

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:
PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Transcription By:
eScribers, LLC



APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

Pedro Toledo, Chair (Moderator)
Russell Yee, Co-Chair (Moderator)
Isra Ahmad, Commissioner
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Alicia Fernandez, Commissioner
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
J. Kennedy, Commissioner
Antonio Le Mons, Commissioner
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
Angela Vazquez, Commissioner

STAFF

Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director
Katy Manoff, Comment Moderator

LINE DRAWING TEAM

Haystaq DNA
Q2 Data & Research, LLC

Also PresentPUBLIC COMMENT

Nicole Franklin, BWOPA, Black Women Organized for
Political Action
Robert Kahn
Jeremy Payne, Equality California
Debra Conwiner
Unidentified speaker (Caller 0-0-5)
Alfred Chiu
Susannah Meyer, Brentwood City Council Member
Hannah Smith
Edi Birsan, Council Member, City of Concord
Vicky Gordon
L.J. Butler, Oakland Rising
Ian Monroe
Peter Van Meter
Mike Ai, Equality California
Unidentified speaker (Caller 6-3-5-1)
Joshua Stickney, Equality California
Caroline Love

PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.)

Satinder Malhi

Peter Kearnon

Dominique Donette, California Hawaii State Conference
NAACP

Vicky Nichols

Chala Bonner, Manager, Safe Return Project

Jesse Farley

Unidentified speaker (caller 9-7-4-9)

Unidentified speaker (caller 5-3-8-4)

Mr. Scott

Taylor Sims, Special Projects Coordinator, Lift Up Contra
Costa

Jonathan Baier

Debra Vinson, Chair, East Contra Costa Democratic Club
(called twice)

Unidentified speaker (caller 3-6-0-5)

Unidentified speaker (caller 1-0-6-6)

Chris Bowman, Election Task Force San Francisco in 1995

Camilla Holly

Unidentified speaker (Caller 3-9-6-0)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 July 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

3 CHAIR TOLEDO: Good morning, California and the Bay
4 Area. Buenos dias. Welcome and thank you for tuning in
5 to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission
6 Communities of Interest Input Meeting. I am Commissioner
7 Toledo, and I will be co-chairing today's meeting with
8 Commissioner Russell Mark Yee. With that, I'd like to
9 ask Ms. Kaplan to take roll call.

10 MS. KAPLAN: Good morning, Commissioners.

11 Start with Commissioner Ahmad.

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

13 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Akutagawa?

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

15 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Andersen?

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

17 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Fernandez?

18 Commissioner Fornaciari?

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'm here.

20 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Kennedy?

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

22 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Le Mons?

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

24 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Sadhwani?

25 Commissioner Sinay?

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Presente.

2 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Taylor?

3 Commissioner Toledo?

4 CHAIR TOLEDO: Here.

5 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Turner?

6 Commissioner Vazquez?

7 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

8 MS. KAPLAN: Commissioner Yee?

9 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

10 MS. KAPLAN: Chair, roll call is complete.

11 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Ms. Kaplan.

12 I will start by sharing about the Commission. Every
13 10 years after the federal government publishes updated
14 Census information, California must redraw the boundaries
15 of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and
16 State Board of Equalization districts, so that the
17 districts correctly reflect the state population.

18 In 2008, California voters authorized the creation
19 of the Commission when they passed the Voters FIRST Act.
20 It authorized the Commission to draw the new district
21 lines for State Senate, State Assembly, and the State
22 Board of Equalization districts. In 2010, a
23 Congressional Voters FIRST Act added the responsibility
24 of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission.

25 The fourteen-member Commission is made up of five

1 Republicans, five Democrats, and four not affiliated with
2 either of those parties. The Commission must draw
3 district lines in conformity with very strict,
4 nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of
5 relatively equal proportion, that will provide fair
6 representation for all Californians.

7 When we receive Census data, the Commission begins
8 drawing maps using six line-drawing criteria as outlined
9 in the California Constitution. One of these is
10 minimizing divisions of counties, cities, neighborhoods,
11 and communities of interest to the extent possible.

12 We can obtain the city and county information from
13 those jurisdictions. But we need the neighborhood and
14 communities of interest information from Californians
15 directly. That's why we have launched these communities
16 of input sessions, to get that valuable information from
17 you directly. We encourage all Californians to
18 participate in this process.

19 If you would rather submit your community of
20 interest input over the internet, you can do so from our
21 website by visiting drawmycacommunity.org. And, of
22 course, you can skip the line and go online.

23 Now I will call on all Commissioners to introduce
24 themselves and to say hello. To see the biographies of
25 all fourteen Commissioners or for additional information

1 or to sign up for our emails, please visit our website at
2 wedrawthelinesca.org.

3 Please also follow the California Citizens
4 Redistricting Commission on social media. You can find
5 us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and
6 YouTube. Our handle is wedrawthelinesca. There, you
7 will find a lot of useful information about the
8 redistricting process and updates from the Commission.

9 We begin with my co-Chair, Commissioner Yee.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Zǎoshang, Bay Area. Good
11 morning. I'm looking forward to hearing from you all
12 today. I'm here in my hometown of Oakland, where my
13 family has been for over a century. In that time,
14 Oakland has given the world Corn Nuts, Jelly Belly, Rocky
15 Road ice cream, popsicles, and The Wave.

16 CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Ahmad?

17 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Good morning, everyone. And
18 thank you for joining us today for our Bay Area focused
19 input meeting. I'm very excited to learn more about my
20 own surrounding communities from all of you.

21 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

22 Commissioner Akutagawa?

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Hi, good morning California
24 and the Bay Area. I'm Linda Akutagawa. I am from
25 southern California, born and raised in the east San

1 Gabriel Valley, and now living in Orange County. But I
2 feel like the Bay Area is a part of my overall family
3 history, as I have lots of family that live in the area.
4 So looking forward to hearing about the greater Bay Area.

5 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

6 Commissioner Jane Andersen?

7 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Good morning, California.
8 Good morning, Bay Area. My name is Jane Andersen, and I
9 actually live in Berkeley. So I'm looking forward to
10 hearing this morning from all different people in the Bay
11 Area, and anyone else who would like to call in from
12 California. Thank you.

13 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

14 Commissioner Fernandez?

15 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: (Introduction in Spanish
16 language.)

17 Good morning, California, especially those in the
18 Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo,
19 Santa Clara, and Solano counties. I come to you from
20 your neighbor, Yolo County and Clarksburg. And I'm
21 excited to hear about all of your communities.

22 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

23 Commissioner Fornaciari?

24 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good morning, California
25 and the Bay Area. I'm Neal Fornaciari, born and raised

1 in Alameda County. I live in San Joaquin County, in
2 Tracy now. I'm really interested to hear what's
3 important to you today. Thanks for joining us.

4 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commission Fornaciari.
5 Commissioner Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Good morning, everyone. I'm
7 coming to you from Morongo Valley in rural San Bernadino
8 County. We're one of the Joshua Tree Gateway
9 communities. Looking forward to hearing what your
10 community has that makes it very special to you. Thank
11 you so much.

12 CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Le Mons?

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Buenos dias. Good morning,
14 California. I'm Commissioner Antonio Le Mons, and I
15 split my time between Los Angeles and Riverside counties.
16 I'm coming to you today from lovely Rancho Mirage, where
17 there is a mild 97 summer degrees. I look forward to
18 hearing from everyone in the -- I'm sure, cooler Bay Area
19 today; and welcome.

20 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.

21 Commissioner Sadhwani?

22 Commissioner Patricia Sinay?

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: (Introduction in Spanish
24 language.)

25 Hello everyone, especially those from one of the

1 four areas I called home, and everyone in California. It
2 is an honor to serve you from San Diego. I'm Patricia
3 Sinay.

4 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

5 Commissioner Taylor?

6 Commissioner Turner?

7 Commissioner Vazquez?

8 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Good morning, California. So
9 glad to be here today, and ready to hear about your
10 communities.

11 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Vazquez.

12 And I am Pedro Toledo. I will be co-chairing
13 today's meeting. As mentioned earlier, I was born in
14 Berkeley, raised in the city of Alameda, and currently
15 live in Petaluma, California. And I'm so thrilled to be
16 here this morning, and to share this morning and
17 afternoon with you and the rest of my colleagues. And
18 looking forward to hearing about your testimony.

19 The meeting is primarily focused on the counties of
20 Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo,
21 Santa Clara, and Solano counties and surrounding areas.
22 However, anyone in California can call in to provide
23 input. General public input will take place at the end
24 of the meeting.

25 Today, we are joined by our Line Drawing Team



1 Haystaq DNA and Q2 Data & Research, who will be
2 displaying a map of the areas that attendees describe.
3 Please start with the area you would like to discuss, and
4 be as specific as possible about the boundaries of where
5 your community is located. It is our goal to find the
6 area on the map that you would like to discuss prior to
7 your testimony. If you are within a specific
8 neighborhood or a large city, please mention it by name.
9 Once we are able to locate your area, your three-minute
10 timer will begin. Attendees will not be able to share
11 their screen.

12 We are also joined by Katy, our comment moderator,
13 who will be introducing attendees when it is their turn.
14 When you join the meeting, please use the Raise Hand
15 button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue.
16 If you have registered for a timeslot, we encourage you
17 to call in during your appointment timeslot. When it is
18 your turn to speak, Katy, our comment moderator, will be
19 identifying you by your assigned unique ID number. You
20 will be reconnected to the session with the ability to
21 enable your own video and/or audio.

22 The comment moderator will assign you a speaker
23 order number before you begin speaking, and please make a
24 note of this for future reference. You will be able to
25 use this number to identify your community of interest



1 testimony on our website on a future date.

2 The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time
3 limit. There will be a warning at thirty seconds and at
4 fifteen seconds.

5 At the beginning of your input, you will see a map
6 on the screen. Please remind the mapper what area you
7 would like to see on your screen, and be as specific as
8 possible about the boundaries of where your community is
9 located.

10 Registration is not required to participate in this
11 public input meeting. The public has the option of
12 calling in during this meeting to get in the queue to
13 speak. The call-in information and access code is listed
14 on the livestream.

15 With that, Katy, can you please open up the --

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: Good morning. Yes, Chair.

17 CHAIR TOLEDO: -- or I've given instructions to the
18 public actually.

19 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. Good morning.

20 CHAIR TOLEDO: Good morning.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Welcome to the public input
22 session. Please use the Raise Hand button at the bottom
23 of your screen to enter the queue. When it is your turn
24 to speak, you will be identified by your assigned unique
25 ID number, which you were emailed yesterday. You will be

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

6 The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time
7 limit. There will be a warning at thirty seconds and
8 fifteen seconds remaining.

9 It is the Commission's goal to find the area on the
10 map that you would like to discuss prior to your
11 testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood or
12 a large city, please mention it by name. Once we are
13 able to locate your area, your three-minute testimony
14 will begin.

15 Attendees will not be able to share their screen.
16 At the end of your public input, or at the end of your
17 time, you will be reconnected in a listen and view-only
18 mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind the
19 mapper of what area you would like to see.

20 And I invite -- actually, I'm just going to do it
21 this way. 0-1-4, and up next will be 0-0-4. Right now
22 will be 0-1-4, and up next will be 0-0-4.

23 0-1-4, I will be promoting you now. 0-1-4, your
24 speaker order number will be number 1. Good morning. I
25 have a couple of brief instructions. If you'll just make

1 note that your speaker order number is number 1. And if
2 you'll please remind the mapper of the area you would
3 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

4 MS. FRANKLIN: Good morning. My name is Nicole
5 Franklin (ph.), calling on behalf of BWOPA. And the area
6 I'm calling about is east Oakland; boundary from Lake
7 Merritt down to the Oakland Airport. Also, east up to
8 580, and then down to the Oakland/San Leandro border.

9 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead please.

10 MS. FRANKLIN: Yes. My name is Nicole Franklin. My
11 pronouns are she/her. I'm calling on behalf of east
12 Oakland, as well as the organization Black Women
13 Organized for Political Action, or BWOPA. The mission of
14 our organization is promote, support, and educate African
15 American women about the political process, encourage
16 involvement, and to affirm our commitment in solving
17 those problems affecting African American in the Bay Area
18 and throughout California.

19 Founded in 1968, we are a statewide, nonprofit
20 advocacy and membership organization with nine chapters
21 and over 2,000 members. We held one community of
22 interest session, we emailed, and made phone calls to
23 various community groups and individuals. Our meeting
24 drew nine community members. Some of those members were
25 longtime residents of both east Oakland and west Oakland.

1 With the increase in gentrification, migration out
2 of the Bay Area, voter suppression tactics, BWOPA wants
3 to uplift our community to ensure that they are aware of
4 the redistricting process, that our voices are being
5 heard to ensure that we have strong representation in the
6 U.S. Congress and at all levels of government.

7 African Americans have lived in east Oakland since
8 the 1940s due to being pushed out of other areas of the
9 city and because of redline laws that did not allow
10 Blacks to live in the surrounding east Bay cities. With
11 the recent skyrocketing housing prices, disinvestment in
12 east Oakland, east Oakland residents have been quickly
13 losing basic services and economic opportunity.

14 To ensure that these areas receive the federal and
15 state fundings that it needs to rebound, it is important
16 to keep all of east Oakland and I would also add west
17 Oakland together.

18 On behalf of BWOPA I want to thank you for your
19 time, and hope that you vote to keep east Oakland
20 together. Thank you.

21 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

22 COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now will be 0-0-4, and up
23 next will be 0-0-7.

24 0-0-4, I will be promoting you now. 0-0-4, your
25 speaker order number is number 2. If you'll please make

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

5 MR. KAHN: Yes. I want to speak -- my name is
6 Robert Kahn (ph.). I'd like to speak specifically about
7 the border between Contra Costa County and Alameda
8 County, at the Caldecott Tunnel, between Orinda and
9 Berkeley; yes, that's -- right exactly there. That's
10 precisely correct where the tunnel is, exactly. Thank
11 you.

12 As I said, my name is Robert Kahn. I'm a resident
13 of Walnut Creek, and I'm calling about north Alameda and
14 west Contra Costa counties. I'm calling to inform the
15 Commission about how the Caldecott Tunnel serves as a
16 major dividing line between Berkeley and Oakland on one
17 side, and Orinda, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek on the
18 other. This issue is surely familiar to Commissioners
19 Yee, Turner, and Andersen, but probably less so to the
20 others.

21 I've lived in Walnut Creek on the east side of the
22 Caldecott Tunnel for 42 years. But during that time, I
23 worked in Berkeley on the west side of the tunnel. The
24 tunnel runs through the hills that divide our two
25 regions, connecting Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

1 Anyone who drives through this tunnel will tell you
2 how different one side feels from the other. On the east
3 side, the towns are suburban, a contrast to the much more
4 urban Berkeley and Oakland cities. As a consequence,
5 specific issues, schools, roads, congestion that confront
6 the two regions are quite different. Indeed, the two
7 sides of the Caldecott Tunnel are even in different
8 climate zones. During the summer it is not uncommon for
9 Walnut Creek to be thirty degrees warmer than it is in
10 Berkeley.

11 Other than traveling through the tunnel to see
12 family, we do all our shopping and go to a workout club
13 in the suburban towns in the east of the tunnel.

14 I ask the Commission to please draw the cities of
15 west Contra Costa County including Orinda, Lafayette,
16 Moraga, and Walnut Creek in the legislative district
17 separate from our neighbors in Berkeley and Oakland. We
18 are two separate sets of communities divided by the
19 Caldecott Tunnel and by the border between Alameda and
20 Contra Costa counties. Thank you.

21 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

22 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

23 Right now is 0-0-7, and up next will be 0-0-5.

24 0-0-7, I will be promoting you now. 0-0-7, your
25 speaker order number will be number 3. If you'll please

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

6 MR. PAYNE: Hi there, thank you. This is Jeremy
7 Payne for Equality California. I feel like I'm traveling
8 up the State of California with all the Commissioners
9 here. Again, I'm with Equality California, the nation's
10 largest statewide LGBTQ-plus civil rights organization.

11 I'm going to be talking about the East Bay region.
12 So south Contra Costa County and northern Alameda County,
13 kind of bordering -- actually, okay -- the city of El
14 Cerrito to the north, heading all the way down to
15 northern Oakland. Yes, so that kind of swath right
16 there.

17 And so -- yes, before I begin I just want to thank
18 you again for taking an interest in our LGBTQ-plus
19 community. We have over 154,000 members in Zone C and,
20 of course, hundreds of thousands of members across the
21 state of California. And as I'm sure you know by now,
22 Equality California is engaged in the redistricting
23 process to ensure fair representation for the LGBTQ-plus
24 community.

