 24 | the home of Filipino Americans, is home to Samoan
- 25 | communities with shared interests, and multiple Samoan

1 churches.

25

2 And it's also worth noting that there are additional, significant Pacific Islander neighborhoods in 3 4 and around San Bruno, Redwood Village, North Fair Oaks, 5 the Belle Haven Triangle, Home Park, and west of El Camino Real, near Mount Carmel. These communities would 6 7 like to be kept whole and grouped together in the same Congressional district. Okay. 8 Now, let's jump across the Bay. We'll start up 10 north, and I will gradually make our way south. But we 11 begin with here, with District 11. District 11 was drawn 12 in consultation with the Black Census and Redistricting 13 Hub to keep lower-income communities of color in 14 Richmond, San Pablo, Hercules, Vallejo, Martinez, 15 Pittsburgh, and Antioch together. And they shared 16 interests around housing affordability, environmental 17 justice, and transportation. Okay. 18 Moving south, we have District 13, which includes 19 areas in Oakland, Alameda, Berkeley, Piedmont, Emeryville, and San Leandro. Here, there are several 20 21 major communities of interest that should be kept whole 22 and together. 2.3 Oakland, Chinatown, and Downtown Oakland is a 24 business, residential, and social service center for

Asian-American communities in East Bay. Chinatown

- 1 residents face pressures of gentrification and
- 2 displacement. The area around Downtown Oakland and Lake
- 3 Merritt is also home to more than ten senior housing
- 4 | complexes that serve elderly Chinese, Korean, and
- 5 Vietnamese residents.
- 6 Many Asian American communities, including refugees
- 7 from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, have also moved to the
- 8 | San Antonio neighborhood and the Eastlake, Little Saigon
- 9 neighborhood. They have shared needs around language
- 10 access, culturally tailored services, and affordability
- 11 for low-income families.
- 12 And finally, here we have communities in KONO with
- 13 | shared interests and small business support, language
- 14 access, and neighborhood safety. KONO is a diverse area
- 15 | with family-run businesses serving many immigrant
- 16 | communities, including Korean-Americans, Ethiopian, and
- 17 | Middle Eastern enterprises. There is also a high
- 18 | concentration of Yemeni communities in the area, and
- 19 multiple mosques that serve as gathering places for
- 20 Muslim communities.
- 21 So because of these strong economic and cultural
- 22 ties, these communities have requested to be kept
- 23 together in a single Congressional district. All right.
- Now, our next map here is District 15, which
- 25 includes Hayward, Ashland, Cherryland, Union City, Castro

1 | Valley, Newark, Dublin, and Pleasanton. Union City has a

- 2 | large Filipino community with shared interests around
- 3 | immigration, employment, and education.
- 4 Communities in Union City have expressed the desire
- 5 to be kept with Hayward as they both have numerous
- 6 Filipino, and South Asian immigrants, and working class
- 7 families. This major corridor houses many ethnic
- 8 businesses, community-based organizations, churches, and
- 9 educational institutions.
- In addition, we've heard that communities in the
- 11 unincorporated areas, Ashland and Cherryland, would like
- 12 to be kept with Hayward as well. Ashland and Cherryland
- 13 border Hayward and are directly linked to the
- 14 communities, jobs, and lifestyles of the City of Hayward.
- 15 And for example, the Hayward Area Recreation Department
- 16 actually services residents in Ashland and Cherryland,
- 17 | which indicates the interconnectedness of these
- 18 communities.
- 19 And finally here, our district proposal also keeps
- 20 together the growing AAPI populations in Dublin and
- 21 | Pleasanton, and the growing Filipino community in
- 22 Livermore.
- Continuing our move south, we have District 17.
- 24 This district boasts an incredibly vibrant, large, and
- 25 diverse AAPI community with an Asian CVAP of

approximately forty-nine percent.

Here, once again, there are multiple communities of interest that wish to be helpful in together. First is the Centerville area of Fremont, home to many African-Americans, as well as African businesses and social services. Fremont-Irvington neighborhood is also home to many South Asians and Muslims, and there are numerous Punjabi Sikhs near Mallory (ph.) Avenue, Niles, and Mission San Jose.

Another important community of interest to keep whole is Berryessa, home to many Asian Americans, including large numbers of Chinese, Punjabi Sikh, Filipino, and Vietnamese residents. Many of them work in tech-related jobs, are immigrants, and have shared cultural, linguistic and religious interests.

And finally in this district, we wish to highlight the Cities of Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino, many Punjabi Sikhs from Sunnyvale and Cupertino attend the Silicon Valley Gurdwara located in Santa Clara, while many young Muslim families and professionals from Sunnyvale go to the Muslim Community Association in Santa Clara. There's also a Korean business district along El Camino Real, which serves nearby residential communities in both Santa Clara and Sunnyvale.

So overall, across District 17, multiple large Asian

- 1 ethnic groups have interconnected communities between
- 2 | Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino, as well as
- 3 Milpitas area and Fremont. People are tied together
- 4 through religious institutions, and they work in the tech
- 5 industry, so we've heard a lot of community feedback that
- 6 they'd like to be kept whole in the same district.
- 7 Further south, still, is District 19 here, which
- 8 | includes much of San Jose, Morgan Hill and Gilroy. And
- 9 here we want to highlight the significant Filipino-
- 10 American community in Eastside, San Jose, especially in
- 11 Alum Rock, where churches, schools and parks serve as
- 12 | community gathering spaces that bring the Filipino
- 13 | community together.
- 14 Many Filipinos in Eastside San Jose work in health
- 15 | care, teaching, and other essential services. Filipino-
- 16 Americans in Alum Rock and Eastside San Jose share many
- 17 | socioeconomic interests with nearby Latino communities
- 18 and low-income Vietnamese communities.
- 19 There are also large Punjabi Sikh, Vietnamese, and
- 20 | Filipino communities in the Evergreen area, and major
- 21 Punjabi Sikh communities in the Silver Creek area with
- 22 | shared educational and cultural interests, as well as a
- 23 need for language assistance. These are mostly
- 24 residential areas where people are brought together
- 25 through schools, and places of worship, such as the Sikh

1 Gurdwara in Evergreen.

And finally, we'll end our presentation with our Districts 18 and 20. District 18 contains cities and suburbs in San Mateo and North Santa Clara County, as well as suburban cities southwest of San Jose. These cities house many -- these areas house many tech workers.

And then further south of that, we have District 20, which was drawn in consultation with CAUSE, and "CAUSE" stands for the Central Coast Alliance United for Sustainable Economy, and this was drawn to keep Santa Cruz with other coastal communities and towns along Highway 101.

So that wraps it up for the maps. In closing, we want to thank you all for your service on this

Commission, and for the opportunity to present our Bay

Area Congressional proposal to you.

If you have any questions about these maps, or the previous maps we showed, or if you'd like to take a closer look at our COIs, please do check out the narratives and testimonies that we've submitted in Appendix B of our submission.

We truly hope the community feedback we've shared today will be helpful for the Commission's work. Thank you very much, again, for this opportunity.

CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much.

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1
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And right now we will
   have a PMI-015A, and it looks like we have PMI-015B with
 3
   us as well. And then up next after that, we will have
 4
    PMI-016. PMI-015A and B, I will be promoting you. And
 5
   will you be needing assistance sharing your maps today?
        MR. WESTALL: I should be good. I think I'm still
 6
 7
    waiting on Mr. Callender as well.
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We have you both here.
 8
 9
        MR. WESTALL: Okay. I see.
10
        PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah.
11
        MR. WESTALL: Great. So let me pull up the screen.
12
         PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. We see you here
13
    at headquarters, and everywhere else.
14
        MR. CALLENDER: Great. And whenever you're ready, I
15
    can start.
16
        PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: The floor is yours.
17
        MR. CALLENDER: All right. Thank you. Thank you
18
    for your time today. Thank you for your service to the
19
    State of California. And thank you for providing the
20
    California Hawaii NAACP the opportunity to testify and
21
    submit our maps.
22
         I'm Rick Callender, president of the California
23
   Hawaii State Conference. We maintain fifty-seven
24
   branches from throughout the State of California, from
25
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Humboldt down to San Diego.

As you know, under the criteria set out by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, it requires the Commission to avoid splitting communities of interest. And as you know, communities of interest are commonalities that have a shared interest or passions that may benefit from cohesive representation in the Legislature.

It's the NAACP's belief that redistricting should focus on communities, not politicians and incumbents.

And as such, I'd like to advocate for my community. I ask that the Commission keep my community together in the redistricting -- in the redistricting plans.

The community I'm focusing on is the African-American community, as well as other communities of color, and making sure that we keep them together.

As Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits diluting the voting strength of the commission of -- of the communities of color, the redistricting plans that reduce the ability of voters of color to elect candidates of their choice, and it's the NAACP's belief that the Commission should, and may be legally required to draw majority-minority districts where there are geographically -- where they are geographically compact and sufficiently large communities of color kept together and avoid distinct, where racially polarized voting and

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1 avoid, basically, separating -- putting into communities
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- 2 | where racially polarized voting occurs. And if such,
- 3 those kinds of districts are drawn, where White voters
- 4 may routinely defeat candidates of color.
- 5 So California, as everybody knows, we are a
- 6 progressive state, but we must not forget the history of
- 7 racial discrimination in its voting. Until 1970,
- 8 literacy tests were used in California to keep voters of
- 9 color from the polls. And just until last year,
- 10 | California did not allow those on parole to vote. It was
- 11 one of the very little -- we were one of the very few
- 12 states that still had that on the books.
- Just this last cycle, the Commission was sued for
- 14 diluting the voting strength of Black voters in LA County
- 15 by cracking Black districts. The NAACP will continue to
- 16 | stand firm on protecting Black districts, and other
- 17 districts of color, and I hope that the Commission will
- 18 do that as well.
- 19 So I want to thank you for your time. I want to
- 20 | thank you for your consideration. And again, thank you
- 21 for your service to California.
- 22 And now I'd like to invite Andrew Westall to cover
- 23 our submissions.
- MR. WESTALL: Thank you, Mr. Callender. My name is
- 25 | Andrew Westall. I'm the technical director for the Equal

- 1 Representation Project. And we've been working with the
- 2 NAACP and other African American, African Diaspora, and
- 3 Black organizations across the state to develop these
- 4 maps that we have submitted to you.
- 5 Today, what we'll do is we will go through a
- 6 presentation of areas of concern to the African-American
- 7 | community throughout the State of California, in the
- 8 Assembly, in the State Senate. And then at the end of
- 9 | the presentation we'll also provide you with the Board of
- 10 Equalization plan.
- In general, I think it's important to understand, as
- 12 | a demographer and as a redistricting expert, what your
- 13 line drawing philosophy is, and how you develop that
- 14 philosophy. And so certainly our philosophy is keeping
- 15 African-American and Black communities together across
- 16 the State of California. But we also want to be able to
- 17 | respect the State Constitution and utilize county, city,
- 18 and unincorporated area boundaries as much as
- 19 practicable.
- 20 And certainly, as you can see with some of the
- 21 | Congressional maps that you've been reviewing, that's
- 22 very difficult to do given the population deviation
- 23 | that's required. But certainly with respect to State
- 24 | Assembly and State Senate districts, I think it's very
- 25 easy to do.

And then when you do split cities, like Sacramento,
Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, all of these cities,
even cities like San Bernardino and Santa Ana, all of
these cities have defined neighborhoods, and have GIS
layers that are available to the Commission. And most of
them can be downloaded online. Some of them you'd have
to actually contact the city.

But as you look at how you're going to split some of these cities, I would really encourage the Commission to pull that down, because certainly much like it's used in Los Angeles with neighborhood council boundaries, a lot of these other cities have well-defined neighborhoods that make a lot of sense in terms of when you -- where you decide to actually draw lines.

One of the other things that we think is very important, and this is also a constitutional requirement with respect to the State Senate districts, is start with nesting of the State Senate districts.

Certainly, there are areas of the State of

California in which you cannot nest because of Federal

Law and Voting Rights Act reasons. But I think it's

really important for nesting to occur, because it really

allows for cohesive representation in a particular area

between two State Assembly districts and a State Senate

district.

And then as you look at changing those State Senate districts for those legal reasons and for those VRA reasons, really minimize the number of changes. And so you know, really try to look at an internal pool of two, three, four districts in which you can make those changes without disrupting nesting in other parts of the state.

One of the other things that isn't talked about much is where you actually start drawing your lines, and where you make a decision about to start really can have an impact with respect to the rest of the map. And so certainly there has been a history, over the last couple of decades, to draw from Marin County north, as you're looking at stuff, and drawing from San Francisco County south, and so that you don't cross the Golden Gate Bridge with respect to your line drawing.

One of the other major factors, particularly in the Assembly and Senate map, is what to do with San Luis Obispo County, because certainly San Luis Obispo County makes a huge difference in terms of what districts in the north and districts in the south look like.

