

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:
CRC BUSINESS MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Transcribed By:
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APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

Alicia Fernandez, Chair
Isra Ahmad, Vice Chair
Linda Akutagawa, Commissioner
Jane Andersen, Commissioner
Neal Fornaciari, Commissioner
J. Kennedy, Commissioner
Sara Sadhwani, Commissioner
Patricia Sinay, Commissioner
Derric Taylor, Commissioner
Trena Turner, Commissioner
Angela Vazquez, Commissioner
Russell Yee, Commissioner

STAFF

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Marian Johnston, Chief Counsel
Anthony Pane, Chief Counsel

TECHNICAL CONTRACTORS

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

Also PresentPUBLIC COMMENT:

Samuel Sukaton, California League of Conservation Voter's
Education Fund
Dylan Johnson, SEIU California
Kimi Lee, Bay Rising
Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund
Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters of California
Vanessa Green, Alliance San Diego
Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian
Law Caucus
Kirk Samuels, The People's Bloc
Kristin Nimmers, California Calls
Ayana
Sayaz Nawabi, Care L.A.
Sky Allen, IE United
Deborah Howard, California Senior Advocates League
Jeremy Payne, Equality California
Female Speaker

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P R O C E E D I N G S

4:00 p.m.

1
2
3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, Kristian. And
4 welcome everyone to the May 18th, 2021, California
5 Citizens' Redistricting Commission meeting. And we are
6 calling this meeting to order, and I will take -- we'll
7 take roll call. Is that going to be Ravi?

8 MR. SINGH: Yes. Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Ravi, okay. Thank you, Ravi.

10 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad.

11 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Here.

12 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

13 Commissioner Andersen.

14 Commissioner Fernandez

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Wait, Andersen's here.

17 MR. SINGH: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

18 Commissioner Fornaciari.

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

20 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

22 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

23 Commissioner Sadhwani?

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

25 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay?

1 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

2 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

4 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

5 Commissioner Turner.

6 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

7 MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vasquez.

8 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Here.

9 MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Yee.

10 COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

11 MR. SINGH: Chair, you have a quorum.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ravi. And before we go
13 to public comment, I just want to let everyone know that
14 we have a condensed meeting scheduled today and these are
15 the following agenda items we plan to discuss.

16 The Agenda Item 5, which is our Executive Director
17 report. Agenda Item 9-F, as in Frank, Language Access;
18 9-I, which is Data Management, if needed; 9-J, Grants, if
19 needed; 9-N, as in Nancy, Public Input Meeting Design;
20 Agenda Item 10, Legal Affairs, if needed; Agenda Item 13,
21 which is the Discussion of Future Meetings. And after
22 that, we will recess to closed session.

23 So with that, if we can go to public comment. And
24 we'll take public comment now, and then prior to
25 recessing to closed session.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thanks, Katy.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

4 In order to maximize transparency and public
5 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
6 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
7 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is
8 877-853-5247.

9 When prompted enter the meeting ID number provided
10 on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for this
11 meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
12 press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you'll be
13 placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment,
14 please press star 9. This will raise your hand for the
15 moderator. When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a
16 message that says the host would like you to talk and to
17 press star 6 to speak.

18 If you would like to give your name, please state
19 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
20 provide your name to give public comment. Please make
21 sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent
22 any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you
23 are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your
24 turn to speak, and again, please turn down the livestream
25 volume.

1 And again, I'd like to remind those calling in to
2 press star 9 to raise their hand indicating they wish to
3 comment.

4 We do have several raised hands at this time, and I
5 will begin opening the lines.

6 Go ahead. The floor is yours.

7 MR. SUKATON: Hello. Confirming that you can hear
8 me.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you.

10 MR. SUKATON: Excellent. My name is Samuel Sukaton.
11 That's S-U-K, as in Katherine, A, as in apple, T, as in
12 Thomas, O-N, as in Nancy, Samuel, traditional spelling,
13 from the California League of Conservation Voters
14 Education Fund.

15 Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Ahmad, hoping
16 you're going to chair a good meeting today.

17 I'm calling just to lay down CLCs position on kind
18 of the continued conversation about deadlines. I do want
19 to flag, given our research, we believe we're only the
20 environmental organization who's ever testified before
21 the CRC in its history. We have seven letters submitted
22 from the 2011 process. We had the pleasure of speaking
23 to you earlier this year, I believe in February. And we
24 take our responsibility -- that responsibility rather
25 seriously.

1 We have been standing in for a broad California
2 community of supporting habitat conservation, public
3 lands, and environmental justice communities. My
4 predecessor, Dr. Eric Schockman, attended nearly ever CRC
5 hearing to the point where his predecessor is actually --
6 your predecessor said hello to him by name. I want that
7 relationship, not just for us, but for the broader
8 environmental community at large, right? Whether that's
9 People's Collective for Environmental Justice in the
10 Inland Empire, the Environmental Protection Information
11 Center in Arcata, the Mono Lake Committee.

12 With that in mind, we want to make sure we get this
13 right and I want to make sure that the rest of the
14 environmental community participates as fully in this
15 Commission's deliberations as fully we did in 2011. With
16 that in mind, we are going to continue urging that the
17 Commission take as much time, thinking about the schedule
18 as necessary to make sure that communities can submit
19 maps, communities can comment, particularly with kind of
20 the disruption of the holiday season that may change kind
21 of the end of the process. Thank you.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Sukaton. Thank
23 you. Next one, Katy?

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller. Go
25 ahead, the floor is yours.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. Confirming you can hear me.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you.

3 The floor is yours.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Great. Good evening, Commissioners.

5 This is Dylan Johnson, again with SEIU California. I

6 just wanted to call in. I wanted to thank you all,

7 again, on behalf of SEIU for the opportunity to

8 participate in the labor panel last week. We thought it

9 was really terrific and an awesome discussion.

10 So I just wanted to follow up on two points that I

11 made during the panel. First, I wanted to touch on the

12 potential for the Commission asking for supplemental

13 outreach funds from the -- if the Commission feels that

14 those additional supplemental funds for outreach are

15 necessary. We would encourage the Commission to direct

16 staff at this meeting to prepare a budget for you to

17 approve at your next meeting.

18 So the reason I'm making that suggestion is, we're

19 near the end of the state budget cycle, so it's our

20 understanding it'll be much easier to get that approved

21 now than a month from now. So if that is something that

22 the Commission is interested in. I know there was some

23 interest in requesting additional funds for that outreach

24 in order to frontload some of this work. We just

25 encourage the Commission to direct staff to do that at

1 this meeting.

2 And the second piece I wanted to touch on is just a
3 continuation of that, so it'll be talked about on the
4 panel, and I commented about frontloading the work. I
5 know there's a lot of concern around the time line and
6 doing some of this outreach before the Census data is
7 released --

8 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

9 MR. JOHNSON: -- to ensure -- thank you. To ensure
10 the schedule, there's time for plenty of public input.
11 So and the committee acknowledged from the last
12 Commission. They cited two reasons for requesting the
13 formation of the date be moved up from December to August
14 and that was to allow for earlier public education and
15 outreach and to allow for more time --

16 MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

17 MR. JOHNSON: -- to hire staff and consultants. So
18 just really want to encourage the Commission to frontload
19 some of that input from the public on things like COIs,
20 and just other general --

21 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

22 MR. JOHNSON: -- ahead of getting (indiscernible).
23 Thank you so much for your time as always and I look
24 forward to continuing this together.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

1 MR. MANOFF: Chair, point of clarification, please.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

3 MR. MANOFF: Would you like us to enforce a two
4 minute or a three-minute time line?

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Two minute, please.

6 MR. MANOFF: Understood. Thank you so much.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we have other raised
9 hands, but I also would like to remind those callers in
10 the queue to press star 9 to raise your hand indicating
11 you wish to comment. We do have several raised hands.
12 I'm just seeing there are a few that are not.

13 MS. LEE: Hello?

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. We are here. We
15 can hear you. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

16 MS. LEE: Hi. My name is Kimi Lee. I am the
17 director of Bay Rising. We're a network of over thirty
18 grassroots organizations working with immigrant, working
19 class, disenfranchised people in the Bay area in about
20 five counties.

21 And we're calling today because we're concerned
22 about moving up any time lines and just the deadlines for
23 the maps, and actually, we want to just make sure we can
24 extend that amount of time as possible for our
25 communities to have feedback. The CCRC was put into

1 place by voters to ensure the public redistricting
2 process allows for public participation and district
3 lines that provide fair and equitable representation.

4 So communities are at the heart of why we have an
5 Independent Redistricting Commission, and it will be
6 those communities that ultimately will bear the impact of
7 the final maps for the next ten years. So we really
8 encourage you, please give us the time we need and please
9 don't rush this. Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, Ms. Lee.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller.
12 Go ahead, the floor is yours.

13 MS. GOLD: Yes. Good afternoon. It's Rosalind
14 Gold, R-O-S-A-L-I-N-D, and the last name is Gold,
15 G-O-L-D. On behalf of the NALEO Educational Fund. Thank
16 you all so much, and we would very much like the
17 Commission, when it is looking at its time line scenarios
18 to make sure it provides specific time for community
19 members to submit draft regional and draft statewide maps
20 after the Statewide Database releases its processed data
21 and before the Commission itself starts to draw lines.

22 We're particularly concerned about the scenario in
23 handout 9-A, the milestone scenario that has one place
24 where the Commission starts to draw lines immediately
25 after this processed data is released. There is enormous

1 benefits for the Commission providing time to allow
2 groups to submit public draft regional and statewide
3 maps. Partly because we will have the opportunity to
4 resolve conflicts and tensions regarding compliance with
5 the Voting Rights Act, regarding different communities of
6 interest. We can help the Commission if we're allowed to
7 provide you with draft maps and navigate some of the
8 tensions that you will also have to navigate yourself.

9 We would note that giving us the time to submit
10 those maps --

11 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

12 MS. GOLD: -- before the Commission actually starts
13 to do line drawing is consistent with one of the earlier
14 Gantt charts, which actually had a six-week period
15 between the submission -- sorry, between the release of
16 processed data and the Commission's actual first draft
17 map.

18 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

19 MS. GOLD: There is also plenty for the Commission
20 to do during this time period before it starts to draw
21 lines. It can drill down on regional maps of communities
22 of interest. It can resolve some big-picture questions.

23 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

24 MS. GOLD: So there's lots for the Commission to do
25 and analyze the data that came from Statewide Database.

1 There's lots for the Commission to do before it actually
2 starts to draw lines to give community groups the
3 opportunity to present --

4 MR. MANOFF: Plus fifteen.

5 MS. GOLD: -- what we might want to call in some
6 cases, our unity maps/draft maps after the data is out,
7 before the Commission starts to draw its lines. Thank
8 you so much. And happy to answer any questions.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Gold.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller. We
11 can hear you. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

12 MS. HUTCHISON: Good afternoon, Commissioners. This
13 is Helen Hutchison with the League of Women Voters of
14 California. I sent an email using the web interface on
15 Friday and got an acknowledgement, but I don't see it
16 posted. So I'm just going to cover a little bit of it.
17 Most of it was just confirming comments from last week
18 about clarifying your definition of redistricting matters
19 and regularly providing the public with an explanation of
20 your policy.

21 One more thing that I wanted to raise is that you
22 are required to announce the subject of your closed
23 sessions. As you go into closed sessions, even if you
24 don't intend to make any -- take any action or -- or
25 going to take any action, you need to announce the

1 subject, and we would appreciate that. Thank you all,
2 again, very much.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Hutchinson.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller.
5 Go ahead, the floor is yours.

6 MS. GREEN: Hello, Commissioners. My name is
7 Vanessa Green and I am the redistricting program manager
8 for Alliance San Diego, a partner in the IBE
9 Redistricting Alliance. We are a community empowerment
10 organization doing work to ensure participation from the
11 San Diego region in California's redistricting process.

12 We would like to comment on the CCRCs adoption of a
13 time line that allows significant and thorough community
14 involvement in the process. The work of residents and
15 community groups is an important part of the independent
16 redistricting process. They will collect and analyze COI
17 data, develop VRA Section 2 compliant maps, analyze the
18 2020 data once it is released in a usable format, engage,
19 coordinate and develop joint maps with other resident
20 community groups.

