STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Transcription by:
eScribers, LLC
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Also Present
Public Comment
Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters of California
Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Jeanine Erikat, Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA)
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November 16, 2020 9:30 a.m.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Good morning, everyone.

Welcome to our meeting starting 16 November.

I'd like to ask Wanda to call the roll, please.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Good morning, Commissioners.

Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Akutagawa. Okay, no?

Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Kennedy.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Le Mons. Okay.

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo.
No.

Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: And Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. We will, as usual, open for public comment at this point. Jesse, could you read the instructions, please.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is 91505532099 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an automated message to press star 9. Please do this to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.
When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automated message that says, "The host would like you to talk", and to press star 6 to speak.

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

These instructions are also located on the website.

The Commission is currently taking general public comment at this time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Jesse. While we wait for the livestream to catch up, are there any general announcements? Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: I have none from here. The presentations are going forward as scheduled, and we are moving forward with trying to figure out how much of the budget is going to be available without requesting it. I will talk more about that during the Executive Director Report.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Thank you. Any Commissioner updates?

Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. On Monday, this
past Monday, I attended a meeting of the New Mexico organization, New Mexico First, that's working to develop some recommendations for the legislature on redistricting.

So they wanted to know mostly about, you know, our approach to outreach, and you know, what the last commission did, what we're planning on doing. So I just gave them an update. It was pretty interesting. They had a lot of questions about our process and the whole gambit of what we do from the selection process to, you know, whatever rules around -- you know, what we're supposed to be looking at when we redistrict.

So in New Mexico, they do taken into consideration the incumbent's home address when they redistricted in the past, and they specifically tried to make sure that no two incumbents got stuck in the same district last time. And so it was an interesting conversation I had with one of their state senators about that we are strictly forbidden from looking at that.

But in general, it went really well, and it's quite an enthusiastic group. At this point they're just going to make recommendations to the legislature for this time around, but they're hoping to put forth maybe a -- you know, a proposition to come up with a commission. That's all.
CHAIR KENNEDY: So New Mexico First is a citizens group that's pushing for this?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So New Mexico First is a nonprofit organization that looks at issues related to the state across, you know, across various areas, and they just took this on, this redistricting issue on.

Apparently there was a bill before the legislature for them to set up a redistricting commission, but it didn't pass. So they were given some funding and took a lead in putting together these -- a big panel. It includes, you know, folks from Common Cause, League of Women Voters, members of the Assembly and Senate in the state and other various, you know, interested parties.

CHAIR KENNEDY: One of the -- one of the things that has occurred to me is we may be reaching a critical mass where it might be useful to have a national association on citizen redistricting.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Interesting idea, yeah.

CHAIR KENNEDY: The Michigan group is up and running. Virginia is in the process of getting their new body together after the vote passed a few weeks ago, so --

MS. JOHNSTON: And Arizona has one.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Arizona. So I think it could be very interesting to set up an association, not just a
formally established body, but also incorporating groups or individuals who are working towards putting citizen redistricting in place.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, that's a great idea.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Jesse, do we have anyone in queue?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do, Chair.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Could you invite them?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Good morning, caller.

Could you please state and spell your name for the record, please?

MS. HUTCHISON: I'm Helen Hutchison, H-E-L-E-N, H-U-T-C-H-I-S-O-N. I'm representing the League of Women Voters of California this morning, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak.

The Commission is considering the possibility of direct grants to groups to do outreach and engagement. We feel this is not a wise choice, and I'd like to share with you about why we believe that.

In 2010, the Irvine Foundation made a decision to invest in the future of California government by committing a significant amount of money to educating and empowering the people of the state about the new redistricting process and how we could all be involved.

Irvine brought together a coalition of voting rights, minority language, and good government entities.
This coalition included the League of Women Voters of California.

The foundation was clear about what they wanted and how the grants would be decided. We were tasked with creating a unified body of materials which would in plain language explain the redistricting process, why communities should care, and how they could become involved in shaping the maps.

The coalition accomplished the goals set by the foundation in large part because an independent entity set very clear goals, assembled the coalition that it believed could meet these goals and made sure that the goals were met.

Giving direct grants to the groups is not in the best interest of either the Commission or the individual groups. If you were to pick and choose who to fund, it would certainly raise the question of favoritism on the Commission's part. And it would place the groups receiving the grants in a difficult position as well. Would we be free to speak out on perceived problems, and what would be the perception of groups who received grants and then also submit maps?

We support the idea of the Commission giving the grant to an independent entity which could then function as the Irvine Foundation did in 2010, to accomplish a
similar goal. But we hope that you would not pursue the idea of direct grants.

To be effective and efficient, the outreach groups need a single organization separate from the Commission and the Commission staff to provide uniform guidance for and coordination with the other organizations performing outreach. This will lead to optimum public outreach, and therefore, the best possible community input to the Commission.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Ms. Hutchison. Jesse, are there other callers?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no more callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. I wanted to take a moment to go over the agenda, and first of all, apologize. There seems to have been a mix-up somewhere along the way. The copy of the final agenda that I have in front of me shows the presentation on 2020 California Complete Count Campaign as occurring at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, which is correct. That is what we have been communicating all along with the Complete Count Team. Somehow a version of the agenda showing 10 o'clock this morning ended up on the website. So again, we apologize for that.

For today at 10 o'clock we are going to take up the
issue of language access for the Communities of Interest Tool. We will have colleagues from the Statewide Database and the legislature with us for that discussion.

Commissioner Akutagawa and I have had a number of discussions during the course of the week and going back and forth with information. We're still awaiting one or two small bits of information, but we had promised Statewide Database that we would give them a final response regarding the languages that we wanted to see supported by the Communities of Interest Tool during the course of this meeting.

So that is scheduled at 10 o'clock. I do anticipate that we will have an opportunity for public comment close to 11 o'clock. Then coming back from break at 11:15, the executive director will give his report. That is likely to take us through lunch. After lunch there would be an opportunity for public comment, so that would be approximately 1:45.

At 2 o'clock, our chief counsel is now with us as well as our interim counsel, Marian Johnston, so we look forward to hearing from them. After that we will have a brief closed session on cybersecurity, and then we should be back by 3:30.

Our communications director is also with us beginning today. We want to give him some time to
introduce himself and for a brief exchange.

And then the last item on the agenda for today is to discuss future agenda items. That is scheduled for today because the next meeting begins two weeks from tomorrow. So if we want to make any changes to that agenda, we need to get those into the agenda and get that posted tomorrow at the latest.

So that is a review of the agenda for today. I will plan to review tomorrow's agenda at the beginning of the day. My hope is that we can be out of -- we can conclude by 5 p.m. at the latest, but I don't want to be carrying items over from one day to the next. The agenda has cleared a little bit over the last few days, but we don't want to end up on Wednesday afternoon with items still pending. So hope you will all bear with me, and I think we can get through this in the course of the day today.

Any other comments, or announcements, or thoughts from Commissioners at this point?

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay has her hand up.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just a couple of things on the agenda. A, I did get a panicked call this morning from the census folks. They were not aware that it was tomorrow. They were very -- they were ready for today.

So I think there's still come clarity that needs to be
done on the staff side on organizing with our community, because those are key critical partners for us, and so you know, people having to rush at the last minute to get ready and all that. It's just not fair. So let's do a better job of that.

Second of all -- I don't want to hear what happened, I just -- I just want you all to know is that's how it was perceived by the community, and we need to do a better job.

Second of all, I'd like the community to know that on agenda item number 10, the C has been postponed and we have said it several times in public and we've asked for it to be removed from the agenda, and it's been postponed just because we had a lot on the agenda for today. So please take that off the agenda.

And finally, I want to apologize to the community for not having all the items put up -- posted early. The plan -- a lot of the things were created on time and were forwarded on. Unfortunately, it didn't make it up on the website. Hopefully, they will soon so that you all have the time to review and discuss, because I know that's been promised as well.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Yes. I just wanted to clarify. We did have the Census Bureau folks come back to us with the
invitation we sent them that was clearly marked for
tomorrow at 10, so they were understanding. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Any other comments or thoughts at
this point?

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani has her hand
up. Commissioner Sadhwani has her hand up.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani,
I'm not seeing you on my screen.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: No problem. Thank you so
much.

Two things. Just in terms of agenda, yes, for the
VRA subcommittee we will be giving a report back. There
was a memo as well as two statements of work for review.
I don't see those as meeting handouts. So hopefully,
those can get put onto the website.

In terms of just general announcements, and you
know, general info, yesterday I had the opportunity to
speak with the League of Women Voters from their Mount
Baldy chapter. I was invited. That chapter kind of
covers the area of the Claremont Colleges where I work.
And so they had very kindly invited me to speak actually
about my research and elections. And then when they
found out I was also on the Commission, of course they
wanted to talk a little bit about that.

So just as a report back I wanted to let you all
know, I believe they recorded the session and are planning to post it on the YouTube channel.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Excellent. Jesse, do we have any further public comment in line?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Okay. Let me then go ahead and just give a brief introduction to the topic that we are going to be discussing with our colleagues from the Statewide Database.

The Communities of Interest Tool that is being developed by the Statewide Database, we want that to be as accessible as possible to populations throughout the state. And one of the issues that we have been asked to consider as the -- first, as the Communities of Interest Tool Subcommittee and subsequently as the full Commission, is the issue of language support. We started out -- Commissioner Akutagawa and I are the Communities of Interest Tool Subcommittee.