In our line drawing philosophy, we kept San Luis
Obispo County going south to Santa Barbara County. And
if you've ever been at the county line between Monterey
County and San Luis Obispo County, what you'll find very
quickly, is that as you're driving south into San Luis

Obispo County, the landscape changes from a very agricultural, flat area down into canyons.

And so it certainly makes a lot of sense, from a community of interest standpoint, to link to San Luis

Obispo County and its wine and farming areas in the south to Santa Barbara County.

So with that, we're going to go through a variety of districts in the next thirty minutes. And well, with all of these plans we'll start from north to south. And so we'll start in Sacramento County and end in San Diego County for both the Assembly, Senate, and certainly the Board of Equalization is a little different. But that's what we'll go through. And as you can see, we'll go through a variety of districts.

We used the same district numbers that are currently numbered for ease of use, and for the Commission and the public, all of our maps, entire statewide maps, for the State, Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization, are available on the Commission's website as well.

And as you can see, since we're only showing about a quarter of the map, it's important that the public and the Commission know that you can see other districts and how it shapes other districts as well.

So with our first district here, this is District 7, in the City of Sacramento. In the current District 7,

- 1 | you have rural communities to the north of the City of
- 2 | Sacramento that are linked to the City of Sacramento's
- 3 | current Assembly district, along with West Sacramento,
- 4 you know, areas like Elverta and Rio Linda, and --
- 5 MR. CALLENDER: Andrew, I don't think your maps are
- 6 progressing. You're still on the first thing.
- 7 MR. WESTALL: Can you not see it? Are you there?
- 8 | Can you see it now, Rick?
- 9 MR. CALLENDER: No. I still see -- I'm wondering if
- 10 | anyone else is, or if it's just for me. But it's just as
- 11 redistricting presentations go on the first slide.
- 12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You're not advancing in
- 13 the -- you're not in presentation mode, so you're not
- 14 advancing, but you can actually click the map on the
- 15 left. There you go.
- 16 MR. WESTALL: Yeah. So let's just do it this way.
- 17 | That'll be easier. Thank you. Thank you, Rick.
- 18 So in general, once again, this first map is the --
- 19 deals with the City of Sacramento in the State Assembly.
- 20 And as I was saying, there are northern, rural,
- 21 unincorporated areas that are currently linked with this
- 22 district along with the City of Sacramento.
- 23 What the current Assembly district does, and what
- 24 some of the visualizations that we've seen to this point
- 25 do, is they split the African-American communities in

- 1 | South Sacramento into two districts. And that's
- 2 | something that occurred ten years ago. And certainly
- 3 once again in the visualizations that the Commission is
- 4 looking at, that seems to be the case so far up to this
- 5 point.
- 6 And we're really talking about those areas like Oak
- 7 Park, you know, the county unincorporated --
- 8 unincorporated areas of Fruitridge Pocket, and Lemon
- 9 Hill, Parkway, and Florin. And really that whole area
- 10 | that goes from the South City Farms area, all the way
- 11 over to Belvidere and Power Ridge. Really that area of
- 12 Sacramento, which is the heart of the African-American
- 13 community in Sacramento, it has a lot of similar income
- 14 issues, has a lot of educational issues that are similar.
- 15 And really what we're asking for in Sacramento; is to
- 16 keep that area together.
- 17 We've also linked this district with the City of
- 18 | West Sacramento, which you know, even though we're
- 19 crossing the county line in into Yolo County here, West
- 20 Sacramento has much more in common with the City of
- 21 | Sacramento than the rest of Yolo County, as I'm sure some
- 22 Commissioners are familiar with.
- 23 The causeway between the City of West Sacramento and
- 24 | the City of Davis is a tremendous barrier, and so it
- 25 makes sense to us to keep West Sacramento contained with

1 | the City of Sacramento.

2.3

And once again, our ask here is really to keep those African-American communities in South Sacramento and Southeast Sacramento together with those unincorporated areas that are contained there as well.

The next map shows the reciprocal of that district. And this is the other district that covers the rest of the City of Sacramento. As you can see with this map, we held the Sacramento County line with San Joaquin County, and we'll talk about that in a second. But in this particular district, really, what you're doing is grouping the South Sacramento, Asian-American communities with the City of Elk Grove, and other communities in the southern portion of Sacramento County, all into one district.

And so the areas, certainly, of South Sacramento that are listed here, along with the City of Elk Grove, have a lot of synergy and areas in common. And then, once again, you're picking up the rural areas of Sacramento County while, once again, maintaining, as you can see, that red outline around the sides, the Sacramento County line.

The next district here is District 13, and this is in San Joaquin County. We don't show this in our State Senate maps, but we did draw a State Senate map, which

1 included almost all of San Joaquin County in one Senate 2 district.

In this particular map, we wanted to keep the City of Stockton whole in one district, and really link it to rural communities and an adjacent county there with Oakley, Knights, and Brentwood.

And so this is really Sacramento -- or excuse me -- Stockton, plus its unincorporated areas, plus the rural areas, the rest of the rural areas to the west of San Joaquin County.

The next map here is what I would call a Bay-Delta district. And so even though it crosses into three different counties, you are linking African-American communities together while also creating a Bay-Delta district, which some of the COI testimony that the Commission has heard is something that some folks would like to see.

And so with respect to the Cities of Vallejo, the Cities of Antioch, and Fairfield, and certainly if there is room to fit Pittsburgh in here, although it's a very large city, that would be another city that you'd want to keep in this district, because you do have well-defined and large African-American communities in those three cities that I mentioned. And so we tried to group all of those together. But once again, try to keep the Bay-

Delta area together in one district in terms of representation.

exactly that.

2.3

- The next district is Assembly District 15. This is the district that currently goes from Oakland to
 Richmond. And we would ask that the Commission would continue this configuration there -- in there, I think some of the visualizations that we've seen so far do
 - In general -- and we'll get to Oakland in a minute -- in general, linking portions of the City of Oakland with the City of Richmond, where you have large, once again, African-American communities. You know, it's very important to us, and something that helps with representation in a district like this.

As we'll see in a minute, it's difficult to keep the City of Oakland together in one State Assembly district, particularly with the Cities of San Leandro and Alameda.

And so with that particular district, you know, and this is something that has been in place for at least twenty years, the City of Alameda and the City of San Leandro have been together with the City of Oakland in one State Assembly district.

In this particular State Assembly district, once again, we used the community lines that are defined by the City of Oakland as the boundaries for various

portions of it to get the population. And really, you're looking at an area just south of Lake Merritt that would go north to the 15th District that we just looked at.

And once again, you know, using those community boundaries are extremely important. Oakland was one of the places where they didn't have an easy way for you to download that. And so we just, you know, used maps to be able to create this map. But once again, it's built on those community and neighborhood boundaries provided by the City of Oakland in their GIS library. And so that was the Bay Area and Northern Sacramento.

Now, we'll continue into Los Angeles County. The first map here is Northern Los Angeles County, and the Antelope Valley. As you can see, this district is bordered on three lines, on the east, the west, and the north, with county boundaries. And the important thing here is really to keep the Cities of Palmdale, Lancaster, and the unincorporated communities that surround Palmdale, Lancaster, all together in one district.

And so this particular district keeps those AfricanAmerican communities in the Antelope Valley together,
really keeps the entire Antelope Valley together. It
does split a small portion. As you can see, a small
portion of the City of Santa Clarita, it's not a very
populated area of the city currently, and so it just made

sense to balance the population there and split the City
of Santa Clarita, as opposed to dividing up this
particular community.

The next district we have is District 41. And while this is -- you know, there isn't a large African-American community in this particular district, we did want to highlight it.

As you I'm sure have heard in the COI testimony, the importance of holding Pasadena and Altadena together in one district is very important to the African-American community. We also have enjoyed, and really support a lot of the visualizations that you've done in this part of the state, with respect to the State Assembly plan, and keeping the foothills community together in this particular district.

One thing I would say, is that certainly it makes more sense to include La Canada and La Crescenta in this district than, say, the City of Glendale. If you're familiar with the City of Glendale, and the City of Pasadena, there's really a dividing line between those two cities, called the Verdugo Hills. And the City of Glendale is considered to be part of the San Fernando Valley, where the City of Pasadena is part of the San Gabriel Valley.

And so which is -- what we've shown here, is really

- 1 | a San Gabriel Valley, mostly a San Gabriel Valley
- 2 | Foothills Assembly district that goes over into San
- 3 | Bernardino County and picks up the City of Upland and San
- 4 Antonio Heights, unincorporated just north of that
- 5 particular city.
- Now, we're getting into the heart of the City of Los
- 7 Angeles. And one thing that we'll say about Los Angeles
- 8 is that -- and I think it's important to highlight, in
- 9 the L.A. Times today, there was a great editorial by the
- 10 Chair of this Commission, ten years ago, Connie Malloy,
- 11 and I would really encourage the Commission to read that
- 12 editorial because it not only applies to the two
- 13 | Congressional districts that she was talking about in Los
- 14 | Angeles, but it also applies to the State Assembly plan
- 15 and the State Senate plan.
- 16 Under the Federal Voting Rights Act, you know, there
- 17 | is -- in the same way that you can draw Latino majority
- 18 CVAP districts, and Asian American majority CVAP
- 19 districts, you can't do that with the African-American
- 20 community, because you just don't have large
- 21 | concentrations, really anywhere in the state.
- 22 And so with the African-American community, while
- 23 you do have the Federal Voting Rights Act; it's important
- 24 that the Commission also pays attention to the U.S.
- 25 | Constitution's 14th Amendment and the Equal Protection

Clause, because the districts that are currently in Los
Angeles, in the State Assembly, and the State Senate are
all coalition districts.

And so we'll start with the 54th, and I'll go through and explain how that works. So the 54th District is truly a coalition district among African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Jewish voters, as well, and the student population of UCLA.

And so in this particular district, you have the communities of Hyde Park, Leimert Park, Baldwin Hills, Crenshaw area, and the Baldwin Hills, West Adams, and Jefferson Park, as well as the unincorporated areas of View Park, Windsor Hills, the Ladera Heights, the City of Culver City, which has been in this district for more than twenty years, as well as Mar Vista. The community of Mar Vista, the community of Sawtelle, which is between the 10, the 405 Freeway, the City of Santa Monica, and Wilshire Boulevard, which has a large student population in that living in that area, as well as AAPI population, and then, of course, Westwood and the UCLA Campus.

In our opinion, this has been an African-American coalition district for many decades, and it can continue to be so. There's no reason to do much to this particular district then, other than really respecting those African-American communities once again, trying to

- 1 use neighborhood Council boundaries as often as possible,
- 2 and keeping that coalition together, once again, of those
- 3 students, Jewish voters, the AAPI community, and the
- 4 | African-American community, which anchors a good section
- 5 of this particular district.
- 6 The next district is District 59, which is just to
- 7 | the east of the district that we just looked at.
- 8 District 59 is also a coalition district. It's a
- 9 different type of coalition district between African-
- 10 American voters and Latino voters.
- In this particular configuration, in District 59, it
- 12 | includes areas that are completely contained in the City
- 13 of Los Angeles, from Harbor Heights to Gramercy Park, and
- 14 from the 54th District that we just looked at to the city
- 15 line. And it also includes portions of -- sorry about
- 16 | that -- portions of Florence-Graham, which is an
- 17 unincorporated area next to the City of Los Angeles.
- Once again, this is an African-American coalition
- 19 district. It currently has, and would continue to have a
- 20 majority Latino CVAP. But the important thing is that
- 21 | the African-American community that lives in this area,
- 22 is kept whole and together in one district.
- 23 The next district is the district that is just to
- 24 | the south and to the west of the two districts that we
- 25 | just talked about. This is the 62nd District, which is

- 1 also an African-American coalition district, includes the
- 2 | City of Inglewood, the unincorporated areas of Westmont,
- 3 and West Athens, and it includes a portion of the City of
- 4 | Gardena as well -- and the whole communities of Lawndale,
- 5 Hawthorne, Bel Air and Lennox.
- 6 And it also includes portions of the City of Los
- 7 | Angeles. Here you have the communities of Westchester,
- 8 Playa del Rey, Playa Vista, Del Rey, and Venice, which
- 9 are all currently in this particular district.
- 10 Once again, this is another African-American
- 11 | coalition district. It's a coalition of African-
- 12 Americans, Latinos, and White voters to the Westside.
- 13 This is mostly driven by homeowners in most of these
- 14 areas, and is also a district that is -- that African-
- 15 Americans have the ability to elect the candidate of
- 16 their choice.
- 17 The last district here is District 64. And in the
- 18 | visualizations that we've seen so far, you have something
- 19 similar to this, which we feel that we can support. But
- 20 | really, when talking about those other three districts,
- 21 | you know, it would appear that the Commission
- 22 | visualizations are collapsing in African-American
- 23 | coalition districts.
- And so we're going from four to three. And what,
- 25 once again, what we're advocating for is for four