25 And we have identified through our robust data set a

1 significant geographically specific LGBTQ-plus community
2 in Zone C that is kind of outside of the traditional San
3 Francisco area. And that, of course, is here in the East
4 Bay region, stretching from the city of El Cerrito in the
5 north, and kind of traveling down south to Albany,
6 Berkeley, Emeryville, and northern and eastern Oakland
7 including the downtown of Oakland by Lake Merritt.

8 All these regions have a history of voting
9 cohesively to elect candidates of choice, and that
10 includes both members of the LGBTQ-plus community and
11 officials who have been consistently responsive to our
12 LGBTQ-plus community needs as well.

13 This region, and the LGBTQ-plus community of
14 interest that represents this area, has historically been
15 represented by the 9th Senate District, the 13th
16 Congressional District, and two Assembly districts, the
17 15th and the 18th. And the representatives of these
18 districts were elected by the LGBTQ-plus community of
19 interest, which is growing and thriving in this
20 community. It's the same LGBTQ-plus community of
21 interest that has elected diverse LGBTQ-plus leaders
22 locally in the cities of El Cerrito, Berkeley,
23 Emeryville, and Oakland.

24 And this kind of just goes to show some of the
25 cohesive voting patterns of LGBTQ-plus representation in

1 communities, as well as paving the way for LGBTQ-plus
2 representation that truly reflects the diversity of the
3 LGBTQ-plus community.

4 I just wanted to identify this not so commonly
5 thought of LGBTQ-plus community of interest, and to thank
6 you for your time, and to say I look forward to having
7 future conversations as we continue to go through our
8 data set. Thank you so much, and have a great rest of
9 your day.

10 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

11 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

12 Right now is 0-0-3, and then up next will be 0-1-5.

13 0-0-3, I will be promoting you now. 0-0-3, your
14 speaker order number will be number 4. If you will
15 please make note of that for future reference. You can
16 now enable your audio and video in the lower left corner
17 of your screen. And if you will remind the mapper of
18 what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is
19 yours.

20 MS. CONWINER: Hi. I'm Deborah Conwiner (ph.), and
21 I'm calling specifically about the border between Orinda
22 and Berkeley.

23 COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

24 MS. CONWINER: Okay. Hi. I'm a resident of Orinda,
25 and I'm calling about the cities of Orinda, Moraga,

1 Lafayette, Berkeley, Oakland, and Richmond. And I'm
2 calling to ask the Commission to draw the cities of
3 Lamorinda into a separate district from Berkeley,
4 Oakland, and Richmond.

5 Years ago, when my husband and I moved back to the
6 Bay Area from the East Coast, we wanted to live in a
7 suburban area to raise our family. I attended UC
8 Berkeley, but we chose Orinda because we wanted somewhere
9 with more space and a neighborhood that was less dense.
10 Berkeley and Oakland have five to six times the amount of
11 people per square mile than Orinda, and a housing stock
12 that is four to five times older. Orinda fit better with
13 what we were looking for.

14 In 2019, the San Francisco Chronicle summed up about
15 how we feel about our community, quote, To describe
16 Orinda as succinctly as possible: It's over the hill,
17 through the Caldecott, and a world away from the noise,
18 chaos, and bustle of the cities like Oakland along the
19 Bay.

20 One of my sons played Lacrosse in high school, and
21 his team, Miramonte, completed in the Diablo Valley
22 Athletic League against other high schools in suburban
23 Contra Costa. We rarely crossed county lines for our
24 sports competitions.

25 I hope I've been able to illustrate for the

1 Commission how the suburban communities of Lamorinda have
2 interests that are distinct from the urban cities of
3 Berkeley and Oakland, and we would like to be represented
4 by someone who understands our unique needs, and we ask
5 that you draw us into separate districts. Thank you so
6 much for your time.

7 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

8 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

9 Right now is 0-0-5, and then up next will be 0-1-5.

10 0-0-5, I will be promoting you now. 0-0-5, your
11 speaker order number will be number 5. If you will
12 please make note of that for future reference. And if
13 you'll please let the mapper know what area you would
14 like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. Yes, I would like to
16 discuss east Contra Costa County. I am in Brentwood,
17 California. Yes, right there and a little bit to your
18 east. Yeah, that area right there.

19 And I'm calling because we go really, really far out
20 to the east currently, and I think that one of the big
21 attributes that we have in our area is the Delta. We are
22 splitting up the Delta into many little small parts
23 currently, and I think we need them to be more cohesive,
24 brought together. We're seeing a lot of issues with
25 Delta issues and, you know, water being diverted, and

1 things along that line. And you know, increased salt
2 levels. We need a greater focus on the Delta.

3 So I would like for it to be more north than it is
4 right now. I don't know if you can look up north. Right
5 now, we don't include a lot of the areas that go over
6 Antioch and Pittsburg, or up to Rio Vista. So I think
7 that we need a stronger voice for the Delta. It is such
8 an important and natural resource that we cannot lose
9 sight of that.

10 The other thing about the area out here is that
11 we're really big on outdoor areas. So we have a lot of
12 outdoor regional parks. You know, we use the Delta for
13 recreation. So that's another thing that we need to
14 focus.

15 I'd also like to include more areas of Antioch and
16 Pittsburg. We have seen a huge growth out in east Contra
17 Costa County over the ten years. I personally moved here
18 from east Oakland -- someone else spoke about east
19 Oakland. And we moved out here just for a slower pace of
20 life, and we're seeing increased traffic. So we haven't
21 actually addressed the infrastructure with the growth.
22 We need a strong voice for that.

23 We also need to work on having cities have control
24 over their growth. Sacramento is sending a lot of rules
25 and regulations. You are probably familiar with 89,

1 where they're demanding growth. But no one is addressing
2 things like the roads or the schools. Our schools are
3 being impacted as well, like we're seeing all over
4 California. And all we're doing is adding portables.

5 So we need to make sure that we have strong voices
6 that address the growth and the infrastructure that is
7 going with that. Agriculture too; we have a very strong
8 agricultural history out here, and we're seeing it
9 diminished. We're seeing it being built over, which is
10 just not the right thing to do.

11 So we need to find a district that is really going
12 to protect our agriculture. We cannot afford to lose any
13 more acreage to companies that want to just come build
14 homes. We really need to make sure that we have these
15 resources left for future residents.

16 In the beginning, I didn't introduce myself. I'm
17 actually a newly elected Brentwood councilperson. I've
18 never been involved in politics before, but I am here
19 today, representing the Alliance for a Better Brentwood.
20 We actually beat a measure, measure L, in 2019, that
21 wanted to expand our --

22 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- by 2,400 square feet. We
24 showed up with forty percent turnout during a special
25 election, which was double the usual of special elections

1 with strong voices to hold growth, and listen to
2 residents when it comes to buildup.

3 Thank you so much for all the work that you're
4 doing. I know it's a lot. I appreciate it.

5 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Councilwoman.

6 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

7 Right now will be 0-1-5, and up next will be 0-0-2.
8 And I would like to invite 0-0-6, 0-1-1, and 0-1-3, to
9 use the Raise your Hand button at the bottom of your
10 screen to enter the comment queue, as you have
11 appointments for this session. And once we are done with
12 the appointments for this session, we will be moving on
13 to the callers. And we appreciate your presence.

14 0-0-2, I will be promoting you now. 0-0-2, your
15 speaker order number will be number 6. If you will
16 please make note of that for future reference. You can
17 now enable your audio and video in the lower left corner
18 of your screen. And if you will please remind the mapper
19 of what area you would like to discuss today, the floor
20 is yours.

21 MR. CHIU: Hi, good morning. My name is Alfred Chiu
22 (ph.). I live in Berkeley, California. I would like to
23 discuss the Alameda County area, yes.

24 First, like so many others have said, there is a
25 huge difference between the inner side of the East Bay

1 Hills versus everything east of the Caldecott Tunnel. So
2 I just want to echo that as well.

3 The second thing I want to mention is that right now
4 the East Bay is kind of split between the 15th and 18th
5 Assembly Districts. And one of the consequences of that
6 is that we've got a couple of clusters of Asian American
7 population, one of them near UC Berkeley in Berkeley, and
8 the other one near Oakland Chinatown in downtown Oakland,
9 just south of the lake, that are currently divided into
10 two different Assembly districts. And it would be great
11 if in the next round of districting those two could be
12 brought together, so that we could have more of a
13 representation in that area.

14 As far as other Asian American clusters, if you go
15 further south into the southern part of Alameda County
16 areas like Fremont, Union City, but nowadays also we've
17 seen more Asian Americans moving into places like Dublin,
18 Pleasanton as well. And this community also crosses
19 south into Santa Clara County, which is reflected in how
20 the 25th District is currently drawn right now. So that
21 is a cluster that should be kept as well. Thank you.

22 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

23 Right now we have 0-1-5, and up next will be 0-1-0.
24 And again, I would like to invite 0-0-6 and 0-0-8 to use
25 your Raise your Hand button at the bottom of your screen

1 to enter the comment queue.

2 0-1-5, I will be promoting you now. 0-1-5, your
3 speaker order number will be number 7. If you will
4 please make note of that for future reference. And if
5 you will please let the mapper know what area you would
6 like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

7 MS. MEYER: Good morning. Forgive me for sounding
8 sick. I am representing far east Contra Costa County
9 into your Brentwood area, specifically. There we go,
10 that'll do.

11 My name is Susannah Meyer. I am also a Brentwood
12 City Council member. I'm a third generation California-
13 born. And my day job is actually working for the State
14 Senate. I'm a representative for the entire east and far
15 east Contra Costa County. And of course, I just
16 mentioned my night job is as a Brentwood City Council
17 member.

18 In previous work I worked for a very well-known
19 nonprofit, representing the entire east county, and
20 working to understand the needs of seniors in this area.
21 So with those three different roles I'd had a very good
22 opportunity to understand the needs, the stakeholders,
23 the community leaders, the social service situations with
24 the entire east Contra Costa County area. So I feel like
25 I'm experienced enough to be able to speak about that.

1 I would say that one of the things we all really
2 need to understand about this area is that, as a previous
3 speaker noted, we've had incredible and very, very fast
4 growth. The social services in this area have not kept
5 up with the needs of the people in our towns. I would
6 also agree that living along the Delta, we need to
7 understand the needs of that; the tunnel and the water.

8 We are currently in District 9 also supporting
9 Stockton, but I would say I don't believe that Stockton
10 is in the same situation when it comes to socioeconomics.
11 And the town that I represent, and the cities that are
12 surrounding for us, we're a variety of cultures and
13 political beliefs, and religions, ages, economic levels.
14 But we are united and known as east and far east Contra
15 Costa County.

16 District 9 does not currently include Pittsburg and
17 Bay Point, but the way our social services work, the way
18 the Delta works to support us in the economics and the
19 community, the culture, the traffic, the infrastructure.
20 All of those things, I believe, should be included into
21 one.

22 I would actually love to see the area such as all
23 those little small Delta towns, Rio Vista, included in
24 this district as well as we are united around that. We
25 are a community that loves our outdoor sports. We love

1 our boating and our hiking. We have our Mount Diablo
2 views, and our Delta waters, and our East Bay breezes,
3 and our heat from the Valley. We do hike and boat, and
4 we all commute along Freeways that are congested. Our
5 kids go to schools that are overpopulated.

6 I would like to see us working together as a voice
7 for east and far east county and potentially, like I
8 said, expand into other communities that are impacted and
9 along the Delta. We as a whole have moved to this area
10 to get away from some of that really intense --

11 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12 MS. MEYER: -- and fast-paced Bay Area lifestyle.
13 And I think that unites us as well. It's something we
14 need to keep an understanding of. And I would say that
15 one of the other things that we unite as a voice over is
16 agricultural and open space protection.

17 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

18 MS. MEYER: It is important for our communities.
19 Thank you very much for everything, and for allowing us a
20 voice --

21 CHAIR TOLEDO: Sorry to interrupt, Councilwoman.
22 Can you please specify a little bit more about which
23 Delta towns you would want to include with your
24 communities? Just specifically which ones.

25 MS. MEYER: Sure. I think I would -- yes, Rio

1 Vista, Isleton, Locke. I would forget some of the names.
2 I take that drive all the time. I don't think we need to
3 go super far up there, because Sacramento is a different
4 community.

5 But like Locke, Rio Vista, there are communities
6 that are right along, right on the other side of the
7 bridge over Antioch, over -- and they go into the
8 Sacramento River over the Delta. So it's right on the
9 other side of the bridge that those communities are
10 sitting. Yeah, you can see that -- Rio Vista and
11 Isleton.

12 And we're already -- Bethel Island is part of it
13 too. As you can see, that all kind of works around the
14 same line along the Delta.

15 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That's very helpful.

16 MS. MEYER: Thank you.

17 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

18 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

19 Right now we have 0-1-0, and up next will be 0-0-9
20 as caller 8-1-8-0.

21 0-1-0, I will be promoting you now. 0-1-0, your
22 speaker order number is number 8. If you will please
23 make note of that for future reference. And if you will
24 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
25 discuss today, the floor is yours.

1 MS. SMITH: Sure. So I will be discussing the
2 communities of Orinda and Berkeley. Okay, great.

3 So my name is Hannah Smith. I was raised in Orinda
4 and attended Orinda public schools from kindergarten all
5 the way through high school. I am now a rising senior at
6 UC Berkeley.

7 Like others have said, Orinda and Berkeley are about
8 fifteen minutes away from each other and are only
9 separated by a hill. However, they are incredibly
10 different in physical characteristics, demographics,
11 problems, and interests. These communities generally do
12 not come together to advocate on similar issues,
13 services, and infrastructure, and as so, they should be
14 kept in different districts.

15 Orinda is classified as semi-rural with much more
16 space and a suburban feel than UC Berkeley. Community
17 members in Orinda have consistently prevented the
18 building of low-income or multifamily housing. As such,
19 much of the town consists of large and expensive homes.
20 However the housing situation in the communities
21 surrounding UC Berkeley is much different. The city is
22 much more urban, and most students live in apartments in
23 the surrounding area. Although this community has also
24 faced its own struggles with providing its members an
25 affordable place to live.

1 However, while community members in Orinda have
2 consistently fought multifamily or low-income housing
3 proposals, the streets surrounding UC Berkeley are filled
4 with new apartment complexes that will hopefully meet the
5 growing needs for housing for students.

6 The demographics of Orinda and Berkeley are also
7 very different. I received all of my education from
8 Orinda public schools until I went to UC Berkeley. There
9 were very few students of color in my classrooms, and
10 often those students of color did not actually live in
11 Orinda.

12 UC Berkeley is not nearly as diverse or supportive
13 of students of color as they should be. But students of
14 color are still much more represented in the population
15 of UC Berkeley than in my hometown. Frankly, a lot of
16 Orinda is old, rich, and White, which is very different
17 from the population and students attending UC Berkeley
18 and also the community members living in this area.

19 The communities within Orinda and UC Berkeley also
20 face different challenges. UC Berkeley students have
21 faced incredibly high rates of aggravated assault and
22 theft. Students are often attacked on the street on
23 their way home from class, or have had their computers
24 stolen from coffeeshops, and many students can't afford
25 to simply replace these items that are essential to their

1 academic wellbeing.

2 Generally, you don't have to fear walking the
3 streets of Orinda at night. I mean, most recently, the
4 biggest fear plaguing those in Orinda was a single
5 aggressive coyote.

6 I have highlighted a few of the differences between
7 these geographical areas to demonstrate that these
8 communities are separated by a lot more than just a
9 tunnel or a hill. They have different populations,
10 different goals and interests, which is why they should
11 be kept in different districts. Thank you so much. I
12 appreciate your time.

13 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for sharing the morning
14 with us and your testimony.

15 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 Right now will be 0-0-9 as caller 8-1-8-0. And then
17 up next will be 0-1-1.

18 Caller 8-1-8-0, if you'll please follow the prompts
19 to unmute. Caller 8-1-8-0 --

20 MR. BIRSAN: Thank you.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi. I have a couple of brief
22 instructions for you. Your speaker order number will be
23 number 9. If you will please make note of that for
24 future reference. And if you will remind the mapper of
25 what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is

1 yours.

2 MR. BIRSAN: Okay. Three areas. Number one, the
3 city of Concord. Number two, Contra Costa. And number
4 three, part of the Delta.

5 MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead please.

6 MR. BIRSAN: Okay. I'm Edi Birsan. I'm a City
7 Council member and former Mayor of Concord. And as full
8 disclosure, I'm on the Contra Costa Democratic Central
9 Committee, the State Executive Board, and the State
10 Delegate Board.