We started out by looking at some of the legal requirements as far as elections, which don't necessarily apply automatically to redistricting, but we took it as a starting point, looking at the languages that are required to be supported under the -- under what used to be Section 203, the Voting Rights Act. We looked at
those languages that are required to be supported under Section 14201 of the State's -- I guess it's the -- Marian, is it the Elections Code?

MS. JOHNSTON: That requires the access, yes, as well as the -- it's the --

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. And in our discussions with the Statewide Database, we were made aware that those Section 14201 requirements really are talking about translations of the ballot and don't really go beyond that. But we took it, still, as a useful indicator of the languages that we might consider supporting.

We also looked at the Secretary of State's website to see what languages were mentioned there on the website. We looked at the census language support, and we looked at documents from the State court system.

So we feel like we've made a solid effort to survey the language requirements that elections, courts, and the census have used as their base. And so now we want to broaden that discussion to the full Commission.

I see Ms. Griffiths has joined us. Do we have others with us yet from the Statewide Database?

MS. JOHNSTON: Jaime is here.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Good morning, Jaime.

MS. CLARK: Good morning, Commissioners. Yes, we have Diane Griffiths from the legislature and Joel Yang
should also be joining, presumably maybe a little closer
to 10.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. We had only one public
comment, so I wanted to go ahead and introduce the
topics, so by the time we hit 10 o'clock we're already to
launch into the discussion.

Commissioner Akutagawa, do you have anything
further, particularly anything to report on your outreach
to some of the community groups?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So excuse me, I will say
that I have talked to a couple of the other community
leaders in a couple other communities that are from
communities in which the languages that we are looking at
for the COI tool, and the feedback that I have gotten is
that there is high need in these two other communities
because they are linguistically isolated, and/or
linguistically limited as well, too.

So I think as Commissioner Kennedy has said, we did
look at a number of sources, but based on our discussions
with the Statewide Database, specifically Jaime and Karin
from the Statewide Database, we did -- or we will be
coming forward with a specific set of recommendations
based on what has been already produced by the census.

There's just a couple of the languages that we are
looking to see whether or not it makes sense to include
them. We're trying to balance cost with also the need, and so while it's easy to say, yes, we should do it, I think we're just trying to also be thoughtful about the broader impact -- not so much the broader impact. That's the wrong word. I think how widespread, I guess, maybe. I don't know. Jaime maybe might be able to help me on the right word for that, but it's really trying to balance cost and also ensuring that, you know, the addition of the additional languages will reach a broad swath of the California residents.

MS. CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa. Yes, so when we made our budget for redistricting access two years ago we were looking at what the last Commission did, and we were anticipating an expansion on the languages that were provided -- that the Commission's materials were provided during the last redistricting.

And also just to give a little bit of insight, our translation budget is not just for the COI tool, but also for translation of materials that would be available at redistricting access centers.

And yeah, so we met with the subcommittee last week, looked at all of these resources that Commissioners Kennedy and Akutagawa mentioned. And looking at what the census did, that covers over ninety-one percent of California's population with limited English proficiency,
and ninety-five percent of LA County's population with limited English proficiency.

And we are -- as we learn more about the cost associated with implementing all of the languages and any potential technical issues that we need to consider as we're incorporating additional languages, then we'll continue to collaborate with the subcommittee on the extent to which we can incorporate additional languages and what those languages should be based on what Commissioner Akutagawa just outlined.

CHAIR KENNEDY: I have also reached out to the Registrar of Voters in both San Diego County and Del Norte County. Those are the two counties that are listed under Section 203 as having requirement to support Native American languages.

The response from the Registrar in San Diego County was that the language that they are required to support is not a written language, and not only is it not a written language; it is barely a spoken language. The tribe is working to revive the language, but they have said to the Registrar that they do not need any materials translated, any written materials translated, and so we are going to follow -- we are recommending that we follow the lead of the Registrar of Voters in San Diego County.

The Registrar in Del Norte I would imagine is still
busy with counting and preparing to certify, so I haven't
heard back. Jaime, you look like you might have heard
back.

MS. CLARK: Yes. Thank you. And actually, Karin
spoke with the Registrar of Voters for Del Norte County
this morning. There are two tribes in Del Norte that
would be covered, and the ROV there worked closely with
tribal leaders to find out what's most helpful in terms
of access to elections there. And they have determined
that translations are not necessary. Ballots are not
translated for general elections or for tribal elections
in Del Norte County, as tribal members speak English.

It sounds like the tribes do appreciate outreach to
them specifically, so sort of a takeaway from that was
that make sure they're on the contact list when the CRC
holds hearings in that area with special or specific
invitation extended to those tribal members.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And just for clarity, if I
can also say, so Commissioner Fernandez and I are
specifically working on language access, and so what
we're talking about and what we're proposing in terms of
the specific languages for today is specific to the COI
tool. Commissioner Fernandez and I are still working on
our recommendations for public input meetings and also
outreach and engagement, so we have a broader mandate in
terms of the work that we're doing.

But what we're talking about today is specific to the COI tool because there is a deadline that we need to meet for the Statewide Database to be able to start the translation work that is very specific to the COI tool, so I also want to just be clear about that.

And then just so that everybody knows, I know that you may be wondering what specific languages are we talking about. Commissioner Kennedy and I have been going back and forth. He did some great analysis work and put together a nice chart. I just don't know if it did get sent out yet. If you want, I can just share a screen, or Commissioner Kennedy, if you would prefer to share your screen to show the languages that we are recommending to use for the COI tool. And then I see that Commissioner Sinay also has her hand up too.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry, I didn't want to -- on the -- on the tribes, the census -- the person that does the census in San Diego, the staff person, she was assigned all tribe outreach as well, tribal outreach, and so that might be someone to reach out to just to see what she learned, and I can make that introduction. She and I have worked together for a long time. But that might be great for that tribal piece. Sorry.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Thanks. I have also reached out to
one of my contacts. In 2016 I had a group of Mexican
election observers that I organized an election day
program for. One of our stops was with -- at the polling
place on the Morongo Band of Mission Indians Reservation
near the casino just off the 10. And I've kept in touch
with this individual since then. She is actually the
chair of the Native American Issues Caucus in the
Democratic party, so I have emailed her and called. I
haven't heard back from her yet, but I'm certainly hoping
to, and you know, hoping that she can assist with
contacts with Native America populations throughout the
state.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to clarify. I
realize I wasn't clear. She's for the State of
California, so she can help with the tribes throughout
the state. I'm sorry, I knew I said San Diego and I
didn't want --

CHAIR KENNEDY: No, that was clear to me, but you
know, hopefully with more hands on deck we'll be able to
ensure that we are reaching all of the Native American
populations in the state.

Commissioner Akutagawa, if you could share your
screen, since I'm chairing I'm trying to keep an eye on
the gallery view in front of me and see who might have
their hand up at any given time. But if you could go
ahead and share your screen with that table, that would
be great.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So Commissioner Kennedy,
maybe you can go ahead and explain it to everybody.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. So the columns are the
sources for the mandates, if you will. They're not all
mandates. I mean, the courts column, for instance, is
the ten most requested languages -- and it might not add
up to ten. I guess it's nine on there. American Sign
Language was the other language that was listed in the
court documents. That is a discussion that we need to
have. Do we want to provide user guides in American Sign
Language or is a written guide in plain English adequate
for the population that might otherwise be seeking
support in American Sign Language?

So Section 203, as I mentioned, of the Voters Rights
Act -- Voting Rights Act, I believe it's been renumbered
but it's commonly known as Section 203. California has a
statewide mandate in Spanish, and then the other mandates
are in a more limited number of localities within the
state. That's probably the shortest list of all, seven
languages there.

Section 14201 of the California Elections Code,
again, this has to do with translation of the ballot
only, not necessarily any other written materials,
although we are aware that there are registrars that
provide written materials in these and sometimes in
additional languages. But these are the top languages in
that list. It goes on quite a bit further, but we were
looking for languages that, you know, were on some of
these other lists as well, and looking at where there was
a significant drop off in the number of precincts where
various languages were required to be supported. So
that's the list that we came up with there.

Secretary of State website, again, if you go to the
Secretary of State website and click on translated
materials, these are the languages that show up there
with some of the materials in those languages.

The court documents, there were two different
documents and I believe from different years, so that's
why the asterisk. Farsi, Persian, actually I think
supplanted Tagalog in the more recent document, if I'm
not mistaken.

The census, these are the twelve most used non-
English languages in California. They have a separate
list for the country as a whole, but this was the list
for California.

And then the partners column refers to that
eighteen-page document with recommendations from a long
list of community partners, and part of that document included language support. You'll notice that the twelve languages there correspond exactly to the languages used by the census. I will say that if you look under Chinese you see Mandarin and Cantonese, so while those are counted in some documents as one language, Chinese, there are actually two, Mandarin and Cantonese.

There's also an issue of simplified script versus traditional script, and we have not come forth with any particular recommendation as far as the script, I don't believe, but we do believe that there is a move for both Mandarin and Cantonese, so in fact, the twelve languages are thirteen languages.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Also, I'll just mention that at the beginning I did mention that we're trying to -- this was part of the discussion that we had with Jaime and Karin at Statewide Database. There are two other languages that we are -- we did discuss and that we're having some debate about whether or not they can or should be included.