- 1 | coalition districts in Los Angeles County.
- 2 And so we did like the visual -- one of the
- 3 visualizations that you had for this particular district,
- 4 | I think it was very similar. I think MALDEF also has a
- 5 very similar district to this, although slightly
- 6 different geography. And so in general, for this
- 7 district, once again, it's an African-American coalition
- 8 district. You also have Latino voters, and White voters,
- 9 | you have the AAPI community, particularly Filipinos, and
- 10 | the Samoan community in Carson.
- And so this district goes from the rest of that
- 12 | section of Florence-Graham in the south, the City of Los
- 13 | Angeles, communities of Watts, Green Meadows, and Vermont
- 14 Vista, and the Harbor Gateway. And then comes down and
- 15 includes the Cities of Compton, the entire City of
- 16 | Carson.
- And certainly, you're going to see a lot of maps
- 18 | that split the City of Carson. But the City of Carson is
- 19 only 95,000 people. There's really no reason to split
- 20 | the City of Carson in the State Assembly map.
- 21 And then this district also includes the community
- 22 of Wilmington, which has a lot of synergy with the City
- 23 of Carson with respect to the oil facilities that cross
- 24 over the border of both communities as well.
- 25 And so once again, this is an African-American

- 1 | coalition district. It has a Latino CVAP majority as
- 2 | well. But once again, it does give the opportunity for
- 3 African-Americans to elect a candidate build -- who can
- 4 build coalitions through this district.
- 5 And that really can be said for all four districts,
- 6 right. African-Americans alone cannot get elected to
- 7 | these districts. It's really a history of many decades
- 8 of building coalitions across these communities that
- 9 | allow African-American leaders to get elected. And it's
- 10 | not to say that these districts wouldn't elect a Latino
- 11 | candidate, or a White candidate, or an AAPI candidate,
- 12 | but it's really that coalition building across a variety
- 13 of communities that provides for African-American
- 14 representation in Los Angeles County.
- The next district here is the district just to the
- 16 east of District 64 that we looked at. This is District
- 17 | 63. Certainly, the Commission has gotten a lot of
- 18 | interest with respect to the City of Long Beach, and what
- 19 to do with the City of Long Beach.
- In our particular plan, we did split the northern
- 21 portion of the City of Long Beach from the rest of the
- 22 city. But in the current State Assembly map, you'll
- 23 | notice that the City of Long Beach is split into three
- 24 districts, not two.
- 25 So we tried to minimize those splits with respect to

- 1 | the City of Long Beach, once again, trying to use
- 2 | community boundaries in the city, and build a VRA
- 3 | compliant Latino district that goes from Lakewood to
- 4 Maywood in the north. And this is really a 710 Corridor
- 5 district, for the most part, with the exception of the
- 6 City of Lakewood.
- 7 The next district is the district just to the south
- 8 of that. Once again, this is the City of Long Beach,
- 9 along with the community of San Pedro, the City of Signal
- 10 | Hill, and the City of Hawaiian Gardens to bring it to
- 11 population. We certainly respect the -- you know, the
- 12 | residents of the City of Long Beach and their desires to
- 13 keep the city together as much as possible. And we also
- 14 | felt that it was very important to keep the port
- 15 | communities of Los Angeles -- Los Angeles and San Pedro
- 16 here, and Long Beach together in one district, so that
- 17 | you have full representation with respect to port
- 18 activities in Southern California.
- 19 With that, we're going to San Bernardino County, and
- 20 | in San Bernardino County, the idea here is really to keep
- 21 | San Bernardino and Highland together in one district.
- 22 You have a large African-American community in Highland
- 23 and San Bernardino that really should be kept together.
- I think the Commission has some great visualizations
- 25 out with this -- with respect to this area, and really

- 1 tried to keep those areas together in one district. It's
- 2 | a little difficult because you're trying to keep Latino
- 3 VRA districts just to the south of this particular
- 4 district whole as well. And so this district not only
- 5 includes San Bernardino and Highland, but also includes
- 6 the African-American community that's in the more west --
- 7 eastern portion of the City of Rancho Cucamonga.
- 8 The next district south of that deals, once again
- 9 | with Inland Empire Communities, San Bernardino County
- 10 communities. As you can see with the red line at the
- 11 bottom, in both the previous district, and in this
- 12 district, we utilized county line between Riverside and
- 13 San Bernardino County.
- And so this district really keeps the City of
- 15 | Fontana, which although it looks a little weird, it is
- 16 | the entire City of Fontana there; the City of Fontana,
- 17 Rialto, and Colton, and Bloomington, all together in one
- 18 district.
- Once again, this is a Latino majority CVAP district,
- 20 | right, Latino majority VRA district. But that being
- 21 | said, the African-American communities in this area have
- 22 | a lot of synergy and relate together, and particularly
- 23 | this corridor between the 215 Freeway on the east, and
- 24 | the 15 Freeway on the south. And really that 10 Freeway
- 25 and that 210 Freeway are also major boundaries. And that

really is what holds this district together, and holds these communities together.

2.3

The next district we wanted to show you is down in Riverside County. And as you can see up at the top there, once again, we're holding that county line between Riverside and San Bernardino County.

Certainly, with respect to this area, I know we do have some issues with the visualizations that have been out there so far. We would like to see a district that keeps the City of Perris and the City of Moreno Valley, with most of the City of Riverside. And this particular map does that.

It's really, in order to keep those African-American communities that are based in those three cities, all in one district. And so when you remove the City of Riverside from a district like this, and you add in communities like Hemet, and San Jacinto, and a lot of the rural, unincorporated areas that are kind of in between, those have a lot less in common, really, with the City of Perris, and the City of Moreno Valley, than they do with, say, somewhere like Beaumont and Banning up in Riverside County, up to the east of here in Riverside County.

And so once again, we're asking that the Commission really consider keeping Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Perris all together in one district. Once again, this

- is -- you know, this is a district of where you have
 large African-American communities, and growing AfricanAmerican communities.
 - The last Assembly district that I'd like to talk about today is in the City of San Diego, and some adjacent cities. Once again, in this area, we are concerned about some of the visualizations that we've seen so far.

2.3

- This particular district, once again, uses whole communities in the City of San Diego, as outlined in the map from Linda Vista, all the way down to Paradise Hills. It includes the unincorporated areas of La Cresta and Bonita, and includes the Cities of Lemon Grove and La Mesa.
- The African-American community in the City of San Diego is really east of the 5 Freeway, and south of the 8 Freeway. And so as you can see, we really tried to use that eastern -- or that western boundary in the southern portion of this district, as the 15 Freeway, to keep all of those communities together, but would still have the ability to build a VRA-compliant Latino district, the 80th District just south of this.
- And I think really one of the most difficult things that the Commission did, you know, that was hard to swallow ten years ago, is splitting the Cities of Chula

Vista and National City between these two districts.

I don't think there's any reason why the Commission should have to split those particular cities, and they really should be kept whole once again in the 80th District. I think the other reason — the other thing that we're looking at in terms of the visualizations, is we're very concerned that we're taking — we're not only splitting the African-American communities in San Diego, but we're combining them, not just with La Mesa, Lemon Grove, and La Presa, but you're also combining them with communities like Santee, Lakeside, Jamul, and El Cajon.

All of those four areas, which are in a different valley, just to the east of here have, historically, had issues with racially polarized voting. In general, White voters voting against minority voters.

And so the visualizations that we've seen so far, we're extremely concerned that you're not only fracturing the Black community in San Diego, but you're also combining them with racially polarized voters to the east, which have nothing in common with this particular district.

And so we would ask that with respect to this district, not only keeping African-American communities whole, keeping a majority of the City of San Diego, but also continuing to include the Cities of La Mesa and

Lemon Grove, with this particular district, which once
again have much more in common with the City of San Diego
than they do with cities to the east.

- With that, you know, and this will certainly go a little quicker now. We'll go to the State Senate. As I said before, with respect to the State Senate, we're really encouraging nesting as much as possible. And so we, in our State Senate plan, we nested all of the districts. We did not choose to fix some of the VRA issues that I'll point out from time to time when we're going through this.
- But in general, we wanted to show the Commission what nesting looked like, and really encourage, once again, the Commission to begin with nesting in the State Senate district and then -- the State Senate districts, and then make the changes that are necessary to comply with the law from there.
- So once again, starting in Sacramento, those two
 State Assembly districts that we saw earlier, have been
 nested into one State Senate district, keeping the City
 of Sacramento whole in one State Senate district. Once
 again, the visualizations that we've seen would seem to
 appear that the State Senate districts would continue to
 split -- would split the City of Sacramento and combined
 other State Assembly districts.

And so once again, we would encourage the Commission to not only keep all of the African-American communities in Sacramento County, in one State Senate district, but also to keep the City of Sacramento whole in one State Senate district. And once again, this is almost completely contained in the County of Sacramento, once again, with the exception of the City of West Sacramento and Yolo County.

The next slide that we have here is the State Senate district in the San Francisco East Bay. Once again, going from the City of San Leandro, to the City of Richmond, keeping the City of Oakland whole together in one State Senate district as well; and with respect to this, you know, certainly we like the visualizations in the Assembly. We would encourage the Commission to keep the City of Oakland together, and keep the African-American communities together in the East Bay, all in one district.

Certainly, it would be nice to add the City of

Vallejo to this district, but given the population

numbers, it's just not feasible. But at least if we're

able to keep Richmond, all the way down to San Leandro

together, that would be a good district, not just for the

East Bay, but also for the African-American community.

Going back to Los Angeles County, this district,

- 1 once again, nests the two State Assembly districts that
- 2 | we saw in the City of Los Angeles and the City of Culver
- 3 City earlier. And once again, this is a coalition
- 4 district, African-American coalition district. And it
- 5 gives the opportunity for African-Americans to elect a
- 6 candidate of their choice.
- But once again, they're not the only candidates that
- 8 | would be elected to a seat like this. This is outside of
- 9 Culver City, Ladera Heights, and View Park-Windsor Hills,
- 10 and a portion of Florence-Graham, this district is
- 11 | completely within the City of Los Angeles.
- 12 The next district, District 35, which is the State
- 13 Senate district just to the south of District 30, once
- 14 again, nests the two districts that we've seen. We did
- 15 make one small change to this particular portion of the
- 16 | State Senate map. We did include all of the City of
- 17 | Gardena into District 35.
- I think there are some policy -- good policy reasons
- 19 to split the City of Gardena in the State Assembly map.
- 20 | If you look at the City of Gardena, most of the northern
- 21 portion of the city is primarily African-Americans, and
- 22 | the southern portion of the city is mostly AAPI; the API
- 23 | community and the White portion of Gardena, which have
- 24 | much more synergy with the City of Torrance.
- But once again, in the State Senate map, we worked

to keep Gardena whole. And this is the only deviation we did from the nesting in our State Senate map. But wanted to show you what it would look like, because it seemed important to keep that community together once you get to

the State Senate level.

- Going back out to the Inland Empire, you know, we didn't show this district earlier with the kind of Pomona, Montclair, Chino, Ontario sections, but we did show the district to the east of it, and really feel once again that the Commission should do nesting in this area, do nesting with a district like this. And once again, this is a majority Latino VRA district.
- Going back up to District 23; this includes, and I know it's difficult to see, but this includes the City of San Bernardino and the City of Highland in a district with most of the areas in the High Desert to the north that a lot of African-Americans have been moving to for cheaper housing, particularly in Hesperia, Apple Valley and Adelanto.

We couldn't quite create a district which included all of that area in this particular -- in this particular Senate district. But it was important to, once again, link those African-American communities of San Bernardino and Highland with those northern communities, to keep African-Americans -- to keep African-Americans to

- 1 continue to have ability and a voice to express
 2 themselves, and to build political coalitions in San
- 3 Bernardino County.

- As you can see, once again, the State Senate
 district, in many areas, holds the San Bernardino and
 Riverside County line.
 - The next district, once again, just south of that, in which, once again, we saw a portion of this earlier in the State Assembly plan. But once again, nesting districts, in District 31, and keeping the City of Riverside whole together in one particular district, and linking it with other communities that would be part of this State Assembly district that you can view in our State Assembly plan.
 - Once again, this keeps the African-American communities in Riverside County together, all in one district. And as you can see, in both our Assembly and Senate plans, we keep that that county line together in this portion of the map. And also keep the county line there with Orange County.
 - Lastly, in the State Senate plan, we have District

 40 and district -- and this is certainly one that I'm

 sure your attorneys and demographers will want to change,

 because this is not a majority Latino VRA district. And

 so certainly with respect to our State Senate plan, you

know, this is probably not a possible scenario, but we wanted to show it to you anyways.