11 We've got an issue, where we're looking at the most
12 logical community of interest. The very most fundamental
13 community of interest is an incorporated city. They have
14 come together as a community of interest to incorporate
15 and run. Therefore, my request is that all these small
16 cities, you know, everything under like a couple of
17 hundred thousand, should not be divided. For twenty
18 years, Concord was divided in two, and it was terrible.
19 We're 130,000 people now. We were divided when we were
20 180.

21 Second, so places like Lafayette, Orinda, Moraga, et
22 cetera should not be divided in their congressional
23 districts or others.

24 Then furthermore, on our county level, if we respect
25 the county lines, we won't have the problem of Orinda,

1 Lafayette, Moraga, and Berkeley, because they're in a
2 different county.

3 Then, there is also the issue of political unity.
4 We've got a congressional district which includes the
5 majority of Contra Costa except for the city of Pleasant
6 Hill and Martinez. And Martinez is the capital of Contra
7 Costa County. And Pleasant Hill, I don't know what
8 Pleasant Hill has in common with Vallejo on the other
9 side of the river. These are things that we need to take
10 into account.

11 Furthermore, on the Delta, I fully agree that the
12 Delta has certain unique characteristics that deserve
13 concentration as their interest. Even though I would
14 say, my first thing is don't divide the cities. But if
15 you can keep the Delta cities or Delta locations
16 together, that makes total sense to me. So those are my
17 three points.

18 Oh, I should also add that the Democratic Party of
19 Contra Costa voted on Thursday to advise our Board of
20 Supervisors that we want to keep our cities together in
21 their redistricting, because it is the fundamental
22 community of interest. Thank you.

23 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

24 COMMENT MODERATOR: So right now we have 0-1-1, and
25 then up next we will have 0-0-6. And I do invite 0-1-3

1 to use the Raise your Hand button at the bottom of your
2 screen. I see your hand, 0-1-3. So right now will be 0-
3 1-1, and up next will be 0-0-6.

4 0-1-1, I will be promoting you now. 0-1-1, your
5 speaker order number is number 10. If you will please
6 make note of that for future reference. You can now
7 enable your audio and video in the lower left corner of
8 your screen. If you will please remind the mapper of
9 what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is
10 yours. 0-1-1, you can now enable your audio and video --
11 there you are.

12 MS. GORDON: Thank you. I'm going to leave my video
13 off because I have some unstable Wi-Fi. My name is Vicky
14 Gordon (ph.). And the area that I would like to discuss
15 has been discussed at length quite a bit from speakers
16 before me. So I will try and keep it brief. It's Contra
17 Costa.

18 And I want to support the sentiments of the east
19 county and the Brentwood area. They are a community.
20 They have very special issues and interests, and the
21 Delta is key to them and to all of us. But they
22 understand it better than any of us in Contra Costa.

23 I'd also like to support the sentiments of everyone
24 talking about the Orinda/Berkeley border in west Contra
25 Costa. It looks like they're close, but those are two

1 worlds very different, and I think many of the speakers
2 have eloquently said exactly what is -- which the
3 communities represent there.

4 And the last one was new. Edi Birsan had brought up
5 one of the -- I live in Martinez and have lived in
6 Martinez/Pleasant Hill all my life here. And we are a
7 part of a district that goes across the Bay into Benicia,
8 Vallejo, and Solano. And while east county has --
9 because it's a Delta and not a Bay, they do have
10 definitely areas of interest, whereas the Bay and the
11 Carquinez Strait were a world away from Solano County.
12 I'm hoping that we can -- Martinez and Pleasant Hill, can
13 get back into our community of Contra Costa.

14 I will also say that I am a former trustee of the
15 Contra Costa Community College District, and we are one
16 of the few college districts that include all of Contra
17 Costa, and it is a good thing. It brings this community
18 together as a whole. And as Edi Birsan said earlier, we
19 have -- the DPCCC has just voted to also let our Board of
20 Supervisors know that we want to keep our cities together
21 and our community as a whole together.

22 So thank you for your time. I don't want to be
23 repetitive, but I do want to support the boundaries that
24 have been explained prior to my time. Thank you.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

1 I would like to invite 0-0-8 to use the Raise your
2 Hand button at the bottom of your screen, as you have an
3 appointment during this session. And right now, we have
4 0-1-3, and following that we will be going to our phone
5 callers.

6 Right now 0-1-3, I will be promoting you. And
7 again, 0-0-8, I invite you to use the Raise your Hand
8 button at the bottom of your screen to enter the comment
9 queue line.

10 0-1-3, I am promoting you now. 0-1-3, your speaker
11 order number will be number 11. If you will please make
12 note of that for future reference. You can now enable
13 your audio and video in the lower left corner of your
14 screen. And please let the mapper know what area you
15 would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

16 MS. BUTLER: Hello everyone. I'm also going to keep
17 my camera off because there is currently a thunderstorm,
18 and my internet is going in and out. But I will be
19 speaking about the City Council Districts 3 and 7 in
20 Oakland. Three is near the port of Oakland, and District
21 7 is the Oakland/San Leandro border.

22 So just to introduce myself. I'm L.J. Butler (ph.)
23 with Oakland Rising. We are a political organization
24 comprised of a collaborative of nine grassroots
25 organizations in Oakland. And so we work to inform and

1 mobilize the Black, Indigenous, people of color
2 communities, specifically voters in historically
3 disenfranchised and underrepresented communities in east
4 and west Oakland flatlands. And we mobilize folks to
5 take action on racial, economic, environmental, and
6 social, and political injustices impacting their lives on
7 a day-to-day basis.

8 And for over a decade we've actually gained twenty-
9 five percent of Oakland's voter population as supporters.
10 And so we actually partnered with the Black Census &
11 Redistricting Hub to run a COI session, and then
12 successfully recruited seven participants from City
13 Council Districts 1, 3, and 7.

14 And we feel it's really important to uplift the
15 Black community because we definitely need to build
16 political power within the Black community, and have
17 value-based leadership in representation of our
18 communities. And allow community (indiscernible)
19 Districts 3 and 7, specifically, should remain the
20 current district they are, given that there is still a
21 significant Black population there.

22 However, some concerns were that we have a weak
23 Black economic system, and our communities have been
24 divested in given that there's gentrification, a lot of
25 folks have been displaced. And so it's important that we

1 keep our folks in their respective areas, given that the
2 great migration actually brought 1.6 million Black folks
3 to the Bay Area. So it's important that we keep our
4 folks here, given that we built so much. There are so
5 many families. And the homeless population is increasing
6 given that there is displacement. So it is really
7 important that we keep those lines strong, and keep
8 resources and funds within our communities so that our
9 folks can live --

10 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

11 MS. BUTLER: -- and actually thrive and not just
12 survive. And I really, really want to thank you all for
13 the opportunity to speak today, and I'm looking forward
14 to empowering our communities together.

15 CHAIR TOLEDO: A quick question for you --

16 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

17 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

18 MR. MANOFF: Welcome back, 0-1-3. The Chair had
19 some questions for you.

20 CHAIR TOLEDO: I think you're still on mute.

21 MS. BUTLER: Oh, okay.

22 CHAIR TOLEDO: No worries. Just a quick question.

23 For state and federal redistricting purposes, can you
24 just describe the boundaries that you feel are important
25 to keep together?

1 MS. BUTLER: Yes. So it is west Oakland near the
2 port. It's on the borderline of -- if you zoom in a
3 little -- so on the borderline of Emeryville and the port
4 near the water. And then District 7 is that really bold
5 line. Can you move up a little bit? I'm sorry, down.
6 It's that border next to the number 18. So yes, that
7 border right there.

8 CHAIR TOLEDO: Is that the San Leandro border or
9 the --

10 MS. BUTLER: It's below the 18, that's the San
11 Leandro border.

12 CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay, I see. Thank you. That's very
13 helpful, and we appreciate your testimony.

14 MS. BUTLER: Thank you.

15 COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we have 0-0-6, and
16 then we will be going to our callers. We invite those
17 that have called in to please press star 9 to raise your
18 hand, indicating you wish to comment. We do have several
19 raised hands already. So right now will be 0-0-6, and
20 then we will be going to caller 2-7-3-9.

21 0-0-6, I will be promoting you now. 0-0-6, your
22 speaker order number is number 12. If you will please
23 make note of that for future reference. You can now
24 enable your audio and video in the lower left corner of
25 your screen. With that, the floor is yours.

1 MR. MONROE: Hello. My name is Ian Monroe (ph.). I
2 live in north Oakland, and I would like to discuss the
3 west side of East Bay, SD-09. Yeah.

4 So basically I would really urge the Committee
5 members to look at the AC Transit District. I mean, not
6 all special districts are historically significantly or
7 relevant. But I think this bus district is actually a
8 really useful way of thinking about things. Because it
9 kind of grew organically as the bus service was added,
10 and it represents a contiguous area of urban space.

11 So like not only -- this area is a community of
12 interest not only because we have a bus system in common,
13 but we share a lot of the same housing crisis, we're part
14 of the same, like career and job shed. And part of that
15 is highlighting the difference between east and west
16 Contra Costa. What you see, the current Senate District
17 9 does largely respect AC Transit. The AC Transit
18 District reaches all the way from, like Richmond down to
19 Fremont.

20 And I think you've heard other testimony that might
21 explain, like, where do you want to put lines within that
22 area. I feel like all that area kind of makes sense for
23 us to be together. The population is too big to be in
24 any district that you're districting. But the whole area
25 kind of makes sense together. That's really what I

1 wanted to highlight, and agree with others about the
2 difference between either side of (indiscernible). Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

5 COMMENT MODERATOR: And on to our lovely patient
6 callers. Caller 2-7-3-9 will be right now, and then up
7 next will be caller 0-0-7-3.

8 Caller 2-7-3-9, if you will please follow the
9 prompts to unmute. Caller 2-7-3-9, you are unmuted. I
10 have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker
11 order number will be 13. If you will please make note of
12 that for future reference. And if you will please let
13 the mapper what area you would like to discuss today, the
14 floor is yours.

15 MR. VAN METER: Good morning. I'd like to talk
16 about Marin in the north coast counties. My name is
17 Peter Van Meter. I'm a former Sausalito City Council
18 member, and was very active in the 2010 redistricting
19 process, where we combined Marin County with the rest of
20 the North Bay counties into our districts.

21 Decades ago, we were linked to San Francisco, which
22 was totally inappropriate, because that was totally
23 different community of interest. We in the North Bay
24 counties are suburban in character, coastal communities,
25 large agricultural components, much different than

1 composition in the city of San Francisco.

2 And when I see that we're in Outreach Zone 6, the
3 other suburban counties, that is concern to me. Because
4 that seems like a hint that you may want to combine our
5 county with San Francisco as it was in decades past, and
6 to which I say it simply did not work.

7 We want to continue the format of our existing
8 districts, linking us to North Bay and to not link us
9 together with San Francisco. So I'd much rather see this
10 as part of Outreach Area A, because that's the way we
11 exist today, and that's the way, in fact, that it should
12 continue.

13 So the fact that we're in C may be tempting for you
14 to try to balance districts by bringing people from San
15 Francisco into our area, and I strongly, strongly urge
16 you against that, because in the past that simply did not
17 work. Frankly, because the representatives are going
18 back to the area -- Milton Marks is an example, were
19 elected mostly by people from San Francisco, and they did
20 not represent the interests of the people in Marin
21 County. Thank you.

22 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

23 COMMENT MODERATOR: And right now we have caller 0-
24 0-7-3, and then up next will be caller 6-3-5-1. And I
25 invite those callers in the queue to please press star 9

1 to raise your hand, indicating you wish to comment.

2 Right now we have a couple of raised hands.

3 Caller 0-0-7-3, if you will please follow the
4 prompts to unmute. Caller 0-0-7-3, you are unmuted. I
5 have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your
6 speaker order number will be 14. If you will please make
7 note of that for future reference. And if you will
8 please let the mapper know what area you would like to
9 discuss today, the floor is yours.

10 MR. AI: Of course. If you could pull up the city
11 of San Jose and Santa Clara County.

12 Hi Commissioners. My name is Mike Ai with Equality
13 California, the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ-plus
14 civil rights organization, with over 154,000 members in
15 Zone C, and hundreds and thousands of members across
16 California. Before I begin, thank you for taking an
17 interest in our community.

18 As I'm sure you know by now, Equality California is
19 engaging in the redistricting process to ensure fair
20 representation for the LGBTQ-plus community. We have
21 identified a very significant geographically specific
22 LGBTQ-plus community of interest in the city of San Jose
23 and Santa Clara County region, and we want it to bring to
24 your attention as you hear from others in Zone C at
25 today's hearing.

1 The city of San Jose and Santa Clara County region
2 has served as a major building block of the local LGBTQ-
3 plus community. And Santa Clara County has had a history
4 of voting cohesively to elect candidates of choice, both
5 members of the LGBTQ-plus community and officials that
6 have been consistently responsive to the LGBTQ-plus
7 community's needs.

8 This region, an LGBTQ-plus community of interest,
9 has historically been divided in representation between
10 the 17th and the 19th Congressional District, 13th and
11 15th Senate District, and 25th and 27th, and 28th
12 Assembly District. The Santa Clara County LGBTQ
13 community of interest was able to elect San Jose's first
14 LGBTQ-plus elected official in 2000, who departed in 2006
15 when he became the first LGBTQ-plus person elected to the
16 Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

17 And since then, the city has seen a number of local
18 LGBTQ-plus candidates demonstrating the influence of
19 positive representation. The nearby cities of Sunnydale
20 and Mountain View, the same Santa Clara County LGBTQ-plus
21 community of interest, helped to elect the first Latina,
22 an openly queer person, to the Sunnydale City Council in
23 2020; and the youngest and first openly LGBTQ-plus
24 elected official to the Mountain View City Council in
25 2012.

1 This history of successful LGBTQ representation in
2 pockets of Santa Clara County and region that continues
3 to this day demonstrates the sizeable and thriving LGBTQ-
4 plus community of interest in the area.

5 Thank you for the time today, and we are looking
6 forward to continuing our conversation with you about the
7 importance of representation that can be achieved through
8 this process.

9 CHAIR TOLEDO: I just had some clarifying questions.

10 MS. AI: Sure.

11 CHAIR TOLEDO: Where specifically -- can you just
12 specify the boundaries of the community of interest which
13 you are talking about? Specifically, where in San Jose
14 you would draw the line?

15 MS. AI: I don't have the exact maps or the street
16 names for you, but I can provide that later in a written
17 testimony, if that's preferable.

18 CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes, it will be helpful to get the
19 written testimony just associated with your unique number
20 for this testimony. You would reference it with the
21 unique number that was given to you.

22 MS. AI: Okay, will do.

23 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, we appreciate it.

24 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25 And right now we have caller 6-3-5-1, and then up

1 next will be caller 4-1-5-1.

2 Caller 6-3-5-1, if you will please follow the
3 prompts to unmute. Caller 6-3-5-1, if you will please
4 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.

5 Caller 6-3-5-1, you are unmuted. I have a couple of
6 brief instructions for you. Your speaker order number
7 will be number 15. If you will please make note of that
8 for future reference. And if you will please let the
9 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today,
10 with that, the floor is yours.

11 Hello, can you hear me? You are unmuted. Hello?
12 Can you hear me?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

14 COMMENT MODERATOR: You are on. If you will please
15 mute your livestream.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm trying to do that right
17 now.

18 COMMENT MODERATOR: Awesome. Thank you.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, I muted the livestream.

20 COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect, the floor is yours.

21 Your speaker order number will be 15. If you will make
22 note of that. And if you will let the mapper know what
23 area you would like to discuss, go ahead.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning, Commissioners.
25 It's nice to be at this meeting. And I want to say that

1 I appreciate all the work that you're doing.

2 I want to speak about Marin County and the rest of
3 the North Bay. And I'm speaking as an educator. I'm a
4 teacher. I live in Marin County now. And I've lived and
5 worked in San Francisco and Marin, and Sonoma over the
6 years. I'm in Marin now. And my experience, my
7 impressions, and the impact that I have as an educator, a
8 teacher, has made it clear to me that there is a
9 community of interest between Marin County and the North
10 Bay.

11 Let's just say the educational philosophy, the
12 educational values and infrastructure between the city,
13 which I am very familiar with, and Marin and Sonoma, are
14 very, very different. In terms of the educational
15 landscape, Marin belongs with Sonoma County. It's much
16 more than the fact that they're both agricultural
17 counties, and they're both suburban. It's a -- we have a
18 community of interest based on the, I think it's the
19 shared values of the students and parents in the schools.