If you take a look at this chart, you'll see that the Secretary of State website or the Secretary of State requires as part of the election materials the inclusion of materials in additional languages, specifically Hindi and Thai. Based on the conversation that we had, it was
determined or it was agreed upon by the community partners that Hindi, there was enough of an English proficiency in the South Asian population that Hindi was one that was not necessary to include as part of the translated materials for the census. However, if you also look at the Secretary of State required list, Thai is a required language but it was not included as part of the translated materials by the census.

I did reach out to a contact in the Thai community and part of the feedback that we did get is that this is a community that even though is perhaps not as extensive throughout the state or significant in LA County and it is significantly linguistically isolated, and so this is additional information that we got after we had -- that Commissioner Kennedy and I had, but the Statewide Database team is aware of the feedback.

The other language that we are also -- have concerns and are considering and we're trying to get some additional feedback on is Hmong because there is a significant need for language translation in the Hmong community, particularly based on the number of precincts that had requested Hmong translation, and so even though it is not a required language by the Secretary of State, it is one that we are very conscious that may need additional language assistance, and we are also -- I've
reach out to community contacts to also try to see if we
could get a sense of what the level of language --
linguistic isolation or limit is in the Hmong community
throughout California.

And so those are two that are still pending in terms
of our discussions with the Statewide Database.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Awesome work, you all. This is
really helpful.

A couple of questions. When we had the women from
PANA, they talked about the African language in San Diego
that was used the most. And I'm trying to look it up,
but I can't remember exactly what that language was. And
so I wanted just to put that out there that we were told
that there was a specific language that they were using.

But my question was, you know, in their
presentation, as well, and in my relations with a lot of
Africans, they do speak multiple languages, and so you
know, does Arabic cover a lot of the African refugee and
immigrant community? Do they speak their, you know,
country language as well as Arabic or not, or is that
just for those countries that are Muslim? I just want to
make sure that we are being inclusive, because that's a
large refugee community.

And on Hmong, my understanding was that a lot of the
community is, at least, you know, when the first wave of
refugees came were illiterate. It's not a written
language in their own country, so it wasn't a written --
yeah, so they're working on having it to be a written
language.

And so what are we -- how are we going to address
some of those challenges that we have that some community
literacy even in their own language isn't strong, and
that includes, you know, some African, and you know, just
in general?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thanks for that. Yeah. There may
be a need in some of these to have instructions in an
audio format rather than a written format. You know,
Somali is not on this list. I don't have all of the data
in front of me. You know, having lived in Sudan, even
the South Sudanese, at least of a certain age -- well, of
a more advanced age they were schooled in English, then
there was a cohort that was schooled in Arabic, and now
that South Sudan is independent, the schooling is most
likely in English.

But you know, we're always going to face some number
of issues, and as Commissioner Akutagawa pointed out, we
have, you know, we have to be sensitive to the budget
realities. We would like to cover all 200 languages
spoken in California, but the reality of the situation is
that we would not be able to come close to that. And so you know, as Commissioner Akutagawa has pointed out, the "twelve" languages, or thirteen if we split up Mandarin and Cantonese, are estimated to reach ninety-some percent of the limited English proficient population in the state and ninety-five percent in LA County.

Commissioner Yee and then Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I think Commissioner Akutagawa was first.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Actually, you were.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Oh, okay. So just to clarify in Chinese, so Mandarin versus Cantonese, those are the two largest spoken versions of Chinese. There are many other dialects, of course, also. In written Chinese, it would be simplified versus traditional, and Mandarin you find in both simplified and traditional, traditional mostly among folks from Taiwan. And that's confusing, too, because as a census category Taiwanese is now separate from Chinese.

To make it even more complicated, most Taiwanese also speak a further dialect, Taiwanese, which is typically written in traditional Chinese.

So the distinction here listed Mandarin, Cantonese is mostly for spoken, then Mandarin you will find in those two versions, simplified and traditional.
Cantonese is almost always -- is always found in
traditional script. So just to clarify, or maybe not.

CHAIR KENNEDY: No, that's very helpful. Thank you
so much for that. Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So Commissioner Sinay, what
you said definitely was on my mind. I think being on the
Language Access Subcommittee too, Commissioner Fernandez
and I are very much looking at all of the other various
languages, especially from the presenters that we heard
from, and it was intentional in bringing in those
communities, because while they may not rise to the top
of making it to the Secretary of State's, you know, list
of languages that are required to be translated, we very
much also heard that to be inclusive we need to -- we
need to provide some mechanism by which we'll be able to
ensure access to what we're doing in the languages of
these various communities.

And I think what's still up for discussion is how
we'll be able to do that. Some of the recommendations
that we got we're working through some of the different
community-based organizations.

We have -- she and I have also had conversations
about, you know, whether or not it's a direct-access
grant versus, like, finding, like, an intermediary that
would then, you know, distribute out the grants.
And so those are things that are still yet to be discussed. And we've started discussing it, but nothing has actually come to an actual place where we are ready to make a recommendation.

With that said, I think, again, I want to also just remind everybody that what we're talking about is specific to the COI tool, and that our intent is, again, thinking about the balance between what -- now that we have some better idea what the -- what the Statewide Database budget is like and what is possible, we're working within some constraints and have had to make some choices.

With that said, I think when it comes to, like, the public input meetings and the other kinds of outreach and education materials, I think Commissioner Fernandez and I are also looking for ways in which we'll be able to be much more inclusive and expansive to all of the various other communities.

But based on what we would call the data, what Commissioner Kennedy and I are presenting from a COI Tool Subcommittee recommendation is languages based on what the VRA, what the Secretary of State requires, and then the 14201 list is additional languages that are accommodations based on regions that the Secretary of State is requiring.
And then we were also provided with the additional list of languages that the 2020 California Census chose to translate their materials into, which the list, or the spreadsheet, or the chart -- the table that Commissioner Kennedy created, gives us a very helpful at-a-glance view of where the intersecting languages are, where some of them show up on some lists and not on other lists.

And as he had also noted, the partners are those community partners that had sent us a public comment about two weeks ago suggesting, you know, their recommendations for language access, the twelve languages that are aligned with the census languages.

But as I had mentioned, the Statewide Database team and Commissioner Kennedy and I had also had an additional conversation about Hmong and Thai because they do show up on the Secretary of State list and I think that that's going to be further conversation, I figure, between the Statewide Database and the subcommittee, but we are trying to be mindful of what the costs are, but we also want to be as inclusive as possible, and so we would welcome also input from the other Commissioners on what we have presented to you today.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS:  Commissioner Vasquez. No more? Okay.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ:  Yeah.
VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Okay.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Let me go ahead and say that in our discussion with the Statewide Database the other day, it was clear that while they had planned on a certain number of languages, especially if we take a decision to request support in Thai and Hmong, that the likely outcome of that would be that we would be asked to find the funding to be able to support those two languages. We might be asked to support some of the twelve, but, certainly, anything beyond the twelve, the likely outcome would be that we would be asked to find funding to support those.

Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Twelve or thirteen? I'm sorry.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah. Twelve, entre aspas, you know.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, quote, unquote. I just want to make sure because it's a little confusing, but I've got you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah, it is confusing. And Commissioner Yee, your assistance is very much appreciated. That will certainly help us consider how we address Mandarin and Cantonese.

Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: So my question is based on the chart that's presented, is there an actual recommendation
being made, or is this just for us to understand what's led us to this discussion?

CHAIR KENNEDY:  We're still waiting on, I think, one bit of information which is feedback regarding Hmong. But otherwise, the recommendation is all of these down to Cambodian, skipping Hindi because we were informed that the requirement for Hindi was based on faulty information, but including Russian. So basically, the ones that were recommended for use by the census and the partners, plus at this point Thai, and we're just waiting for a bit of feedback to see if we recommend Hmong as well.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Can I make a recommendation that we add another column to the right of the partner column that says what the recommendation is, and then highlight the boxes that are going to be recommended. And then that way we have our research, we have what we're recommending all in the same document, and of course, I would imagine that would come after you guys have come to get the additional information regarding Hmong or any other outstanding languages that you're looking at.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah. We're not looking at others at this point.

Commissioner Akutagawa.
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Just for the sake of what Commissioner Le Mons said, what we could do is we could collapse census and the partners since they're essentially the same. The partners are using the census, the list on the partners -- on the census.

I will just make a comment, though, in terms of the Hmong community. I think, Commissioner Sinay, you know, you're right. It was not traditionally a written language, but it is now, and unfortunately based on what I know and just having some preliminary conversations with some that have done some work with the Hmong community, I suspect -- I'm pretty certain that we're going to get feedback that the Hmong community is pretty linguistically isolated, based just on my experience.

And so I think that given just the numbers of election precincts in which Hmong translated materials were requested, it was pretty significant. I would also say that we may -- we should probably be looking at Thai and Hmong together in addition to the other twelve languages.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons and then Commissioner Sinay.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I just wanted to ask that the partner column remain, like not be collapsed with the census. I understand they are duplication, but I think
it's good to see that delineation, so that would just be
my recommendation.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I agree. I think it's
important for the partners to see that we've included
them and that it's separate.

But I also -- I think for us to be able -- I'm
guessing this is going to come back to us at some point
in this meeting to do the final vote, you know, if we
hear back around the Hmong and the Thai. Could we know
the cost, because we keep saying there will be an
additional cost if we add more languages, and it's kind
of not fair to ask us to vote for something if we don't
know what the cost is.