And really what the Commission will likely have to do in the State Senate plan is link that 80th Assembly District with a lot of areas to the east, in particular Imperial County, to get to your majority Latino VRA district.

But in this particular district, once again, it keeps those communities whole. You can see in the State Assembly district, in the 80th, once again, National City and Chula Vista are kept whole in this district, and as well as the City of San Diego, communities from Otay Mesa all the way up, once again, to Linda Vista.

Lastly, I'd like to talk about the Board of
Equalization. I would imagine the Commission is not
going to get a whole lot of Board of Equalization
submissions. And so we did want to provide one to you.

In terms of the Board of Equalization plan, really, there's a couple of things: One, keeping counties whole in the plan and really only trying to split Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties because of population. One of the issues that we have with the current Board of Equalization plan is it crosses — because they focused more on nesting of the Assembly districts to build the Board of Equalization plan in the counties, which is

- 1 | certainly, you know, one of the criteria under the State
- 2 | Constitution, we would encourage the Commission to really
- 3 look at keeping counties whole as much as possible, when
- 4 you're building this plan.
- 5 And so with that being said, the first district here
- 6 currently does not have the northern counties of the
- 7 | State of California. They are included in a different
- 8 district. And we felt that these communities really
- 9 | should be kept whole in one State Board of Equalization
- 10 | District, and keep all of Northern California whole in
- 11 one Board of Equalization district.
- 12 Obviously, we realize that this district stretches
- 13 | all the way down into Northern Los Angeles and San
- 14 Bernardino Counties, once again, those High Desert
- 15 valleys that we were talking about earlier.
- 16 But that being said, you know, as you build these,
- 17 | there's only four districts, and you have to be able to
- 18 come to population in one location or another.
- 19 District 2, what we did with this particular
- 20 district, is we removed those northern counties and
- 21 | really created a Bay Area district and a central coast
- 22 district together for District 2, for the Board of
- 23 Equalization.
- And so in the north it starts with Sonoma, Napa, and
- 25 | Solano County, and ends with Ventura County at the

- 1 bottom. This district is all whole counties. It does
- 2 | not split any county boundaries. And once again, it
- 3 keeps those Central Coast communities and the Bay Area
- 4 counties all together in one particular district.
- 5 The next district is District 3, which is the Board
- 6 of Equalization district that's primarily in Los Angeles
- 7 | County. This district currently has the County of
- 8 Ventura, which was removed for District 2, which we just
- 9 saw. And the other anomaly here is that because of the
- 10 | nesting that was done, Chino Hills, which is in San
- 11 Bernardino County, is contained in District 3, and the
- 12 | City of Pomona is in district -- in the adjacent
- 13 district.
- And so by keep cleaning up that county line and
- 15 | putting Chino Hills back with the rest of the San
- 16 | Bernardino County, and Pomona, with the district that has
- 17 | the majority, the vast majority of Los Angeles County, we
- 18 | were able to come to population with, including the City
- 19 of Santa Clarita, as well as kind of that northern
- 20 polygon that you see in the geography.
- 21 And so this -- once again, this is a district that's
- 22 | fully in Los Angeles County, and really would encourage
- 23 | the Commission to do that, as they look at the Board of
- 24 Equalization plan.
- And then lastly, we have District 4, which includes

- 1 | all of Orange County, Riverside County, San Diego County,
- 2 | and Imperial County, and includes most of the populated
- 3 areas of San Bernardino County. You know, it's really
- 4 going from Upland and Chino Hills, in kind of that area,
- 5 | all the way over to the -- through the City of San
- 6 Bernardino, and then getting county unincorporated areas
- 7 | in the far desert communities just north of the Coachella
- 8 Valley --
- 9 MR. MANOFF: One minute remaining.
- 10 MR. WESTALL: And so with that, that's our Board of
- 11 Equalization plan.
- Rick, I don't know if you want to just wrap it up
- 13 | with anything. But we're done.
- MR. CALLENDER: I just want to thank the
- 15 Commissioners for their time and service, and hope you
- 16 | will take in consideration the NAACP's proposals. I know
- 17 | we have forty-four seconds; so if there're any burning
- 18 questions, we'll take it now.
- 19 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much for this
- 20 presentation.
- 21 MR. CALLENDER: Thank you.
- 22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And up next, we have PMI-
- 23 016. I see that -- PMI-016, I will be promoting you now.
- 24 PMI-016, you can now enable your audio and video in the
- 25 lower-left corner of your screen, and you can enable

1 screen sharing in the bottom center. 2 (Pause) MS. HARRIS: Did you say PMI-106 (sic)? 3 4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, I did. Are you 5 Logged into the meeting on two different machines? 6 MS. HARRIS: I am. Do I need to drop the one -- the 7 one that you're seeing -- we speak on, is the one I want 8 to use. 9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That's perfectly fine. 10 It may affect your connectivity to have two machines 11 going depending on your internet. 12 MS. HARRIS: Okay. 13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: But if you would like to 14 keep them both connected, and it works effectively, 15 that's perfectly fine. 16 MS. HARRIS: Okay. 17 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And do you have your maps 18 ready to share? 19 MS. HARRIS: I do. 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect. 21 MS. HARRIS: And I just submitted this to Sulma. 22 forgive me, Sulma, for not putting it all, one hundred 23 percent in your hands. 24 My name is Daphne Harris (ph.). I'm a resident in

95823. I approach the redistricting from my front door,

- 1 | my census tract, and then tried to move it outward.
- 2 | know that we're looking to have maps that are tied
- 3 directly to various districts, and I'm trying to bring
- 4 that together. I tried to use the tool that you provided
- 5 to us, and was unable to get some of it to occur.
- 6 Now, I'm having problems advancing this. Is there a
- 7 reason? What do I need to do to advance?
- 8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That would be on your
- 9 computer, not ours.
- 10 MS. HARRIS: Okay. There we go. Okay. So the map
- 11 | that I submitted to the CRC deals directly with my
- 12 | community, which would be District 8, which is within
- 13 District 6, which is our Assembly district. One of the
- 14 | things that happened to us in 2010, and through '13, was
- 15 our district was separated and divided in half.
- 16 And I think that the NAACP just mentioned that a
- 17 moment ago. If you look at this particular map, it shows
- 18 | a North-South boundary as opposed to an East-West
- 19 boundary. And a lot of the drawing of the maps recently,
- 20 and 2010, went east-west, which cut a lot of our voting
- 21 bloc in half.
- 22 So where I live is at the cross section of Mack Road
- 23 and Tangerine, which is next to Center Parkway, and that
- 24 voting bloc is predominantly senior family homes. And
- 25 | there are some intermingling of apartment complexes

within this.

One thing that I noticed about our new district map is that it, basically, created a lot of transient living, where people would be living in apartment complexes one to two years, and they wouldn't get the benefit of the full ten-year time frame. So that's something that I would like for the district to take note of when they're actually drawing maps, and trying to keep ZIP codes and communities together.

As opposed to -- and I hear -- I'm hearing a lot about cultural, and ethnicity, and different cultures being a voting bloc with one another. But when you're crossing across different ZIP codes, and you're breaking ZIP codes in half, the proximity and how you live, and where you live, has a big impact on how you live.

Having the appropriate housing, having the appropriate education in schools, and having the appropriate economic-base and employment is important.

And that's something that I want you to take a look at as you're looking at various maps.

This is the Assembly map drawing for the State of California right now. I pulled this information off of ZIP Data Maps.com, and I hope that you use that tool when you're drawing your maps, to get a better understanding of how communities are tied together.

We have a lot of communities of interest, and a lot of them, like I said, are going across ethnic background, and cultural background. We need to also look at socioeconomic support and capacities. We're getting a lot of services. We also need to have capital investments in our organizations and in our districts.

2.3

District 3, I just heard the NAACP saying that they wanted to keep Yolo County on the side of Sacramento. I don't have an opposition to that, but what it does do is it cuts voice of those who are in Yolo County, West Sacramento, it makes it more of a rural discussion, a river walk discussion. And then those of us in South Sacramento are not benefiting from those choices and decisions that our current representation is making. District 6 is where I live and work, reside.

This is the map that was drawn in 2013. I'm looking to make sure that we don't just grab organizations or areas that are economically stable while leaving the underserved on their own. If we have a mix with the geographic layouts and boundaries, I think you'll see more of a mix of services within a community, and you'll see more cohesion and cohesiveness in the community.

Most of the resources are coming down from the U.S., to the state, to the county, to the city. And again, I'm bringing it to my bloc and just seeing what has changed

- 1 | in the last ten years over the twenty years.
- 2 | We've noticed that we're getting a lot of services
- 3 | in our area, but not a lot of infrastructure development,
- 4 resource, and maintenance, and we're not getting a lot of
- 5 employment opportunity. So we're looking to have more --
- 6 | not a "food desert". I'm tired of our area being
- 7 referred to as a food desert.
- 8 MR. MANOFF: One minute.
- 9 MS. HARRIS: We're looking to have more grocery
- 10 | stores, more banks, things of that nature. And I think
- 11 | you have a mix by ZIP code, and people living in the same
- 12 region that gives them more of a synergy. This is a map
- 13 of how District 7 looked in the past, and I noticed a lot
- 14 of District 7 is encroaching on the City of Sacramento.
- 15 And I'm looking for you to have them go more southbound.
- 16 And they were developed as rural community --
- 17 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds remain.
- MS. HARRIS: -- and established themselves as a
- 19 rural community. And so we're looking for you to have
- 20 them increase their population accordingly.
- 21 And I appreciate your time. And I appreciate the
- 22 | service that you've done on the Council. Thank you.
- 23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you so much.
- 24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that is all of our
- 25 appointments for today, Chair.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Excellent. Thank you so much, 2 Katy, for moderating all of those appointments. We're going to take a short break, until 4:30. 3 4 then we will be back with the Line Drawing Team in order 5 to provide direction -- some clarifications to the Line Drawing Team, and directions as well. 6 7 Thank you, everybody. We'll see you back at 4:30. (Whereupon, a recess was held until 4:30 p.m.) 9 CHAIR SADHWANI: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission as we complete our day 10 11 of receiving input and public maps. We've had a 12 fantastic day. We've definitely received a lot of great 13 information from the public. 14 We reserved this last hour, or so of our day, to 15 spend a little time with our Line Drawing Team. I 16 understand that there were some questions and 17 clarifications that may have been needed from our 18 discussions last week. So we're going to receive those 19 questions, and then we'll also be able to give a little 20 bit of direction, if there was anything from today, or 21 the public comment that's come in, if there's any 22 additional direction to line drawers that you'd like to

So with that, I'm going to turn it over to Karin Mac
Donald and her team. I believe there were some

23

give.

- 1 | clarifying questions.
- 2 MS. MAC DONALD: Yes. Thank you so much. Hello,
- 3 Commissioners. Thank you so much for having us back.
- 4 And thanks for this opportunity to ask for
- 5 clarifications.
- I have two of my colleagues here who would like to
- 7 talk to you, please, about some clarifications based on
- 8 | the direction that you gave last week.
- 9 And first is going to be Kennedy, who has a very
- 10 brief question. And then after that she will be followed
- 11 by Jaime, who has perhaps a little bit more extensive
- 12 questions for you.
- 13 So with that, over to Kennedy; thank you.
- MS. WILSON: Hello. Good afternoon, Commission. I
- 15 just have, as Karin said, a brief clarification. So as
- 16 | we're avoiding splitting small cities when possible, for
- 17 example, the City of Shafter, which was north of
- 18 Bakersfield. Would you like to extend that direction
- 19 | from your Assembly plan to your Senate and Congressional
- 20 plan as well?
- 21 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, that was that was the
- 22 intent. Sorry, I thought that was clear. Thank you.
- MS. WILSON: Thank you; and understood.
- MS. MAC DONALD: With that, over to Jaime. Thank
- 25 you so much.