21 CMF proposals from a variety of community groups and
22 stakeholders will enrich your own map drawing process and
23 appreciation for the importance of community input by
24 maximizing time for public input engagement, the CCRC
25 will give residents the opportunity to provide clear,

1 meaningful, and responsive map submissions, feedback, and
2 as a result, could minimize the amount of conflicting
3 testimony it receives.

4 The public needs time to understand and analyze the
5 redistricting data when it becomes available. Draw
6 initial maps, communicate with and work through potential
7 conflicts, prepare testimony on behalf of their maps,
8 understanding --

9 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

10 MS. GREEN: -- and analyze the Commissioner's
11 feedback, and its drafts map, provide feedback on the
12 Commissioner's draft maps and comment on the
13 Commissioner's final deliberation in the waning days of
14 the redistricting process. Thank you.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Green.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller.
17 Go ahead, the floor is yours.

18 MS. MARKS: Thank you. Hello Commissioners. My
19 name is Julia Marks. I'm calling from Asian Americans
20 Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus. Thank you for your
21 time today. First, I want to second the comments made by
22 previous callers uplifting the need for time for
23 community input through multiple stages of this process.
24 I'd like to provide some additional context on a really
25 important phase of the public input process, which is the

1 time after the Statewide Database releases data, but
2 before the Commission starts drafting district maps.

3 The Commission's COI collection process is very
4 important, but COI is not the only source of valuable
5 public input. We do ask that you also plan for a period
6 where the public can propose draft maps before the
7 Commission starts drafting its own maps. As the previous
8 caller noted, there are multiple steps that the
9 Commission can take after data are released before
10 actually putting pen to paper to come up with proposed
11 district lines. For example, the Commission can dig in
12 on complicated areas of COI or engage in VRA analysis
13 while community groups have some time to also work on
14 draft maps and propose those to the Commission.

15 We believe the Commission's process is strengthened
16 by seeing maps created by both statewide and regional
17 coalitions. Community coalitions can suggest solutions
18 to complicated puzzles, balancing different COIs and also
19 complying with the VRA. These maps can help the
20 Commission think through its options and --

21 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

22 MS. MARKS: -- various communications as it
23 undertakes its own drafting process. A lot goes into
24 putting together a community map, including analyzing the
25 Statewide Database adjusted data, drafting, thinking

1 about VRA compliance, and most --

2 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

3 MS. MARKS: -- importantly, working in coalition
4 with multiple partners to handle complicated questions.
5 Our organization plans to undertake this work with more
6 than thirty local API organizations and statewide and
7 regional partners representing --

8 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

9 MS. MARKS: -- communities. We really hope that you
10 incorporate enough time to allow us to provide proposals
11 to you. Thank you.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Marks.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one more
14 caller with their hand up. And go ahead, the floor is
15 yours.

16 MR. SAMUELS: Yeah, good evening, Commissioners. My
17 name is Kirk Samuels, spelled K-I-R-K S-A-M-U-E-L-S and
18 I'm with The People's Bloc. The People's Bloc is a
19 growing alliance of thirty-five organizations from L.A.
20 County who serve different communities ranging from Latin
21 X, API, and Blacks.

22 The thing that brings us together is that we aim to
23 ensure that marginalized communities are included to
24 participate in the redistricting process so we can get
25 the results we need to reflect our interest. The

1 People's Bloc is also part of the IBE Redistricting
2 Alliance, which is a statewide alliance.

3 We want to lift -- we want to lift to the Commission
4 that the COI input is only one step of the process of --
5 for public participation for drafting and proposing
6 district maps is another important step for communities
7 to participate and requires a lot of the time,
8 coordination and work. The work of the residents in the
9 community groups is an important part of the independent
10 redistricting process. They will collect and analyze COI
11 data, develop VRA Section 2 compliant maps, and analyze
12 the 2020 Census data once it's released in a usable
13 format, engage, and coordinate and develop joint maps
14 with other residential community groups.

15 So for example, we will be coordinating with other
16 partners in the IBE Redistricting Alliance to figure out
17 how all of our COI maps in the L.A. region overlap and
18 can be combined together in a single district map. We
19 will be collecting and analyzing data with our base, and
20 for this we need a series of trainings and meetings to
21 prepare and to do an analysis together.

22 In closing, I invite you all --

23 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

24 MR. SAMUELS: -- to continue to think about what we
25 need to do for public process and ask yourselves, what's

1 the time line do we need to fully maximize public
2 participation and what are the actual versus the
3 perceived risk of moving the 2022 primary --

4 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

5 MR. SAMUELS: -- by one to two weeks to make sure --
6 to make time for public participation and redistricting
7 that will ultimately have a ten-year impact. Thank you.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Samuels.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And our last caller did
10 choose to raise their hand, so we do have one more
11 caller. And go ahead, the floor is yours.

12 MS. NIMMERS: Hi. My name is Kristin Nimmers,
13 spelled K-R-I-S-T-I-N N-I-M-M-E-R-S. I'm calling on
14 behalf of California Calls. We are an alliance of over
15 31 graphics community based across the state that engage
16 and educate new and infrequent voters in efforts to
17 ensure that our elector request across our state diverse
18 population.

19 And from our experience in voter engagement with
20 traditionally unrepresented communities, we really wanted
21 to touch on item -- Agenda Item 9-A and list the
22 importance of providing the most possible time for
23 community organizations to engage and mobilize residents
24 to engage in this process and help you all ensure that
25 there's input, and that that input is reflective of the

1 diversity of California, which means that this time for
2 the public to understand the data, analyze the data, to
3 draw maps, communicate, and work through points of
4 conflict that other callers have identified and provide
5 the Commission with feedback.

6 So I just really want to ensure that community
7 organizations have time to mobilize the public and get
8 them engaged in this process as well. Thank you.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Nimmers.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And we did
11 have another caller call in while that caller was talking
12 and raised their hand, so we do have one more caller.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And go ahead, the floor
15 is yours.

16 MS. AYANA: My name is Ayana and I was calling to
17 just ask some clarifying questions to the committee and
18 could you possibly clarify what the difference is between
19 the group zone and statewide COI meetings? And
20 specifically, who is expected to be present at each of
21 these meetings and where neighborhood, regional, and
22 state COIs should be listed. Thank you.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ayana. And we'll be
24 discussing that later today in our Agenda Item 9-F and 9-
25 N.

1 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. And that was
2 our last caller.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you everyone that
4 called in and everyone that continues to be with us at
5 our meeting today.

6 We will move on to Agenda Item -- are there any
7 announcements by Commissioners before we move on to
8 Agenda Item Number 5? Okay.

9 So we're going to move on to 5, Executive Director
10 Report. Executive Director Hernandez, do you have
11 anything?

12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Just a couple of things and I'll be
13 brief about it. For those of you who haven't heard, we
14 have a new Chief Counsel, Anthony Pane, who is joining
15 us. So welcome aboard. Marian and I had the pleasure of
16 meeting with him this morning to kind of get him
17 onboarded and so he'll be reaching out each one of you,
18 I'm sure, shortly. So welcome aboard, Anthony.

19 I also wanted to mention that we have our field
20 staff and outreach coordinator positions filled. Our
21 outreach coordinator is going to be Sulma Hernandez and
22 she'll be starting tomorrow. Our field leads are
23 Kimberly Briggs in Los Angeles, in San Diego we have
24 Andrew Amora, and in the Central Valley, we have Jose
25 Eduardo Chavez Garcia, and they will be starting next

1 week. So I wanted to share that with you.

2 Last thing in regards to staffing. We have the data
3 manager job up. That is posted on our website. So
4 please get the word out. We really need to get that
5 information to those that can help the Commission with
6 their data management responsibilities.

7 As far as contracts I'm going to defer to the
8 appropriate subcommittees to share whatever contracts
9 that we have in the works. I do want to remind the
10 Commission that as the Commission is a state entity, we
11 are required to follow the state contracting guidelines,
12 which as you've all experienced by now, are not the most
13 expeditious. So just giving you that frame of reference
14 so that as we are looking forward to bringing on
15 additional vendors or are contracting with anyone, that
16 there is a process that is not immediate. So there's
17 that.

18 Regarding the budget, we received the May revised
19 letter this week from the Department of Finance. I know
20 I reported that we had approval, but we actually received
21 the letter this week to approve our augmentation. And
22 we've also -- our fiscal director, John Fitzpatrick and I
23 met with members of the Joint Legislative Budget
24 Committee to discuss a Commission's approved budget and
25 to answer general questions.

1 And that is the extent of my report. Any questions?

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Any questions by the
3 Commissioners on that? Commissioner Ahmad.

4 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you. Do we have the number
5 of what the adjusted budget now looks like?

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: It was what we had originally
7 posted --

8 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Got it.

9 MR. HERNANDEZ: -- back on March 29th, I believe is
10 the -- that's what we submitted and that's what has been
11 approved.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions? Okay.

13 And again, welcome Anthony. We're very excited to
14 have you with us today. I'm not sure if you wanted to
15 say something or should we just keep moving and put
16 you --

17 MR. PANE: No, I'm happy --

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Would you like to say anything?

19 MR. PANE: Sure. I'm happy to say hello again and
20 thank you Commission and thank you to Executive Director
21 Hernandez. I really appreciate the time just from today
22 and I'm looking forward to assisting all of you and as
23 the Executive Director mentioned, I will be reaching out
24 and look forward to assisting all of you with any
25 questions you have. Thank you. I'm looking forward;

1 it's a great opportunity.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. We're looking
3 forward to it as well.

4 And we will move on to Agenda Item -- I'm going to
5 combine Agenda Item 9-F with 9-N, which is the public
6 input. It's a continuation of our discussion from
7 Friday. Commissioner Akutagawa, Director Kaplan and I
8 met to amend the recommendations that we had. So we'd
9 like to go through -- hopefully everybody had a chance to
10 review the information that was posted, and we'll just
11 walk through it. We'll just show what the changes were
12 from Friday instead of going through the whole document,
13 we'll just highlight some of the changes if that's okay
14 with everyone.

15 And I'll start. I guess, that's okay, Commissioner
16 Akutagawa, I'll just start the change discussion. So
17 when you have a document, make sure you have the right
18 one. It's dated 5/18/2021 on top of -- on the page, on
19 the title. The recommendation, the major thing -- we
20 numbered the recommendations instead of having bullets.
21 That was easier to refer to them.

22 The first three pretty much stayed the same. The
23 fourth recommendation, we did change that. We noted it
24 earlier on -- we noted it on Friday, but we changed that
25 to five business days. In terms of appointments for

1 interpretation services must be submitted no later than
2 five business days. That was similar to what our
3 recommendation was back in January when we made our
4 recommendations on Language Access.

5 And in terms of the fifth recommendation, and this
6 one is just noting that any remaining unfilled
7 interpretation time slots will be open twenty-four hours
8 prior to the meeting. So again, as we discussed on
9 Friday, an interpretation time slot is twice the amount
10 of an English time slot, so if they're already open
11 twenty-four hours prior, we will open it up for others to
12 sign up for that time.

13 And the sixth one is if there are no time slots
14 designated for language interpretation, if none of them
15 are filled, then all of the interpretation designated
16 time slots will be open to all Californians four business
17 days prior. And I believe those are the only changes
18 that we made -- substantial changes that we made to our
19 recommendations.

20 And we'll continue on disability access. The only
21 thing we added there, I believe, was Commissioner
22 Kennedy's -- oh, Commissioner Kennedy, you got a question
23 before I move on.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes. Thank you.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Sorry about that.

1 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That's all right. Just to
2 clarify, if interpretation slots, which are longer, are
3 not taken, someone else can sign up for them, but if
4 someone else signs up for them, they're not going to be
5 longer. They would be the regular three minutes.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Correct. Correct.

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: They would be the three minute.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We just need to make sure
10 that everybody understands that.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Because that would be
12 beyond the five days required prior to a meeting. Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right.

14 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for the clarification.

15 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Perfect. Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And then disability access, that
17 we just added request for any other disability related
18 modifications. It just clarifies that we will have ASL
19 and closed captioning for all of our public input
20 meetings.