20 I think it would be an enormous mistake to put Marin
21 County together with San Francisco. It doesn't make any
22 sense at all. And I'm speaking from long, long
23 experience here. I just wanted to focus on education in
24 this case.

25 Once again -- I think that a previous caller

1 mentioned something about the letter C or another letter.
2 If that means that there is any (indiscernible) that's a
3 grave mistake. Please be sure to keep Marin County
4 together with Sonoma County and the rest with the North
5 Bay where it belongs. I'll be happy to answer any
6 questions if you have any for me.

7 CHAIR TOLEDO: A quick question, in terms of the
8 North Bay counties you've referenced, which North Bay
9 counties are you speaking of? Or which North Bay
10 counties would you want to be kept together?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Physically, (indiscernible)
12 County but also Mendocino, and frankly, all the way up to
13 (indiscernible). I think (indiscernible) County belongs
14 with the north coast, the North Bay. It's simply -- a
15 community of interest based on much more than just the
16 fact that they are suburban. It's based on shared values
17 in the educational community.

18 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That's very helpful. I
19 appreciate your testimony.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

22 Right now we have caller 4-1-5-1, and up next will
23 be caller 1-3-6-1.

24 Caller 4-1-5-1, if you will please follow the
25 prompts to unmute. Caller 4-1-5-1, you are unmuted. I

1 have a couple of brief instructions. Your speaker order
2 number will be 16. If you will please make note of that
3 for future reference. And if you'll please let the
4 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today,
5 the floor is yours.

6 MR. STICKNEY: Hi. Can you please bring up the city
7 of San Francisco? Specifically, everything west of Route
8 1.

9 MR. MANOFF: Go ahead, please.

10 MR. STICKNEY: Commissioners, my name is Joshua
11 Stickney with Equality California, California's largest
12 LGBTQ-plus civil rights organization with over 154,000
13 members in Zone C, as I'm sure you've all heard now. As
14 a proud resident of San Francisco's Mission District, a
15 key center of both the LGBTQ-plus and Latino communities
16 in the city, I'm here today to discuss the significant
17 geographically specific LGBTQ-plus community of interest
18 in Zone C.

19 Specifically The Castro, an internationally
20 recognizable LGBTQ-plus community, the LGBTQ-plus and
21 LEATHER cultural district, which encompasses much of
22 SoMa, The Tenderloin, home of the Transgender District
23 and site of the famed Compton's Cafeteria riot, and
24 stretching down to west of Twin Peaks, (indiscernible)
25 Heights, Noe Valley, Glen Park, and Bayview, have all

1 served as major building blocks of the local LGBTQ-plus
2 communities in San Francisco, and have a rich history of
3 voting cohesively to elect candidates of choice with
4 members of the LGBTQ-plus community and allies who have
5 been consistently responsive to the LGBTQ-plus
6 community's needs.

7 For example, when the San Francisco Board of
8 Supervisors transitioned to district elections in 1977,
9 this community was able to elect candidates of choice for
10 the first time. District 8 has continued to elect openly
11 LGBTQ-plus supervisors for the last two decades, many of
12 whom have gone on to represent San Francisco in the State
13 Assembly and Senate and what are currently Assembly
14 District 17 and Senate District 11.

15 Senate District 11, which encompasses San Francisco
16 County and parts of San Mateo County, has elected two
17 consecutively openly LGBTQ-plus senators. Both have been
18 the LGBTQ-plus community's most effective advocates
19 during their time in Sacramento, passing first in the
20 nation civil rights legislation, benefitting lives and
21 wellbeing of LGBTQ-plus San Franciscans and the
22 communities statewide.

23 Congressional District 12 has repeatedly elected one
24 of the United States top representative most ardent
25 champions for the LGBTQ-plus community and people living

1 with HIV from 1987 to date.

2 Finally, ten years ago this Commission worked to
3 keep San Francisco's significant geographically specific
4 LGBTQ-plus community of interest together in Assembly
5 District 17, Senate District 11, and Congressional
6 District 12, actually consolidating part of the community
7 that was previously separated into Congressional District
8 14.

9 We simply ask that the Commission once again keep
10 San Francisco's LGBTQ-plus community of interest
11 together, again in these districts as they currently
12 exist, so as not to dilute the community's power to elect
13 candidates of choice. Thank you again for your time.

14 CHAIR TOLEDO: Caller, quick question on the
15 districts, if you have a second?

16 MR. STICKNEY: Sure.

17 CHAIR TOLEDO: So are you -- can you just specify
18 the districts you want to be kept together, or is it that
19 you're asking that the districts just remain the same?
20 Can you just specify the districts?

21 MR. STICKNEY: Correct. So specifically Assembly
22 District 17, Senate District 11, and Congressional
23 District 12 we would request be kept the same. And then
24 in regards to some of the city's supervisorial districts,
25 for Supervisor District 7 the goal would be again to keep

1 the lines the same and to ensure that it is inclusive of
2 west of Twin Peaks. And for Supervisorial District 8,
3 that nothing is removed including Diamond Heights.

4 CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. So because the focus of this
5 Commission is state and federal. So we definitely will
6 be able to take that into consideration. Any local
7 redistricting would have to go through the appropriate
8 redistricting commission.

9 MR. STICKNEY: Of course.

10 CHAIR TOLEDO: We appreciate your testimony.

11 MR. STICKNEY: Given the consolidation of the
12 community, it is important to mention. Thank you.

13 CHAIR TOLEDO: Absolutely. Thank you for your
14 testimony.

15 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

16 Right now we have caller 1-3-6-1, and then up next
17 will be caller 0-7-0-9. And I do invite those that have
18 called in to please press star 9 to raise your hand,
19 indicating you wish to comment. Please press star 9 to
20 raise your hand, indicating you wish to comment.

21 Right now we have 1-3-6-1, if you'll please follow
22 the prompts to unmute. Caller 1-3-6-1, you are unmuted.
23 I have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your
24 speaker order number will be number 17. If you will
25 please make note of that for future reference. And if

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

3 MS. LOVE: Hello, can you hear me?

4 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes we can. Go ahead.

5 MS. LOVE: Awesome. Thank you. Hi. My name is
6 Caroline Love (ph.). I use she/her pronouns. And I grew
7 up in several towns of Marin County, but mostly in Corte
8 Madera, California. I am now a college student living in
9 Oakland. And I have taken several courses at Mills
10 College and at UC Berkeley regarding the U.S. Census and
11 the use of its data including one on redistricting and
12 gentrification. Last summer, I was also an enumerator
13 with the U.S. Census, going door to door conducting
14 Census interviews in east Oakland in English and Spanish.

15 I would like to highlight the very first speaker's
16 testimony, and reiterate the importance of keeping all of
17 east Oakland and also west Oakland together if at all
18 possible.

19 Today, however, if you could please zoom in on the
20 North Bay area of Marin, where I was raised. And before
21 2011, as two other speakers have mentioned, Marin used to
22 be in a district with San Francisco. Thankfully it is
23 not anymore, and I'd like to urge that Marin not be
24 lumped in with San Francisco again. The Golden Gate
25 Bridge clearly separates San Francisco from Marin.

1 Instead of putting the less populous areas of Marin
2 with the bustling city of San Francisco, all of Marin
3 County must remain together. It's better Marin be a
4 North Bay city such as other areas of Napa and Sonoma
5 than with San Francisco. Just one example, Marin City
6 near Sausalito is an integral but underserved area of
7 Marin. And just two years ago the Sausalito/Marin City
8 School District was found to be knowingly segregating
9 schools they fundraised and was forced to integrate.

10 As Marin County continues to grapple with a history
11 of disenfranchisement of its Black and Latino residents,
12 it's imperative that all of Marin stays together as to
13 not further disenfranchise any of our minoritized
14 community members. This includes Marin City, the San
15 Rafael Canal neighborhood, and all of west Marin. Marin
16 should not be lumped in with San Francisco, as Marin and
17 San Francisco are geographically and culturally separate.

18 Thank you, and I can answer any questions you may
19 have.

20 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. A specific question. So
21 you referenced North Bay. Can you just specify where the
22 lines would be with -- where you would want Marin to be
23 connected to in terms of -- you referenced Sonoma and
24 Napa. Is that all of those counties or is that -- so can
25 you give more description in terms of where your lines

1 would be?

2 MS. LOVE: Yes, thank you. I think, in my
3 experience Marin ends with Novato. But other areas up
4 there, I'm not from there exactly, but it's more so on
5 the eastern and western borders. The Richmond Bridge is
6 the end of Marin on that side, and then the Golden Gate
7 Bridge on the other side. And then up north, I'm not the
8 expert on that area, but I'd say those are more kind of
9 connected culturally, but around Novato mainly.

10 CHAIR TOLEDO: We appreciate your testimony. Thank
11 you for --

12 MS. LOVE: Does that help?

13 CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes, absolutely. Thank you for
14 joining us this morning.

15 MS. LOVE: Thanks.

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we have caller 0-7-0-
17 9, and up next we have caller 0-4-2-9.

18 0-7-0-9, if you will please follow the prompts to
19 unmute. 0-7-0-9, you are unmuted. I have a couple of
20 brief instructions for you. Your speaker order number
21 will be 18. If you will please make note of that for
22 future reference. And if you will please let the mapper
23 know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor
24 is yours.

25 MR. MALHI: Thank you very much. Good morning,

1 Commission. My name is Satinder Malhi, and I'm calling
2 as a resident of Martinez, which is located along the
3 northern waterfront of central Contra Costa County. By
4 way of background, I am a first generation Sikh American,
5 an elected delegate to the California Democratic Party
6 for Assembly District 14. And I've worked in the State
7 Legislature for nearly a dozen years. I'm also a current
8 member of the Parks Recreation Marina and Cultural
9 Commission and the newly constituted Anti-Racism And
10 Discrimination And Pro-Inclusion And Equity Taskforce For
11 The City Of Martinez.

12 I'm calling this morning to ask that you please keep
13 the communities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill with the
14 rest of central Contra Costa County. For example, Senate
15 District 3 was redrawn in the last go-around to include
16 both Martinez and Pleasant Hill, and thereby placing it
17 in the same district as Petaluma, Davis, and Woodland,
18 which simply doesn't make any sense and by any objective
19 measure cannot be viewed as being communities of
20 interest.

21 As the County seat for Contra Costa, Martinez has
22 much more in common with the neighboring Senate District
23 7 communities of Concord, Pacheco, Walnut Creek, among
24 others around regional issues such as transportation,
25 education, healthcare to name just a few, than it does

1 with communities far to the north of us.

2 Therefore, I would respectfully ask that the
3 Commission please place the entirety of these two cities
4 back together with the majority of central Contra Costa
5 at both the Legislative and Congressional levels. Thank
6 you for your time and consideration.

7 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony.

8 COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we have caller 0-4-2-
9 9, and then next we have caller 5-3-0-2. And I would
10 like to invite the other callers in the queue to please
11 press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you wish to
12 comment. Please press star 9 to raise your hand,
13 indicating you wish to comment.

14 Right now, we will go to caller 0-4-2-9. If you
15 will please follow the prompts to unmute. Caller 0-4-2-
16 9, you are unmuted. I have a couple of brief
17 instructions for you. Your speaker order number will be
18 19. If you will please make note of that for future
19 reference. And if you will please let the mapper know
20 what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is
21 yours.

22 MR. KEARNON: Yes, good morning. My name is Peter
23 Kearnon (ph.). I live in Novato, so that's part of Marin
24 County. I want to address the community interest for the
25 North Bay. I am a supporter of MALT for open space

1 preservation, as well as Greenbelt Alliance. We have a
2 lot in common to the North Bay with the, you know,
3 contiguous coast. We have agriculture, a transportation
4 system.

5 So I want to see the continuation of that community
6 of interest that Marin County be included with Sonoma,
7 Mendocino, up the north coast to the Oregon border.
8 Except for a bridge, we do not have continuity with the
9 urban part of the Bay Area, and I think it is appropriate
10 for the community of interest of Marin County to remain
11 in the north coast, North Bay, if you will.

12 So again, I live in Novato and, you know, I want to
13 see us stay as a district right now.

14 CHAIR TOLEDO: So your communities of interest are
15 Marin all the way up to the Oregon border. Is it
16 specifically those counties. I'm just getting a question
17 what you meant by North Bay. Is it the north coast
18 counties that you mentioned?

19 MR. KEARNON: Yes --

20 CHAIR TOLEDO: If you could just elaborate on that.

21 MR. KEARNON: Well, certainly Marin and Sonoma have
22 specific continuities and comparables. Again, with the
23 agriculture that both counties represent, with the coast,
24 we have the Pacific coast that is contiguous. The open
25 space that we've developed and preserved for agriculture

1 purposes as well as for recreation, is consistent with
2 how Sonoma is being laid out and planned.

3 The transportation system we have, although it
4 ultimately, you know, ends in Santa Rosa, is contiguous
5 through both counties. We share 101 and the issues,
6 whether they are headaches or not that are related to
7 that transportation system. So I'm not sure how far to
8 the east that, you know, I think is an open question,
9 whether Solano or Napa, or other counties are North Bay
10 as well. I would say not. I believe Marin, Sonoma,
11 Mendocino represent the North Bay, and continue following
12 the Pacific coast, that would be my recommendation.

13 CHAIR TOLEDO: We appreciate it. We have the
14 information that we need. Thank you. And thank you for
15 your testimony.

16 MR. KEARNON: I appreciate that. Okay. Bye now.

17 COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we have caller 5-3-0-
18 2. I would like to invite the other callers in the queue
19 to please press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you
20 wish to comment at this time. Please press star 9,
21 indicating you wish to comment as we are coming to the
22 end of this session.

23 Right now we have caller 5-3-0-2. If you will
24 please follow the prompts to unmute. Caller 5-3-0-2, you
25 are unmuted. I have a couple of brief instructions for

1 you. Your speaker order number will be number 20. If
2 you will please make note of that for future reference.
3 And if you will please let the mapper know what area you
4 would like to discuss today, with that the floor is
5 yours.

6 MS. DONETTE: Hi, good morning. My name is
7 Dominique Donette (ph.). I'm representing the California
8 Hawaii State Conference NAACP. We represent fifty-six
9 branches of members who are deeply invested in this topic
10 throughout the state of California.

11 Our main concern is keeping African American
12 businesses and communities strong throughout the state.
13 We have a strong desire to unite the Black communities in
14 Oakland under one State Assembly and one State Senate
15 District. The city of Oakland should be united into one
16 Assembly AD-18, and Senate District SD-9, and there is no
17 reason or rationale why the areas of the city north and
18 downtown, and Interstate 580 should be bifurcated from
19 the rest of the city by assembly districts.

20 The split not only hurts representation for Oakland
21 residents, but continues the division of the Black
22 community along a Freeway barrier.

23 In the northern East Bay Area, another area of
24 concern is the city of Vallejo. While located in Solano
25 County, Vallejo has much more in common with the urban

1 areas of the East Bay like Richmond and San Pablo, and
2 the Commission should consider including Vallejo in East
3 Bay Assembly District 15, and Senate District SD-9. That
4 also includes the shores of the San Francisco Bay Area.

5 Additionally, we want to continue to encourage you
6 all as the Commission to think about who and how you are
7 partnering with to get the word out about this community
8 input process. Many of the callers I've heard on this
9 call today do not represent the African American
10 community. That is of great concern to a statewide
11 entity like the NAACP. Equity and equality, and the
12 drawing of the lines is important to us. Community
13 involvement and collaboration is critical to this effort.
14 And keeping communities whole and not causing disruption
15 is also critical to us.

16 On behalf of the California Hawaii State Conference
17 NAACP, we thank you for your consideration of our
18 concerns.

19 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for joining us this
20 morning, and thank you for your testimony.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

22 I like to invite those in the queue to please press
23 star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you wish to
24 comment. Again, if you'll please press star 9 to raise
25 your hand, indicating you wish to comment.

1 Caller 9-7-5-5, if you'll please follow the prompts
2 to unmute. Caller 9-7-5-5, you are unmuted. I have a
3 couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker order
4 number will be number 21. If you will please make note
5 of that for future reference. And if you will please let
6 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss
7 today, the floor is yours.