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1
        MS. CLARK: Thank you. Sorry, I'm kind of setting
 2
    up my --
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Actually, if you don't mind, for
 3
 4
    just one second. I think Commissioner Yee had a hand
 5
    raised?
 6
         COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Just wondering
    how we're applying that to census designated places. I
 7
 8
    don't recall whether we discussed that or not. Are we
    making a conscious effort not to split census-designated
10
    places as well?
11
        MS. MAC DONALD:
                        Yes.
        MS. CLARK: I'm just going to answer first of all.
12
13
    For all line drawers we are, you know, not
14
    intentionally -- we are intentionally trying to not split
15
    census-designated places, as well as cities.
16
         COMMISSIONER YEE: Excellent. Thank you.
17
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thanks so much.
18
    ahead, Jaime.
19
        MS. CLARK: Thank you. My questions mostly are
20
    around Senate visualizations. In my notes, the notes
21
    that I received from staff, there wasn't a ton of
22
    direction and feedback for the Senate plans. And so I am
23
    wondering, this is in some ways similar to Kennedy's
24
    question, because it's about extending and applying
25
    direction and feedback given for other levels of
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- 1 districts to the Senate plan as well.
- 2 And if it's helpful, I can share my screen. So and
- 3 to kind of like look at everything together, so one
- 4 | second while I'm organizing my -- all my windows and
- 5 stuff here. Okay. So what's on the screen right now is
- 6 | Senate visualization B from last time. And specifically,
- 7 | I kind of wanted to talk about the -- but you know,
- 8 | specifically I wanted to ask about some stuff on like the
- 9 coast, and Long Beach, and the Harbor Gateway areas.
- 10 For other versions of visualizations, for other
- 11 | levels of district, the direction was for Long Beach to
- 12 be oriented with areas to the north, sometimes following
- 13 | the 710 Corridor, additionally received feedback to try
- 14 and keep San Pedro with the Harbor Gateway Cities, and
- 15 | Compton and Carson, and additionally heard sort of about
- 16 the 405. The 405 being sort of following that or being
- 17 maybe like a good boundary to keep cities whole, but for
- 18 | that to generally be a boundary. And just wondering if
- 19 those could apply to the Senate as well, to the Senate
- 20 visualizations?
- 21 CHAIR SADHWANI: My sense that would be, yes.
- 22 But Commissioner Sinay.
- 23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was going to agree with you.
- 24 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. I like it when we're in
- 25 | agreement, Commissioner Sinay.

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1
         So I think that that's the answer for you, Jaime,
   unless any other Commissioners wanted to weigh in. Any
    additional questions or clarifications?
 3
        MS. CLARK: That was it for me.
 4
 5
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Excellent. Very good. So we did
   reserve -- oh, a couple of more hands.
 6
 7
        Commissioner Kennedy.
         COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Chair, I'm wondering if I
   could request, this is not a clarification. This is a
10
   new request. Is that something that I can make at this
11
   point?
12
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes. Go ahead.
13
         COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Thank you. So on
14
    Senate visualization, SDB, San Sunny (ph.); I'm wondering
15
    if you could show us what -- two Assembly districts
16
   nested within or closely within that Senate district
17
   might look like.
18
        MS. MAC DONALD: Well, we wouldn't be able to do
19
    that right this very moment, but --
20
         COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No, no, no, no, no. No, no.
21
    I wasn't expecting that.
22
        MS. MAC DONALD: Just making sure I understand.
2.3
        COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.
24
        MS. MAC DONALD: So yeah, we can take a look at that
25
   next week, absolutely. Yeah.
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1
         COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Perfect. Perfect.
 2
    you.
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thank you.
 3
 4
         Commissioner, Sinay.
 5
         COMMISSIONER SINAY: Last week, Jaime was really
    good at kind of making it -- putting in yellow the
 6
 7
    districts that we were considering for VRA. And I was
    hoping that all the line drawers could maybe do that in
 8
    the coming weeks so that, you know, we could be
10
    consistent. Because I know we've talked about them, but
11
    you know, it's just a lot of information is coming at us
12
    right now. And we're trying.
13
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you for that.
14
        MS. MAC DONALD: We can do that.
                                           Thank you --
15
        CHAIR SADHWANI: Perfect.
16
        MS. MAC DONALD: -- for that suggestion.
17
        CHAIR SADHWANI: And so with that if -- Karin, if
18
    you and your team don't have any additional
19
    clarifications, I want to open the floor. We heard a lot
20
    of great ideas from the public throughout the day today.
21
    This is an opportunity to discuss some of the things that
22
    we have heard today, and also to provide any possible
23
    direction to the line drawers, if there was something
24
    that you saw that you'd like to see if it's possible to
25
    incorporate, presumably by next week, now would be the
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- 1 opportunity to do so.
- 2 Commissioner Sinay.
- 3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm following the rules. I
- 4 raise my hand. So this goes back to some of the comments
- 5 | we got on Monday, wasn't it Monday? Yeah, Monday, wow,
- 6 it's a long week. On Monday some people called in about
- 7 | northern San Diego, and I agreed with them, I just didn't
- 8 want to give my opinion on what I'd like to see. But
- 9 | since now that we've gotten communities of interest
- 10 around it.
- But I'm looking at keeping Camp Pendleton,
- 12 Oceanside, Carlsbad, Solana Beach, and Del Mar together,
- 13 seeing how that works. And honestly, when I toss these
- 14 out, I apologize. I am not thinking Congressional,
- 15 Assembly, or Senate yet. I figure you guys will read my
- 16 mind, and know which one it's supposed to be. Sorry.
- 17 I'll get better at it as we move along.
- And then the other one -- let me leave it at that
- 19 because others may have some. If not, I will continue.
- 20 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. And I believe mind
- 21 | reading may be one of Karin's many talents. So let's see
- 22 how she does it that direction.
- 23 Commissioner Andersen.
- 24 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. I did hear one
- 25 thing that was interesting today. We've been always

- 1 trying to keep our communities of interest together. And
- 2 | there's an issue in terms of, we didn't quite know how to
- 3 | handle the Karuk Tribe up north, in Del Norte, in
- 4 | Siskiyou County.
- 5 And today we heard from the -- I can't remember the
- 6 actual -- the vote, the California Vote Native (sic), I
- 7 think it was, who actually said, they actually had a
- 8 couple of proposals, and one of which was, take the Karuk
- 9 Tribe from the western portion of Siskiyou and add it to
- 10 the coastal.
- 11 And I was wondering if we might be able to see
- 12 | something like that. Because, again, that was an issue
- 13 | we didn't know what to do, and how to handle that. And
- 14 | that seemed, in terms of the best -- the community wanted
- 15 to stay together, and we didn't know how. So I'd like to
- 16 possibly see that. Thank you.
- 17 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you for that.
- 18 | Commissioner Fernandez.
- 19 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I wasn't going to comment,
- 20 | but I'm just going to comment to what Commissioner
- 21 Andersen said. I guess what I heard from that, I did
- 22 | write that down, that the Karuk Tribe, they were actually
- 23 requesting that the north eastern portion of Humboldt be
- 24 taken, and put with Siskiyou. And I believe our second
- 25 | caller also said the same thing.

So that's not what I was going to talk about, but that's what I wrote down.

I'm going to reserve my additional visualizations, because we provided -- or I provided so many last week that I can't remember if they're -- potentially can be in conflict, or what I requested. So I'm just going to wait until this week's -- or next week's, to provide feedback. Thank you.

CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good, thank you.

Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. And I think I would support Commissioner Andersen's request. I think I agree with that as well. My understanding from the group was that they were going to go back to the Karuk Tribe to see if an alternative proposal would be acceptable as well. But being able to see both them -- you know, keeping them together is a priority, and figuring out where we could keep them together would be -- you know, if we had more options, that's always preferable.

Then yes, I was just going to ask if my fellow Commissioners could just add the 'why". You know,

Commissioners could just add the 'why". You know,
because I can't mind read, and so -- I wish I could -but to the request. It's a very short sentence, and it
may just be, because of transportation, or because these
communities really similar, or whatever it may be.

1 CHAIR SADHWANI: And I think that's a really helpful 2 suggestion, Commissioner Toledo. 3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. 4 CHAIR SADHWANI: Especially given, in light of the 5 conversation that we had had as a Commission yesterday. It's about providing a little bit of additional 6 7 justification for the requests. Commissioners Sinay. COMMISSIONER SINAY: My why? I was told right 10 before that I talk too much, so I was trying to be quiet. 11 My "why" on why keep Pendleton, Oceanside, Carlsbad, 12 Solana Beach, and Del Mar, is really because they are 13 along the 5. They are coastal cities, including 14 Pendleton. We forget Camp Pendleton is actually this 15 large swath of ocean that will always -- it's a huge 16 reserve, yeah, that will always be military, even if the 17 base leaves, because there're so many unexploited 18 ordinances, so all of that is critical to kind of work 19 together. 20 And it is a community that does work together, as 21 much as others have been saying Oceanside, Vista, San 22 Marcos, Fallbrook, that way. The real connections are 2.3 down the coast. Okay. So now, can I go to my other one? 24 Wait, where was my other one? Oh, we have -- no,

I've got many. I've got many, but I'm trying -- I've got

- 1 two pages, but I'm trying to stay focused on -- so on
- 2 | Monday we also heard a lot from communities east of the
- 3 | 110. And I just wanted to make sure that we're really
- 4 looking to ensure that we're doing the best we -- not the
- 5 best we can, but just really -- I guess I'm looking for
- 6 some guidance from you all, on how to work with some
- 7 of -- I mean, how to look at communities east of the 110,
- 8 as well as South LA, and parts of Central LA.
- 9 Because we've received a lot of input, and I really
- 10 | want to make sure that in our next visualization, we're
- 11 at a place that we're all feeling more comfortable.
- 12 Because I'll be honest, my initial reaction was: Well,
- 13 I'm not really going to pay that much attention until we
- 14 get more information. And then, yeah, so it's time for
- 15 more information. So I'm just asking if we can, at the
- 16 next visualization, that area can be massaged a little
- 17 bit better.
- 18 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good, thank you.
- 19 Commissioner Akutagawa.
- 20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I just wanted to add in my
- 21 perspective. I do support what Commissioner Andersen
- 22 said about the Karuk Tribe. The notes that I took, was
- 23 | that we would take from a portion of Siskiyou. And I
- 24 | also want to just note that -- and I know -- and I think
- 25 | this is part of the challenge; we're hearing conflicting

1 testimony, and COI inputs.

But we've heard some very passionate -- I'll say very passionate COI input, that the communities along the coast, particularly from Humboldt -- Del Norte to Humboldt, down to Mendocino and Trinity, are very different from the more inland portions of Siskiyou.

Although I could support, and it would be interesting to see a visualization that would enable, at the very least, right now for us to be able to see the Karuk Tribe being kept in an entire district. And so even if it means splitting Siskiyou County, that would be interesting to see.

I also wanted to just respond to what Commissioner
Sinay was saying about the communities east of the 110,
and I think this also includes the communities that
border LA and Orange County, because I know we're hearing
quite a bit, and there seems to be different perspectives
in terms of whether some communities should stay within
LA County or in Orange County, too.

And I think that's going to be the continued tension around that area. I think what I just want to -- just say is, it's also, and I think this was brought up potentially -- I think it was by Commissioner Fornaciari at one point, about who are the people who are calling in and speaking to have certain communities engaged -- or

- not engaged, but attached to their communities. And I think that that's also going to be important for us to keep in mind.
- So I want to just reiterate what Commissioner Sinay said in asking people to call in, if you are in one of these communities that is kind of being tossed about.

 You know, tell us what you want. I think that would be
- 8 helpful for us because we're trying to really listen to 9 what the communities are saying. Thank you.

- CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. I put my own hand up here in the queue. I had a couple of thoughts. And none of these are completely new direction. I think the refinements and things that we talked about last week.

 But in some of the areas where I think we were struggling last week, I think we were presented with some ideas today.
- And so my direction simply would be to take a look at those and see, does that fit with some of the other things that we -- other directions that we've already given as we were stitching together this map.
- Some of those include, for example, we saw districts in Ventura County that included that corridor from Port Hueneme to Piru. I thought that was really helpful. I remember we had had an exchange about that area last week. I think I think they presented some interesting

1 ideas for us to consider.

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And so I think it would be great to, you know, add that as a potential scenario for us to look out for next week, which I think was already given. But I think they had some good thoughts there.

In South LA, I think we had we had had some conversations about the -- sort of the odd pairing of the beach cities with the more inland areas of South

Central -- south in South Central Los Angeles. I think we saw a lot of interesting ideas there.

I particularly appreciated some of the ideas brought forth by Asian-Americans advancing justice in that area.

I thought it was interesting because they were looking, not only at Asian-American populations, but how to maintain Asian-American COIs, in conjunction with areas that are also more heavily African-American.

And so I remember there were some that had,
maintaining Torrance, for example, and connecting that
to, I want to say Lawndale, but I would mean to -Gardena, and I think I need to go back and look at it a
little bit more closely. But I would offer that those
were some great options for us to possibly consider.

And so I think we are reasonable to work those in, and see what's feasible, and doable with the other pieces, that we have moving, would be really great.

Finally, in Orange County, I think we had gone back and forth on a lot of the different kinds of ways in which Orange County could be -- could potentially be examined. You know, I think some of the options that we saw today, including Cerritos and Artesia from Los Angeles, I know Little India, I think, is in that area, for example; and having that come into some of those Orange County districts.

I know we had struggled also with the Irvine,

Tustin, and Costa Mesa area. We had received a whole lot

of testimony on that area also. So I thought that there

were some great ideas coming out of that presentation

that we could take a look at, and explore further.

Commissioner Yee.