21 And we go to the next page. I don't believe we made
22 any substantial changes until we get to the
23 recommendations in terms of the number of public input
24 meetings, and do you want me to hand it off to you,
25 Commissioner Akutagawa? Oh, Commissioner Turner?

1 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Is
2 this a good place to answer the question of the caller in
3 regards to -- because I'm noticing right here, it says
4 the public is -- of course, we know it's not limited to
5 the Commission Outreach Zone, and I'm just thinking about
6 the public comment that asked this question about who can
7 participate at each of these meetings?

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sure. We can discuss it
9 now.

10 Any Californian can participate at which ever
11 meeting we have. We had it zone specific. There was a
12 voiced concern when we tried to make it generic. Some of
13 our partners wanted to have zone specific so they could
14 concentrate on their outreach efforts, which I completely
15 understand, and we all agreed to leave it a zone
16 specific, but you're not relegated just to that zone.
17 You can live in whichever zone you want, and whichever
18 meeting is most convenient for you and there's a time
19 slot, we encourage you to sign up for that time slot.

20 Was that what you were referring to, Commissioner
21 Turner? Yes. Okay.

22 So I'll hand it over to Commissioner Akutagawa. Or
23 did you want me to go over the eleven versus --

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. You're on a roll so
25 why don't you keep going.

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: All right. I'm going to keep
2 trucking along here.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'll just chime in later.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah. So quite a few hours
5 went into this in terms of -- we went back and looked at
6 the numbers in terms of the limited English proficient,
7 and initially, if you remember -- if you recall, there
8 were four Spanish designated meetings, plus the
9 statewide. And so what we did is, went back based on the
10 number of limited English proficient Spanish speakers.
11 We increased it from -- it was initially five meetings,
12 now we have twelve meetings.

13 So if you look on table 2, you will see that now
14 there are twelve meetings that are designated Spanish, so
15 we'll have time slots for Spanish interpretation. And we
16 have two designated in Los Angeles. One in every other
17 zone. The only zone we did not designate it is Zone G
18 because the numbers of limited English proficient were
19 fairly low.

20 But again, I just want to remind the Commissioners,
21 as well as everyone else that is viewing, you can always
22 request a language at a specific meeting as long as it's
23 done five days prior and if it's in those twelve
24 languages that we've identified prior, we will contract
25 for that. If it's beyond the twelve, we will make

1 attempts to provide that interpretation. And again,
2 individuals are welcome to bring their own interpreters
3 also to the meetings.

4 And we made one other change by request and we're
5 hoping that the Commissioners are okay with that. On
6 August 9th, initially we had Zone G and we changed it to
7 Zone B, as in Bob, and then on August 25th, it was Zone
8 B, as in Bob, and we changed it to Zone G. The reason we
9 did that is Zone G would only have two weeks in between
10 both of their designated zone COI input dates, so we
11 wanted to give them a bigger gap. Give that zone at
12 least a month in between the first and the second COI
13 input.

14 And I believe -- was that it, Commissioner
15 Akutagawa?

16 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I was also going to mention
17 that we did move -- on the original document or the
18 earlier document, Kumeyaay was in Zone F, and we moved it
19 to Zone H, which is the L.A./Long Beach area, and it is
20 now assigned to -- or at least we set it aside for
21 Saturday, June 26th.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then -- oops. Was that
23 it?

24 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess, I was just going
25 to make one other comment. I just want to remind

1 everybody, both on the Commission and anybody who's
2 listening in, the absence of an assigned language or one
3 of the twelve languages does not mean that we cannot have
4 that language. We're just trying to find that right
5 balance between having things open enough that other
6 languages can also be inserted in without -- and also try
7 to, again, make it so that, then, from a planning
8 perspective those who might not feel comfortable making
9 the request will know that they could try to schedule an
10 appointment on any one of the dates that a particular
11 language that they feel is best for them, and a date
12 that's best for them, that they can then hopefully sign
13 up for an appointment.

14 Commissioner Fernandez and I also recognize that
15 this is a lot of guess work, and this is probably more
16 art than a science, and we do realize that the likelihood
17 is that after, perhaps, the first couple meetings, we're
18 going to be revisiting all of this again and to figure
19 out, do we need to make adjustments. So I do want to
20 just emphasize, please don't think that this is the
21 absolute, never to change, kind of schedule. We're
22 likely going to -- we expect that we are going to be
23 making some additional changes, but until we start, and
24 we see what the responses -- it's right now just
25 guesstimating what we think is the best kind of spread.

1 We also try to, as best as we can, ensure that, for
2 example, with Spanish, there was going to be dates in the
3 beginning, the middle, and the end. And then for
4 languages that are not identified on here outside of the
5 twelve, we do recognize that in certain cities, certain
6 regions, there may be a high preponderance of certain
7 languages and specifically, I'm going to name Hmong in
8 the Fresno area has a very high specific concentration of
9 Hmong speakers that are limited English proficient.

10 We wanted to -- even though we recognize that, we
11 wanted to also be consistent -- not fair, but consistent
12 with what we said are the twelve languages. However, we
13 do recognize that it could be likely that we will get
14 requests for a Hmong interpretation in the Fresno area,
15 and we do realize that that's a likely kind of occurrence
16 there. It could be also very likely that in other cities
17 we're going to get -- or other zones, I should say,
18 depending on the date, we will get requests for other
19 languages as well, too.

20 So we're trying to be a little flexible, but also
21 try to assign times so that people can feel like they can
22 plan around certain dates without having to make a
23 request. So hopefully that helps.

24 I see Commissioner Toledo and Director Kaplan. Oh.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: How about we go with Director

1 Kaplan first and then -- she was part of our group as
2 well.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Yeah. That would be
4 good.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Sorry, Commissioner Toledo, I have
6 you number 1. Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And then Commissioner
8 Kennedy, I think, after that.

9 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right.

10 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Just adding to that
11 layer, though, that for these languages, even though
12 we've identified, there still needs to be a request made.
13 So just clarifying that point you just made right now.

14 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Requests that are outside
15 of the dates that we've already scheduled?

16 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: The dates that we have
17 scheduled, individuals still need to request prior to
18 five days for those meetings.

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: For languages that are not
20 scheduled?

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No, no, no. For the languages
22 that are scheduled, like, let's say, for example, on the
23 25th, Chinese Mandarin and Tagalog. Although we've
24 identified it, we still need the request five days prior
25 to. That's what --

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. For signing up on the
2 appointments.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

6 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Toledo, then
8 Commissioner Kennedy.

9 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. And thank you for
10 your work on this to the committee. I'm just wondering,
11 when I look at table 2 -- and if I hadn't read all of the
12 other pieces, which I did -- but if I hadn't read -- if I
13 hadn't read the rest of it, I wouldn't know that I could
14 contact the Commission and get Spanish or Chinese or
15 other interpretation on dates where the language isn't on
16 there.

17 So I'm wondering if maybe there should be, like, a
18 little asterisk that says, upon request, we may be
19 able -- upon request, Spanish, or whatever other
20 languages may be available just so that the public is
21 aware that on most of these dates you can get
22 interpretation on any of these dates as long as you
23 provide sufficient notice to the Commission. Thank you.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy.
25 Oh. What did you say?

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I said like a little cheat
2 sheet.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Or a reminder, in case you
4 didn't read the first two pages, right? Commissioner
5 Kennedy?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. And I can imagine
7 how much of a headache it's been to come up with this
8 table. So I recognize that. Looking through it, I'm
9 noticing that most regions have at least something of a
10 spread of days of the week, but Zone I, for example,
11 they're all three on Thursday. Zone K, they're all three
12 on Saturday. So I'm wondering if there's some scope here
13 to take another crack at it and see if we can mix up the
14 days of the week a bit more for the zones that have all
15 of these events on the same day of the week. Thank you.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner
17 Kennedy. So in terms of the zones, we can go back to
18 look at that, but that wasn't Language Access, in terms
19 of the dates specific. But we can definitely go back to
20 look at that because it would be nice to have some of
21 those Saturdays versus Thursdays. So we can take a look
22 at that. I think, Commissioner Ahmad and I worked on
23 that piece of it, so we can go back and review it. And
24 thank you for bringing that up. That was the same reason
25 we changed the dates based on Commissioner Andersen's

1 feedback that her two dates were only a couple weeks
2 apart. So we needed to accommodate that as well.

3 Any other questions? Okay.

4 So with that, Commissioner Akutagawa, are we just
5 looking for, like, a thumbs up, or Marian, do we need to
6 vote on this?

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Well, the motion do we vote on it as
8 a tentative schedule. Maybe vote on the first few days,
9 first two weeks or something like that so that people can
10 plan on those, but then say the other are proposed.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Actually, if I can ask a
12 question, Marian. Do we need to have two separate
13 motions? One would be on the recommendations, and then
14 the second would be on the schedule?

15 MS. JOHNSTON: No, it's all one proposal. You can
16 if you want to, but you don't need to.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I guess my only concern right now
18 is -- I do want to get approval, just so staff can get
19 started on this, but then also, Commissioner Kennedy did
20 bring up a good point, if there are some of these zones
21 that have the same date or the same day of the week, we
22 might want to look at that as well. But we could, at
23 this point, maybe get approval until, like, maybe July
24 12th because then you get back to your H and I zones that
25 Commissioner Kennedy was talking about earlier.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: I don't think you mean July 12th.

2 You want to wait that late?

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Well, I would like to get -- I
4 would like to get the initial meeting for each zone
5 approved so that we could move forward with that.
6 Because right now what we're talking about, just
7 specifically, is our Language Access recommendations, as
8 well as the languages associated with certain dates. And
9 I feel that for our outreach and our communications, that
10 might be important to start working towards that.
11 Working towards the first set of meetings. Because it's
12 going to be very difficult to pivot and shift if we get
13 to the end of June and we haven't talked about or
14 approved the rest of the schedule. Does that make sense,
15 Marian?

16 MS. JOHNSTON: Sure. So do it through -- I see
17 that's how you came up with July 12th? That'd be fine.

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes. I think July 12th
19 because then we don't any repeats by then. I've got to
20 grab a pencil real quick. Okay. So any other questions
21 or further discussion? Okay.

22 So I will make a motion. I will make a motion to
23 approve the recommendations and also, the schedule up to
24 July 12th, 2021 for Language Access. Commissioner
25 Toledo.

1 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Sorry. I was just going to
2 second.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Thank you.

4 Director Hernandez, are you -- we'll actually have
5 to take public comment, also. So how about as you get
6 that together, we can go to -- are there any other
7 questions before we go to public comment? Okay.

8 Katy, if we can go to public comment. It's for
9 Agenda Item 9-F with Language Access. Again, just a
10 reminder, comments are limited to two minutes. Thank
11 you, Katy.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes.

13 And the public comment at this time is going to be
14 in relation to the motion on the floor.

15 In order to maximize transparency and public
16 participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
17 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
18 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is
19 877-853-5247.

20 When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided
21 on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for this
22 meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
23 press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you'll be
24 placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment,
25 please press star 9. This will raise your hand for the

1 moderator. When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a
2 message that says the host would like you to talk and to
3 press star 6 to speak.

4 If you would like to give your name, please state
5 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
6 provide your name to give public comment. Please make
7 sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent
8 any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you
9 are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your
10 turn to speak, and again, please turn down the livestream
11 volume.

12 And again, the Commission is taking public comment
13 on the motion on the floor in regard to Language Access.

14 We do have a caller with their hand up. And go
15 ahead, the floor is yours.

16 MR. NAWABI: Hello. My name is Sayaz Nawabi.
17 Hello. My name is Sayaz Nawabi, spelled S-A-Y-A-Z, last
18 name Nawabi, N-A-W-A-B-I. And I'm calling on behalf of
19 Care L.A. I'm calling, in particular, about the
20 California Supreme Court's decision centered public
21 participation in their extension of the redistricting
22 deadline.

23 The framework reflects a policy judgment that the
24 public should have the opportunity to be involved
25 throughout the redistricting process. Proposition 11,

1 Amended Article 21 of the Constitution does specify that
2 the Commission shall conduct an open and transparent
3 process enabling full public consideration and comments
4 on the drawing of district lines.