8 MS. NICHOLS: Hello Commissioners.

9 COMMENT MODERATOR: Hello, go ahead.

10 MS. NICHOLS: Yes, hello Commissioners. I'd like to
11 give some information. My name is Vicky Nichols (ph.).
12 I'm in Sausalito. And I would urge you to keep the
13 contiguous district -- the north coast district from
14 Sausalito on up to the coast. I agree almost identically
15 with the comments made by the previous speaker, Peter
16 Kearnon.

17 But I would like to emphasize another important
18 factor of us not being part of the San Francisco
19 District, and that is the many environmental conditions
20 that we share in Marin County. We know that we're having
21 a severe drought issue. We know that fires are a
22 problem. There has been much preparation and allocation
23 of assets for fire prevention. Though we are underway
24 with our geographic areas, these two conditions know no
25 physical boundaries.

1 So I think that not having San Francisco connected
2 with us makes sense. I was here when it was part of the
3 district, and I believe a previous caller mentioned 2011.
4 So I would urge you to -- in fact, I think the current
5 district configuration is actually working well for the
6 adjoining counties, to do this planning. And I think at
7 this point that's then my main comment.

8 It's more about the geographic quality and
9 conditions that we have from the Golden Gate Bridge north
10 that some robust planning is being done, and I think it
11 will be financially prudent that we can do this long-term
12 planning collectively with inter-county planning. So I
13 urge you to consider that. Thank you very much for your
14 time.

15 I'd also like to mention that it was with great
16 difficulty, and I felt almost discouragement, that I got
17 on your site today. I continuously got a message that
18 the site was not secure. So I think that's discouraging
19 to people. So I would urge you to have some kind of
20 preparation that that either gets corrected, or there is
21 another message involved. I'm sure a lot of people gave
22 up, which is very unfortunate. Thank you for your work.

23 CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your testimony and for
24 joining us this morning and for your feedback. We
25 appreciate it.

1 With that, we are going to go to a fifteen-minute
2 break. I want to thank everyone who has joined us this
3 morning and provided testimony. We will continue to
4 accept testimony in the afternoon, when we get back in
5 fifteen minutes. When we return, Commissioner Yee will
6 be chairing that session. And we'll start with
7 individuals who have registered with an appointment, and
8 we'll open up the lines after those individuals have
9 given their testimony.

10 Thank you, and with that we will go to a fifteen-
11 minute break.

12 (Break)

13 CO-CHAIR YEE: Welcome back. We continue with
14 today's communities of interest input meeting for the
15 California Citizens Redistricting Commission. I'm
16 Commissioner Russell Yee, here in Oakland, and I'll be
17 chairing this part of this morning's meeting.

18 We encourage you, as always, to visit our
19 communities of interest online tool. It's at
20 drawmycommunity.org; drawmycommunity is all one word,
21 dot org. And there, you can submit a community of
22 interest map and description, and we will receive that.
23 That will be considered with all the same weight as calls
24 taken today. That's drawmycommunity.org.

25 We continue with those who have appointments for

1 today's session, and then once those are done, we will
2 take calls from those who do not have appointments.

3 So I will now pass it over to Katy, our comment
4 moderator, to continue with public input.

5 COMMENT MODERATOR: Welcome to the public input
6 session. Please use the Raise your Hand button at the
7 bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is
8 your turn to speak, you will be identified by your
9 assigned unique ID number, which you were emailed
10 yesterday. You will be reconnected to the session with
11 the ability to enable your own video and/or audio.

12 You will then be assigned a speaker order number
13 before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your
14 speaker order number for future reference. The
15 Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit.
16 There will be a warning at thirty seconds and at fifteen
17 seconds remaining.

18 It is the Commission's goal to find the area on the
19 map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.
20 If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large
21 city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to
22 locate your area, your three-minute testimony will begin.

23 Attendees will not be able to share their screen.
24 At the end of your public input, or at the end of your
25 time, you will be reconnected in a listen and view-only

1 mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind the
2 mapper of what area you would like to see on the screen.

3 Right now we have 0-1-6, who is our only appointment
4 in the queue at this time. So I will invite the other
5 two callers there, if you would like to press star 9, it
6 will raise your hand, indicating you wish to comment. So
7 please press star 9 if you would like to raise your hand.

8 0-1-6, I will be promoting you now. 0-1-6, your
9 speaker order number will be number 22. If you will
10 please make note of that for future reference. You can
11 now enable your audio and video in the lower left corner
12 of your screen. If you will please remind the mapper of
13 what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is
14 yours.

15 MS. BONNER: Good morning. I hope you all can hear
16 me. I'm actually going to be discussing Contra Costa
17 County, specifically Antioch. So more to the right,
18 yeah, there we go. Specifically, I want to talk about
19 Antioch District 1.

20 So my name is Chala Bonner, and I'm the current
21 manager of the Safe Return Project. The Safe Return
22 Project is based in Richmond, California. Although we
23 are currently building base in east Contra Costa County,
24 where we focus on Antioch, Pittsburg, and Bay Point.

25 We are a nonprofit organization whose mission and

1 vision is to re-enfranchise those that have been
2 disenfranchised by the criminal justice system. And we
3 are invested in building a base of power at the
4 political, social, and economic level of formerly
5 incarcerated people across the state of California,
6 addressing the root causes of poverty and the impact of
7 the criminal justice system.

8 We conducted a community of interest session that
9 focused specifically on the Antioch area. Our COI
10 included eight community members who live and/or work in
11 east Contra Costa County. Our group was very diverse in
12 ethnicity. And what we want to do is actually lift up
13 the specific community, which is Antioch District 1. It
14 pretty much is from north of Highway 4 all the way to the
15 waterfront, and it goes from Summerville Road all the way
16 to Highway 160. And that's what's considered Antioch
17 District 1.

18 And we're uplifting this specific community, because
19 we have seen an increase of Black and Brown people in
20 this area due to the rent increases in other parts of the
21 Bay Area. Specifically the Sycamore corridor, for
22 example, is predominantly working class Black indigenous
23 people of color. They are in need of more resources, and
24 currently have more liquor stores than grocery stores
25 that are easily accessible. There are no youth centers

1 in this area for young people to go to get tutoring,
2 college prep, or help job applications.

3 Some people in our community of interest session
4 expressed that they feel like they are the forgotten
5 community. They don't feel like they are represented
6 very well because there is such a great need for
7 resources in their community. They feel they have to go
8 way across town to get groceries, a nice place to eat, to
9 enroll their kids in different programs and services.
10 And we want to stop this by making sure this community
11 stays together and receives adequate representation and
12 resources that are so desperately needed.

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 MS. BONNER: In closing, it is very important to
15 keep Antioch District 1 together, and that they be
16 represented by someone who will listen to their needs and
17 concerns, someone who will treat them -- who will not
18 treat them like a forgotten community, and someone who --

19 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

20 MS. BONNER: -- has the passion and wants to end
21 excess disparity in this community. Thank you for your
22 time, and for considering our community.

23 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

24 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

25 At this time I will invite those in the queue to

1 please press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you
2 wish to comment.

3 Chair, it looks like we do not have any raised hands
4 at this time. I will defer to you.

5 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Can we go ahead and have the
6 call-in instructions again, long version please?

7 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, one moment, Chair.

8 MR. MANOFF: I'll take care of that for you, Chair.

9 CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good.

10 MR. MANOFF: In order to maximize transparency and
11 public participation in our process, the Commissioners
12 will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial
13 the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It
14 is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID
15 number provided on the livestream feed. It is
16 98262583672 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a
17 participant ID, simply press the pound.

18 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
19 queue. To indicate you are ready to comment, please
20 press star 9. This will raise your hand for the
21 moderator. When it is your turn to speak, you will hear
22 a message that says, the host would like you to talk, and
23 press star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your
24 name, please say it and spell it for the record. You are
25 not required to provide your name to give public comment.

1 Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream
2 audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your
3 call. Once you are called in and waiting, be alert for
4 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn
5 down the livestream volume.

6 And again, for those who have called in, if you
7 could please press star 9 to indicate you are ready to
8 speak.

9 We do not have anyone in the queue at this time,
10 Chair.

11 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Let's stand at ease for two
12 minutes.

13 COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do -- go ahead.

14 CO-CHAIR YEE: I see that we actually do have a
15 caller. We can go ahead to that caller.

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 1-5-0-8, if you will
17 please follow the prompts to unmute. Caller 1-5-0-8, you
18 are currently unmuted. I have a couple of brief
19 instructions for you. Your speaker order number will be
20 number 23. If you will please make note of that for
21 future reference. And if you will please let the mapper
22 know what area you would like to discuss today, with that
23 the floor is yours.

24 MR. FARLEY: Hi. My name is Jesse Farley (ph.). I
25 would like to discuss Martinez and Benicia within Contra

1 Costa County.

2 I'm calling in today to talk about keeping Martinez
3 and Benicia in the same legislative and congressional
4 district as they are now. I was born and raised in
5 Martinez. My family has been in this town for their
6 entire lifetime. And I also have extended family who
7 live in Benicia, who have participated in the community
8 there as firefighters and on the police force.

9 While there is a body of water between us, we are a
10 community united by many bonds. The Carquinez and
11 Benicia Bridge easily connects our residents and our
12 economy. We are both small suburban communities with a
13 historic charm of quaint downtown. Our kids play in the
14 same sports league, our high schools interconnect with
15 their communities. We also recreate together.

16 One of our most heavily utilized trails was my
17 personal favorite, is the Carquinez Strait and Shoreline.
18 It runs along the ridge overlooking the Carquinez Strait,
19 and serves as a link to the San Francisco Bay Trail, and
20 the trail offers cyclists and walkers with a great view
21 of the water and our neighbors of Benicia. Also, both of
22 the shorelines contain multiple fishing docks and piers.

23 Martinez and Benicia have been situated in the same
24 districts for the last ten years, and the districts have
25 served us well. We share similar challenges,

1 specifically shared exposure from the refineries located
2 in both of our towns. In Martinez, we have the Tesoro
3 and Shell refineries. Benicia is home to the Valero
4 refinery. And our nearby community of Rodeo also has the
5 ConocoPhillips refinery. All four of these refineries
6 need a strong regulation to monitor both their emissions
7 and any leaks into the Bay.

8 The fact that our representatives have four
9 refineries in their district really forces them to pay
10 attention to those emission concerns to respond with
11 emergency when emergencies occur, and to carefully follow
12 proposed regulation and corresponding community input.
13 This would not be the case if the refineries were split
14 into different districts.

15 Thank you for your commitment to ensure that our
16 communities of interest, like Martinez and Benicia remain
17 connected and in the same district. Thank you for my
18 time.

19 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

20 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

21 And I would like to remind those in the queue to
22 please press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you
23 wish to comment.

24 And at this time, Chair, we do not have anyone in
25 the comment queue.



1 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Now we will take that two-
2 minute stand at ease.

3 (Pause)

4 MR. MANOFF: That two minutes, Chair.

5 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you. It looks like we still
6 don't have anybody with their hand raised. Why don't we
7 go ahead and queue up the five-minute video and run that,
8 and then we'll come back after that.

9 (Media played)

10 CO-CHAIR YEE: Welcome back. We'll hear the call-in
11 instructions again from our comment moderator, Katy; the
12 short version, please.

13 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

14 The Commission will now take community of interest
15 input by phone. To give comment, please call 877-853-
16 5247, and enter the meeting ID number 98262583672 for
17 this meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star
18 9 to enter the comment queue. The full call-in
19 instructions have been read previously in this session,
20 and are provided in full on the livestream landing page.

21 And at this time, Chair, we do not have any raised
22 hands.

23 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Thank you, Katy.

24 While we wait for other possible callers, why don't
25 we have a round of stories? Bay Area memories,

1 restaurant recommendations, things to do, growing up
2 stories, anything else from our Commissioners that they
3 would like to share about the Bay Area.

4 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I can share.

5 CO-CHAIR YEE: Please, Commissioner Ahmad.

6 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Rent prices are way too high.

7 CO-CHAIR YEE: Call your representative today.

8 Yes, Commissioner Sinay.

9 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, I'm going to think like
10 Commissioner Akutagawa and bring up food. Of all the
11 places I've lived, except for Peru, I would say just
12 going out to eat in the Bay Area, especially San
13 Francisco, is just such a treat. And as much as
14 everything else is overpriced, I've always found
15 restaurants to be priced appropriately and accessibly.

16 I remember friends who lived in the Bay Area before
17 the dotcom bust, who lived down in Silicon Valley, would
18 come up and visit us, and slum it with us in Haight-
19 Ashbury. And they would take us to these restaurants I
20 couldn't afford on a nonprofit salary. But one time it
21 was, like let us choose the restaurant. We took them to
22 a few places, and they were like, oh my gosh, this is so
23 good, oh my gosh, this is so affordable.

24 And when I first moved to San Diego, besides my
25 friends and my colleagues, I really missed just being

1 able to go to a restaurant and know I was going to walk
2 away with a good meal. Now, having said that, people in
3 San Diego don't get upset. Our restaurants have gotten a
4 lot better in the past twenty-three years. Commissioner
5 Kennedy and I had a wonderful lunch a few weeks back, and
6 we have wonderful views and different ones of our
7 restaurants. But when I first made the move, it was
8 hard.

9 CO-CHAIR YEE: I still want to come down for fish
10 tacos. Although Oakland considers itself the taco truck
11 capital of the world, so. You can come up and try ours.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: The tacos are very different in
13 northern California than southern California. It's
14 fascinating. We don't really put rice and beans in our
15 burritos the way you all do up there.

16 CO-CHAIR YEE: Could you describe the geography of
17 that taco region for us?

18 Other Bay Area thoughts, memories, recommendations?
19 Although I've been here my whole life, I always discover
20 new places. Yesterday, my wife and I took a hike for the
21 first time ever in Wildcat Canyon, which is behind
22 Berkeley/Kensington, that area.

23 Beautiful views of the Bay, and then we had lunch on
24 Point Molate, which is an old Navy Field Depot right
25 above the Richmond Bridge there, Richmond-San Rafael

1 Bridge, in the Black Pirate Barbeque Grill. We splurged.

2 Beautiful day and beautiful view there on the Bay.

3 Anyone else?

4 Commissioner Toledo, any growing-up memories?

5 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I mean, growing up in Alameda
6 was just a great experience, especially with the Naval
7 Base that was there at that point. So it was a very
8 diverse community and just a great place to grow up, and
9 still a very wonderful community. I still go there quite
10 a bit because I still have lots of friends and family in
11 the city of Alameda and neighboring Oakland.

12 And just one shoutout. I know that the executive
13 director for a long time, I think she was there for over
14 thirty years, Sherry, for the Executive Director for
15 Asian Health Services, has retired, and has a new
16 leadership team. So that's really wonderful that they
17 promoted from within the organization, and such a
18 wonderful organization that serves the Asian American
19 community in Chinatown and across the Alameda County, and
20 so mostly Oakland.

21 But you know, just a lot of changes during COVID, a
22 lot of folks retiring. I was a little shocked to see
23 that she has been such an active player with community
24 health centers and with the healthcare sector for such a
25 long time. Actually, I ended up being elected on to the

1 board of La Clinica de la Raza Community Clinic. That
2 was my childhood community clinic in a joint townhall
3 between Asian Health Services and La Clinica, which are
4 two of the community health centers in Oakland.

5 And they brought, you know, patients or they bused
6 patients from all over Oakland to a church and, you know,
7 like (indiscernible), and had a townhall and held an
8 election. And I was voted on to one of the
9 (indiscernible) at that point. And so that is the memory
10 that I remember. It was a joint townhall where both
11 Clinica and Asian Health Services were doing similar
12 joint governance, and there are different organizations
13 that are working together on advocacy and, you know,
14 health improvement.

15 And so I was, you know, shocked to see Sherry
16 retiring. I think I never expected -- I never expect
17 anyone to retire. I want them to continue on forever.
18 And so when they do, it's just a reminder that, you know,
19 that things change. But she has done so much to improve
20 the health services for the people of the East Bay and
21 for the Bay Area.

22 CO-CHAIR YEE: Give her that shoutout. That's
23 actually the clinic where my wife has been a physician
24 for many years. And it has been amazing to see the
25 leadership there and how it has grown. The organization

1 is over 500 employees now, and really thriving and
2 providing great care, as well as health education and
3 political advocacies for the community.

4 Any other memories? Stories?

5 COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, I would like to remind
6 those calling in to please press star 9 to raise your
7 hand, indicating you wish to comment. As for those that
8 have just called in, please press star 9 to raise your
9 hand that you wish to comment at this time.

10 And we do not have any raised hands at this time.
11 Again, if you will please press star 9 to raise your hand
12 when you wish to comment.

13 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'm sure, Commissioner
14 Andersen has stories for us from Berkeley and all over.