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COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Just to go back to the Karuk submission. And let me share a screen, because I just heard two different ways. I wanted to try to nail that down. I believe the proposal was to keep Siskiyou County together, but at that little corner of Humboldt, the northeastern corner of Humboldt, which has the census-designated place, of Orleans, which is a -- has a population there.

So that was -- I believe that was the suggestion, and it was for the Senate plan, but also I think it was the same suggestion for Assembly. But Del Norte is kept

- 1 the same.
- 2 | COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can I say something on
- 3 that?
- 4 COMMISSIONER YEE: Sure.
- 5 CHAIR SADHWANI: Oh, sure; Commission Fornaciari.
- 6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. So the notes -- the
- 7 notes I have is, is that was a suggestion from the
- 8 California Native Vote project. But the California
- 9 Environmental Voters, their suggestion was to go into
- 10 | Siskiyou and bring part of Siskiyou to the coast, because
- 11 | they were trying to honor the Humboldt County request to
- 12 keep Humboldt County whole.
- And so I mean, what I'd like to see is have the
- 14 mappers look at both of those options and see -- help us
- 15 understand what the tradeoffs are; if that sounds okay.
- 16 CHAIR SADHWANI: That sounds perfect.
- 17 Commissioner Sinay.
- 18 | COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was curious. Are there any
- 19 restrictions in us separating the Los Angeles Port and
- 20 | the Long Beach Port? We've heard very clearly from Long
- 21 Beach, they want to stay together. And now, we're
- 22 hearing from communities of interest that, well, maybe we
- 23 | need parts of Long Beach, you know, to create VRA
- 24 communities, or whatever.
- 25 And so I would like to know if there are any

- 1 restrictions, or anything that's keeping us from that,
- 2 | because we keep -- we keep saying we're going to do --
- 3 | you know, we want to keep Long Beach together, but if we
- 4 | need to -- we need to understand if that's even legally
- 5 feasible or not.
- 6 The other pieces, I just wanted to confirm, because
- 7 | I can't remember what we said and didn't say. And so
- 8 this is just in general. But I saw it on several of the
- 9 presentations is -- and the input, is making sure that
- 10 | we're keeping Richmond whole, making sure that Oakland is
- 11 | whole as much as possible, and with Emeryville. And that
- 12 | Pittsburgh, Antioch, and Bay Point stay together as much
- 13 | as possible. And then I have questions for us next --
- 14 you know, next time we're talking, because I still need
- 15 some training.
- 16 CHAIR SADHWANI: No problem. Commissioner Vazquez.
- 17 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah. Thank you. I just
- 18 | wanted to add to Commissioner Sinay's point about Long
- 19 Beach. I agree that I think we should try as much as
- 20 possible to keep Long Beach together. And I believe what
- 21 | I heard from the mappers in one of our sessions, was that
- 22 many of the -- or many of the plans that were presented
- 23 began with keeping Long Beach whole, and extending
- 24 outward from that presumption.
- 25 And I just am wondering if we need to provide

- 1 direction to see a plan that explicitly does not start
- 2 | with Long Beach, because I think all of -- all of the
- 3 visualizations we saw, did move with that assumption,
- 4 | sort of serving as a primary pivot point for the LA
- 5 visualizations. So no direction yet, I just wanted to
- 6 clarify.
- 7 CHAIR SADHWANI: Jaime, did you want to jump in and
- 8 respond?
- 9 MS. CLARK: Yeah, I can. I can clarify that --
- 10 CHAIR SADHWANI: Jaime, we're having a hard time
- 11 hearing you.
- 12 MS. CLARK: Sorry about that. I hope you can hear
- 13 me better now.
- 14 CHAIR SADHWANI: Yes.
- MS. CLARK: I wanted to clarify that keeping Long
- 16 Beach whole, you know, definitely was not like the
- 17 | starting point, and the ending point. And also based on
- 18 Commission direction, and really based on public input,
- 19 | we hadn't heard very much about, you know, Long Beach
- 20 going with Seal Beach, for example. Or other areas on
- 21 | the -- or in Orange County with the exception of, you
- 22 know, Los Alamitos, Cypress, in some cases.
- But having heard a ton of input saying, you know:
- 24 Just put Long Beach with Orange County areas. And so to
- 25 | not kind of create a bubble, where it was like, okay, now

what do we do with this population that's in Long Beach that might not have a partner based on your direction.

It was kind of like looking at the VRA areas, and then moving population around, in general, to try and maintain as much of your direction, and of course keep all the criteria in mind. So I apologize for any confusion that was caused by that.

8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Vazquez, did you have 9 any follow up?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: No. Thank you.

11 CHAIR SADHWANI: You got it. Commissioner Toledo.

12 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think we've mentioned this

13 before, but I just wanted to highlight it again. Just

14 | the importance of keeping the Asian-American community

15 out in Los Angeles together, specifically the downtown

16 | neighborhoods of Chinatown, the historic -- especially

17 | those immigrant communities, right; the Chinatown,

18 historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Little Tokyo, Thai

19 Town, keeping them together as much as possible, in a

20 Congressional district, and other nesting districts.

21 Thank you.

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22 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. Commissioner

23 Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So I just have a general

question for our Line Drawing Team. We touched on this a

little bit last time. Are there constraints that you 1 feel that you're under at this point that are causing you 3 difficulty that you would like to ask us to revisit? 4 MS. MAC DONALD: Do you mean aside from time? 5 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: That's not our constraint. MS. CLARK: Just answering for myself right now. So 6 7 much of what is happening in LA County is really driven by Voting Rights Act considerations and -- yeah, so 8 which, you know, isn't necessarily -- I think that that's 10 the driving force behind a lot of like: Ooh, trying 11 really hard, but maybe not able to implement every single 12 direction, or every single wish, of the Commission. 13 things are going good, and I'm really excited about next 14 week, to present our works in progress to you. 15 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Thank you. We are looking 16 forward to it as well. 17 Commissioner Fernandez. 18 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you, Chair. 19 Was it yesterday, I can't remember. My days are 20 blurring. I think it is yesterday, Karin, you had told 21 us that next week we'll just have one map to look at, 22 instead of A versus B. I guess my concern right now is 23 if we're providing you with direction to show the 24 Karuk -- the two different scenarios, then that's two

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different maps.

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         So I am I guess in my opinion, that would be
    conflicting because I'm expecting to see just one map of
 3
    Assembly, Senate, and Congressional. But if we're asking
    you to do two separate visualizations of the same area,
 4
 5
    that no longer is one map, that's two separate maps for
    that area. So if you can just clear that for me, that'd
 6
 7
    be great.
         CHAIR SADHWANI: I think Commissioner Fornaciari
 9
    also wants to jump in here, too.
10
         COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes. So I guess what I
11
    was asking for was to help us understand what the
12
    tradeoffs are, not necessarily to draw two different
13
    maps. Does that make sense?
14
        MS. MAC DONALD: (No verbal response).
15
         COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.
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        MS. MAC DONALD: Yeah. So is that clear? Because,
17
    I mean, also we have three plans, right? So it's one
18
    visualization for each plan, so you know, if there's
19
    not -- if your direction is not specific, when you say,
    you know, try to do this in the Assembly, or try to do
20
21
    this in the Senate, or try to do this in the
22
    Congressional plan, then that gives us the flexibility to
23
    try it out in one of the three. And you know, there are
24
    some possibilities there, and then at least you'll see it
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and then we can move from there.

- 1 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Commissioner Toledo.
- 2 | COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So I just wanted to
- 3 acknowledge the great work the line drawers are doing,
- 4 especially given all of the feedback that they're getting
- 5 from the Commission. And the challenges, and meeting all
- 6 of the redistricting guidelines, right, and rules, and
- 7 our direction has always been, Jaime, and to follow
- 8 | the -- to be in compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
- 9 | So I think you are -- you're doing exactly what we want
- 10 | you to do. And I think it's -- I just want to
- 11 acknowledge that and thank you for everything you guys
- 12 are doing. Appreciate it. Bye, bye.
- 13 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you for that, Commissioner
- 14 | Toledo. I think you're the official cheerleading squad
- 15 | for our Line Drawing Team.
- 16 Commissioner Sinay.
- 17 | COMMISSIONER SINAY: Jaime, I was going to say the
- 18 | same thing, that we want you to start with the VRA, we
- 19 | all -- that's one of the areas that we're like: Are we
- 20 | you know -- yes, you're doing great.
- 21 A couple of things, this is going to be unpopular,
- 22 but I'm going to say it anyway. I've been looking again
- 23 at all the comments that we've gotten up in the north
- 24 | coastal and inland area, and what's very interesting is
- 25 | if you read them very closely, they say: Please keep

Humboldt to Marin, together, most of them. They don't
say Del Norte.

And I know we had one person call us saying we can't get from Del Norte to Humboldt unless we go -- but if you read the Del Norte ones, they say: We like this idea, put us with Siskiyou. And so if we -- if it does give you more flexibility, I know Del Norte is small, but if it does give more flexibility on how to create the maps, and you know, it doesn't have to be for all three of them.

But I just did want to bring that up that I was trying to figure out what the pattern is. And that's kind of where it fell.

And I agree with Commissioner Sadhwani; so that's two today, guys, so if you're -- she's not even paying attention to me. But that there were some interesting ideas, I think, for the Central Coast. And that was an area that we were kind of stuck on, especially when we created it from Pacifica all the way down to -- where'd we go all the way down to, Commissioner --

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Santa Cruz.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No. We went further down than Santa Cruz. We went all the way down to Santa Barbara, I think. Yeah, it was a long -- it was a big -- it was a big district. But I thought that there were some interesting ideas

25 | interesting ideas.

1 The idea of keeping Santa Barbara together, and the reasons why, I thought were interesting. And of course, the most interesting, in a way, was looking at San Luis 3 Obispo and connecting it to the Central Valley, to 4 5 Bakersfield. I don't know how Bakersfield or -- you know, but I just wanted to say that there were some good 6 7 ideas and I know we were kind of stuck in that area, so feel free to explore what works well. 8 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa. 10 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I will add my appreciation 11 to the Line Drawing Team. So let me just start there. 12 CHAIR SADHWANI: We're going to get you some pompom 13 tomorrow. 14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. You could get me 15 pompoms too. And if there was an emoji, I would even put 16 that up there too. 17 I kind of want to follow up on something that 18 Commissioner Fornaciari said. And I'm just wondering, 19 given where we are in terms of the line drawing, because 20 I feel like it would -- there are going to be tradeoffs 21 that we have to make. But the thing is, if we're -- you 22 know, we're quickly marching towards, you know, having to 23 come together around maps.

But I feel like there's still some missing pieces of information. And I and I know we've tried to be as

24

intentional and as thoughtful about the numbers, and
other things like that. But I guess, for the Line

Drawing Team, you know, with what Commissioner Fornaciari
said, in terms of understanding some of the tradeoffs in
certain kind of choices that are going to need to be
made.

2.3

- Is there a way to bring more of those to us, given what's likely been previously conflicting visualization requests; and given where we need to move towards? Are there other ones that it would be easier to bring those to us, and say: We have some conflicts, here are the tradeoffs; can we answer these now? Instead of, just creating full blown visualizations; and I guess that's my question to the Line Drawing Team.
- MS. MAC DONALD: May I answer that, Chair Sadhwani?

 CHAIR SADHWANI: Of course. Yes of course.
 - MS. MAC DONALD: I think that's the -- those are the opportunities that we're going to have once we don't have, you know, multiple plans to go through, and multiple visualizations to go through and try to find pages frantically to look at. So I think once we're on one plan next week, that's exactly what we can do.

So I think that our team can serve more as a resource to you, and we can have more of a conversation about, you know: You have this idea, okay, so if we

- implement this, then, you know, X, Y, and Z may be
 happening, so you know, what is your direction based on
 that? So I think that's exactly where we're going. And
- 5 CHAIR SADHWANI: Mr. Becker.

thank you for bringing that up.

MR. BECKER: Hi. I know there've been a lot of questions about getting a little more direction on VRA, and I wanted to give you an update because -- and Karin has alluded to this a little bit as well. We have completed, it appears, the analysis of racially polarized voting. And when I say "we", I mean, I have had very little to do with it. It is mostly almost all been Dr. Gall. And we are -- she's putting the final touches on kind of the comprehensive analysis. And at the, I believe, October 27th meeting, we'll be ready to go through some of this with you.

And so this is going to be where we can talk about the areas where the Voting Rights Act appears to require that the Commission attempt to draw districts that would enable -- that would give the opportunity to particular minorities to elect candidates of their choice.

One of the things to keep in mind, and I'm talking about this broadly right now, we'll get into more specifics on the 27th, is there might be places where Gingles 1 is met, meaning fifty percent -- barely over

1 fifty percent of a district can be made with a particular 2 minority population.