5 As a recent Assembly analysis explained, the
6 requirement guaranteed that the public will have the
7 ability in time to review the maps and respond to the
8 Commission at least six weeks before the August 15th
9 deadline for the final maps set by the California
10 Constitution.

11 As explained above, this court -- the precedent
12 establishes that a court may form statutory deadlines to
13 effectuate the enactor's clearly articulated policy
14 judgments when it is feasible to do so and when the
15 enacting body clearly would have preferred reformation to
16 invalidation. Adjusting the August 15th deadline by
17 contrast gives effect to the voter's intent that the
18 Commission played the lead role in drawing new district
19 lines with input from public received in a timely manner.

20 State law provisions setting forth the deadline for
21 the Commission to be released draft maps, and approve
22 final maps where the lines --

23 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

24 MR. NAWABI: -- can ensure that the Commission can
25 take the necessary steps to prepare for public

1 redistricting process. Thank you very much.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And I
3 would like to remind the callers in the queue, if you
4 would like to comment press star 9 to raise your hand
5 indicating you wish to comment.

6 And we do have one caller. And go ahead, the floor
7 is yours.

8 MS. ALLEN: Hello. Good evening, Commissioners. My
9 name is Sky Allen, spelled S-K-Y A-L-L-E-N with IE
10 United, a collective impact table serving the Inland
11 Empire. We're a member of the IBE Redistricting Alliance
12 and we also facilitate a regional table of about two
13 dozen local partners in the region.

14 As you land on the best deadline for redistricting,
15 I want us to all just take a quick step back and consider
16 any social, political, cultural considerations, et cetera
17 surrounding the potential redistricting deadline
18 following the holidays. We've spent over a year
19 distancing and physically isolating ourselves from our
20 families, our friends, our coworkers, our community,
21 things are just now beginning to loosen up and hopefully
22 as more of us become vaccinated we will all be able to
23 celebrate the holidays with our loved ones again. You
24 can imagine, many a gathering or holiday vacation this
25 November and December, given the collective experience

1 we've all had this past year.

2 I raise this just to give us the opportunity to
3 reflect, not just on what amount of time this Commission
4 needs in order to create maps, but what the schedule may
5 or may not ask of the residents. We really appreciate
6 all of your willingness to facilitate so many public
7 input meetings throughout the summer, as these will give
8 our community members ample time to share our COIs. But
9 just as COI input is important, it's not the only process
10 that residents need to be able to engage with. We need
11 COI time, but we also need time to react to your --
12 sorry -- and to draw and advocate for district maps of
13 our own.

14 So we just ask --

15 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

16 MS. ALLEN: -- that you allocate as much time as you
17 need to offer yourself sufficient and reasonable time to
18 do your job and offer us community members sufficient and
19 reasonable time to chip in and provide our feedback as
20 well. Thank you so much for your time. Have a wonderful
21 evening.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Allen.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was our last
24 caller with their hand up at this time.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani, I think I

1 saw your hand up. Hold on.

2 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, yes. I just wanted
3 guidance from Marian or Anthony on this. I mean, the
4 purpose of public comment at this point in time was
5 around the motion on the floor and certainly that's not
6 what we were getting. Of course, very important
7 information, nonetheless. I can only envision as we move
8 forward in this process that the stakes begin to rise
9 more that this will continue to happen. Advice on how to
10 handle that. I feel like early on we were, like,
11 stopping people midway, but just something to put out
12 there and if we can have advice on how to handle that
13 going forward.

14 MR. PANE: I'm happy to defer to Marian as far as
15 what the historical practice has been with this
16 Commission. I can let you know that based on my
17 experience, various boards and Commissions have decided
18 to exercise a few options. I've seen one option where
19 they allow the caller to use the allotted time and then
20 remind callers in general that the topic needs to remain
21 germane to the motion.

22 On others, I have also seen where public bodies
23 have, once it's been clear that the topic is not germane,
24 that they do politely interrupt the caller and just let
25 them know that the discussion really needs to be

1 regarding the motion. And so there's probably at least
2 two, maybe three different ways to address that.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: And past practice, it's just been
4 left up to the Chair. So if you want to adopt a uniform
5 policy, that would certainly be appropriate, or you can
6 continue to leave it up to the Chair.

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I think I agree
8 with Commissioner Sadhwani, right now it was only a
9 couple callers, which was fine, and I believe it was
10 actually a little layover from our initial public comment
11 and they just called in a little bit late. But yes, as
12 we move forward, it's probably something that we should
13 discuss and determine how we want to move forward with
14 that. Thank you very much for that.

15 Okay. Executive Director. Actually, unless we want
16 to discuss it now. That's fine too. If we want to
17 discuss it in terms of how we want to move forward with
18 public comment. If we want to be specific to what the --
19 if it's related to a specific motion, that all comments
20 should be related to that. Or if they -- whatever the
21 case may be. So I don't want to move it to another
22 meeting if that's not our intention. If we want to
23 resolve it now, that would be fine as well. Okay. So
24 we'll just -- Commissioner Andersen?

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see no reason not to

1 resolve this now, as we've actually had precedent already
2 as we have said, thank you very much, it must be on this
3 topic. Given that we really do want as much public
4 comment as possible and we are specifically allowing as
5 much time in the morning, as much time after lunch, and
6 as much time before the end of the meeting. If we want
7 to take comments, indeed, after each particular item,
8 that's a good idea, but then it should be about that
9 item. And so in particular, when we're doing a vote, I
10 think it really should be, indeed, about the motions be
11 discussed.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So how about if we deal
13 with the motion first, and then we can discuss this.
14 Okay.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. So the motion on the floor is
16 to approve the interpretation recommendation that's
17 posted on the website, 5/18/21, from the Language Access
18 Subcommittee and the schedule up to July 12th, 2021; is
19 that correct?

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

21 MR. HERNANDEZ: All right. And the motion was made
22 by Commissioner Fernandez, seconded by Commissioner
23 Toledo at 4:48 p.m. I got it right this time. Okay. So
24 we will begin here. Commissioner Fornaciari?

25 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?
2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.
3 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?
4 Commissioner Sadhwani?
5 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.
6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?
7 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.
8 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor?
9 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
10 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?
11 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.
12 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?
13 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.
14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez?
15 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes.
16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?
17 COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.
18 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?
19 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.
20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa?
21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.
22 MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?
23 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.
24 MR. HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Fernandez?
25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

1 MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Before we move on --
3 before we go to the topic that just came up regarding
4 public comment, I wanted to ask Commissioner's Ahmad and
5 Fornaciari if there was anything else that was held over
6 from Friday's meeting regarding the public input design
7 recommendations that you had made or are we good?

8 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: There is something. We can
9 either discuss it today or we can discuss it next
10 meeting. The first COI input meeting is scheduled for
11 June 10th. The date to post the agenda, two weeks prior,
12 falls on May 27th. So that means that the Commission
13 would have to come to an agreement on what that agenda
14 looks like prior to the 27th. And the only time that we
15 are meeting as a full group for that approval is today or
16 next Monday, May 24th, or next Tuesday, May 25th.

17 So I don't know if we want to get into that today,
18 or if we want to discuss that next week, but it has to be
19 approved if we want to go that route, a formal approval
20 by the 25th. I just wanted to throw that out there.

21 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Was that the 25th or the
22 27th?

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you have a question,
24 Commissioner Andersen?

25 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I did; I'm sorry. For the

1 25th or the 27th?

2 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: So it has to -- it has to be
3 posted by the 27th; however, we won't be meeting as a
4 full Commission on the 27th.

5 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: The last date that we will be
7 meeting as a full Commission is the 25th.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

9 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: I can --

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

11 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: -- recommend --

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: There we go. I can recommend --

13 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: I can recommend that we all take
14 a look at the draft agenda that has been posted ahead of
15 next week's meeting, so that we can come to next week's
16 meeting with the discussion ready in our mind of what we
17 like about it, what we want to change, so that we can
18 make those adjustments and approve that at next week's
19 meeting and have it ready to be posted prior to our
20 fourteen-day requirement for June 10th.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Why don't we all do that.
22 Take a look at the draft agenda or the agenda that's
23 posted and then come back with feedback.

24 And then, also, Commissioner Ahmad and Fornaciari,
25 in terms of the recommendation that you made on Friday

1 regarding each presenter would have three minutes, six
2 hours will be the first meeting, and then we'll have an
3 appointment system. So that's taken care of for our
4 first meeting, correct?

5 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: I got a sense of some consensus
6 on that --

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: -- just for June 10th, but if I
9 am wrong, please correct me and we can open up that
10 discussion again. And Chair, I also see Marian's hand
11 up.

12 MS. JOHNSTON: Okay. I would suggest you postpone
13 the discussion on your policy for public comments until
14 you put it on the agenda. And maybe you should go to the
15 policy committee first to come up with a recommendation.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, Marian. You're killing me.
17 You know what's funny, Marian, Commissioner Fornaciari
18 probably wanted that, so now you're giving in to him.

19 MS. JOHNSTON: But in any event, I think it needs to
20 be on the agenda so that the public has a chance to weigh
21 in.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And Marian, this is for the public
23 comment, correct?

24 MS. JOHNSTON: If you're going to --

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

1 MS. JOHNSTON: -- for policy.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: All right. So Commissioner
3 Fornaciari and I will come up with a draft policy and
4 we'll have something for our meeting next week. Next
5 Monday and Tuesday. Thank you, Marian. I can't thank
6 you --

7 MS. JOHNSTON: Sorry.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- enough. It's good. It's all
9 good.

10 So with that, we're going to keep moving. Direct
11 Kaplan?

12 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you. And just, you
13 voted on the meeting dates through July 12th. Can you
14 clarify when the Commission then hopes to confirm the
15 following COI dates? I know that you had a tentative
16 thumbs up and now some may switch days. Do you
17 anticipate at next week's meeting?

18 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm thinking Commissioner
19 Ahmad and I can get together before then to discuss
20 whether we'll move stuff. Are we good for that?

21 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

22 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So hopefully by next week we'll
23 have something.

24 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Monday, Tuesday. Commissioner

1 Turner?

2 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. I know we
3 have not yet had a conversation about the exact time, and
4 we don't have to do that now, but are you waiting on
5 suggestions from the different groups or how are we going
6 to go about setting times for these meetings?

7 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: For the public input, I believe
8 the first meeting we had a time for that, didn't we
9 Commissioner Ahmad?

10 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. But we're approving,
11 now, meetings all the way through July.

12 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Right. Okay. We'll
13 come back next week with recommendations on that as well.
14 How's that?

15 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Sounds good.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm sorry I have to catch
17 up on my to do list right now. Okay. Any other
18 questions before we move on? Okay.

19 Seeing none, we will move on to Agenda Item 9-I.
20 I'm not sure if we need it, but data management. Is
21 there anything that we need to report out for that?
22 Okay. I'm seeing no action, so no action.

23 Okay. 9-J, do we have anything for grants? I know
24 you were waiting for the Department of General Services
25 on the RFP language. Any updates?

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Hold on. Sorry. I'm
2 trying to get all my stuff together. Okay. So here's
3 our report. So we have heard from the Department of
4 General Services, Offices of Legal Services, and they
5 have completed the initial review of our outreach RFP.
6 And based on their review, there are two major edits that
7 are going to require additional revision to the RFP
8 before we can even put them out.

9 Anyways, I won't -- actually, I probably don't want
10 to get into the weeds on it right now. I think I'll just
11 keep it simpler. But we do have to make some additional
12 revisions. I will say that there is going to be a major
13 impact to the time line of when we can actually post the
14 RFP. Our initial hope was that we were going to be -- we
15 will have been able to have posted it yesterday; however,
16 we're behind and now we're looking at the earliest
17 posting date is going to be possibly June the 4th. We
18 would be bringing it to the full Commission for approval
19 of the RFP at the June 2nd meeting.

20 So we're looking at roughly, about an additional
21 two-week delay. Given that, we are looking at, with all
22 of the minimal required time lines that we have to meet
23 in terms of once we post it, the earliest that we would
24 even look at possibly awarding any of the contracts
25 through the RFPs is going to be early July, specifically,

1 July 8th. And so work would not be able to begin until
2 after the contract is awarded and everything is all sewn
3 up with OLS.