15 CO-CHAIR YEE: Pick one, Commissioner Andersen.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, I do actually. One I
17 might think of right now is when Commissioner Yee
18 actually kind of triggered this thought. There is a lot
19 of areas in Richmond and Point Richmond that people have
20 no idea about, one of which is Know Regional Park. And
21 it's actually end up going through an old train tunnel to
22 get to it. It's right on the Bay, but it's sort of --
23 it's south of the Richmond Bridge.

24 And it has a wonderful park. Families go and
25 have -- you know, teach their children to ride their

1 bikes. There are picnicking areas. But it also has a
2 marvelous model train building, which -- it only has G-
3 model and HO-models in its enormous train buff area,
4 which is truly, truly fun.

5 And also, then up in the Berkeley Hills there is, of
6 course, the steam train rides, which is one of the very
7 few still that are going on; and it's in Tilden Park.
8 And it shuts down -- actually part of the road actually
9 shuts down for the newts crossing in the winter across
10 one of the roads there. That actually was written up in
11 National Geographic even.

12 But they have a huge train area, and they also have
13 a large area where people who have worked on trains, the
14 ride-on version, like the size of your lawnmower. And
15 those all go around that area too. So it's quite
16 interesting. Very, very different. I just thought I'd
17 bring that one up.

18 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen. We
19 need for the newt community of interest to call in.

20 COMMENT MODERATOR: Again, I'd like to remind those
21 and ask those calling in to please press star 9 to raise
22 your hand, indicating you wish to comment. Please press
23 star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you wish to
24 comment.

25 And we do have a raised hand at this time, Chair.

1 Caller 9-7-4-9, if you'll please follow the prompts
2 to unmute. Caller 9-7-4-9, you are unmuted. I have a
3 couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker order
4 number will be number 24. If you will please make note
5 of that for future reference. And if you will please let
6 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss
7 today, the floor is yours. And if you also please mute
8 your livestream audio?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello. We're calling from
10 Inverness in Marin County. And we are very concerned
11 about --

12 MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, caller. Could you
13 please speak up and get very close to your phone. And
14 please make sure there is nothing between your phone
15 microphone and yourself.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. We --

17 MR. MANOFF: Can you speak a little louder?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. We are very concerned
19 about the redistricting. We live in Inverness, Marin
20 County, and we are very rural area, and closer in
21 commonalities with Sonoma County, and not happy about
22 being aligned with or redistricted into San Francisco or
23 other urban areas. So that is our comment from out here
24 in the country.

25 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

2 CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes, thank you so much.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

5 And up next we have caller 5-3-8-4, unique ID code
6 0-2-0. Caller 5-8-3-4, if you will please follow the
7 prompts to unmute. Caller 5-3-8-4, you are unmuted. I
8 have a couple of brief instructions for you. Your
9 speaker order number will be number 25. If you will
10 please make note of that for future reference. And if
11 you will please let the mapper know what area you would
12 like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. I'm a resident of
14 Novato in Marin County. I would like to advocate for
15 keeping the area defined by the Novato Unified School
16 District boundaries together as a community of interest,
17 as that is the greater area of the city of Novato.

18 Novato is a suburban city that is developed from a
19 farming town with lots of open space. The area is
20 committed to preserving the open space. The city voters
21 overwhelmingly approved measures to protect its open
22 space through an urban growth boundary. The area also
23 faces significant wildfire risk, and shares a school
24 district, water service, and its own fire protection
25 district.

1 I'd ask that you keep Novato united in a district
2 along with all of Marin County, and to pair Novato and
3 Marin County with Sonoma County, and not San Francisco.

4 Marin and Sonoma counties share significant
5 commonalities including infrastructure projects, dealing
6 with the Novato Narrows, which is a significant
7 bottleneck on Highway 101 connecting Marin and Sonoma
8 counties. That has been a thorn in the side of local
9 officials for decades, and that is being worked on at the
10 state and federal levels. As well as the Sonoma Marin
11 Area Rail Transit, which voters in both counties support
12 through local taxes and use to commute.

13 Both areas also have significant agricultural
14 industries and lots of open space. And Marin receives a
15 lot of its drinking water from Sonoma County. Nearly
16 three-quarters of the water in Novato, where I live,
17 comes from the Russian River in Sonoma County. And a lot
18 of the teachers in Novato also live in Sonoma County.

19 I'd ask that you respect the commonalities and
20 include Marin in a county -- in a district, excuse me,
21 with Sonoma County. And I'd ask that you do not pair us
22 in any way, shape, or form with San Francisco. Marin has
23 a lot of open space and significant wildfire risk. San
24 Francisco does not have any of those things. It is an
25 urban county with significantly different needs.

1 And while Marin has been paired with San Francisco
2 in the past, I would point out that this is not because
3 they have anything in similarity. It's because they are
4 fundamentally different. The pairing of Marin with San
5 Francisco in the past was not done to advance Marin in
6 any way. It was done to dilute our voices. Because in
7 previous iterations, most notably in the 1970s --

8 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and 1980s, Marin was
10 paired with San Francisco because Marin was a republican
11 stronghold, and San Francisco was not. And so in the
12 1980 and 1982 congressional elections, John Burton and
13 Barbara Boxer --

14 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- both won a Marin/San
16 Francisco district, by winning San Francisco but losing
17 in Marin. So I'd ask that you keep Novato together, keep
18 Marin together, pair us with Sonoma, and keep us in a
19 district outside of San Francisco. Thank you so much.

20 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

22 I'd like to invite those in the queue to please
23 press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you wish to
24 comment at this time. Please press star 9 to raise your
25 hand, indicating you wish to comment.



1 At this time, Chair, we do not have any raised hands
2 in the queue.

3 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Any other Bay Area stories any
4 of you Commissioners like to share.

5 Commissioner Andersen?

6 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So I've got -- hiking areas.
7 It's amazing the hiking you can do through -- I actually
8 hiked all through Marin, all through Contra Costa,
9 Alameda, San Mateo, down into Santa Clara. You can
10 actually do the full Bay Area ring, which is very
11 interesting.

12 Another thing that is also very interesting in the
13 Bay Area is, you can do a transportation ring as well.
14 You can go on a ferry, you can do a full ring from San
15 Jose up to Richmond on BART and come back down on -- you
16 can also do the train through up to Martinez, and then
17 take that back down around. And then you can go ferries,
18 back and forth to San Francisco up to Marin. And then
19 there is another rail now from Marin, the ferry, up
20 through Sonoma.

21 So it's really great ways as, of course, everything
22 goes into San Francisco. But it's a great way to get
23 around and really see the whole area instead of just
24 staying in one, you know, your immediate neighborhood.
25 It's a great area to live and go around in.

1 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.
2 Yes, indeed. There is a Bay trail along the shores of
3 the Bay. It's been worked on for decades and it's
4 getting pretty close to complete. There is also a Bay
5 Area Ridge Trail that follows all the coastal hills all
6 the way around the Bay, a much longer trail, of course.
7 And spectacular views all the way around.

8 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair. We do have a
9 raised hand at this time in the queue.

10 CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good.

11 COMMENT MODERATOR: You guys have inspired them.

12 Caller 9-9-9-6, if you will please follow the
13 prompts to unmute. Caller 9-9-9-6, if you will please
14 follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller
15 9-9-9-6, you are unmuted.

16 MR. SCOTT: Hello.

17 COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi. I have a couple of brief
18 instructions for you. Your speaker order number will be
19 number 26. If you will please make note of that for
20 future reference. And if you will please let the mapper
21 know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor
22 is yours.

23 MR. SCOTT: Yes, hello. My name is Scott, and I
24 live here in Berkeley in Alameda County within AD-15.
25 And I've lived here in this district for most of my life,

1 between Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Alameda County,
2 Contra Costa County. And I'm extremely happy, and I'm
3 bringing up my family within the same community. And you
4 can probably hear the 2-year-old in the background,
5 trying to get me off the phone.

6 And what I've really grown to appreciate now that I
7 have a family of my own, is how amazing this community is
8 and how connected we are. The East Bay Regional Park
9 system is amazing and offers opportunities for children,
10 and Bay City Transit connects us. We have
11 (indiscernible) and so many different organizations and
12 facilities that connect us here in the East Bay District.

13 And having our area represented by AD-15 and other
14 representatives gives us a strong voice in Sacramento
15 that allows -- provide a unified voice in Sacramento and
16 helps us to get our needs properly communicated up.

17 So thank you very much for letting me speak.

18 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

19 COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was all of our callers
20 at this time, Chair.

21 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Why don't we wait two minutes.
22 Commissioner Fernandez.

23 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm going to share a
24 kind of a funny story a little bit --

25 CO-CHAIR YEE: Please.

1 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: -- since Commissioner
2 Fornaciari shared his Disney Land story; I figured I'll
3 share this one.

4 A few years back, we went to Santa Clara, the
5 university there; my nephew was graduating. And I have a
6 friend at work that is from that area. So you know, of
7 course, I say where are the good places to eat? So he
8 gives me the name of a pizza place, and I can't remember
9 the pizza place. But he also adds, you'll probably see
10 my brother, because he frequents the bar. He didn't tell
11 me the name of the brother and whatever.

12 So you know, of course, we get there. I have two
13 young kids. We go to the pizza place, and we're sitting
14 there eating. And I keep looking at this guy at the bar,
15 and I'm thinking, man, that really looks like my friend.
16 So you know, my husband and my kids are, like oh-oh, what
17 is she going to do? And so what I do is I get up and go
18 talk to this gentleman at the bar that I didn't know.
19 And I just say, hey, do you happen to know this person
20 who is my friend. He said, yeah, that's my brother.

21 So anyway, I just wanted to pass on this really --
22 you know, because we're meant to -- moms are meant to
23 embarrass their children. I embarrassed my children, and
24 he actually came to the table, and we sat and we talked
25 for about half an hour. So never be afraid or approach

1 someone if you think he might look like someone. So you
2 never know if you might make a new friend.

3 That was my fun little Santa Clara -- everyone we
4 met in the area was just absolutely wonderful. But I
5 always kind of have that memory, that really nice memory
6 of, you know, we chat once in a while. It's not going to
7 hurt.

8 CO-CHAIR YEE: That's a great story. Thank you so
9 much, Commissioner Fernandez.

10 Commissioner Andersen mentioned trains. There is,
11 of course, a lot of train history in the Bay Area.
12 Original terminal is for the Transcontinental Railroad,
13 and so forth. I was a boy of eleven, when BART first
14 opened our Bay Area Rapid Transit system. It was the
15 first new rapid transit system built in the nation for
16 many, many, many decades. And the first one to be
17 computer controlled, the first one to use those magnetic-
18 striped cards, and so forth.

19 And as a boy of eleven or twelve, that was an
20 amazing gift that, you know, the whole region gave to all
21 of us, and to use the best. I mean, this was space-age
22 technology, ticket machines made by IBM. You know, it
23 was so dazzling. And the idea that, you know, my world
24 had given -- had taken its best and given it as a gift to
25 the public, that really made an impression on me. And my

1 first rides on it were just amazing.

2 So as I think about high-speed rail, to mention that
3 again, I'm still hoping that we can find it in us to
4 bring our best once again to the public good. In the Bay
5 Area Terminals there has been a long debate whether it
6 should come up to San Francisco or to Oakland. San
7 Francisco, that would be through the Pacheco Pass, and
8 Oakland through the Altamont Pass. And I believe, the
9 current line it is through the Pacheco Pass to San
10 Francisco, to the Salesforce Transit Center there.

11 We'll see if it happens. I would love to take a
12 ride on it. Not as a boy of eleven, but as a senior of
13 many years. Hopefully in my lifetime, that would be
14 amazing.

15 It looks like we have a caller? Katy?

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: We do. I would actually like to
17 invite 0-1-8, to use the Raise your Hand button at the
18 bottom of your screen, indicating that you wish to
19 comment at this time. Thank you so much. I see that
20 raised hand. 0-1-8, I will be promoting you now. And
21 then, following up, it will be caller 0-6-3-2. So right
22 now is 0-1-8, and up next will be caller 0-6-3-2.

23 0-1-8, your speaker order number is number 27. If
24 you will please make note of that for future reference.
25 You can now enable your audio and video in the lower left

1 corner of your screen. And if you will please remind the
2 mapper of what area you would like to discuss today, the
3 floor is yours.

4 MS. SIMS: Hello, my name is Taylor Sims. And I am
5 the special projects coordinator at Lift Up Contra Costa,
6 representing east Contra Costa County.

7 Lift Up Contra Costa is a coalition of nine
8 organizations, looking to uplift all marginalized voices
9 within Contra Costa County. Lift Up Contra Costa is
10 committed to fighting against all forms of oppression
11 including anti-Black racism, racism, anti-immigrant,
12 anti-LGBTQ, and the classes anti-work movements. We
13 envision a county in which all people are benefitting
14 from our shared resources. We believe in the value of
15 all of our residents, and are fighting for an environment
16 in which everyone can flourish.

17 We conducted two COI session with community
18 organizations such as the Safe Return Project, the
19 Central Contra Costa Labor Council, Alliance of
20 Californians for Community Empowerment, and east county
21 residents.

22 We are uplifting east Contra Costa County, because
23 this community is filled with many Black residents who
24 have been pushed out of other parts of the Bay Areas, and
25 their values are not being represented with local elected

1 officials. In east county specifically, we see there are
2 access disparities within certain areas and districts.
3 For example, grocery stores, places to shop, places to
4 have a nice dinner, quality parks, et cetera.

5 For example, the unincorporated town of Bay Point is
6 considered more Concord, but residents share values with
7 the residents of Pittsburg. Bay Point students have to
8 bus to Concord for schools instead of going to Pittsburg
9 schools, which could be right down the street from their
10 house.

11 In Antioch, Black residents are fearful their
12 community input may not be considered in the
13 redistricting process where their political power will be
14 weakened. It is important to have elected officials who
15 share east Contra -- excuse me, east Contra County's
16 Black residents' values, work towards equity in their
17 district, and have their voices heard.

18 Thank you for considering our community.

19 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you. Caller, could you stay on
20 a minute and tell us just a little bit more what you
21 consider east Contra Costa County. You mentioned a few
22 towns.

23 MS. SIMS: Yes. So east Contra Costa County would
24 be Bay Point, Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley.

25 CO-CHAIR YEE: Perfect. Thank you so much.

1 MS. SIMS: Yes, of course. Thank you.

2 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

3 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

4 And our next -- up next is caller 0-6-3-2. Caller
5 0-6-3-2, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute
6 by pressing star 6.

7 MR. BAIER: Hello. Can you hear me?

8 COMMENT MODERATOR: We can. I have a couple of
9 brief instructions --

10 MR. BAIER: Okay. Thank you.

11 COMMENT MODERATOR: -- for you. Your speaker order
12 number will be 28. If you will please make note of that
13 for future reference. And if you will please let the
14 mapper know what area you would like to discuss today,
15 the floor is yours.

16 MR. BAIER: Thank you so much. I'm actually going
17 to follow up with the last caller, because I'm going to
18 talk about west Contra Costa County, as well as sort of
19 north Oakland, Berkeley, that area.

20 My name is Jonathan Baier (ph.). I'm a resident of
21 Oakland. I grew up in north Oakland, Berkeley, and the
22 Richmond area. I went to high school in the Richmond
23 Unified School -- what was then the Richmond Unified
24 School District, now the West Contra Costa County Unified
25 School District.

1 And I think that I want to say that north Oakland,
2 Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, and the west county part of
3 Contra Costa County make up a community of interest that
4 is more similar to one another than two areas to their
5 east, even though east county is part of the same county
6 as west county, and you know, and then northern Alameda
7 County is a different county.

8 But despite those county lines, there really is a
9 community of interest in the west Contra Costa area and
10 the northern Alameda County area, because these are areas
11 that are very dense, very diverse, majority/minority
12 areas, and places that share a bus system. And of
13 course, the West County Unified School District goes all
14 the way down to the county line in El Cerrito.

15 So I want to urge you to keep those areas together.
16 They are currently in Assembly District 15. I think that
17 really makes a lot of sense.

18 And I do want to specifically talk about the
19 Richmond Unified School District as representing a
20 community of interest. The Richmond area is really split
21 up into lots of little cities and suburbs in
22 unincorporated areas, and that's a legacy of
23 disinvestments and a lot of other things that, you know,
24 Richmond is kind of a struggling city in many ways. And
25 it is unfortunate that, you know, it's so split up into

1 lots of different cities. But they're all united in one
2 school district.