2.3

But it might be, from looking at the voting patterns in that area, that a district would need to be at a higher level to give an opportunity to elect. And by the way, with different minority groups in different areas, that level might be different.

We've talked about this before. There are places where, quite frankly, maybe in California, certainly in the country where forty percent minority population, giving crossover patterns is sufficient, there are other places where you need fifty-five percent or higher. So we're going to take a look at this, and give you the best advice we can, and give you as much of this is in open session as possible.

And one of the challenges we'll face, I think, is there might be areas where you can draw a certain number of, barely fifty percent districts, but that could result in virtually no opportunity to elect because that's not sufficient. So you might, in some places, have to draw slightly fewer to enable there to be enough districts that actually could have an opportunity to elect.

Hopefully that makes sense. And we'll get into more specifics on October 27th. But I wanted to give you kind of a preview of all that. Does that make sense to

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1
    everybody? Does anyone have any follow up questions?
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         CHAIR SADHWANI:
                          It looks like -- oh, do you have a
 3
    follow-up question?
 4
         COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: But it might be too specific,
 5
    and so --
 6
         CHAIR SADHWANI:
                          Oh.
                               Sorry.
 7
         MR. BECKER: I mean, I will tell you if it's too
    specific.
 8
 9
         CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Fernandez.
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         COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That is great news. I just
11
    wanted to like: Yippee. You know, like fireworks and
12
    stuff. So great news that the analysis is done. Now,
13
    does that -- and you probably have to educate me on this
14
    part of it -- does that also include for a coalition,
15
    potential districts, or?
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         MR. BECKER: So coalitions are exceedingly rare.
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    I've made this point before. It may be that where a
18
    single minority community does not reach the Gingles 1
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    threshold, and there are no other minority communities in
20
    the same area that do reach the Gingles 1 threshold, that
21
    it might be possible to build a coalition; and we'll give
22
    you some advice on that where that's possible.
2.3
         The hardest -- coalitions are rare because they
24
    first need two minority populations, that neither of
25
    which fit the Gingles 1 by themselves, to combine to form
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- Gingles 1. And then after that, they need to be very cohesive together, and then everyone else needs to be cohesive against them; if that makes sense.
- So it is a harder threshold to meet. But we are -there's not a lot of areas where that's a possibility.

 But we are looking at some areas, and we'll give you some
- CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Commissioner Toledo.

2.3

advice on that.

recognize there're some areas where the CVAP might be around fifty percent, and not enough to elect individuals. How does the Commission, and maybe this is something that you can maybe think about, and bring back, but how do we take into effect, or can we take into consideration a future, you know, the future trends in population? Or is it something that we can't do?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And my question would be: I

- MR. BECKER: No, no, it's -- this is actually a really good question, because in some ways we are looking at the past, because that's all we have, and trying to predict the future based on that. And there are certain areas where particular candidates create a political dynamic that might not be in existence always.
- I'll give you an example that's not related to
 California. A Congressman named Sanford Bishop in
 Southwest Georgia, who's African-American, can use to get

- 1 elected, in an area where it's not entirely clear any
- 2 other African-American could get elected. He just
- 3 happens to be a particularly, really, popular candidate
- 4 in that area.
- 5 So that we'll try to take those into account, and
- 6 that level of specificity will be something that we would
- 7 | need to address in closed session, because it may be
- 8 something that would be at issue, would be subject to
- 9 expert testimony in litigation, that level of
- 10 specificity.
- But we can, absolutely, in open session, talk about
- 12 whether we think the Gingles 2 and 3 are met in an area,
- 13 and getting to that level.
- 14 And also, I know there has been some discussion of
- 15 this. Dr. Gall is looking at past elections on the
- 16 district level, but all racially polarized voting
- 17 | analyses are done at the precinct level. So she has
- 18 precinct-based data.
- 19 So there might be areas in which, and we're trying
- 20 to figure out how best to draw a district, once we
- 21 determine the Voting Rights Act protects a population in
- 22 | a particular area. There might be areas where we can
- 23 give advice and say: There are precincts over here that
- 24 might be more conducive to maybe having slightly higher
- 25 crossover, or things like that, that we've seen

1 historically.

And all of this is: You don't know who the candidates are going to be in the next ten years. You don't know what population mobility trends are going to be in the next ten years. You don't know what birth rates are going to be in the next ten years, although birth rates don't really apply for the next ten years; but whether people who are eighteen are going to move in, in the next ten years.

So we're doing the best we can with the information we have. And you should absolutely ask questions about that if you think that's an area that we should be taking into account. But that, again, you want, when the Voting Rights Act applies, and it doesn't apply in some places, and we're going to tell you that, or it doesn't appear to apply, or it doesn't appear to protect a particular minority group; in California, that's usually for the very good reason that non-minority members are very willing to vote for the minority candidate of choice. So that's a positive thing.

But where a minority group is protected by the Voting Rights Act, we'll try to give you advice along those lines, and give you options.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you.

25 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa.

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         COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA:
                                  Thank you, Mr. Becker, for
    what you've shared with us so far. I just want to make
 3
    sure, going back to the very beginning of what you were
    talking about, in terms of, you said that there might be
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 5
    some places where Gingles 1 is met, and then in some
    places, you know, to be able to meet at least the minimal
 6
    requirements of Gingles 1. And then you might need to
 7
    go -- we might need to go higher in terms of our
 8
 9
    minority, I think CVAP I believe is?
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         MR. BECKER: Yeah, higher or lower; and yeah.
11
         COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA:
                                  Higher or lower depending
12
    on what it is. I want to -- I think I want to just
13
    clarify, or make sure I'm understanding it correctly.
14
    And then also for the benefit of maybe others who are
15
    also having the same question too.
16
         Let's say that in an area where we have to go a
17
    little bit higher to achieve the kind of CVAP that we
18
    need to achieve, I guess the, VRA district -- and I'm not
19
    sure if I'm actually asking it correctly -- but if we
20
    need to go higher, that means -- the way I'm translating
21
    it is that we'll need to draw the district lines in such
22
    a way that enables us to get that higher number.
2.3
         And then that means that in other places then it's
    not exactly "packing", I don't think, but it also means
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25
    that in another area, like an adjacent area that would
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neighbor that district, their CVAP of minority voters may go down because more needs to be pulled. Am I explaining it right?
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MR. BECKER: Now, so I think what you're getting at is a really important point, which is that, this is constantly a balance. I mean, we are balancing a variety of things constantly, and you can see this in the visualizations that the line drawers have already created.

We're trying to figure out ways to keep communities of interest together, but what happens when communities of interest cross county boundaries, right? Those are two equal criteria under the California Constitution, and so we're trying to figure out how to balance those things out.

I mean, that really constructive conversation we just had about the tribe up in Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties, and how to balance out those factors. It's very, very similar here.

So in most of these places there will be some tradeoffs. And one of the things California Constitution does for you, which is really good in the context of Voting Rights Act, is it tells you the Voting Rights Act takes precedence over the other criteria, with the exception of equal population. And within the Senate and

the Assembly, equal population, you have some flexibility
of plus or minus five percent legal -- the ability to
waver within it. With Congress, it gets a little more

difficult.

- Now, the other thing is, you know, when we're drawing the lines, and I'm sure you know, Karin, as always, Karin, I'm going to ask, if I say something that makes you scream, or is wrong, you're going to just jump in, and tell me to shut up immediately.
- It's not like there's a magic number. And even the fifty percent number isn't a magic number. Remember, those are preconditions. There's a reason they're called "preconditions". They're thresholds. They get you in the door. All you have to do is be able to show that a minority can form a majority in a district. You have to show that they're cohesive. You have to show that others are voting cohesively against them.

But at that point, that doesn't tell you how to draw the district. That just tells you that you're supposed to try to draw a district. And then you have to see what the voting dynamics are. There are variables here in terms of registration rates, participation rates, political dynamics, that might go on in a certain area.

So we're going to do our best to advise you. And yes, there will be -- there'll be some tradeoffs to be

made while respecting the constitutional hierarchy that's
been established in law.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And I have one more follow-

- 4 up then, just for additional clarification. We could be looking at some districts that have a minority-majority
- 6 population, but because the non-minority voters are
- 7 willing to cross over and potentially, vote for that
- 8 minority candidate, even if there is a minority-majority
- 9 population, it may not necessarily signify that this is a
- 10 VRA district?

- MR. BECKER: Right. Thornburg v. Gingles is very
- 12 clear. It doesn't protect minorities -- the Voting
- 13 Rights Act doesn't protect minorities who don't need
- 14 protection. And we judge that based on what has
- 15 happened, historically, in past elections. In
- 16 | California, California is a place that has progressed
- 17 amazingly since 1965, and even since 1980s, I mean,
- 18 | we're -- and there are places where, absolutely, I think
- 19 | it's very likely we'll be able to say: Gingles 1 can be
- 20 met, but Gingles 2 or 3, or in many cases both, aren't.
- 21 And so this is not an area that the Voting Rights
- 22 Act requires a district to be drawn. Does that mean you
- 23 can't draw a district without the other criteria that
- 24 have -- that happens to be majority-minority? No,
- 25 absolutely, you can. You just have to take in the other

1 criteria that's not a racial consideration.

It may be that -- in fact, it may be that it's hard not to draw one, as you take into account the cities, and the counties, and the political boundaries. And that's completely fine. It just means that the Voting Rights Act wasn't the reason that you had to do it. Does that make sense?

- COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.
- 9 MR. BECKER: Okay.

- 10 | COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.
- 11 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Thank you.
- 12 Commissioner Fornaciari.
 - COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. First off, I want to thank you for this conversation, on behalf of the Commission and the people of California. Because we've been at it for fifteen months; we've given numerous presentations, each one of us, and we've talked about the Voting Rights Act, and we still have lots and lots of questions about it. And you know, it's -- even with all the training we've had too, we still have lots and lots of questions.

So I think it's a great conversation that we're having for the people who are involved in this, and in watching this, that they can help -- help them understand what it's all about, and the complexity that we're trying

to deal with here. And so thank you for that.

I think you've kind of already answered this in the questions that Commissioner Akutagawa, and other questions. But when you started, you said that there might be some cases where the minority is forty percent, and there's enough crossover vote to enable them to elect the candidate of their choice. So then that wouldn't qualify as under the -- under Gingles 1?

MR. BECKER: So the level of crossover vote, so remember, we're looking at old districts and old precincts, the level of crossover vote that's -- and by the way, these are all -- we're using statistical methodologies to estimate this, because we don't have everyone's vote.

But we've gotten pretty good at this. So what we're doing is we might find an area where Gingles 1 is met, where Gingles 2 is met, the minority group is cohesive, and Whites are voting 80:20 against the minority candidate of choice. And I'm speaking hypothetically now.

I think one of the things you're all going to really enjoy is, is next week we're going to move from the hypothetical to the practical in a very -- in a really, I hope, useful way. But if it's like 80:20, that's probably still cohesive Gingles 3 polarized voting

1 against the minority candidate of choice.

2.3

Now, however, when we look at some of the precincts and we start drawing which precincts come into a district, we might find precincts where thirty percent of the White population might be more likely to vote instead of ten percent, because we're looking at the overall district, right.

So we might be able to find precincts where it appears the crossover vote is a little bit higher. And so that will help us determine how to draw a district that neither packs nor cracks, because this is really, we're getting back into balancing. Because on the one hand you want to have a district that gives minorities the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice if they're protected under the Voting Rights Act, but you don't want to pack them into a district that might affect their ability to influence or elect district candidates in other districts, neighboring.

And unfortunately, people don't all live in, you know, nice squares that we can just put together like LEGOs. And I hope, hypothetically, that answers your question.

We're going to get into some specifics that I think will be helpful. One of the things, so far, that I've seen, I'll tell you again to tease this out, is there --

- we have not -- it's pretty clear where Gingles 2 and 3 is met, it's pretty clear where either one or both is not met, and there's not very many places where we're having to kind of discuss a potential gray area, which is good news, I think. Because there are some -- you know, if you have enough elections, or not enough elections, you can often get to places where we just don't know what's happening here, really, because we have a long-time incumbent who hasn't had opposition, and you know, something like that.
 - Fortunately, I think we're seeing we're seeing some pretty clear data here that I hope -- hopefully we'll be able to help you -- to help direct you.
- 14 CHAIR SADHWANI: Thank you. Commissioner Yee.

- COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Continuing on the same line of thought, thinking about the remedial phase, let's say we've gotten to a point where we're trying to draw a district. And you mentioned that, of course, there's the CVAP, but then all the other factors registration rates, turnout rates, the degree of racially polarized voting, the crossover vote rate.
- So could you say just a little bit more about how, when we get there, we'll actually -- I mean, we'll actually do the math on all those variables; or how does that work?