CHAIR KENNEDY: So I would --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think on that -- Statewide
Database --

MS. CLARK: Yes, thank you. We are still assessing
the cost associated with each language, and we anticipate
that different languages might have different costs
associated with translation.

We're also looking at the cost associated with
implementing the languages in the tools themselves, and
considering that there might be some technical issues
around making text that is translated into different
languages fit everywhere in the tool that there is text. So that's certainly one of the considerations as well.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen and then Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. This was going back to the idea that Commissioner Sinay had brought up about our partners who presented, and I believe she was looking for the language that the African immigrants were bringing up. And I actually came up with that. There were two, the Amharic, which is often considered Somali. The other was Swahili. And I'm just wondering if -- I know you've been evaluating these. You know, if that's the issue of linguistic isolation and/or numbers was the reason why one of those is not included in this. If you could give us more information on that, please.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So I thought the languages were actually Somali and Swahili, and then Amharic is an Ethiopian language; it's not a Somali language.

What we wanted to do is to try to be as, I guess, data driven as possible, so that's why we were looking at the VRA list, the Secretary of State list, and then the census list. I suspect -- oh, and then also we looked at the state courts, the California State Courts, and we looked at the top ten most requested interpreted
languages in the state courts.

And while languages like Somali, or Swahili, or Amharic, even some of the other languages that we'll be hearing about and that we've heard about may not be rising up on those lists, on that one, Commissioner Fernandez and I are also very mindful of the fact that we want to try to create accessibility for, like, the black immigrant and refugee populations, and then also, like, for example, the Pacific Islander populations where they spoke about Marshallese, Tongan, and Samoan as being the top three languages in which there was, you know, language translation -- significant language translation needs.

But in terms of the population numbers relative to the need, you don't see it show up on some of these other lists, so we wanted to be as, I think, just data driven in this way so that then if anybody should question, what we can point to is specific sources as to why certain languages are having to be selected given the -- you know, the kind of budgetary balances that we're also consciously trying to be mindful of as well, too.

And I think we -- I think if we had our way, you know, both Commissioner Kennedy and I, and also Commissioner Fernandez and I, I think we would try to cover all the languages so that we can make it as
accessible as possible. We also do realize that --

And I think some of our community presenters were
also mindful of that and they did say that part of the
recommendations of that, they realize that it's not going
to be possible to provide translations in every single
language, but that they stand ready to also be partners
to help provide that kind of accessibility, and I think
that's where Commissioner Fernandez and I are going to be
looking at in terms of how do we best be able to do that
working with partners who not only have that language
expertise, but also have that important level of trust
with those communities.

So it's not just being able to provide the
translation, but also being able to do so, you know, from
a trusted source that they feel like this information is
something that is okay for them to be participating in.
And that's what I think we're taking away from. At least
that's what I think, speaking for Commissioner Fernandez
and I, I think that's what we're taking away from the
presentations that we've heard so far.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: So my question is for Jaime.
So before I ask my question, I want to say what I think I
understand. That, A, this discussion is focused on the
COI tool and there's a budget available to do X number of
languages. It sounds like our subcommittee has already worked with Jaime on this list that we are looking at, and the potential addition of Hmong is coverable by that budget with maybe some extra resources to look at, additional languages which would require those to be scoped out based on the language, because there's probably some variable between the cost to add additional languages, if that's even possible. So I'm hoping to hear if that is a fair representation.

Secondly, this is not the end of the discussion about language access, that we have other mechanisms by which we are going to be addressing some of the other important populations that have been raised up. But it's not in context with this particular discussion which is about where we're moving forward with the COI tool and what languages we're going to be voting on approving so that Statewide Database can move forward with that process.

So I guess what I'm -- are you clear on my question, Jaime? I know I said a mouthful there. Okay, great.

Thank you.

MS. CLARK: Sure. Thank you. Excuse me. So Statewide Database is committed to translating the top twelve/thirteen languages for the COI tool, and anything outside of that we may need additional resources to help
us make additional languages available.

And we also are -- we also are wanting to consider, you know, keeping an eye on our early January goal of having the COI tool be publicly available, if desired, and we don't want to endanger that.

And adding additional languages, again, depending on staff time and implementation around actually making the tools live -- excuse me, actually making the languages live in the tool could prompt some redesign some places, and so those are the considerations.

CHAIR KENNEDY: I will say that in reading the documents from the courts, they noted that Hmong, while not currently among their top ten requested languages, seemed to be growing and they have it on something of a watchlist so that they might be able to better address requests for interpretation in Hmong in the near term.

Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Is Hmong the only outstanding question at this point as it's related to the COI tool? And secondly, was Jaime's response to Commissioner Sinay regarding cost, is that beyond this recommended twelve/thirteen list uncertain on the costs, or understanding the cost on this twelve/thirteen is available right now?

MS. CLARK: If I understand your question correctly,
we are still assessing the costs associated with
translating everything associated with the COI tool,
including user guide, tutorials, emails that would get
sent to users who want to log into the COI tool to verify
their email accounts. All of that associated with the
COI tool we're still assessing the cost of implementing
that in the top twelve languages.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: May I ask a follow-up question?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: So the follow-up question is
although you're assessing those costs it sounds like
based on your statements earlier there's no potential --
that you probably have budget to commit today to the
twelve/thirteen languages, which would allow us to move
forward with the vote once we establish the Hmong
question so that you guys can be off and running. Is
that fair?

MS. CLARK: I don't believe that we need a formal
vote today. We are intending to translate the COI tool
into the top twelve languages and will continue to work
with the subcommittee in terms of any additional
languages that are desired and assessed the extent that
that will be possible keeping our budget and our time
constraints in mind.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: So for me that kind of reframes
this discussion. It sounds like the Statewide Database
is already moving forward with the twelve/thirteen list,
like, that's happening, so we really need to be
determining whether or not there are additional languages
that we want them to include that respects the deadline
for the January distribution and whether there's going to
be any budget implications that will fall to us. Is that
where we are?

CHAIR KENNEDY: I would say that is generally where
we are. The one thing that I would say is we had had a
discussion at one point as to whether we needed the tool
to be ready by early January or if, because of our
broader time line, our global time line with all of the
different moving parts and so forth, we would be okay
with it, for example, being available by the end of
January rather than the beginning of January.

So that's a question that, you know, between the
Outreach Subcommittee and potentially the Gantt Chart
Subcommittee, you know, we may need to have further
discussions. You know, having it sitting there for a
month, or six weeks, or something not being used when the
development team could have made good use of that time, I
think is the question that we need to resolve.

Any other comments or questions at this point?
Commissioner Akutagawa.
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think, based on what
Jaime just said, I guess I thought you were waiting for
us to say yea or nay, but if you're just going to go
ahead and move forward with it, that's fine.

I think with that said, I'd like to propose that we
do go ahead and also include Thai and Hmong as the
additional languages. I think the reason why we're -- by
the way, I think the reason why we're saying
twelve/thirteen is that Chinese is the -- let's just call
it the twelfth language, but because there's both -- in
this case to Commissioner Yee's point there's the
simplified -- from a written perspective there's the
simplified and the traditional.

And then I don't know if there's going to be like
any kind of, you know, oral kind of need in terms of
instructions orally, then that would also then add that
level of complexity that Commissioner Yee talked about,
but that would then require need for Mandarin and
Cantonese. It shouldn't really change then the numbers,
so there would be thirteen. But I would like to propose
that we go forward and include Hmong and Thai as part of
the languages that would be translated.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I think that we as a Commission
should -- since we have this clarity, and I'm glad we do,
that I think Commissioner Akutagawa just highlighted, I do think as a Commission we should weigh in on our position on Statewide Database just moving forward with the twelve/thirteen languages and whatever else we want to weigh in on with regard to that.

So I don't know how we want to formally weigh in, if it's just simply saying we understand X, or we want to vote that we support that. I'll leave that up to the Chair and our legal counsel, but I do think that we should take a position, particularly since we have given such attention to this process from a research point of view, as well as the, I think, very important discussion that was had today.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. Anyone else before we go to public comment?

Okay. Jesse, could you read the instructions for public comment, please.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is 91505532099 for this week's meeting.
Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You will also hear an automated message to press star 9. Please do this to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automated message that says, "The host would like you to talk", and to press star 6 to speak.

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

These instructions are also located on the website.

The Commission is taking public comment at this time.

Chair, there are currently no callers in queue.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Akutagawa has essentially recommended or indicated that she would like us to proceed with endorsing the twelve/thirteen languages and that we add Thai and Hmong.

Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry, I'm still concerned though that we may get a bill that we don't know how to
pay. So should I just not be worried about that because usually I'm not worried when it comes to outreach, but I want to make sure, you know, is there any caveat we can put up, up to a certain amount or if I'm the only one who cares -- not that cares, because I know we all care, but if I'm the only one concerned, I'm very okay stepping back.

CHAIR KENNEDY: I guess the way I'm looking at it, and Jaime, correct me if I'm wrong, if you have a budget at this point for the twelve/thirteen, that adding to is not going to cost as much as those twelve/thirteen; it's going to be some fraction of that.

MS. CLARK: That is what we are anticipating, yes.