4 So I think I just want to say this out loud to
5 everybody in terms of the time line. If we're looking at
6 early July, at the earliest when a contract could be
7 awarded, work then cannot start until after July 8th. So
8 we're looking at possibly any organization, any bidder
9 that successfully wins one of the contracts, the earliest
10 that -- I mean, depending on how they're situated. I
11 mean, they could start right away, but we probably,
12 realistically are looking at sometime in mid-July before
13 even the earliest someone could start actually doing any
14 work, possibly. And I'll defer to Alvaro on this as to
15 whether or not my assessment of the earliest time frame.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, you are correct.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Can I just ask a question. So you
18 submitted some draft language to DGS, right, Office of
19 Legal Services?

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Correct.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so you don't want to share
22 that language with us until they're okay with the
23 language? I'm just trying to see if there's a way for us
24 to expedite our review if we can review it kind of like
25 at the same time. I mean, I know it -- I wouldn't see us

1 having substantial changes, but I also don't want to hold
2 this up any longer than we need to. Like, if we
3 review -- if you share it with us, we review it, we
4 provide comments by next week, and then you have
5 everything, and that way when it comes back from DGS,
6 potentially it may not have to come back to the
7 Commission, it can just go out. So I'm just trying to
8 see if we can streamline the review process.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The current state of the
10 RFP is going to require some pretty major changes and
11 it's going to take the staff some time to rewrite
12 portions of the RFP so that it's in compliance with what
13 OLS has indicated needs to be changed. Alvaro, I think
14 that could take up until that time. I guess maybe -- I
15 see May 31st is probably a realistic time frame, but
16 please, if you could confirm.

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think that would be
18 realistic for us to get that language changed.

19 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So even if we showed you
20 what we have, it's all going to change. And so it
21 would -- I mean, you're looking at it at this point
22 wouldn't really be conducive to speeding it up because
23 it's going to change anyways from a contract language
24 point of view.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. I was thinking more of

1 once the admin team had made the changes at that point.

2 Like, once those changes were made.

3 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Alvaro, I'm going to --
4 yeah, I'll defer to you Alvaro first and then I know that
5 some others have questions.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. So we're going to take the
7 guidance that was provided by OLS on what the contract
8 needs to have in it. The way we had drafted it up didn't
9 really work for them. So in order to meet the
10 guidelines, they've made some recommendations. We're
11 going to go through the contract, make those adjustments,
12 the time frame for that, we're hoping to get it done
13 early next week, to the end of the week realistically,
14 and then share with the Commission as soon as possible.

15 We're not going to have to go back to OLS for them
16 to review because they pretty much have provided the
17 guidance that they're going to provide. At that point,
18 they'll have opportunity to do one last final check and
19 then we move forward with posting it. So that's kind of
20 where we are right now.

21 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I see Commissioner
22 Toledo.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo. Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I guess my
25 question goes back to the scope of work that we talked

1 about last week and how we ensure impartiality. Now,
2 given that we will be selecting grants or potential
3 contractors to be doing work, potentially advocating,
4 right? Essentially, mobilizing individuals to advocate
5 to us. And so I'm just wondering -- and at this point,
6 it looks like we'd be the ones selecting the vendors or
7 the contractors.

8 So that that does pose some conflict-of-interest
9 issues and some impartiality issues that I am, just -- at
10 this point it'd be great to get the scope of work aspect
11 of the contract, maybe not the whole contract, but the
12 scope of work so that we can think through these and see
13 how we minimize our potential risk when it comes to
14 conflict of interest and impartiality. As those are
15 potential issues that could be used to challenge our map
16 drawing and our final maps. Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani and then
18 Commissioner Kennedy.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I very much
20 agree with Commissioner Toledo. I, from the get go, when
21 we initially began these conversations several months
22 ago, I was very concerned at the notion at that point in
23 time of regranting ourselves and very much advocated for
24 this Commission to look for an external organization to
25 do that work. I understand that that's not possible and

1 that this is our option forward. But I'm really cautious
2 to not have seen anything thus far.

3 I mean, all of the other RFPs -- excuse me -- and
4 RFIs that this Commission has put forth began with a
5 Commission wide discussion around the scope of work,
6 certainly led by the subcommittees, but at the direction
7 of the Commission. So I would really ask for that.
8 Particularly, I'm interested to know what are the
9 deliverables that we would anticipate for the
10 contractors. And given the time line that -- it looks
11 like we're setting forth, would they even have the time
12 to deliver those deliverables? Like, what would that
13 actually look like?

14 I completely agree with the concerns Commissioner
15 Toledo raised regarding impartiality and how that -- what
16 the process would look like for us to select
17 organizations to receive these grants. I can imagine
18 that there are a lot of organizations around the state,
19 as we know from all of our redistricting basics 101s who
20 would be interested in potentially receiving these. And
21 I am very cautious about how that would play out in terms
22 of impartiality.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Think you. I have Commissioner
24 Kennedy and then Commissioner Sinay.

25 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. I'm

1 wondering, I mean, what we ideally need to do is find a
2 way to have these awards made at arm's length or have
3 some arm's length element included in this process. I'm
4 wondering if, for example, we could find a state agency
5 that is not this Commission that we could engage to
6 review and make recommendations so that the
7 recommendations -- yes, we make the final decision, but
8 we have some outside input that helps us insert at least
9 some arm's length element into this process to give it
10 greater credibility. Thank you.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm not sure if this is the
13 right time or place. We have moved forward on speaking
14 with the public libraries and seeing what they can do,
15 especially in the rural areas. And we've spoken to
16 several of the rural libraries and I'm not sure how to
17 get what we learned to the Grants committee to consider
18 if there's a possibility to support that type of upper --
19 it is a state agency so the local libraries, in speaking
20 with them -- I spoke to four or five of them -- said they
21 could do a lot of -- what did we call them, Neal?

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Viewing parties.

23 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes. COI viewing parties.
24 Also getting the tool out. Some of them are actually
25 hand delivering books and tools because they're not open.

1 Others are open. Some, to just viewing parties. They're
2 saying, hey, we just need food and cover some of the cost
3 of staffing because some aren't open on Saturdays
4 anymore. I guess they're really tight. But really, what
5 we were hearing is for 3 to \$5,000 they could support us
6 with -- and training. They would like some training on
7 community mapping and community discussions, and they
8 would have PSAs -- it was a pretty robust conversation.
9 They were willing to do a lot for a little and
10 especially, they really understood the rule component of
11 it.

12 So I'm not sure how to move forward with that
13 because that might be something that we can roll out
14 pretty quickly.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

16 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. So I would just
17 think that that would be part of -- that could be part of
18 an outreach recommendation that comes out of the outreach
19 committee that's then -- as potential state -- I mean,
20 these are state agencies, as like, community colleges,
21 libraries, whatever. They're government entities,
22 potentially, that we could partner with or maybe through
23 some kind of intergovernmental agreement or whatnot. It
24 doesn't have to go through the contracting process.

25 I think this contracting process is really for like

1 nonprofits and other nongovernmental agencies. If I'm
2 remembering correctly, as opposed to a governmental
3 contract where they're already part of the state or a
4 government system. Is what I would think.

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And the same could be
6 with -- Commissioner Vasquez and I, when we had the
7 education panel we talked about the possibility of
8 partnering with the schools because they're in session
9 now. They'll have summer school. They'll have vacation
10 with the students and families, so that's another
11 statewide -- and I think that might be a future topic
12 item because I was thinking about that this weekend.

13 We're gathering all this information from statewide
14 agencies, so how are we going to engage and move forward
15 with the statewide aspects of it, which is separate from
16 this RFP component. Commissioner Sinay?

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't see it as separate
18 because it's the outreach -- I mean, that's the only
19 budget we have, so that's why I was bringing it up now
20 because I don't see it, necessarily, as separate.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I mean it's separate in terms of
22 the RFP for external agencies that are not government
23 related. But yes, you're correct, it is the same bucket,
24 as I like to say, in terms of the funds. Yes. Of
25 course. Any other questions on it? Oh, Director Ceja?

1 MR. CEJA: Yes. Thank you. So as we're thinking
2 about this, I think it's important, like Commissioner
3 Kennedy mentioned, if the Commission wants to remain at
4 arm's length distance from this process, we're certainly
5 creating the process through this RFP. We could seek the
6 support of the Census because they've already dealt with
7 some of these organizations. And the auditor's office
8 because they're far removed from any politics, and they
9 were involved with the recruitment of the Commissioners.

10 And then at the end, just approve the process to
11 make sure everything was followed with regards to the
12 process that we laid out and approve the applications or
13 the selection process at the end so that you're not
14 involved with the selection process itself.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay and then
16 Commissioner Vasquez.

17 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Director Ceja I think the
18 Census is closing next month. Their office is. So I
19 mean, we could look into that, but I think that that's
20 what they -- actually, March probably knows. And then --
21 I'm right? Yes.

22 The other thing is, as you've spoken Mr. Ceja, we've
23 had a lot of requests and a lot of input from everybody
24 who presents about how important it is to do radio and
25 how important it is to do paid media and do we have a

1 budget for that and I just want to make sure if we're
2 looking, that it's not going to be until -- having done
3 grants, I don't see how it's going to be done by early
4 July. I'm sorry. Especially, when the government's even
5 more bureaucratic than any foundation I worked at.

6 So we're really looking at almost being halfway
7 through to the end of our COI input time. So any
8 thoughts, Director Ceja, on that. What budget do we
9 have? What plans do we have to really do a big PR?

10 MR. CEJA: So I can respond? We do have a healthy
11 budget to do ads. WE can certainly use some of it for
12 this granting opportunity. We're actually putting
13 together a funding plan right now for the use of those
14 funds. I think the total is 200,000 and definitely radio
15 is a top priority for some of those hard-to-reach
16 communities. And knowing that a few members on this
17 Commission were actually recruited through the airwaves.
18 So yeah, that is on our radar, and we'll have something
19 to you very shortly.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez and
21 Commissioner Toledo.

22 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. Two points. The first
23 thing I do think Commissioner Sinay's point is important
24 to lift up in terms of as we're developing a scope of
25 work for these grants that will be going out later. I

1 would encourage the Grants committee to think about being
2 explicit about how much of the outreach budget is going
3 toward this grant process. And given that things have
4 shifted so much, I would encourage them to consider --
5 and I'd like to hear what their ultimate recommendation
6 would be around partnering with state agencies to get
7 some of this money out the door quicker, including
8 through the libraries and the Department of Ed for the
9 school's component.

10 And then the second point, and speaking of schools,
11 I also really like Commissioner Kennedy's idea of getting
12 a state agency to do some of this for arm's length. That
13 being said, that will probably add more time to getting
14 this out the door. And my other concern about having
15 another state agency do the administration of the grants
16 is I'm not particularly sure which agency -- I personally
17 would feel better if that agency had direct connections
18 to community orgs. It's not statewide, at least sort of
19 in in their physical geographic location.

20 So there's a special sauce for community work and I
21 would like the people who are evaluating these grants be
22 pretty familiar with that special sauce. The one that
23 comes to mind, honestly, is maybe a university or a
24 community college or the Community Colleges Association,
25 just because those folks are, again, closer to the

1 ground.

2 So they wouldn't just be some granting to folks who
3 work with a community college. But again, they are a bit
4 closer to the ground, so to speak, than some of our other
5 agency partners, including us.

6 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo.

7 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I also want to
8 lift up what the Commissioner Sinay mentioned earlier
9 about time limit. When foundations -- I know locally,
10 when our foundations try to plan a granting program, it
11 takes them over a year or longer in some instances to put
12 their plans together. And these are agencies that have
13 significant expertise in granting.

14 And certainly, I've been so impressed by our
15 Commission and our staff's ability to make the impossible
16 possible, including the website that just magically
17 appeared. I mean, I'm sure it didn't just magically,
18 people worked really hard on it, but that appeared really
19 fast. Thank you, Director Ceja. And certainly I have --
20 but I do think a potential that we may want to look at a
21 plan B in case we need to pivot. And like Commissioner
22 Vasquez said, potentially with nonpartisan state agencies
23 that are prohibited from lobbying and that kind of thing,
24 like the libraries. And I believe Commissioner Kennedy
25 has previously talked about community colleges and

1 schools potentially and where we'd be contracting for us,
2 and Raul talked about the details of potential types of
3 contracts that we can do with agencies to help with
4 outreach or to help with specific tasks that we may want
5 to eliminate.