3 And so I urge you to look at that school district as
4 the greater Richmond area, and keep it together when
5 drawing the lines.

6 And then finally, I just want to say that, you know,
7 the Independent Redistricting Commission is a really
8 great thing, it's a great change that we made ten years
9 ago. But I want to ask you not to make big changes just
10 for changes' sake. Ten years ago the Independent
11 Redistricting Commission really made very major changes
12 to the lines throughout California. And I think the fact
13 that there is less interest this time around shows that
14 they did a really good job ten years ago, that they did a
15 better job than the politicians had done before.

16 So I think that, you know, you --

17 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

18 MS. BAIER: -- shouldn't start from a blank slate,
19 but look at the great work that was done ten years ago
20 from the independent perspective. So that is my comment.
21 Thank you so much.

22 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

23 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

24 And I would like to remind those that are in the
25 queue to please press star 9, indicating you wish to

1 comment.

2 And at this time, Chair, we do not have any raised
3 hands.

4 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Any other Commissioner
5 stories?

6 Commissioner Fornaciari.

7 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes. You bringing up the
8 BART story reminded me. When BART first opened, we took
9 a school field trip to ride BART. We took a school bus
10 from Pleasanton to Bay Fair Station in San Leandro,
11 hopped on BART, rode up to Richmond, and then rode back,
12 and then took the bus home. And it was -- I just
13 remember vividly, it was just the coolest thing. Very,
14 very modern and space age, and very cool and exciting for
15 a young boy to ride on BART. So that was a lot of fun.

16 I do want to -- we had some callers from Inverness,
17 and my wife and I have been fortunate enough to have had
18 a couple of really, really great weekend trips up to
19 Inverness, staying at hotel right there on the water.
20 It's a little tiny bay that is actually formed by the San
21 Andreas Fault.

22 And there is a park just south of the tip of the Bay
23 that shows a fence -- there is a fence line that got
24 separated by a bunch of feet during the 1906 earthquake.
25 And it's still there. You can take a walk right on the

1 fault line and see that. There's a couple of beautiful
2 hikes in that area. And then we were talking about Point
3 Reyes the other day, which is also beautiful. That's
4 all.

5 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you. Indeed, nobody has
6 mentioned earthquake risk as one of our community of
7 interest concerns, which just goes to show the denial we
8 live in, right? I live about a mile from the Hayward
9 Fault, which last had a big one in 1868. Geologists say
10 the average time between major quakes on the Hayward
11 Fault is about 140 years. So we are overdue. And of
12 course, there is a lot of earthquake preparedness, but
13 many more to do.

14 Okay, if there are no further callers at this time
15 or no further stories, why don't we go ahead and go to
16 the twenty-minute video. Kristian, if we could roll
17 that? And come back at 1:00 p.m.

18 (Media played)

19 CO-CHAIR YEE: Welcome back to our communities of
20 interest input meeting with an emphasis on the Bay Area.
21 We invite all those who had appointments for today to
22 call in. We also encourage you to call even if you
23 didn't have an appointment and give your input, either on
24 the Bay Area or actually anywhere in the state.

25 So it looks like we have a caller. Katy, if you

1 will invite them in?

2 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

3 Caller 1-9-8-7, if you will please follow the
4 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 1-9-8-7,
5 you are unmuted. I have a couple of brief instructions
6 for you. Your speaker order number will be number 29.
7 If you will please make note of that for future
8 reference. And if you will please let the mapper know
9 what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is
10 yours. Hello?

11 MS. VINSON: Hi, everyone. Hi. Can you hear me?

12 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes we can. Go ahead.

13 MS. VINSON: Can you hear me?

14 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes we can. Go ahead.

15 MS. VINSON: Hi, everyone. Thank you. Debra Vinson
16 calling to speak about specifically Antioch, the entire
17 Antioch area going from east Contra Costa all the way
18 back to all of the other cities, which would be
19 Brentwood, unincorporated areas, Oakley.

20 I just want to say that Antioch has grown
21 tremendously. And we had our first redistricting of our
22 school district and our city council last year. So I
23 don't feel, even with the redistricting that was approved
24 by the city council members, that we have equity within
25 all of the districts in terms of our representation. For

1 example, those of us who are mixed race have indigenous
2 ancestry, like myself, don't feel that we're getting the
3 complete representation.

4 The other thing that I want to say is that I'd like
5 for some consideration to be taken into effect so that if
6 an area, say for State Assembly, Congress, Senate, is
7 redistricted, that the economic concerns are taken into
8 place. For example, it wouldn't be fair to have everyone
9 that I would say was considered low income, I know
10 Antioch has disparity by zip code. So I would like to
11 see a more broad representation, a broader integration in
12 terms of economics.

13 And I would also like to see a broader consideration
14 of the areas in which we live in. For example, some
15 areas are poorer than others, blah-blah-blah. And so
16 many of these people don't participate because they don't
17 feel that their voice is heard.

18 So I represent -- I am the Chair of the East Contra
19 Costa Democratic Club. I am the District 3, two-time
20 elected rep for our area, and I just wanted to say that I
21 appreciate all of you and the work that you are doing.
22 But I would like for you all to achieve as much as
23 possible on economic balance, so that all the voices can
24 be heard and people can integrate rather than separate
25 based on lower socioeconomic status. I think we need to

1 take a look at that. And thank you.

2 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you so much. Could you stay on
3 and just tell us a little bit more about what areas you
4 would like kept together in a state level district? Like
5 what are the boundaries?

6 MS. VINSON: That's a good question in terms of the
7 boundaries. So our Senate area, for example, covers Bay
8 Point, Pittsburg, it covers the entire area. And I think
9 it even covers some areas of the San Joaquin area. So I
10 don't know what can be done about that. And the same
11 with the Assembly District area. The Assembly District
12 area goes all the way out to Vallejo -- I think it's
13 Vallejo-Fairfield. And so those are really large areas.

14 And so I often feel like Antioch and east Contra
15 Costa County is often left out. For example, our
16 Assembly Member used to have an office, and he has
17 offices in different cities, but no office in the city of
18 Antioch, for example.

19 So we're often left out -- we're often -- our voices
20 are not always heard, even though it may appear that way,
21 and we can reach our members. I know our Senate and our
22 Congressman tried to have offices within Antioch, but
23 there is no guarantee either that that is going to
24 happen.

25 So I'd really like for you all to give some

1 consideration -- you know, you're making those decisions
2 for accessibility to our elected representatives and how
3 accessible they will be to our needs; and the same for
4 the Supervisorial District. They think the people seem
5 to like the outer-lying cities.

6 CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes. For those, you have to get
7 connected with your County Redistricting Commission. So
8 we're only on the Stateline Districts. But we understand
9 your concerns. Thank you for your input.

10 MS. VINSON: Yes. And this is in reference to some
11 of those state -- like for example the Assembly District.
12 I think the Senate Districts and the Congressional
13 Districts be fine, but I just want that consideration
14 taken.

15 CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good. Thank you.

16 MS. VINSON: You're welcome.

17 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

18 With that, Chair, that's all our callers at this
19 time.

20 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Could we have the short
21 instructions read please, Katy?

22 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

23 The Commission is now taking community of interest
24 input by phone. To give comment, please call 877-853-
25 5247, and enter the meeting ID number 98262583672 for this

1 meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star 9 to
2 enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions
3 have been read previously in this session, and are
4 provided in full on the livestream landing page.

5 And we do not have any callers in the queue, Chair.

6 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. We'll continue to wait a bit.
7 We do have more community of interest public input
8 meetings coming up. This Monday on the 19th, at 2:00
9 p.m. we'll have a community of interest meeting focused
10 on what we're calling Zone B. That's the counties of
11 Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta,
12 Siskiyou, and Tehama counties and their surrounding
13 areas. Registration for that meeting will close tonight
14 at 5:00 p.m. if you'd like a timed appointment.

15 That meeting will be followed by another community
16 of interest input meeting on Tuesday the 20th, at 4:00
17 p.m. That will focus on Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo,
18 Mariposa, Mono, Tuolumne counties and their surrounding
19 areas. And registration for that meeting will close
20 tomorrow, Sunday, at 5:00 p.m. Those are for timed
21 appointments. You're also welcome to call in without an
22 appointment.

23 There will be a third community of interest meeting
24 coming up -- input meeting coming up on Thursday the
25 22nd, at 4:00 p.m. That will be focused on Monterey

1 County, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa
2 Cruz, and Ventura, and their surrounding areas.

3 Registration for that meeting will be closing on Tuesday
4 at 5:00 p.m.

5 Our next business meeting will be on Wednesday the
6 21st, at 4:00 p.m. And you are always welcome to give
7 public comment on those as well.

8 Again, you are not required to make an appointment
9 to provide public comment for these meetings. But we
10 encourage you to make an appointment so that you have a
11 timeslot, and it helps us prepare for your input.

12 At this point, our meetings are still held
13 virtually, so anyone in California can provide input at
14 any of our meetings.

15 For more information, as always, go to our website
16 at wedrawthelinesca.org; it's [wedrawthelinesca](http://wedrawthelinesca.org), all one
17 word, dot org for more information.

18 Interpretation is also available at our meetings
19 with five business days' notice. You can contact us and
20 make a request for that for interpretation.

21 Okay, it looks like we have some callers. Katy, if
22 you can invite them in?

23 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

24 Right now we have caller 3-6-0-5. And caller 8-5-6-
25 2, you will be up next in the queue. Right now will be

1 caller 3-6-0-5, and up next will be caller 8-5-6-2. And
2 I want to invite those who have called in to please press
3 star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you wish to
4 comment.

5 Caller 3-6-0-5, if you will please follow the
6 prompts to unmute.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

8 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you. I have a
9 couple of brief instructions for you. Your speaker order
10 number will be number 30. If you will please make note of
11 that for future reference. And if you will please let
12 the mapper know what area you would like to discuss
13 today, the floor is yours.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I welcome the CRC to
15 the Bay Area today. And I'm a resident of San Francisco,
16 but I'm concerned about perhaps the CRC and the effort
17 and the communities of interest take a step back and look
18 at multi-member districting.

19 There is a number of states that do have it. I
20 think Maryland has it, maybe Virginia. And the point is
21 so that people in a district who aren't just the
22 majoritarian population have a say. I happen to be an
23 LGBTQ senior, and I'm a labor advocate, and I would like
24 to see, along with sixty percent of the population in
25 most recent polls, are not happy with the existing

1 political parties in the country. And it's pretty
2 overwhelmingly across the country, sixty percent.

3 So that perhaps with eventually ranked choice
4 voting, that's a different story because that has to be
5 passed. But I would believe that this Commission could
6 have the authority to do multi-member districts, so that
7 the majority is not the only group in a district
8 represented. And I think it's really important that
9 labor geographic density is considered as one of the
10 communities of interest in the Bay Area and, of course,
11 communities of color, who have all special needs.

12 And it tends to be overlooked with business and
13 corporate money coming into the legislature, we end up --
14 and to the Congress, sometimes getting the short end.
15 None of the reforms have gone through, and we see even
16 around the country, minimum wage being ridiculously low.

17 So I just wonder if you were also considering the
18 multi-member district option?

19 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, caller. So our Commission
20 has essentially the responsibility to draw single-member
21 districts, and we do not have that authority. That would
22 be something to bring to the attention of our legislators
23 in Sacramento, if you want to pursue that or promote that
24 option. That is not something we have an option to do.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

1 CO-CHAIR YEE: You did mention labor. Was there a
2 particular geography to that thought of keeping labor
3 interests together?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, it is a way to take the
5 geographic density of union membership and organizations
6 into consideration in laying out districts.

7 And then one other thing is, you know, a number of
8 cities around the state have multiple senators, and San
9 Francisco only has one. And I just wonder why Fresno and
10 Bakersfield, you know, they have districts that swirl in.
11 So they have two senators, and San Francisco who once
12 used to have, in the old days, the majority of the state
13 legislature at one time, you know, we only have one.

14 And if it's possible to consider, you know, if
15 medium and large size cities, you know, other cities have
16 more than one if, you know, how that's distributed. So
17 that with the neighboring cities perhaps there are more
18 interests in alignment.

19 CO-CHAIR YEE: Right.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Like in San Francisco, the
21 west side or the east side are very different, and the
22 north side, especially, is a bit more affluent and has,
23 you know, a sort of divided presence as well.

24 CO-CHAIR YEE: Right. Unfortunately, we're coming
25 up on a break. So thank you for that input and for your

1 interest in obvious things.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

3 CO-CHAIR YEE: I know we have some callers in the
4 queue, but we are up against a required break, and I
5 apologize to make you continue waiting. But we will need
6 to take this break for the sake of our staff.

7 So if those in the queue with their hands raised
8 could hang on, it will be a fifteen-minute break, and we
9 will be back at 1:30. Thank you.

10 (Break)

11 CO-CHAIR YEE: Welcome back to the California
12 Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities of Interest
13 Input Meeting, focused today on the Bay Area. This will
14 be our last segment of today's input. And we will take
15 not only those who had appointments, but anyone did not
16 have an appointment or had an appointment at a different
17 time, as well as taking general public comment on any
18 other topics today.

19 So I believe we have some folks in the queue? Katy,
20 if you could invite them in?

21 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes sure. Would you like the
22 instructions read for general public comment as well?

23 CO-CHAIR YEE: Oh, sure. Let's go ahead and do
24 that.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.

1 In order to maximize transparency and public
2 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
3 taking general public comment for items not on the agenda
4 and community of interest input by phone. To call in,
5 dial the telephone number provided on the livestream
6 feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the
7 meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is
8 98262583672 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a
9 participant ID, simply press the pound key.

10 Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a
11 queue. To indicate you are ready to comment, please
12 press star 9. This will raise your hand for the
13 moderator. When it is your turn to speak, you will hear
14 a message that says, the host would like you to talk, and
15 to press star 6 to speak. If you would like to give your
16 name, please state and spell it for the record. You are
17 not required to provide your name to give public comment.

18 Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream
19 audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your
20 call. Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
21 when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn
22 down the livestream volume.

23 And right now, we have caller 1-0-6-6, and up next
24 will be caller 8-5-7-1. We appreciate your patience.

25 Caller 1-0-6-6, if you will please follow the



1 prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. Caller 1-0-6-6,
2 you are unmuted, I have a couple of brief instructions
3 for you. Your speaker order number will be number 32.
4 If you will please make note of that for future
5 reference. And if you will please let the mapper know
6 what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I'm a
8 resident homeowner in Oakley, California. And I'm
9 calling today to speak as a resident, not representing
10 any public agency that I may be associated with. I live
11 out here in the beautiful Delta region. And whilst I
12 recognize that today's meeting is about California as a
13 whole for redistricting, I would like to just comment
14 that the importance of regional economies, environmental
15 stewardship, and (indiscernible) as a whole.

16 So if you are looking at a region where I live, east
17 county, we have the Delta and the issues we have with
18 increased salinity. We have farmland, and we just have a
19 lovely environmental backdrop. So when we're looking at
20 redistricting, I think it is very important that we look
21 at it as a region as well.

22 Cutting communities up just for the sake of being
23 able to say we've redistricted, it has the potential to
24 have a very negative impact socially, environmentally,
25 and economically. Not just for families, but also for

1 businesses and social services.

2 So again, I'm speaking as a resident homeowner in
3 Oakley. Thank you for this opportunity today.

4 CO-CHAIR YEE: So caller -- are you still there?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

6 CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes, could you tell us a little bit
7 more about just the geography of what you consider your
8 community of interest, where the boundaries might be,
9 what you would like seen kept together?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you so much for
11 the followup question.

12 I believe the -- well, where I'm coming from is east
13 Contra Costa County. We're about fifty miles east of
14 downtown San Francisco. So we are on the waterline for
15 the Delta, the San Joaquin Delta. So that would be
16 probably, you know, starting about Pittsburg, Antioch,
17 Oakley, Brentwood, Bethel Island, Discovery Bay,
18 Knightsen. We can even start as soon as Bay Point.

19 So we're looking really at that region between
20 Highway 160 and Highway 4, and that kind of an area that
21 is identified again as east Contra Costa County.

22 CO-CHAIR YEE: Perfect. Thank you so much.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you for allowing me to
24 speak today.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.