CHAIR KENNEDY: I mean, I would anticipate, you know, at the maximum we'd be talking about being able to do it under the $10,000 limit for personal services contract, or whatever it's currently called.

Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: I think at this point you're accepting the number of languages. I don't think that anything in here would prohibit us from taking a step back later once Jaime can give us a better idea of what it would cost.

So I don't think, unless I'm incorrect, Jaime, and you can tell me, I don't think we're committing entirely
to anything other than believing that this should be the number of languages we pursue, and then find out what the cost is, and then have another discussion if it becomes prohibitive at that time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Sure.

MS. CLARK: Thank you. Certainly, so what we will proceed with the top twelve languages, and then we won't proceed with engaging with translation services for these additional languages until we can bring back to the subcommittee and the subcommittee can convey that to the full Commission.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: So the cost we're talking about is specific to Hmong?

CHAIR KENNEDY: And Thai.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Oh, Hmong and Thai, okay. So we're expecting no bill for the twelve/thirteen which is the two Chinese languages being utilized. So we're saying yes to -- I mean, we're potentially making a decision on that and then we're asking to pursue Thai and Hmong and will let us know the cost before moving forward. Is that correct?

MS. CLARK: That's correct.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Okay, thanks.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to say in support of Commissioner Sinay that I agree. As we go into voting for things, I think it's always important that we know the dollar amount, small dollar amount or larger dollar amount, when possible. And so when she said -- you know, made that statement I just wanted to support that, Commissioner Sinay, I think as a general rule.

And I was glad for the clarification, because I understood the way we were moving forward is that we were going to accept the additional languages and pay for them, whatever the cost. And then Commissioner Le Mons just confirmed that, indeed, we'll just be looking at a recommendation, which sounds actually different to me than what we initially stated. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool, did you have your hand up?

MR. CLAYPOOL: No, I didn't.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Jesse.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, there's currently a caller waiting in the queue.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. If you could invite them to speak.

MS. MARKS: Hello. Can you hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Good morning, caller.
Could you please state and spell your name for the record, please?

MS. MARKS: Yes. It is Julia Marks, J-U-L-I-A, M-A-R-K-S.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. The floor is yours.

MS. MARKS: Great. Thank you. Hi. My name is Julia Marks. I'm calling from Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus.

And I wanted to first say thank you very much for this incredibly thorough and thoughtful analysis of language coverage in other context, and I do think it's a good starting point for figuring out what the Commission's language coverage might look like overall, and then also specific to the COI tool, which I understand is the subject of today's discussion.

I just wanted to draw your attention to a letter that was submitted by a coalition of organizations on Friday. We sent it to the public comment email address, and I just want to make sure you all saw that.

While we think looking at the number is a good starting point, and that is reflected in the top twelve approach by the census and the top twelve approach that we recommended with partners in our bigger outreach recommendations, for something like the COI tool, which
will be kind of an essential part of providing comment to
the Commission, we would recommend that you look beyond
those top languages. And I appreciate the recognition
that languages like Thai and Hmong have, you know, a fair
amount of linguistic isolation and fairly significant
populations where including them in the COI tool
translation list would be helpful, I do think there are
additional languages that should be added to the list of
kind of second tier for coverage.

I recognize that there are some cost limitations and
appreciate the commitment to, at a minimum, do the top
set of languages. But if it is at all possible to find
some extra budget to add more languages to the list, I
think it would be very beneficial.

Some of the key languages mentioned by partners and
in the conversation you all had today include Pacific
Islander languages and African languages beyond Arabic.

I'll often note that those aren't covered in
language access in voting laws for kind of categorical
reasons, so language access in voting only provides a
partial snapshot of what the needs actually look like on
the ground.

One thing that's important to keep in mind is even
if a community is fairly small in number, you know, that
doesn't mean that they don't have a lot to say. And if a
community has been historically left out of these processes for numeric reasons, we don't want to depend so much on numbers here that we inadvertently continue to leave them out. And sometimes seeing a tool in your language is both essential to providing access, because it allows you to fill out the form and navigate the platform. And it's also important as a signaling mechanism that this process includes you and includes your community and that you belong as a voice to the Commission.

And so while we understand you can't translate everything you do into fifteen or twenty languages, the COI tool will be something that community organizations will be directing their community members to, to provide and put to you all, and so having that tool and that portal in language will facilitate that. If a group holds a workshop in Samoan and then can direct someone to a tool in Samoan, that will help kind of close the loop on that process, so community orgs are doing the outreach but then have an in-language connection to your work more directly.

So we would just strongly encourage you to consider the slightly longer list for the COI tool, and to consult our letter and additional community groups to determine the scope of that additional work. Thank you.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Ms. Marks, do you have specifics that you want to suggest at this point?

MS. MARKS: Yes. So I would uplift Thai and Hmong from your prior conversation and inclusion for Pacific Islander communities is also very important, so Samoan and Marshallese and Tongan, and then some key African languages are some Somali and Amharic, and I also understand that representatives from PANA will be presenting or have presented, and I would recommend further consultation with them for African languages.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you very much. Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Yes. I just wanted to say that -- thanks to the caller for the comments. I think this just underscores what we've already been talking about. I think it will be important for us to communicate, too, to the public that, you know, while the COI tool is a tool, that we are looking at other ways of being able to get information from other groups. And we also aren't necessarily weighting the COI tool as the mechanism for getting us the information that we need, and I think that we have to keep reinforcing that message.

When we are talking about specific things, like in this case the COI tool, if that is lifted up as that's
going to be the mechanism without contextualizing that around us really understanding -- and I think the amount of time and effort that we're putting into exploring, inviting, et cetera, we're not just doing this as an exercise in terms of bringing in groups like we had in our last meeting, the group that spoke for the African languages, et cetera, but we are looking at other mechanisms and tools for being able to get the information that we need to be able to do the job that we want to do.

So I just wanted to put that out there, that the COI tool, while it's popular, it's understood, it's been a fixture in this process, we won't be limited to that. At least that's what I've understood from the efforts of the Outreach Committee, the Global Access Committee in particular, that we created, and I'm very, very proud of the work that the Global Access Committee is doing -- and that was the whole purpose in creating that Global Access Committee, to look at other avenues, ways, for us to reach communities that won't rise up for the COI tool based on a numeric approach to language choice, but doesn't mean that they're going to be overlooked consequently.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. Commissioner Sinay.
COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was going to say something similar to Commissioner Le Mons, that we are very aware that the COI tool, the Communities of Interest Tool, may not be the most accessible tool to all communities, and we do want -- we're really looking at accessibility and we have committed to weighing all input equally.

I also wanted to ask Ms. Marks, on your outreach, the work that you're all doing on redistricting, what languages have you all chosen -- your organization, not all five of the groups who have gotten funding, but for your organization, is there specific languages that you're focusing on?

Ms. Marks, I think you're on mute. I mean, you are on mute.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Jesse, could you help?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Please press star 6 to unmute yourself, caller.

MS. MARKS: Yes, okay. So we work with Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, so it is a significant number of languages. Our program directly doesn't work with, you know, all of the Asian American and Pacific Islander languages identified in this letter, but many of our partners do.

So you know, there are Pacific Islander groups in the Bay Area where we're located who we are hoping to do
workshops with, so that even though their communities
might not be significantly sizeable on a statewide basis
when looking at lines for, you know, Bay Area map
drawing, it will be important to bring their voices to
the table. So through our partnership with those smaller
community-based organizations we're able to help enrich,
you know, the field of information coming in.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Thank you. We are
required to take a 15-minute break. I see that we do
have another caller. Can our caller -- I want to bring
this topic back onto the table later in the day, but we
need to move on at this point.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Can we quickly take the caller
since they're already there?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Staff, are we able to take
one more call?

MR. MANOFF: That shouldn't be a problem.

MS. ERIKAT: Hi. Can I speak now?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Could you please
state your name for the record, please?

MS. ERIKAT: Yes. My name is Jeanine Erikat.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Could you spell it as
well, please?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. The floor is yours.

MS. ERIKAT: Thank you all. Thank you all to the State Commission for having us all here today and for allowing me to make my public comment.

My name is Jeanine Erikat. I'm with the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans. I spoke to you all two weeks ago about the diversity of African language refugee communities and the different languages.

I just wanted to flag that Arabic is not the language that most African refugees and immigrants speak here in California, or more broadly, the United States. In fact, most of these communities speak Somali, Swahili, and Amharic. And having it in Arabic on the assumption that they'll be able to engage in the process is doing a disservice and leaving them out of the process.

So I would advocate and push for including Somali and Amharic and Swahili into the process because we have large numbers of these populations throughout the state of California to engage in the process.

Thank you all again for allowing me to speak today. I know you're about to go onto your 15-minute break. I thank you all earlier, two weeks ago, for the opportunity to present on this. That's all I just wanted to bring up. Thank you all.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Ms. Erikat. Okay. With that we will go for our 15-minute break, after which Director Claypool will give his report.

Thank you, everyone.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 11:02 a.m. until 11:18 a.m.)

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you very much, everyone. We are back from our break and it is time for Director Claypool's report.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Good morning. Can you hear me, Chair?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Okay, perfect. So to start with, I'd like to discuss some our new hires. Obviously we have brought on board our new communications director, Mr. Ceja, and he's present with us today. We also added Gloria Pacheco who you had approved in a past meeting, and she's helped me this past week by putting together the budget projections for the Commission through June 30th, 2022, and she'll be working on our budget during her tenure with the Commission, and she will also be tracking or assisting in the tracking of the Commission per diem and the travel expense claims.