6 So maybe taking a look at that a little bit closer
7 as a plan B in case we're not able to get our grant
8 program up and running and implemented in a timely
9 manner. I think I would hate to not to use these -- or
10 outreach dollars to the fullest. And given that we have
11 such a constrained time line and if we can use it for
12 marketing or for other types of work, we should at least
13 have a plan B, just that we can implement in case that
14 should happen.

15 I mean, just like most of us, I think we all want to
16 be able to support community groups, especially the
17 smaller ones in our communities, to be able to
18 participate and to help their communities uplift and
19 outreach and engage community members. But it may not be
20 possible, given the government process and bureaucracy
21 that we're having to work through. And as a state
22 agency, that's just what -- that's what we have to do.
23 And we're working through it, I think, as efficiently and
24 effectively as we can with our very able staff. But we
25 may need to consider early stuff or develop a plan B just

1 in case. Thank you.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We're right at break time. So
3 we're going to go to break. But just before we go on
4 break, I just want to make sure our Lessons Learned
5 Subcommittee is listening to this piece so that at the
6 end of it, it's great to give us outreach funds, but it's
7 very difficult to grant. So maybe for the 2030 they'll
8 have a better solution. But I'm going to go to break,
9 and I believe I saw Commissioner Yee, so we'll start with
10 you when we come back. So please come back at 5:45.
11 Thank you.

12 Thank you. And welcome back, everyone. We are
13 continuing our discussion on Agenda Item 9-J, related to
14 grants and we have Commissioner Yee was next. Just one
15 second. I want to make sure Commissioner Akutagawa is
16 back. Since she is -- there she is. Perfect timing.
17 Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Actually, you
19 read my mind. I wanted to also note for the Lessons
20 Learned subcommittee, the moment, and I'm wondering if
21 the Grants subcommittee actually might even give us a
22 quick thumbnail of kind of what they would have done
23 differently, going back. Have we found out that this
24 really is just a dead end? What would you have done
25 differently if that's something you could summarize

1 quickly for us or if we're not there yet, that's fine
2 too.

3 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Other than signing up to be on a
4 subcommittee?

5 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Well, I think going
6 forward, unless there is going to be statutory changes to
7 the law in which the Commission is formed and enabled to
8 do certain things. The 2030 Commission, I think, will
9 know going in that they cannot follow what we did and try
10 to do a grants program. I could tell you that. That ate
11 up a lot of our time because we thought we were going the
12 right way. Unfortunately, once we got the ruling that we
13 did not have the statutory authority to issue grants, we
14 had to pivot and then rewrite what was supposed to be, we
15 thought, and RFA for a grants program. We had to pivot
16 and rewrite it to be an RFP. And for those of you who
17 have done the work on the RFP, the RFA and the RFI, you
18 can imagine then what that meant and the specificity of
19 the things that needed to change took a lot of time.

20 Chair Fernandez, I could stop there. There are some
21 additional -- I think that Director Hernandez and I were
22 just touching base real quick about what we would be able
23 to share. And so I have some additional details I'd like
24 to share. But first, I'd like to see if any of the other
25 Commissioners have other questions or comments first

1 before I share anything else.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think it's good to move forward,
3 Commissioner Akutagawa.

4 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So I think maybe
5 this will hopefully help answer some of the questions
6 that have come up. So as I said, I mean, you can imagine
7 the RFP challenge that we are undergoing right now. And
8 so what we were told is that there are two very specific
9 edits that we have to make to the current RFP. So for
10 anybody who's done that, as I said, the RFP requires some
11 very specific kinds of ways in which it's written. It's
12 a one -- and this is a really important one. The RFP
13 must be open to all qualified bidders. That means that
14 we are not limited to just CBOs. So anybody who is
15 qualified to do the work -- it must be open to all.

16 Additionally, in terms of a qualified bidder, we
17 cannot give additional points to CBOs for consideration
18 in the scoring. It must be all even for everybody that
19 submits a proposal against this RFP. The other big
20 change that we have to make is originally -- so let me
21 just back up and just say to the question about the scope
22 of work.

23 The scope of work has not changed from when the
24 original conversations started about the grant. So I
25 just want to just reiterate this. What we are giving

1 the -- what is the RFP? The contract would be to, A)
2 educate Californians about the redistricting process and
3 B) activate Californians to provide public input to the
4 Commission on their communities of interest and/or
5 provide input on that.

6 Now, that part has not changed, so that scope of
7 work hasn't changed. What has had to be different is the
8 ways in which the activities get noted so that it fits
9 within that RFP process. So the other thing that I want
10 to just note for everybody is one of the things is that
11 progress payments must be based on the work that is
12 completed. It cannot be based on a description of what
13 they say they're going to do. So that's also going to
14 change things a lot. So it does shift how funding is
15 going to be dispersed in the contract itself.

16 So essentially, what this is going to do is probably
17 going to change who may be willing to apply or submit a
18 proposal for this particular contract because
19 essentially, the entity who is going to be awarded one of
20 the contracts -- and we had suggested -- we were
21 suggesting that we would break the contract up into I
22 think it was six zones is what we were looking at. But
23 whoever does it, that we can only pay them once the work
24 is completed and performed. And so that means that any
25 organization would have to float us in terms of the work.

1 They don't get paid ahead of the work. They get paid
2 after the work.

3 So that's also going to -- yeah. So those of you,
4 if you're in the nonprofit sector, you know what this
5 means. It can make things a little bit more complicated.
6 The bidder for the RFP will also have to submit a
7 detailed time line with proposed monthly activities and
8 costs that will be associated with those activities. So
9 there's a lot more detailed work that will have to be
10 done. And then as they finish that work, then they may
11 submit invoices for the work that they complete on a
12 monthly basis.

13 But again, if they subcontract any of that work, the
14 staff has to just make sure that they do their due
15 diligence on any work that is contracted out, including
16 just submitting any kind of the details reports on the
17 work that was that would be done.

18 So again, this is going to take some time for the
19 staff to rewrite everything. And so at the earliest,
20 again, it's really the details of these particular areas
21 that have to be rewritten. And so it is going to
22 complicate things. Alvaro and I did speak about some
23 kind of interagency agreement that has been brought up by
24 several of the Commissioners. He did say that there will
25 still need to be the statement of work that is currently

1 being worked on in terms of the RFP.

2 Alvaro, I think I'm going to turn -- I'm going to
3 turn to you to maybe explain a little bit further about
4 the interagency agreements and everything else that we
5 talked about.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure. So the interagency agreements
7 still have to have this scope of work. So what we're
8 working on, what we have been working on for a couple of
9 months now, is what would be included in that interagency
10 agreement. I do need to do some follow up and see what
11 all it entails. We don't have to go through the
12 contracting process. So I'm assuming that it won't be as
13 lengthy a process, but I don't know what is required of
14 that process, and then identifying who the agencies might
15 be that we would want to reach out to, to see if they're
16 willing and interested in this process.

17 So it is going to take a little bit more work. We
18 had initially looked into the interagency agreement and
19 it didn't speed up the process, so we kind of left it.
20 But now with some of these additional questions and
21 interest, we'll look at it again and see if it's going to
22 be feasible.

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: If I can also just mention
24 one more thing. We did talk about this in this -- kind
25 of in the vein of trying to maintain as much impartiality

1 as we can. I was reminded that as much as we can in all
2 of the RFPs in all of the contracting that we've done,
3 we've tried to maintain as much impartiality in the
4 selection of all of the contractors that we have engaged.
5 And in that same way, I believe that we would do our best
6 to do the same thing as we did with the line drawers and
7 with the councils that we have also engaged. And so I
8 guess I'll just stop there. I saw Commissioner Vazquez
9 had her hand out.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. We have Commissioner
11 Vazquez and Commissioner Toledo and Commissioner Sinay
12 and Commissioner --

13 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Just for, honestly my
14 benefit, but also maybe for some of the public. Can
15 someone just give like a quick two sentence summary of
16 why we chose this route of granting ourselves versus --
17 like what prohibited us from saying granting out to like
18 a community foundation for them to do this work? What
19 was the decision point?

20 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We don't have the -- we
21 don't have the statutory authority to grant the funds.

22 COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Got it. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And it took a while to find
24 that out.

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: That's what delayed us.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

3 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah. I
4 just wanted to -- in terms of just thinking through this
5 process. I do think it's different to grant money to --
6 for the purposes of advocating towards -- and outreaching
7 and engaging the public to advocate towards the
8 Commission. Although, I do think there may be a way to
9 correct that as Commissioner Kennedy -- or to maybe
10 correct it isn't the right word -- but to develop systems
11 to ensure that we minimize our risk around this, like
12 having others be the ones that select the vendors and
13 such and narrowing down our scope of work to ensure that
14 it's nonpartizan groups doing the outreach and that sort
15 of thing.

16 But the other thing I wanted to bring up, as I
17 remember when Raul -- when we first started, Raul said
18 that there was the possibility of doing some contracting
19 for I think it's smaller amounts. I think he said up to
20 5,000, \$10,000 -- I think Commissioner Fernandez would
21 probably know this better than I and Commissioner
22 Fornaciari, but I think they're called like personal
23 lives contract or something like that or personal
24 contracts. What is it? Sorry?

25 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Personal services contracts under

1 10,000.

2 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Oh, personal services
3 contracts under \$10,000. We might be able to -- worst
4 case scenario, we might be able to focus on those
5 areas -- harder to reach areas like in the rural areas or
6 other places and do personal services contracts with
7 libraries. I believe Commissioner Sinay said these are
8 smaller contracts. Schools would probably be smaller
9 contracts if we can't do the intergovernmental agency
10 agreement where if it appears that we may have some
11 challenges with that. But there might be some merit to
12 really tailorize agreements with community-based
13 organizations following this or other agencies following
14 this process.

15 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I was actually thinking of
16 that Commissioner Toledo, so I'm glad you brought that
17 up. I have Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner
18 Turner.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Turner, you were
20 up before me. Do you want to go?

21 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Sure. A few different things.
22 Thank you. Thank you. This has been a painful
23 discussion from the beginning, trying to determine what
24 the right thing is to do. I want to ask, though, and
25 make note if hopefully we can come back too. I do want

1 to understand the decision or understanding that we came
2 to that said CBOs cannot receive additional points for
3 scoring. And of course, I would understand them not
4 receiving additional points just for the sake of getting
5 additional points. But the point is, is typically in
6 scoring, the points are there where there is greater
7 expertise. And I absolutely believe CBOs would have
8 ability to show and reflect their expertise in being able
9 to reach communities to the level of degree that we want.
10 So I'm questioning about why CBOs would not be able to
11 get additional points based on who they are and what
12 their track record is. So that's one piece.

13 The other, of course, we do know that it's always
14 problematic on any sort of government funding when money
15 has to follow the work as opposed to money that's
16 extended upfront. It greatly limits who can participate,
17 and I think it further exacerbates the issues that we
18 have in allowing new groups to engage, to be involved
19 just because funding again, gets to be an issue. So I
20 think this is a cyclical issue that we continue to see
21 where we're offering people the opportunity to engage in
22 a particular service provision or what have you. But not
23 quite because you've not been in it long enough to be
24 able to compete at the same levels. And so I just want
25 to say that I think this is again, a problem with our

1 system.

2 And then even with the -- I'm grateful for whatever
3 the libraries and the smaller grants that we're talking
4 about, the personal, that they can do. But I said, way
5 earlier in the process as well, you also get what you pay
6 for in that -- and no slight to the libraries -- but
7 typically the services that they provide are either
8 fliers that are left out -- and I heard in this case, we
9 are grateful that we have people that are actually going
10 to receive some level of training and is going to engage
11 with some level of people that happen upon a library that
12 show up. But it will not be the deep in the trenches
13 kind of training that typically happens through people
14 that are engaged day in and day out to communicate with
15 the community and to train and to go door to door if need
16 be or host sessions and come back part 1, part 2, that's
17 needed.