1 Right now we have caller 8-5-7-1. If you will
2 please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.

3 MR. BOWMAN: Hello. This is --

4 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

5 MR. BOWMAN: Hi. Does this work?

6 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Hello. You are unmuted --

7 MR. BOWMAN: My name is --

8 COMMENT MODERATOR: One -- I have a couple of brief
9 instructions --

10 MR. BOWMAN: Hello?

11 COMMENT MODERATOR: Hi. Just real quick. Your
12 speaker order number is number 33. If you could please
13 just make note of that for future reference. And then if
14 you could please let the mapper know what area you would
15 like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

16 MR. BOWMAN: Very good. My name is Chris Bowman. I
17 served on the Redistricting Task Force -- actually the
18 Election Task Force in San Francisco in 1995, and we drew
19 the lines for District elections that were passed by the
20 voters in 1996. I participated in the redistricting
21 process for the last three cycles. And I'd like to have
22 the mapper go to, or zoom in to the San Francisco, the
23 Assembly District, and then later the Congressional
24 District. Can we do that, please?

25 MR. MANOFF: Yes, go ahead please.

1 MR. BOWMAN: Zoom in to San Francisco. I only see
2 the regional map here.

3 MR. MANOFF: There is a slight delay on your
4 livestream, sir. We see the map now. Go ahead, please.

5 MR. BOWMAN: Okay, thank you. What I'd like to say
6 is that the redistricting that was done in San Francisco,
7 not under the gerrymandering of (indiscernible) Brown
8 machine back in 1970, 1980, and 1990, with the governor's
9 special master's, there was the court-drawn lines in
10 1991, and then the legislature in 2001 drew the lines as
11 they should be, that basically created east/west Assembly
12 Districts, renters on the east side, homeowners on the
13 west side.

14 And what happened under the California Redistricting
15 Commission was that that was all turned over. And
16 basically the homeowners were diluted on the west side
17 and added to the heavily renter areas on the east side by
18 adding the Portola, the Visitacion Valley, and Excelsior
19 districts, which are over sixty percent homeowner, into a
20 district that was roughly twenty-three percent homeowner.

21 I think homeownership, whether you're wealthy or
22 you're just struggling and working class, does represent
23 a community of interest. I think that basically the
24 Commission violated that community of interest when it
25 drew its lines.

1 If you look at the Congressional District as well,
2 you'll see that west of Twin Peaks that the Forest Hill,
3 basically west of Twin Peaks neighborhood, was divided
4 and split down the middle. And that makes absolutely no
5 sense from the standpoint of communities of interest.
6 There is the West of Twin Peaks Council, which represents
7 twenty neighborhood groups, that was split down -- right
8 down the middle.

9 So I would strongly urge the Commission this time to
10 basically restore the eastern boundary to put the
11 Portola, Visitacion Valley, and Excelsior back into the
12 west district, which is the homeowner district. And then
13 move the eastern district north into basically Cow
14 Hollow, the Marina, and Pacific Heights. And then,
15 whether you will balance for population, that's where
16 you'll end up.

17 The other thing that I would like to point out is, I
18 think that it's important that you look at institutions
19 and keep them intact.

20 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. BOWMAN: If you look to the finetuning for the
22 district boundaries, you'll find for instance that Kaiser
23 Hospital, which is in the western addition, but on the
24 verge of -- or on the edge of Anza Vista, is divided
25 between two districts.

1 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

2 MR. BOWMAN: It has several hospitals and what have
3 you that are split. Try to get the institutions, whether
4 they are hospitals or universities, or what have you, in
5 the same districts, so you don't have to deal with two
6 representatives or --

7 MR. MANOFF: Time.

8 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you, caller. As always, we
9 encourage callers to provide additional details through
10 email or snail mail, or through our community of interest
11 mapping tool at drawmycacommunity.org; drawmycacommunity,
12 all one word, dot org.

13 Okay. Next caller, please.

14 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we have caller 8-5-6-2, if
15 you will please follow the prompts to unmute. Caller 8-
16 5-6-2, you are currently unmuted. I have a couple of
17 brief instructions for you. Hello?

18 MS. HOLLY: Yes, I'm here.

19 COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. I have a couple of brief
20 instructions for you. Your speaker order number will be
21 number 34. If you will please make note of that for
22 future reference. And if you will please let the mapper
23 know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor
24 is yours.

25 MS. HOLLY: Thank you so much. I'm Camilla Holly

1 (ph.). I am a school board member actually out here in
2 the Brentwood area. And I want to talk about the kind of
3 area of interest of Brentwood, Knightsen, Oakley,
4 Discovery Bay, a little bit of Antioch, and areas
5 surrounding it.

6 What I want to say about this area, particularly
7 from the perspective of education, but also from the
8 perspective of social class and growth, because our area
9 has grown over the last ten to twenty years, and where we
10 have always been a rural area, there are many more
11 families and many more people of varying social class.

12 And the reason why I think that that is important,
13 is because our issues, when it comes to our elected
14 officials, they vary, they vary. But they're very
15 important. Particularly the issue of education and
16 resources for education to make sure that students who
17 come from different families of various social classes
18 have what they need. And it has been a big revelation
19 during the pandemic for us to understand the differences
20 in household in terms of access to these resources for
21 families.

22 We are a diverse community. And we're growing more
23 and more, and becoming more ethnically diverse, which
24 brings with it its own challenges. And whereas before we
25 were seen as a sparse area that is becoming more dense,

1 and I believe that our area needs to stay together when
2 it comes to drawing district lines. And I think that
3 we're specialized. In other words, we don't look like,
4 you know, even as close as Pittsburg; we're very
5 different. We have a lot of different needs as far as
6 growing business opportunities, as well as agriculture.

7 When I think about the Census, I enjoyed the twenty-
8 minute presentation about how you draw these lines, and
9 not specifically depending upon the Census. And as you
10 know, some people out in our area, particularly those who
11 work in the agricultural field, may not be on the Census.
12 And so that's why I believe that the area of Brentwood --

13 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

14 MS. HOLLY: -- Oakley, Knightsen, Discovery Bay, and
15 even parts of Antioch, we really need to be considered an
16 area of interest.

17 I appreciate your time --

18 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

19 MS. HOLLY: -- and thank you so much for having
20 these conversations.

21 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you for calling. Caller, stay
22 on, and could you let us know what part of Antioch? You
23 said parts of Antioch. Would you give us some boundaries
24 for what part you're commenting?

25 MS. HOLLY: Well, there are parts -- yeah, thanks

1 for -- there are parts that are connected -- pretty much
2 connected to Brentwood, along Lone Tree, starting with A
3 Street and coming on down. They're in my district in
4 terms of being on the school board.

5 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay, so --

6 MS. HOLLY: So we would hate to have that area
7 separated. We want to include Antioch, because we want
8 to make sure that my constituents have the same voice as
9 those in Brentwood, because they do go to our schools.
10 People in that particular area do come to my schools.

11 CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good. Thank you so much.

12 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

13 I would like to invite those who have called in to
14 please press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you
15 wish to comment.

16 At this time, we do have one raised hand. Caller 3-
17 9-6-0. But I would like to invite those that have called
18 in to please press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating
19 you wish to comment. Caller 3-9-6-0, and then up next we
20 will have caller 1-9-4-0.

21 Caller 3-9-6-0, if you will please follow the
22 prompts to unmute. Caller 3-9-6-0, you are unmuted. I
23 have a couple of brief instructions for you.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

25 COMMENT MODERATOR: Your speaker order number will

1 be --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

3 COMMENT MODERATOR: -- your speaker order number
4 will be number 35. If you will please make note of that
5 for future reference. And if you will please let the
6 mapper know of an area you would like to discuss, with
7 that the floor is yours.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, thank you. I am a
9 resident of Marin County, and I have been -- I'm in my
10 70s. I was born and raised in Marin County. And I am
11 just calling with my request that the senatorial and
12 assembly districts remain in Marin, and Sonoma, and north
13 rather than going back across the bridges.

14 I remember from many years, when Senator Marks was
15 our senator, and he was a great guy and he put a lot of
16 attention into Marin County. But the issues that he was
17 interested in had a lot to do with his home area of San
18 Francisco. And since we have -- our State Senatorial
19 District has been Marin north, and Senator McGuire now is
20 our senator. We have been able to focus on issues that
21 are particularly important and cogent for our community.
22 Everybody knows we are not densely populated as the city
23 on the East Bay and the South Bay.

24 And our mix of basically suburban small town
25 communities and our ag and open lands relate much, much

1 more strongly and productively to similar areas in Sonoma
2 and north.

3 So if there is any question about redrawing us back
4 into more into the dense urban core, I would vote against
5 it as an individual citizen and say, please keep us on
6 the north peninsula and north. We participate with ABAG
7 and all the other government associations that bind the
8 Bay Area together on those larger issues.

9 And so that's my comment.

10 CO-CHAIR YEE: Caller, you said Sonoma and north?
11 How far north are you thinking?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, as it is now, I mean,
13 my main point in calling is to say to please align Marin
14 as it is now with Sonoma County and, you know, I know our
15 Assembly District goes even further north. And I have
16 just paid attention to issues that have to deal with
17 Marin and more, you know, the Santa Rosa, Petaluma area,
18 and south.

19 So however the lines might be drawn north of there,
20 I think that people who live in those areas have much
21 more to the point observations about that. My
22 observation is that we relate much, much better to the
23 North Bay, the north coastal area, than we do to the more
24 densely urban areas on the other side of the bridges,
25 either San Francisco or the East Bay.

1 So I just request that consideration be given to
2 keeping the lines and our associations at least in the
3 southern part of our districts as they are now.

4 CO-CHAIR YEE: Very good. Thank you so much.

5 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

6 I would like to invite those that have called in to
7 please press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating you
8 wish to comment.

9 Right now we have caller 1-9-4-0. If you will
10 please follow the prompts to unmute at this time by
11 pressing star 6.

12 CO-CHAIR YEE: A reminder also, excuse me, Katy, we
13 will be taking calls until 2:00 p.m. So get in line. If
14 you're in line by 2:00 p.m. we will get to you. But you
15 want to call in and get in line by 2:00 p.m. This is for
16 public input or public comment. Thank you.

17 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much, Chair.

18 Caller 1-9-4-0, you are currently unmuted. Your
19 speaker order number will be number 36. If you will
20 please make note of that for future reference. And if
21 you'll please let the mapper know what area you would
22 like to discuss, the floor is yours.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will be discussing Marin
24 and the coastal counties north. I live in Marin. I have
25 lived here for over fifty years, relocated from New York,

1 directly from Greenwich Village to Mill Valley in 1969.

2 And part of the reason was because I was drawn to the
3 physical beauty and the rural nature of the county.

4 I'm not quite sure how the zones were drawn, but I'm
5 hoping that placing Marin in Zone C doesn't in any way
6 reflect the Commission's understanding of the
7 demographics of Marin, or projecting their intentions for
8 the redistricting process. I'm sure it was somehow just
9 a convenient way of doing things.

10 But Marin is, you know -- well, we have a suburban
11 aspect to us. We are eighty percent open space, so we
12 are primarily a rural county. And we fit much better, as
13 we have been in the last ten years, with the counties to
14 the north of us going directly up the coast. Currently
15 now that's part of Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del
16 Norte, all coastal counties that share the same interest
17 in protecting the coast. We're a continuous coastline as
18 opposed to the San Francisco or East Bay, where we are
19 separated by water and we have to get there by bridges.
20 So it is not a contiguous connection.

21 We also share the 101 corridor, which leads then
22 into 1, heading up to Crescent City. We also, you know,
23 again because of the rural nature, we share agricultural
24 interests, fishing interests, and so I really do hope
25 that the Commission will keep those communities of

1 interest more in mind. That's really how we are aligned
2 in Marin County.

3 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you so much. And you're
4 correct, the zone designations were planned just for
5 outreach purposes, convenience purposes. They do not
6 relate to actual redistricting lines in any way.

7 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

8 At this time, I would like to ask those that have
9 called in to please press star 9, indicating you wish to
10 comment. As the Chair mentioned previously, we would
11 need your hands raised prior to 1:55.

12 Caller 1-9-8-7, you do have your hand raised. If
13 you will please follow the prompts to unmute. Caller
14 1-9-8-7, I have a couple of brief instructions for you.
15 Your speaker order number will be number 37. If you have
16 an area you would like to discuss, please let the mapper
17 know what that is. If you just have general public
18 comment, you're welcome to share that as well. The floor
19 is yours.

20 MS. VINSON: Hi. I called earlier. My name is
21 Debra, and I forgot to say that Antioch, the city of
22 Antioch, is the largest city in eastern Contra Costa
23 County, and as you heard from a previous caller,
24 surrounded by the other cities. And I just want to say,
25 prior to the previous redistricting, we had our

1 congressman changed, our supervisor changed, blah-blah-
2 blah.

3 So I just want -- you guys, when you're making these
4 decisions, to take all of that into consideration for
5 what is in the best interest of the residents. And I
6 simply say that because when the stores in all the areas
7 are doing their demographics, Antioch is the city with
8 the largest needs but often doesn't get the best
9 representation, even though -- we have the most beautiful
10 parks, and the most diverse community with the most
11 diverse people, also educational and economic background,
12 which I mentioned earlier.

13 So I just want you to, you know, just reconsider
14 that. And thank you.

15 CO-CHAIR YEE: Thank you.

16 COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

17 At this time I would like to invite those that are
18 in the queue to please press star 9 to raise your hand,
19 indicating you wish to comment. Please press star 9 to
20 raise your hand, indicating you wish to comment.

21 And Chair, would you like me to read the short
22 instructions as it is about 1:55, and it's going to be
23 closing?

24 CO-CHAIR YEE: Yes please. And a reminder to all
25 folks listening. We will be closing the line at 2:00.

1 So if you want to get in line before that, if you'd like
2 to make a comment today in terms of public input or any
3 public comment for today's meeting.

4 COMMENT MODERATOR: The Commission is now taking
5 general public comment and community of interest input by
6 phone. To give comment, please call 877-853-5247. Enter
7 the meeting ID number 98262583672 for this meeting. Once
8 you have dialed in, please press star 9 to enter the
9 comment queue. The full call-in instructions have been
10 read previously in this session, and are provided in full
11 on the livestream landing page.

12 At this time, Chair, we do not have any raised
13 hands.

14 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. Let's just wait since we only
15 have a few more minutes. So callers in line, this is
16 your chance. This is the moment. This is the last
17 chance today to provide public testimony or make a public
18 comment. As always, we invite public comment at our
19 meetings, upcoming community of interest meetings, as
20 well as business meetings.

21 And so you can always find out about our meeting
22 schedule. It is kept up to date at wedrawthelinesca.org;
23 that's we drawthelinesca, all one word, dot org. You
24 will find there our upcoming meeting schedule as well as
25 archives for all our past meetings. That includes

1 agendas, hand-outs, and full videos of our past meetings.

2 The community of interest input that we are
3 receiving today and thus far to date, we are accumulating
4 in what will be a publicly accessible database that is
5 not available yet. Our intention is to make that
6 available as soon as possible. And when it is, you will
7 be able to look up any of the submissions from callers
8 today or any of our previous community of interest input
9 meetings, or folks who have sent in input through our
10 community of interest mapping tool at
11 drawmycacommunity.org; or through email or other ways
12 that people have submitted testimony, and snail mail as
13 well.

14 Okay, any more callers wish to comment?

15 MR. MANOFF: There is no one in the queue at this
16 time, Chair.

17 CO-CHAIR YEE: Okay. We'll wait just one more
18 minute.

19 If you do wish to email your input, you can email
20 that to votersfirstact, all one word,
21 votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov. It's
22 votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov. Or use the good old U.S.
23 Postal Service, send us mail at 721 Capitol Mall -- 721
24 Capitol Mall, Suite 260, Sacramento, California 95814.
25 That's 721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260, Sacramento, 95814.

1 Okay, last chance callers. Anybody want to raise
2 their hand?

3 Also a quick reminder. If you wish to have your
4 comments interpreted at any of our meetings, please
5 submit a request at least five business days in advance.
6 You can send those requests at
7 interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov; that's
8 interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov, or call our office at
9 916-323-0323. What a cool number that is. It's 916-323-
10 0323.

11 Okay, it looks like we don't have any further
12 callers who wish to make comments at this time. So I'd
13 like to say thank you to all our staff today, our ASL
14 interpreters, Katy especially, who is so marvelous at
15 moderating our comments.

16 And we look forward to our next public input meeting
17 just two days from now on Monday, the 19th. That will
18 focus on what we're calling Zone B, and that's Butte,
19 Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou,
20 and Tehama counties and surrounding areas. Commissioner
21 Sinay and I will be chairing it.

22 Okay, if there is no further business, this meeting
23 is adjourned. Thank you all.

24 (Meeting adjourned)

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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.

Brittani Rolf
BRITTANI ROLF

September 23, 2022
DATE