We're still working on to get the deputy executive director position established with the Department of
General Services, Human Resource Department. Over two weeks ago we were assured that the position had been moved to the Department of Finance and to the State Controller's office. However, we cannot get further information beyond this report, and as a result, Kary Marshall, our Chief Counsel, sent a letter to the DGS Office of Legal Services asking that office to intercede on our behalf with GSHR, or we will make the issue with the director of the Department of General Services. It has not been positive this week in this regard, and so we will monitor this and very quickly write a letter to the director, if necessary. We will run that through the Chair and the Vice Chair.

We're continuing to reach out to the Department -- Census California regarding individuals from that organization who would like to work with the Commission, and we have particular interest from one person in that organization that has procurement and contracting experience, and that individual has sent us her resume. So we will be looking at her as well. So it is -- that is a positive note.

Procurements. Raul was supposed to get the new Commission cell phones last Friday, and Verizon has once again put us on hold because of back order, and on the 19th of this week we're supposed to get an update on when
you will receive those phones. There are 21 of them on
order, and it's frustrating for us, as I'm sure it is for
you, but that's the status of our phones.

Status of our procurement of computers. We have 17
on order that Commissioner Andersen okayed with the --
actually, Commissioner Andersen, I shouldn't say that.
Actually, it was okayed by the full Commission as being
what was necessary and what you desired. Raul has
completed that entire process of pushing them through and
now we're waiting to find out the date that we can get
those computers. Again, this is always with the
acknowledgment that this is running through the
Department of General Services, so. I always hold my
breath until the package arrives, and hopefully, there
will be no more glitches with that.

Are there any questions about the phones, the
computers, or anything else that I've said before I move
on?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Director Claypool,
can you have a computer sent to me? My audio went out,
and if you remember -- if you recall, I was having issues
at the last meeting.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So at the start of this
meeting audio went out, so I had to switch out computers.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So if I can get something sent to me, because I'm thinking our new computers won't be here for a while.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Okay. And we can certainly get that done. I'll make a note of it right now.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: If it would be easier, I could arrange to meet you somewhere, Commissioner Fernandez, since we live not too far from each other.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That would also be good as well. Thank you. So we'll talk offline?

MS. JOHNSTON: I'll work with Raul. What?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. CLAYPOOL: I've actually thought about putting it on my bicycle and just dropping it by, Commissioner Fernandez, but I think Marian is probably a more sure bet.

So no other questions before I move on? Okay.

The Department of Finance. I spent a few hours last week talking with our contact at the Department of Finance working over the various facets of our budget. And then on their recommendation, I worked over to working through Raul and Ms. Pacheco, our budgets person,
to working with Fiscal Services at the Department of General Services.

The Department of Finance requires certain budget requests for funds that are locked up. A good example of that is our two million dollars for outreach. It's locked up and we're supposed to give them a thirty-day request for that money before they'll release it to us. They actually send on that request to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and JLBC is the one that gives the final approval.

When we checked with Fiscal Services, it appears that we have access to all of your budget right now. So there's a discrepancy between how much we could actually access right now between the two organizations.

Fortunately, the organization that is responsible for our budget says that we can have it all, but I'm sure the Department of Finance is going to say that we need to send in the letters to release that portion. It's a thirty-day letter, and they don't like it to come a lot sooner than thirty days. I had proposed to our person at Finance that I just send the letter over right now and he was, do you need it in thirty days, and I said, well no, we'll need it in January when we start our outreach. And he said, well then, we'd like to have it in December, thirty days ahead of time.
So we're monitoring the dates that control your funds and we're going to know by the end of this week exactly what we have actual access to and what we don't, and on the next -- on the next report out to you I'll be able to be more specific about exactly the state of your being able to access those funds.

The budget -- the projected budget, I sent over a document to all of you. I hope that you have it. That document, unfortunately, has not been posted because it was -- there was a miscommunication and it was late getting to Raul. Several documents, in fact, have not been posted because how late they came to Raul last evening. So we can either discuss the budget now, or we can come back to it later. It's up to you, Chair.

CHAIR KENNEDY: When would we be able to come back to it?

MR. CLAYPOOL: Well, that's the thing. We would have to tack this on to either tomorrow afternoon or to Wednesday afternoon, because I do not know that it will get posted up in time for the discussion today.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. We're not going to take any action on it at this point.

MR. CLAYPOOL: We are not. It's just a very high-level view of the projected costs, and there will be plenty of time for public comment on it once the public
can see it.

CHAIR KENNEDY:  Right. So I would -- I would personally think that we could proceed, but let's hear from Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ:  I would prefer that we not discuss items until they are posted and the public does have a chance to review the documents. And I'm only saying that for myself as well because I know some of the items were sent to us late, so I would appreciate a little bit more time to review it. I realize we don't like to push things off, but it makes it challenging when I'm trying to review it at the same time that everyone else is trying to review it, and then the public hasn't even seen it yet. So that's just my recommendation.

CHAIR KENNEDY:  Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL:  I -- you know, I understand completely, Commissioner Fernandez. It was actually sent forward on Friday but then I waited to find out exactly how we wanted to handle it. The reason I say that is because there are different parts of it that are fairly high, that we don't know, that we're taking estimates on, but in the end it was decided to release it, and so the soonest I could release it was yesterday. But it was done sooner. It was just -- there were just issues about what it was going to say and it might generate more
questions than it answered. But if it's okay with
Commissioner Kennedy, we can push it.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, Vice Chair. This
has been an issue now for three months and it keeps -- we
keep being told that posting things publicly once we get
staff. We keep upping our staff and the issue seems to
get worse, not better. Excuses get made.

We sent our -- our outline of instructions to be
posted on November 11th, and to be told that, oh, we
never got it or we never heard it, we never saw it, it
wasn't clear, is not fair.

I know others -- you know, having to hear from the
public that a letter was sent to us on Friday but we
haven't seen it, is embarrassing.

This cannot continue this way. We need to be
prepared before meetings. We need things posted. The
public needs to be able to have our respect and be able
to read things so that they can be prepared. I really
sometimes -- I feel that we are not -- I'm sorry, but I
don't feel that we have been made a priority, the
Commissioners have been made a priority and the public
has been made a priority when it comes to information.

And yes, maybe some of the subcommittee reports
arrived on Friday. You all should just have a plan so
that it gets posted ASAP. We are, you know, doing this
as volunteers, and we get paid some, but we also have
full-time jobs, and we're doing the best we can.

Staff, this is your full-time job, and I'm just
-- I can't believe that one more meeting has gotten here.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I agree with Commissioner
Sinay. I do want to add something to that because I as
the Vice Chair have been a part of numerous meetings
leading up to this meeting and even preparing for the
next set of meetings. And probably former Chairs and
Vice Chairs know what goes into trying to get all of this
coordinated by the time we hit go at the meeting. And it
is a lot, and I know -- I can't speak for any other team
except the leadership that Commissioner Kennedy has
brought to this process, and I think we all know
Commissioner Kennedy's reputation since day one of being
thorough and intentional, et cetera, and he has been
throughout this process. He got way out in front of it.

And so there's a lot of people on our Commission and
we haven't mastered our process yet. So I'm not
disagreeing with Commissioner Sinay, but I am asking us
to temper our frustration with the reality.

I don't think this is the result of our staff not
caring. I've been in too many late weekend night
meetings with the staff in this process to get behind that feeling. It doesn't change that we're not getting the outcome that we want, but I don't think it is negligence in the point of not caring and not trying. So I just feel like it would be unfair, having participated in this process and observed it in working with the staff, that I not say that. So it isn't an excuse. It doesn't change what we need, because we do need this stuff in advance.

And we've had meetings about actually deadlines for getting things in in order for them to be posted, that we as Commissioners have to respect as well. We just have to be mindful of that, and this has nothing to do with the specificity of any of the things that you've uplifted, Commissioner Sinay, that specifically did not get posted.

But I just want us to continue to refine the process. Continue to refine our communication and our interaction with our staff and let them know that we do support them as well, and we do need what we need. So it definitely is not any kind of excuse for letting them off of the hook, but I do think it is important that the Commissioners understand, at least from the last probably at least two weeks, what's been happening behind the scenes with the meetings that at least I've been involved
with.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Any further comment?

Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I am grateful for the comments and words that are offered, and I'm wondering if there is something that's not yet spoken that the Commissioners can do to support, help with this process, because, Commissioner Kennedy, if you couldn't -- I really have -- I really have minimal confidence that there's something different you could do because you are very thorough. And I know a lot of us are still trying to get used to the way that the government, the State works on everything from phones to the process, to the required thirty days but not too soon, but not -- you know, so that's different for a lot of us.

But I'm wondering at this point what is the recommendation? Is there anything at all that we should be, could be doing different on our end that would assist in the process and avoid the delays and the delay in receiving the material?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. Thank you for all of the comments. I agree it is not helpful to not have any handouts for this meeting knowing that there were many --
that were prepared.

You know, I recall in previous meetings I believe it was Commissioner Vasquez who had made the suggestion of using some sort of program such as -- I think it was called BoardDocs or something of that nature, and I believe there were others. I'd like to get an update on that.