18 And so again, I think that we're based on
19 limitations providing a smaller amount of money. And I'm
20 hoping for the Lessons Learned that over 2011, 2021,
21 2031, et cetera, at some point we're starting to track
22 the difference that it made when we did kind of a scatter
23 spray small amount of grants out to a lot of people as
24 opposed to people that are, their very existence is for
25 them to reach and communicate and educate the community.

1 And I think we'll find a difference with that.

2 The last point I wanted to make was, I don't like
3 any of it. Unfortunate how we do have to work. We're
4 not necessarily governed the same way, but we are
5 governed the same way in a lot. So that is what it is.
6 But I'm then, in having to deal with that, wanting to
7 suggest that next time in -- I wonder if we could look at
8 shifting part of those outreach funds to the Census
9 Bureau because they certainly have opportunity and a way
10 that they can give money out to organizations to be able
11 to do the work. And perhaps there can be earmarked money
12 of their education that is specifically to educate around
13 redistricting and how to analyze numbers and how to look
14 at maps and how to submit community maps.

15 And so maybe that outreach money doesn't belong at
16 all with this body, that it can be carved out and given
17 through the Census Bureau that can get money into the
18 hands of the people that I think will make a difference.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
21 Commission Sinay.

22 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Before I start, I'm going to
23 let Commissioner Fornaciari say what's on his mind. No?
24 Commissioner Fornaciari absolutely agrees with you,
25 Commissioner Turner, about the Census Bureau.

1 So I wanted to say a few things. I agree that what
2 the government is asking us to do right now -- and I'm
3 going to is the system is too burdensome for small
4 organizations and we're just -- it's sad. I think
5 Commissioner Turner said it best. It's sad that we're
6 here and I am a bit angry, too, because it it's going to
7 work against a lot of what we were hoping to ask
8 organizations to do work first and pay later is why a
9 lot -- especially after a year of COVID where so many
10 have had challenges fundraising it just makes us sound
11 tone deaf. And I know it's not us, but we are part of
12 the system.

13 I do want to give some positive light. And I think
14 I shared this week, more and more foundations are getting
15 involved in the redistricting and granting out to
16 different organizations. And so there is more
17 philanthropic dollars out there for this redistricting
18 than there was in 2010. So there is more interest, more
19 engagement. I know Commissioner Turner is going to be
20 speaking with the California Association of Nonprofits as
21 well as Philanthropy California webinar, which includes
22 all the different grantmaking entities. So I just want
23 to put it out there that we don't have to feel completely
24 frustrated. There is some, but unfortunately, I'm not
25 seeing it going to the grassroots level. It's still

1 going to the large nonprofits. And so I am concerned
2 about that piece.

3 I wanted to just say for the libraries, it wasn't to
4 do the outreach that we were hoping others would do. It
5 was really about building equity in those areas that had
6 challenges with broadband access and challenges of
7 traveling long distances to get to -- if we ever had
8 meetings in-person or whatnot, but just allowing to help
9 build community in a way using the broadband. So it was
10 kind of a whole different -- yeah. It's just kind of
11 comparing apples to oranges, the CBO grants with the
12 library grants.

13 And finally, I know that you said that the scope of
14 work hasn't changed, but I'm sorry, I don't know when the
15 scope of work was shared with us, and so I was just
16 curious where we could find that because I know we've
17 thrown out different ideas on what could be in that scope
18 of work. What type of projects we would fund and stuff
19 like that, but I don't remember ever seeing it. But it's
20 late and so I apologize. So if someone can tell me where
21 I can find that, that'd be great.

22 Thanks Commissioner Akutagawa and Commissioner Le
23 Mons. This has been a painful process for you all and
24 thank you for navigating it and sharing what you can.
25 Thank you, Director Kaplan and Alvaro for being part of

1 this. This is really -- it's been painful but thank you.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner
3 Akutagawa, did you want to respond to any of that? It is
4 a lot and I'm just sitting here wondering how can the
5 Census do it and we're not able to do it, right? I mean,
6 that's very frustrating.

7 But also, Commissioner Akutagawa, is there anything
8 or any way that we can help to try to expedite this
9 revision to the language or -- so just trying to see what
10 we can do to try to salvage something?

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess I will just say
12 that in speaking with Director Hernandez, I mean, there
13 is a little bit of a hopeful note and I'll have him chime
14 in on this, too. But in speaking with him, he feels that
15 he and Director Kaplan are very close to having what we
16 need to at least try to get something going. I do
17 share -- and once it became clear that we had to do the
18 RFP, I mean, it was very clear to me that it was going
19 to, unfortunately, not have quite the effect that I think
20 both Commissioner Le Mons and I both shared when we first
21 started this. And we knew this, unfortunately, when we
22 started talking about the RFP and it was very much
23 articulated by Commissioner Turner and Sinay and Vazquez
24 about the impacts to certain size CBOs.

25 With that said, I think Director Hernandez is

1 hopeful that we can get this going. He believes that
2 we're not quite yet there at the place where we can --
3 we're not going to be able to do it. But I do want to
4 say that we will be taking into account everything that
5 you've said to come up with a plan B, C and D probably so
6 that we can have this.

7 And Commissioner Sinay, I'll have to look for what
8 was shared. I think that there was a document that was
9 shared in -- I think it was in the March time frame, I
10 believe, and I just have to go back and look for it. But
11 Director Hernandez, if you would, please chime in on
12 anything that you might want to share to supplement what
13 I just said.

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. So I just wanted to say it's a
15 square peg in a round hole. We don't fit the mold in
16 what we're trying to do and trying to accomplish.
17 Unfortunately, we found out about the statutory
18 authority, and we were really hopeful that that would
19 work the way that we had planned it out, where we have an
20 intermediary and they would award that gives us our
21 distance, but we just couldn't do that.

22 Now, we're back to this RFP process and we're trying
23 to fit within that process as well. To do what we would
24 like to do is to get the money out to the CBOs or to
25 these vendors that can perform some of these activities

1 that we would like for them to perform on our behalf, to
2 get the communities involved, to get activation. You
3 know, we have taken into consideration all the
4 deliverables that have been identified by a variety of
5 the different Commissioners. Also, considering what we
6 could do in the RFP process is where we are today. And
7 so we can't change the fact that this is where we are
8 today.

9 But I do agree with Commissioner Akutagawa, that we
10 will look at plan B, C, D, E, and F or wherever we end up
11 landing to try to get this out there so that we can
12 activate Californians. And that's really our goal, to
13 activate Californians to participate in the process and
14 provide the public input and provide the input on the
15 maps. That is the end game, I would call it. So that
16 that's all. Thank you.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I had Director Kaplan and then
18 Commissioner Sadhwani.

19 OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you. Just to add
20 to one of the comments that Commissioner Turner raised in
21 terms of additional factors in review, not necessarily
22 being able to provide additional scoring because there is
23 the CBO, but there are other elements within the review,
24 including community standing, coordination with partners,
25 other elements that ensure -- demonstrating trusted

1 partnerships with community. There are other elements as
2 a part of the review that would be factored in that
3 regard as well.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani.

5 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I really appreciate
6 this conversation, as challenging as it has been, and I
7 just appreciate everyone's work on this topic. I'm not
8 feeling -- I'm not leaving this conversation feeling
9 terribly hopeful that this contracting process is going
10 to move forward in a timely way that we can actually
11 manage.

12 And with that, I think from the get-go, that had
13 been our hope. My understanding was this idea came from
14 the 2010 Commission. Is that correct? And the
15 Legislature approved it. If we can't move forward with
16 granting or contracting with organizations, I would
17 invite all of us as Commissioners, but also all of the
18 organizations that are so invested in this process to
19 please be thought partners with us on other ways that we
20 can use these funds and be thinking about how to use
21 these funds to enhance community outreach, rather than --
22 what I don't want is like we leave here and then end up
23 getting blasted for not doing a community granting
24 program.

25 Well, there's all of these stumbling blocks and

1 putting put before the Commission in terms of actually
2 moving them forward. So if we are starting to think
3 about Plan Bs send us your thoughts. Right. So that we
4 have some ideas about how to move forward with this
5 process because it is a lot of money in it. The whole
6 purpose was to use that money to reach as many
7 Californians as possible.

8 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

9 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. And thank you,
10 Commissioner Sadhwani for saying that. I'm glad that you
11 said that, because it would be nice to have the
12 crowdsourcing of all of our ideas, even though the Grants
13 subcommittee is going to go back, obviously, and work on
14 this.

15 I guess, a couple of things that I wanted to say and
16 then one that has just completely floated out of my mind.
17 So I do apologize. It was kind of based on what you were
18 also saying or actually -- okay, I just remembered it.

19 So one, I do want to address the personal services
20 contracts. I know that given the concerns about
21 impartiality, if anything, the personal services
22 contracts would not alleviate some of those kind of
23 concerns that were brought up. But there are a couple of
24 things that I do want to say just going forward. And I
25 thought this is where Commissioner Sadhwani, you were

1 going to go.

2 Commissioner Yee, in terms of Lessons Learned. This
3 may be a lesson learned or this may be for all of us as a
4 Commission, given the very, very painful experience that
5 we're undergoing right now. One of the things that I
6 would like to also just -- maybe just kind of plant the
7 seed. But this isn't something that we have to address
8 right now. But I would like to just suggest that
9 finishing up the maps that we then come back to this
10 issue of not having the statutory authority to do these
11 grants that we do come back and to revisit, what does it
12 mean to be able to ensure that the 2030 Commission would
13 have this opportunity and the statutory authority so that
14 they could do it in the way that we would like to see it
15 be done.

16 We had very, very grand plans of being able to
17 ensure that the money, the funds, the grants would get to
18 the farthest reaches of California with the smallest
19 organizations who know the communities super, super well,
20 and also being able to have an intermediary to help us
21 ensure our impartiality.

22 So I just want to just put that out there that we
23 don't have to talk about this now, but this is a future
24 conversation that I think -- what do we need to do to be
25 able to do that? I do just want to put that out there

1 for us to think about. Again, I do want to also have the
2 hope that we will be able to do what we want to do. It's
3 not going to be perfect, but we'll hopefully be able to
4 do that.

5 And absent that, then through the ideas of this
6 Commission and anybody who is listening, if you have
7 ideas, you will be hopefully contributing to our plans B,
8 C, D, E, and F, and so on and so forth, so that we can
9 try to make the best use of these funds to essentially
10 get to all Californians so that we can really engage the
11 people of California. Thank you for this conversation.
12 I know it was painful. It was painful for me, too, but I
13 appreciate everything that everybody said. And I took
14 lots of notes and I will be sharing this with
15 Commissioner Le Mons along with Director Hernandez and
16 Director Kaplan.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. And so do you
18 feel you have the resources you need to be able to come
19 back with options B through F or whatever it is? Do you
20 need any help? I mean, are you good to go? I'm just
21 offering any type of assistance that you potentially may
22 need. Maybe you can branch it off at some -- look at a
23 certain area. You know, I'm just trying to help out so
24 it's not all on your shoulders because it's turning out
25 to be much bigger than we initially thought.

1 Commissioner Sinay did have our hand up and I'm
2 thinking she's probably thinking the same thing.

3 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I was just going to say
4 if you want to -- yeah. If you want to identify what
5 those options are and delegate some to the Outreach
6 subcommittee, please feel free. Or if you want that the
7 other way around, where you want us to do some of our own
8 brainstorming and come back to you with ideas let us know
9 and we'll do it through staff so it's not serial
10 meetings.

11 COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think for me, at
12 the very least for right now, I'd like to just get back
13 together with the staff in and Commissioner Le Mons and
14 just figure out what is the best next steps and how
15 Commissioner Le Mons and both Director Hernandez and
16 Director Kaplan would like to move forward on this. And
17 I think once we have a better sense of what's the best
18 next step, then we'll send out a communication to
19 everybody.

20 But as Director Hernandez says, he feels like they
21 are very, very close and then we'll hopefully be able to
22 get something out to the entire Commission and for the
23 public to also review before our next meeting.

24 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you for that. It's
25 never fun having to deliver not so great news. Been

1 there many times. But thank you so much for your
2 diligence and continue to look into this challenge.

3 Any other questions before we move on? Okay. The
4 only other item I have. Oh, no, not the only other
5 item -- is Agenda Item Number 10, is the Legal Affairs
6 Committee update. I wasn't sure if you had anything you
7 wanted to report out. And I do see Commissioner
8 Andersen. Yeah.