MR. BECKER: Yes. There would be a lot of math for you all to do. No the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That may be a good thing.

MR. BECKER: So a lot of that is baked into the racially polarized voting analysis already. So if we need -- and there will be -- there might be times you will have questions, and we need to dig deeper into the numbers to get at some of those things. But there's also going to be times where it's really not that hard, you know.

And I think there's also relevant testimony that might come in, that might help advise us on this. If there are members of the minority community advocacy groups who are saying, you know: We think this is the level at which to set a district here, that's relevant. It's not dispositive, but it's relevant.

And so to be able to get that information, take that in, we'll look at the racially polarized voting analysis, we'll be able to see are -- is there a disparity between the Latino and White voting rates based on historical patterns? We also have the totality of the circumstances we can look at.

And there's broad history in California that we can go to, to look at historical discrimination. There are areas where discrimination, in the last fifty years, has

been -- has had more of a negative effect, has been more
somewhat more prevalent than in other places, and with
regard to different communities, and we can talk about
those things.

- Now, if the Gingles -- three Gingles pre-conditions aren't met, we don't -- we'll need to get into that. But if they are, then we can discuss that a little more to see. Or if there's a -- or if we think it's a, somewhat, gray area and we need something to tip the balance one way or the other, we can discuss that as well.
- COMMISSIONER YEE: So at some point, I guess, we will be trying to construct effective opportunity districts; is that the right way to say it? And is there -- I don't know -- how clearly is that defined? I guess, is what I'm getting at. You know, how do we know when we've created one?
- MR. BECKER: We do the best we can given the data that we have available. So what we'll be looking at is, again, those historical voting rates, precinct-based analysis aggregated up to the existing districts that we have. We will look at -- I mean, we may be able to look at political dynamics.
- There are places where there's something unique to a district that's happening that we want to discuss. There may be candidates that share identity with some of the

1 racial community that end up being outliers. There might

2 | be candidates that appear to share identity with members

- 3 of the minority community, but aren't, and those
- 4 elections might be outliers.
- 5 Again, I hate to be cryptic here, because we will
- 6 talk about this more, once Dr. Gall has completed. But
- 7 | those are all things we'll take a look at. And then
- 8 | we'll do the best we can. And if we're going to err,
- 9 we're probably going to err slightly on the side of
- 10 | making sure that an opportunity to elect is not diluted;
- 11 | but always with that attentiveness to potential packing
- 12 in our mind.
- 13 CHAIR SADHWANI: Commissioner Turner.
- 14 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. I wanted to
- 15 | go back, and you may have said this, but I want to
- 16 | confirm and have it clear in my mind, Mr. Becker. You
- 17 | talked about Gingles does not protect minorities that
- 18 does not need protection, and the voting rights district
- 19 may not be needed based on voting patterns, tracts, all
- 20 of that.
- 21 | I guess in the back of my mind, I'm holding what I
- 22 heard in some of the testimony today that lifted as a
- 23 | flag, one of the visualizations that would, potentially,
- 24 put what was previously a protected area into -- or I
- 25 think it was one of the previous areas, that was a CVAP;

1 you know, that was a protected area, that now, based on

2 our visualization, where actually, was putting it in an

3 area where there were precincts that were voting against

4 minorities.

And so the question I'd have is, is that as we move

6 forward in the process, will there be an opportunity to

7 do kind of like a post-VRA analysis to be sure that our

proposed maps that we're creating won't cause an issue

where there previously wasn't one?

10 | So I know you're doing analysis with -- based on

11 | what's going on now, and I would -- wanting us to be

12 | cautious. That that intrigued me, that says that one of

13 our proposals, based on voting patterns actually would

14 draw in districts that was, intentionally, voting against

15 minority voters.

16 MR. BECKER: So yeah. That's actually a really good

17 question. So first of all, I should be clear, the Voting

18 Rights Act always protects minority voters. In the

19 redistricting context it requires the three pre-

20 | conditions before a particular minority population in a

21 particular area requires a district to be drawn where

22 they have the opportunity to elect. So we're really just

23 talking about how it works in redistricting here.

24 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh.

25 MR. BECKER: I wouldn't call it post-analysis. I

- 1 | think we're doing -- we're going to be doing that as we
- 2 | go to make sure. I would be very surprised if you didn't
- 3 get submissions, or comments, that might have been
- 4 directed at a particular location, unintentionally, but
- 5 | would have Voting Rights Act implications, if applied
- 6 without further balancing.
- 7 I guarantee you, you've had some had something like
- 8 | that, that that's absolutely happened. So I think when
- 9 | we're -- when you all are giving instructions to the line
- 10 drawers, after the advice that we're going to be able to
- 11 give you, we should absolutely consider that. And you
- 12 | should be asking us to do this along the way.
- 13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh.
- MR. BECKER: You know, take a look at -- one of the
- 15 things we know, not all minority populations, even within
- 16 | a particular minority group, are the same throughout
- 17 | California or throughout a region. Not all White voters
- 18 are the same throughout California or throughout a
- 19 region.
- 20 So there are different precincts, there are
- 21 different areas that might vote in different ways. And
- 22 | we're going to do our best to give you advice on that,
- 23 because the main goal of the Voting Rights Act, once
- 24 | we've determined that protections apply to a particular
- 25 | community, is that we do our best to draw a district that

gives them the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

And so we're going to need to constantly ask those questions. My guess is there might even be the point in time where we're getting down to a very granular level on the data to see what, you know, what's best here, how can -- you know, what particular precincts and census blocs are we going to include to also give as much weight as possible to other redistricting principles, while maintaining the Voting Rights Act?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah.

MR. BECKER: The primacy of the Voting Rights Act over those other redistricting principles.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. And if you'll allow me a little bit more on that. So I'm saying "post", and yes I think -- and I know we want to do that as we go along, but I know we'll get to a point where we'll be grabbing population to balance out on districts. And as we're grabbing populations, I won't have the voting history analysis based on who I'm grabbing, necessarily.

And so I'm saying "post", so that as we're balancing out numbers, if I'm pulling numbers out of a district that has a voting history one particular way, will I know it? Or will that automatically flag somewhat?

MR. BECKER: So as we're doing that, you can always

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1 get the demographics, which will be helpful because we're
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- going to have some -- we'll have a pretty good idea of
- 3 | what voting looks like within certain areas, and the
- 4 precinct geography in the census geography doesn't always
- 5 align. In fact, it rarely aligns, if I'm remembering
- 6 correctly. So you're going to be looking predominantly
- 7 | the census geography, because that's going to have the
- 8 best demographics. The precinct lines are going to be
- 9 redrawn once you draw the districts.
- But we'll do our best to give that to you. I mean,
- 11 | if there's, you know, it's conceivable there might be an
- 12 | area with a minority population in the middle, and on one
- 13 end there is a White population that is a little more
- 14 prone to crossover voting. And on the other end, there's
- 15 | a White population that's less prone to crossover voting.
- 16 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
- MR. BECKER: And I hope we'll be able to give that
- 18 to you based on the analysis that we've run. And does
- 19 | that -- is that the kind of question you're asking?
- 20 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.
- 21 MR. BECKER: Okay. Yeah.
- 22 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Thank you.
- 23 CHAIR SADHWANI: Great. Commissioner Toledo.
- COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. One of the -- I
- 25 | guess my question is, in the past you've mentioned how

- 1 diverse California is, and just the dynamics in
- 2 California a little bit different than the rest of the
- 3 | country. And so one of the questions I have around
- 4 crossover is, in districts where -- and we have seen
- 5 quite a -- couple of districts where their
- 6 majority/minority almost -- and actually the districts
- 7 | are almost, very few White voters are in them, right?
- 8 MR. BECKER: Uh-huh.
- 9 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: We have very few. So when it
- 10 comes to those districts, is crossover voting still -- is
- 11 | it the nonprotected? I guess, how do we calculate
- 12 | crossover voting?
- MR. BECKER: Yeah. We've had --
- 14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Is it the White voters not
- 15 | voting for the minorities? Or is it the nonprotected
- 16 minorities; are those factored in as well?
- 17 | MR. BECKER: So this is -- and we've talked about
- 18 | this a little bit before, the Supreme Court has not
- 19 definitively ruled on this, but I think it's pretty
- 20 | clear, that if a particular single minority group
- 21 satisfies the Gingles preconditions in totality of the
- 22 circumstances, they're entitled to the protections of the
- 23 Voting Rights Act, and an attempt to draw a district that
- 24 would enable them to elect a candidate of their choice.
- 25 If the rest of the population in that district is

- multiracial in a different group, and they are voting cohesively against that candidate of choice, I believe
- 3 that satisfies the third Gingles precondition.
- 4 And I think the -- I think that the massive weight
- 5 of the law is in favor of that. And so it might be that
- 6 minority group A satisfies Gingles 1 and Gingles 2. And
- 7 minority groups B, C and the White community all don't
- 8 vote for the minority A candidate. Maybe they vote for
- 9 different candidates, but they don't vote for the
- 10 minority A candidate; then, I think that -- I think that
- 11 | satisfies Gingles 3, and entitles them to protections
- 12 | under the Voting Rights Act.
- In which case, we would then look at the voting
- 14 patterns to see, in the remedial phase, as Commissioner
- 15 Yee was mentioning, in the remedial phase: What do we
- 16 have to draw to give effect to the protections that they
- 17 enjoy under the Voting Rights Act?
- 18 And then we are going to get into some -- I can tell
- 19 | you the analysis we have, it looks at Latino vote, Black
- 20 vote, Asian vote, White vote, separately. So we're going
- 21 to have an idea of that. And there are places where the
- 22 White vote and the minority vote, is very cohesive
- 23 together.
- It's kind of exactly what, you know, many of us hope
- 25 | the Voting Rights Act would lead to. People are voting

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1 for candidates based on merit, not based on race; there
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- 2 | are other places where that's true; but there are places
- 3 | where minority group B might vote with minority group A
- 4 | pretty regularly, but minority group C and the White
- 5 community are voting in a different way. And we'll have
- 6 to take that into account.
- 7 And we'll give you that advice. We will get into
- 8 that level of detail, probably in closed session, because
- 9 like it's really detailed in some of these areas. Where
- 10 | we can we're going to try to do this in open session as
- 11 | much as possible. And I think I think that -- I think a
- 12 lot of that will be able to be done in open session.
- 13 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Appreciate that; great
- 14 explanation.
- 15 CHAIR SADHWANI: Very good. Any final comments,
- 16 questions, or direction to line drawers?
- 17 | With that, we will not be taking public comment at
- 18 | this time. We're going to hold that -- oh.
- 19 Commissioner Sinay. Sorry about that. Always
- 20 having the last word.
- 21 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No. You will have the last
- 22 word.
- 23 CHAIR SADHWANI: All right, okay.
- COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just, Andrew, when we're
- 25 | looking -- I think, Andrew, you're doing San Diego. When

- 1 | we're looking at parts of the east county, especially El
- 2 | Cajon, can we try to -- there're the hills and then
- 3 | there's the valley in El Cajon, and that's why it's
- 4 | called "a drawer", "El Cajon". And if there's a way
- 5 to -- I don't know if you can figure out where the lines
- 6 are, or if we need to put it out there for the public,
- 7 | for the public to share with us how they define "the
- 8 hills" versus "the valley"? I think demographically
- 9 they'll definitely be wealthier individuals live in the
- 10 hills and the valley.
- MR. DRECHSLER: Yes, we will definitely look at
- 12 | that. And if there's clarification that we need, we will
- 13 | come back to you during tomorrow's session and ask for
- 14 that clarification.
- 15 | COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. And one of the hard
- 16 things is that is the second largest Chaldean Community.
- 17 But as we know, Middle Eastern communities don't have --
- 18 don't show up on the census. So just using demographics
- 19 | that say "White" isn't going to -- doesn't give the full
- 20 picture.
- 21 MR. DRECHSLER: Okay.
- 22 CHAIR SADHWANI: I think on that, we've received a
- 23 fair amount of communities of interest testimony in
- 24 | identifying some of those communities, yeah. So we can
- 25 probably rely on that.

| 1 | With that, this brings our day to a close. Behind |
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| 2 | the scenes this afternoon, Andrew, from our staff has |
| 3 | been taking notes. In the past we have read those notes |
| 4 | out in live session. We're actually going to hold on |
| 5 | that. We're going to switch up that format just a little |
| 6 | bit, and on Saturday we'll be reviewing the written |
| 7 | notes. They will be posted on our website. And we will |
| 8 | be taking a motion to approve them on Saturday. |
| 9 | With that, we are in recess until tomorrow morning. |
| 10 | Thanks, everybody. Have a good night. |
| 11 | (Whereupon, the District Map Input Meeting |
| 12 | adjourned at 6:00 p.m.) |
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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.

May 18, 2023

DELORIS GAUNTLETT, CDLT-257