In addition, in terms of providing some, you know, concrete next steps, I certainly recognize that there has to be a ton of emails, you know, coming to Director Claypool. We've hired additional administrative staff. Is there -- and I certainly recognize Raul also is perhaps tapped out. I'm not sure. Is there someone else that we have hired recently who could assist with this to ensure that, you know, before the meeting starts everything is in place, right, that our full agenda is there, all of the documents are there?

I get it and I know -- especially for the VRA Subcommittee we were hustling and I believe got everything out by Friday. But you know, things are falling through the cracks, so what are the specific recommendations? For me, I think I'd like to hear that update on the BoardDocs or some other kind of system to manage all of our documentation. 2020 is a totally different year. There's new technologies out there and I
think we need to be using them. And also, what are
the -- what's the other staffing that we can put towards
supporting this effort?
CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner -- Director
Claypool.
MR. CLAYPOOL: Thank you. So yes, there were a
lot -- there's a lot of traffic that comes through, and I
get tired a little bit of thinking of giving you just
reality and having it referred to as an excuse. We have
the same person, part-time person, who is updating for us
now that we had two weeks ago, and we're looking for an
IT person. We've interviewed several, but we don't have
that person on board. So we are still in the situation
where we have to wait until the evenings to get things
posted for us because we don't have anyone else who can
do that.

We also have a situation where we have some of you
Commissioners are very, very good at sending your
information and saying, this is what I want posted,
please post it. For those individuals who have sent us
that information, that information gets posted. But when
we get information from someone and -- from a
Commissioner and that information says, you know, this is
what we're proposing and then says, oh, don't post and
then comes back and continues with a line of information
but never says again, post this document, we don't know what to post and we're not sure when we're supposed to post it. We need very specific instructions on what is supposed to be posted, and that would be very helpful. When each one of you says, here, would you distribute this to the Commissioners and then post it, it gets posted. But that's our dilemma.

So the solution to this -- by the way, for the -- on the BoardDocs I had spoken with Commissioner Ahmad and she had talked about looking into that, and she and I are working on that and speaking about that. I don't know how labor intensive it is. I don't know how much it costs. I just know that I've looked at where it's being used and that's as far as I had gotten with what we're doing.

As far as staff coming aboard to help us, we now have Mr. Ceja, and he will be helpful because he'll take a load off of what we're trying to push out, and hopefully, we can bring staff on for him so that that person can be bringing and take over the email that comes to us, that email -- general email box of where that person referred that they had sent the letter.

But at this point we're still developing the staff we need to do what we're trying to do, and there are priorities that come aboard that just have to be
serviced. And it's not a matter of servicing ahead of the Commission; it's a matter of servicing them on behalf of the Commission.

But my final statement would be if you would just be very, very clear when you send what you're sending exactly what you want done with it, then we will work with it.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Actually I'm going to pass, but I don't think that that was a fair statement on me, since I know that that statement was being pushed right on me. I think we were very clear on the previous emails, and I think that the director can always pick up the phone and ask.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay. I sent two emails asking, is this what you want; please tell me. I'm sorry, but when I send an email, I -- I sent two asking you for confirmation, and I never received a response.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm glad that Director Claypool brought up our communications director, because I was actually going to ask him -- can you just -- obviously you're sitting back and you're taking all this
information and I'm sure that you have experience in this area, and I'm sure that you'll have some very good recommendations, so obviously, it's a pretty hot -- it's a hot topic for us, and I'm just looking forward to whatever recommendations you have for us. So welcome aboard, and you know, you're going to jump right in, so thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I have to piggyback on that because I was thinking the same thing, Commissioner Fernandez. So it's like, Mr. Ceja, solve it.

MR. CEJA: Okay.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just want us to be careful with that statement just because we really need Mr. Ceja externally, to focus externally and not focus internally in our administrative pieces. There is other people that have been hired for that internal piece, so let's just be careful how much we're putting on Mr. Ceja.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I have a question.

Riana is our person who has been posting things. What are her hours? You're not on -- you're on mute, Mr. Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Thank you. Riana has been working
for us on a part-time basis, and she works in the evenings after and sometimes during the middle of the day in conjunction with another job that she has. That's why we're looking for someone who can replace her in that IT capacity, and we are interviewing individuals. So far we haven't found anybody that we're confident can do the scope of the work that this Commission requires, including doing something with your website and also doing something.

So perhaps -- again, I know we don't want to put a lot of internal pressure on our communications director, but I believe he knows people that may be able to help us in this capacity, and so we'll certainly branch out through him to try to find somebody to fill this critical position.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I think Director Claypool kind of spoke to it. Yes, while -- it just raised the question that we haven't heard from Mr. Ceja, so my comment was somewhat tongue in cheek, but I do expect you to be influential in the solve because communications is your area and this is part of it, so it isn't to say that your priorities are being set by solving our internal administrative issues, to be clear. But we're still waiting to get your proposal on your side of the
organization.

And as far as this web portion is concerned, the web we design, et cetera, I actually was under the impression that was going to be under Mr. Ceja's purview. So I'm not here to debate that now, but I do think it's appropriate and his involvement will be critical because this is also managing external communication that comes into us. So we still need to hear from you, your organization and present that, and I want to respect that you haven't had the opportunity to do that, and we've kind of thrown you right into the spotlight, and I did that kind of playfully and fun, and I hope you received it that way.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Just a reminder to all of us that part of what we're dealing with is a WordPress based system that is not widely used these days, and so the pool of individuals who have the skills necessary to manage a WordPress site is somewhat reduced compared to what -- to the talent pool that we will have access to when we're using more modern tools.

So Commissioner Fernandez and then Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And I just want to clarify in terms of when I made the comment to our Communications Director Ceja. Our structure is going to be pretty lean
and I feel that -- and I don't know if this is the case. Maybe this is a little bit -- what I'm coming away with is all staff, I mean, I realize they're all going to have their specific core functions, but if there's something that needs to be done, they all step in and they solve it, or help solve it. So that's kind of where I was coming from. If there's past experiences that you can bring in to help us, then that's what I'm -- I'm also looking at our Chief Counsel Marshall, I mean, same thing. Not that necessarily everything has to be in the legal area or the -- but if they can help in other areas, then that's how -- I just see it as a team function and bringing from everybody's experiences and just helping to solve this and move us forward as we all go through this journey together.

Thanks.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'll go ahead and pass.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Sadhwani, are you on the verge of wanting to speak?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you for acknowledging that. In terms of staffing, and I so apologize because I don't recall the name of the individual that we hired. I know she had done roll call once or twice. My understanding was that her main focus was the agenda.
Perhaps we can have just a little bit more clarity about what her scope of work entails, and if she could perhaps be a part of the solution here, perhaps rather -- because I think one of the confusions just in terms of process is that for several documents we also want input from the director and/or from Raul. Certainly, that was the case with the VRA.

If it makes sense that once something is done and ready, perhaps there's someone else that we send this to just to keep things a little bit more clear, because it sounds like that is perhaps a part of the problem. So if I could get a little bit more clarity on exactly her scope of work, I think that would be helpful as well.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So Wanda was and is hired to work with the agenda. She's only been with us for the last meeting through to today, and we're working with her to, first of all, give us that summary of agenda items that the Commission would like to have so that we can post it to you. She's finished the last summary and we've gone through several iterations to make sure that it appears to be what you will find acceptable, and then I will push those on to you for your edits so that they can be posted.

She will get faster at what she's doing, but right
now it would be a little implausible to unload all of the things that go with the agenda on her.

There is also an issue, that as a retired annuitant, she may not have the time in her schedule to actually take on that function, and if that's the case, then we're going to have to look around for someone else to handle it.

Right now, the one thing I would say is it works well, or I think it works. Clearly, it's not working as well as I think. But the process of working with the Chair and the Vice Chair, and working on the agenda, and having the Friday and Saturday call to lead up has resolved a lot of the issues that we've had. It needs to be perfected. The process of getting things posted clearly needs to be perfected. But we have things that come in very, very late, and it's hard to move them. And I think that as we move forward we will get better at this.

I do believe that Mr. Ceja is going to be instrumental in helping us resolve some of these issues. I believe that the 1-800 number and the emails that come to us are part of communications because those are the individuals -- you know, he'll be able to shape and craft our message back out to people who are making inquiries.

But to put it in perspective, Commissioner Fernandez
is absolutely right. It's all hands on board right now. When something needs to be done, we move back and forth to try to take care of what needs to be done. So we will bring the staff that we've brought aboard up to speed as quickly as possible, and Ms. Sheffield will get to the point where she'll be working more with the agenda and less with the actual summaries of them. It's just going to take time. It's not an easy process. This Commission isn't an easy process. Did that answer your question, Ms. Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I mean, I think it was a helpful response. My sense -- and I certainly, you know, support that she hasn't been on board long. If we need this level of support with the agenda, was it the best call to hire a retired annuitant in the first place if we need full-time support? Should the recommendation have been for a full-time individual? And that's not a knock on her at all, but I'm just trying to better understand and assess the actual needs that we have. I mean, I think from -- I understand your response. I appreciate it. But clearly, there's a lot of holes in our process. I certainly will try to continue to be patient as we work out this process, but I do hope that we can find resolution and that we can do it quickly. Certainly, you know, as Mr. Ceja has been mentioned multiple times, I
definitely would love to see his expertise and support brought into this, but I am also very cognizant he was hired for external communications, and of course, there's overlap between internal and external communications, but I am concerned about, you know, having some of this workflow kind of moving from one section of our organizational structure to another. But we'll wait and see.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. The -- Director Claypool, say again what was the primary hire reason for Wanda?