9 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Just before we go on,
10 I did want to uplift the sort of oblique note. We're
11 going oh, we can't, we can't, we can't. But now, please,
12 for anyone who's listening, this is one portion of what
13 we're doing in outreach. We have done a massive -- our
14 whole educational program did not exist in 2010. We've
15 done a great, great deal of different types of outreach
16 here.

17 This is one idea which again, the national
18 Commission didn't -- this was last in 2010. These grants
19 were done through another philanthropic group, which is
20 wonderful and great. But our whole idea of allowing the
21 public time to give our community's their news of
22 interest to us right now is also unprecedented.

23 So there's a great, great deal that a public
24 communication and input that exists now and way ahead of
25 the Census data. We keep on hearing, oh, there's no

1 public input. That's not correct. There's lots of time
2 for public input and the communities of interest are
3 absolutely crucial because they're a building block for
4 the maps and the bare data from the communities, direct
5 from each individual community. I cannot stress how
6 important that is. Just like each city, we have its map,
7 and we know where it is.

8 Every individual group, please give us your
9 community. Don't wait to work through a partner or
10 someone -- oh, we can't grant -- or we can't contact the
11 Commission. No, you can do that now. You can draw your
12 community. You can send us an email. You can call in.
13 You can go to one of these input sessions. These are
14 community of interest input sessions.

15 And all of this is valuable information. Crucial
16 information now. The idea that we can get additional
17 people to help us shake those bushes is what we're
18 talking about here. It isn't we're throwing our hands
19 up. We're sad that we can't do that additional shaking
20 because we know how valuable that would be. But it
21 doesn't mean that we haven't done and therefore we can't
22 do our work. We're doing this very successfully. We're
23 just thinking of other ways to do it even better.

24 So I appreciate all the work this committee has
25 really been doing in this whole conversation. Thank you

1 very much.

2 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.
3 So we're going on to Agenda Item 10 is Legal Affairs
4 Committee update if there's anything that needs to be
5 reported out. Commissioners Sadhwani, Toledo, and Yee.

6 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Nothing in particular. We
7 met earlier today and welcomed our new Chief Counsel and
8 provided some background information on many of the legal
9 questions that we've been looking at thus far, as well as
10 in talking a little bit about the structure that we are
11 operating under and how we've kind of arrived at that
12 with a different various subcommittees. Commissioner
13 Toledo or Commissioner Yee, anything else to update?

14 COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: We are hopeful that we'll be
15 able to bring our litigation counsel recommendation to
16 the full Commission hopefully at the beginning of June.
17 I think we're looking at June 2nd or possibly June 1st,
18 depending on whether there's a meeting on June 1st, but
19 hopefully June 2nd. So that's just a heads up that that
20 will be coming your way and look for the contract in the
21 public comment section a couple of days prior to that.
22 And of course, in the legal affairs section or the
23 comments section of our handouts section.

24 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, that's absolutely
25 right. So we anticipate our next meeting being either

1 June 1st or 2nd. We need to finalize whether or not we
2 can be agendaized for June 1st. Hopefully, we'll have that
3 litigation contract for the full Commission to review.
4 We'll take a look at ourselves in legal affairs first and
5 then provide a recommendation to the full Commission.
6 And we are still waiting on the Office of Legal Services
7 to finalize the contract for VRA, which we approved
8 several weeks ago. So stay tuned and we hope that we can
9 work with our VRA and pre-maps counsel very soon.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any questions for our
11 Legal Affairs Committee? Thank you.

12 We're going to move on to Agenda Item 13, which is a
13 discussion of future meeting dates and agenda items. And
14 the only reason I personally wanted to bring this forward
15 is for a future agenda. We need to discuss the
16 redistricting basics presentations that we've been
17 conducting because now we're moving into the public input
18 meeting in June, July, August. So I think personally
19 that we need to eventually phase that piece out.

20 We do have -- our video is complete. So if any of
21 the organizations would like to use our video, they're
22 free to use that as well. So if we could maybe table
23 that for a future agenda that be great. Any other --
24 Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Andersen.

25 COMMISSIONER SINAY: On that topic, the Grants

1 committee we'll be working with staff to come forward
2 with kind of what is the plan for the next phase of the
3 work because it's not just the COIs inputs meetings, but
4 it's broader than that because the COI input meetings
5 only touches a few -- only a few people can actually
6 access those. So how are we going to get communities of
7 interest input from others?

8 So we'll come -- and part of that will include what
9 you just said.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you mean the outreach? Did
11 you say Grants committee? You said Grants committee.

12 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, sorry. Outreach committee.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm a little confused. I
14 think Commissioner Akutagawa is panicking right now.

15 COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, you don't have to do that.
16 Don't worry, it's us.

17 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. Thanks for
18 clarifying that. Commissioner Andersen.

19 COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just had a short on -- just
20 a quick from the line drawers. I don't know if that
21 was -- we kind of skipped line drawers just a quick --
22 they are working with ideas from that Airtable
23 demonstration at the CRC meeting last week and they're
24 coming up with some tags as well as other actual general
25 specifics that we do need on that Airtable. So we are

1 looking forward to working with the Data Management
2 Group, the USDR and we'll be getting more information on
3 our next meeting.

4 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. Anything else
5 before we recess? Oh, Commissioner Ahmad?

6 VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. So as stated
7 earlier, our next meeting is May 24th and 25th. Myself
8 and Commissioner Yee will be taking over. So if you all
9 anticipate your subcommittee report to take a substantial
10 amount of time, please just give a heads up so I can make
11 sure we plan accordingly to allot you the time that you
12 need. Thank you.

13 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And with that, I'm very happy to
14 pass the baton to the Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner
15 Yee. Anything else? Okay. We will be recessing to
16 closed session to consider data and cybersecurity issues,
17 personnel related issues and potential litigation. So
18 we'll recess to that. Let's meet at 6:40.

19 COMMISSIONER SINAY: Katy's trying to get your
20 attention.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Pardon? Oh, who is? Oh, public
22 comment. Right. Katy, Is that what you're trying to
23 tell me?

24 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Would you like to close
25 with public comment?

1 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes. Thank you.

2 Commissioner Turner.

3 COMMISSIONER TURNER: And are we coming back to this
4 session, or no?

5 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right now, I'm not sure. I
6 believe we are just to report out. That would be the
7 only thing we would come back for is to report out. If
8 any action is taken during closed session.

9 COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Just was trying to set
10 expectations for those that's viewing. Okay.

11 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate
12 that. Katy, let's go to public comment. Sorry. Thank
13 you for the reminder.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No problem, Chair.

15 In order to maximize transparency and public
16 participation in our process, the commissioners will be
17 taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the
18 telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is
19 877-853-5247.

20 When prompted enter the meeting ID number provided
21 on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for this
22 meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
23 press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you'll be
24 placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment,
25 please press star 9. This will raise your hand for the



1 moderator. When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a
2 message that says the host would like you to talk and to
3 press star 6 to speak.

4 If you would like to give your name, please state
5 and spell it for the record. You are not required to
6 provide your name to give public comment. Please make
7 sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent
8 any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you
9 are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your
10 turn to speak, and again, please turn down the livestream
11 volume.

12 And we do have a caller with their hand raised, but
13 I would also like to remind all callers that call in to
14 press star 9, raising their hand, indicating they wish to
15 comment. And I will open the lines.

16 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And just a reminder, with two
17 minutes limit.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, and it will be two
19 minutes and it is general comment for the close of -- or
20 the recess of this meeting. And the floor is yours.

21 MS. HOWARD: Thank you. Hi, Commissioners.
22 Evening. My name is Deborah Howard. I'm with the
23 California Senior Advocates League and I have comments
24 that are based on some of the comments that were made in
25 the earlier part of this meeting. I am concerned that

1 the Commission is being asked to postpone your own line
2 drawing and map drawing activities until after another
3 group or groups, The Unity Mapping Coalition have
4 presented their own regional and statewide map before
5 you.

6 Californians, I think, expect that you will be
7 drawing the maps and that you will do so publicly and
8 transparently. The unity map, no matter how well-
9 intentioned the groups are, are not being created with
10 public input. They are organizations that represent a
11 constituency, and they are drawing maps for that
12 constituency. It's your job as Commissioners to bridge
13 those references that they're making. And to put those
14 first, I think is completely, really, truly
15 inappropriate. I think it's unclear who is involved and
16 invited in that, and it just truly smacks of special
17 interest and an exclusion which the Commission was set up
18 to basically not do. I really do. I want to say this.
19 I trust that they are well intentioned, but the --

20 MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

21 MS. HOWARD: -- process that's being proposed is
22 deeply suspicious. Thank you for that heads up. And
23 it's exclusionary on its face. I believe that you, the
24 Commissioners, will make better maps. Once you've made
25 that trade off. You've done a little bit of it --

1 MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

2 MS. HOWARD: -- and navigating the conflicts of law.
3 So I'm asking that you retain the leadership role in that
4 drawing for yourselves and that you listen to all public
5 voices and not allow some public voices to be more --

6 MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

7 MS. HOWARD: -- public of more equal than others.
8 Thank you. And I respect your time line. Thank you so
9 much.

10 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Miss Howard.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And on to our
12 next caller.

13 And I would like to remind those calling in to press
14 star 9 to raise their hand, indicating they wish to
15 comment.

16 We do have a raised hand. Caller 7175, if you could
17 follow the prompt that Zoom is giving you. Caller 7175
18 star 6 will unmute you.

19 MR. PAYNE: Hello.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There you go. The floor
21 is yours, sir.

22 MR. PAYNE: Hi. Thank you. This is Jeremy Payne.
23 Spelled J-E-R-E-M-Y P-A-Y-N-E with Equality California.
24 We are the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual,
25 transgender and queer LGBTQ plus civil rights

1 organization in the nation. And I just wanted to provide
2 a public comment encouraging the CCRC to set a time line
3 that ensures as much time as possible for public
4 participation in all phases of the work for Equality
5 California and California overall. It's so important
6 that we ensure (indiscernible) additional causes that
7 allow for public participation and district lines that
8 can provide fair and equal representation. And we want
9 to ensure that our community has the time to participate
10 and make sure that they are involved and educated in the
11 redistricting process at the local and state level.

12 And so I just, again, want to encourage the CRC to
13 set as much time as possible for this phase of public
14 participation. Given the importance of public input and
15 the role of having an independent redistricting
16 Commission in our State of California. And I hope
17 California can remain a beacon of hope, not just for the
18 LGBTQ+ community that would like to be involved in the
19 redistricting process, but for all Californians. Thank
20 you so much.

21 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Payne.

22 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one other
23 caller in the queue, but they have not chosen to raise
24 their hand. Oh, no, there's their hand here. There they
25 are. All right. And the floor is yours.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good afternoon,
2 Commissioners. I would just like to call in support for
3 scenario 2, which starts off with your work as soon as
4 possible. This scenario yields on drafting maps in mid-
5 October, which allows the public to better understand the
6 Commission's philosophy and approach and also serves as a
7 mode and factor to organize. This also yields two more
8 months of higher quality input for the public until the
9 final maps are produced prior to the holidays.

10 The holidays are a sacred time for all the reasons
11 why Commissioner Turner and others outlined in the last
12 meeting, and I believe that submitting draft maps going
13 towards the holidays is actually the worst outcome. The
14 momentum of organizing communities falls significantly,
15 and it will be difficult to reengage at the start of a
16 new year. And I just want to uplift that only those
17 callers who are funded to following redistricting and are
18 engaged are just asking for more time. Thank you.

19 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for your feedback and
20 your comments.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was the rest of
22 our public comment for the evening.

23 CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, so now we will recess to
24 close session. If we can meet at 6:45, please. Thank
25 you.

1 Welcome back, everyone. Just want to report out
2 that during closed session, we did not take any action
3 and there is nothing else left on the agenda for us
4 tonight. And unless the Commissioners have something,
5 which it does not look like. So with that, our next
6 meeting is on Monday, and we hope to see everyone there.
7 Thank you so much and have a good weekend.

8 (Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned
9 at 8:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, of the videoconference recording of the proceedings provided by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

June 22, 2023

SUSAN PATTERSON