MR. CLAYPOOL: To take over the agenda and to help with the meetings. That was the primary focus, was that she would come in and be able to help us with taking the notes for the meetings so that we could publish the summary that we're looking for, to help Marian, take the load off Marian and Kary, and doing the roll calls and so forth and keeping track of the motions that would be part of the summary, and finally, to assist with keeping track of the agenda and how it's constantly changing.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. And the timing in the work required for pulling together the summary of the meetings post-meeting is of such -- I guess it requires so much time to where that gets in the way of preparing
for the next meeting?

MR. CLAYPOOL: On this one for the week, the only week that Ms. Sheffield has been with us, she's been perfecting -- working on perfecting doing the summary, and I've continued working with the agenda with the Chair and the Vice Chair. The hope is that incorporate Ms. Sheffield into that process this next week, but there's, like I said, a lot of moving parts. So right now we're moving her through the one process and then onto the next.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And I ask, Director Claypool, because I think, if I'm not mistaken, at some point you or someone also alluded to the fact that there may need to be another hire, and so I just want to make sure, did I misunderstand? Did someone suggest in passing that we might need an additional hire for this process, and it's just --

MR. CLAYPOOL: No, not an additional hire for this. I alluded to the fact that Mr. Ceja is going to need staff for what he's doing, and that part of that -- part of that staff function would be to pick up the 800 number and our general email box because those are people who are sending us comments, and then we need to shape our message back to them. So that was the hire I alluded to.

And I will also say that there will be a hire with
our deputy executive director, when that individual comes on board, they're going to need staff to help them, too.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I just wanted to make sure no one -- we weren't also talking about now because of what we're needing and the topic that came up, talking about hiring in another support for this same need we have around the agenda.

MR. CLAYPOOL: There's no plan on that. There are other hires that were on that organizational chart that we talked about two weeks ago that are still not filled, and that person was procurement and contracts. There's a hire for that and stuff, but no, for this particular position. And also the reason we brought on Ms. Sheffield was because she was qualified and available as an RA. If it became necessary, we could go out and do a search for another person, but right now we're hoping to work with the people we have.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And just the last thing because that might have been the word choice used before, another person. You mean a different person if we need to, not another person adding into --

MR. CLAYPOOL: Exactly, exactly. As always, if we're asking too much for the time that any individual who comes to work for us is willing to provide, then we would have to take that into consideration. That's all.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I'm sorry. The last comment I'll say just so that I can be real clear on this, is because you said we hired her because she's qualified. So the issue we're having is one that's timing and not so much a training.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Yes. Well, there's always a component of training. So she wasn't -- Ms. Sheffield didn't come in having taken minutes for boards, but she is infinitely qualified to do it. We're asking her to do it. But right now, there's just a question as to whether when she came aboard she was willing to put in as many hours as we might need for this process. You know, we were fairly clear that we're kind of a 24/7 outfit when we have things that need to be done, but we will have to make sure that that fits in with what she believes she was hired -- coming on for, if you get what I mean.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Yeah. I just wanted to (audio interference) I think that the agenda building process, and maybe some of the former chairs can really speak to this. I shudder at the idea that this would just be passed to Ms. Sheffield; is that correct?

MR. CLAYPOOL: Uh-huh.
VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Yeah. Because it isn't just writing up an agenda. It's a pretty intricate and complicated process, and it would need someone at the level, to me, like Director Claypool and one of our -- probably multiples of our senior team as we move forward. It's not the administrative aspect of it at all that I think is the problem. It's a complex process that requires input. It requires strategy. I mean, hours were spent on this -- Commissioner Kennedy, you could speak from your perspective. It was not just, oh, well, okay, here's what the Commission says they want to talk about, let's throw together -- forget throw together -- let's put together an agenda to get through these three days that we have scheduled. It is a very intricate and complicated process.

And so if that person is providing the administrative support, that's one thing. But I shudder at the thought that this is passed to someone -- and maybe I misheard that. If she's being trained up to be able to take this over. Yeah.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. Just to clarify, my mention of her was solely for the administrative piece. I certainly recognize that, you know, the high-level nature of developing the agenda. However, it's the
administrative piece that seems to be missing that we haven't received the public comments and the documentation. We're missing the handouts for today's meeting.

So to me, if either Ms. Sheffield or whomever fills that role could be a part of those conversations. Understand, hey, there are going to be documents from these couple of committees -- subcommittees for this upcoming meeting. Let me reach out to them. Let me make sure that as soon as it comes in we can send it off to the IT person and get it uploaded, right, so that those pieces don't continue to fall through the cracks. So my mention of that was purely administrative, and certainly it was not a recommendation that the agenda crafting would be removed from Director Claypool.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool and then Commissioner Fernandez.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So to confirm, that's absolutely well put, Commissioner Sadhwani. I will not be abandoning the agenda process because it's too much of the process of what we do.

And so I only intended to say that Ms. Sheffield was intended to help us with the -- exactly what you said, it was to help us with what's supposed to be getting posted up, particularly to keep track of when presentations
switch because we have so many people, we need to honor their time. So that's it. It's the administrative side, and I will always be a part, as will the chief counsel and to some extent Raul. We all play a part in it, and none of us are walking away. We're just needing some help with the parts that need to be kept track of, that's all.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, completely agree in terms of the administrative function, but then I also believe this has to be a full-time job, because we're going to continue to have more meetings. So I would advise -- I mean, I'm not going to tell you how to run your shop, but I would advise going out now for a full-time recruitment effort because it's not going to -- even once whoever is in this position learns the process, it's only going to get busier. It's not going to get -- it's not going to lighten up so they can be a part-time person.

CHAIR KENNEDY: And I'll just at this point suggest that perhaps you add to her to-do list sending out a reminder to subcommittees one week before the meeting about handouts, and then two or three days later a follow-up, and if that could be done then that might help ensure that we have everything in in time.
And the posting, I see it as a separate issue, but you know, we can at least have her sending out reminders to subcommittees well in advance of meetings to make sure that all handouts are into the staff in a timely manner.

Director Claypool, we're back to you.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Okay. So we've talked about posting and distribution. The only other ongoing discussions we have right now, I've discussed the Department of General Services and our efforts with them. There is another -- there is another issue that they believe our contracts somehow get let by them, when in actuality the first Commission voted on them and we actually let our own contracts, so we're in the process of trying to get that straightened out.

And I talked about the Department of Finance and the thirty-day requirement, and we will be sending out the thirty-day notification for the two million on outreach because I believe that Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Vasquez's plan would be to try to start with the use of that money in mid-January. So we'll craft a letter and I will run the letter that we craft through the Chair and the Vice Chair.

And finally, we'll be talking about the release of the Commission's RFPs that are coming up. They remain on track. The contracted services can be in place if we get
the final proposals forwarded to the Department of
General Services Office of Legal Services within the next
two weeks, and we get a little help from DGS, and DGS
seems inclined after counsel -- Chief Counsel Marshall's
letter or email to them, seems inclined to step up their
efforts on our behalf. So thank you, Kary, for that.

And that, other than coming back to the budget once
it's posted, is the end of my report.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Are there further questions
or comments for Director Claypool at this point?

Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I'll just
make this quick. Our next meeting is scheduled for
December 1st. I expect all of the agenda items posted by
November 30th at the latest, all of the agenda items in
our inboxes by November 29th. Thank you.


VICE CHAIR LE MONS: This is Commissioner Le Mons.
I have a comment.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Go ahead.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Well, I have a question. Did
all the Commissioners write that down, because we have to
back into that. I know I missed it, so I need it to be
repeated if that's something that we're committing to,
because it isn't just the staff that makes that happen,
and Commissioner Kennedy, I know we're already working on
the agenda for that, and we talked about how pressed that
is. And I kind of feel like I get those deadlines. I
get it, I understand it, but I think they can be
arbitrary, and I think if anybody should be seeking for
what's needed when should be the developers of the
agenda.

And so maybe what we need to do, Commissioner
Kennedy, is to make sure that we send out or establish
what that development schedule is in cooperation with the
staff and make sure that our fellow Commissioners are
aware of it. I don't know how you feel about it.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, the key discussion is later
today when we talk about future agenda items, because as
I pointed out, that agenda for the meeting beginning on
the first of December --

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Very good point.

CHAIR KENNEDY: -- has to post tomorrow.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Frozen. I think we're back.

Is everybody -- can everybody wave. Okay. Looks like
we're all back. Good point. Thank you for that,

Commissioner Kennedy. We do -- that's why Commissioner
Kennedy put the agenda building on today's agenda, so I
just ask, Commissioner Ahmad, if you reiterate those
requirements during that session, I'd appreciate it. I
get your point, though, I know where we're going.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Sure thing. Sure thing. I definitely will. I think this was just so Commissioner Claypool could also hear -- I mean, sorry, Director Claypool would also be in that conversation, given everyone's repeated inputs about when we want items.

CHAIR KENNEDY: And since Director Claypool has concluded earlier than I had anticipated, I would suggest that we could at least start that discussion on agenda items for the next meeting.

So at this point I currently have VRA and understanding that we are going to initiate our discussions on some VRA issues surrounding contracting and so forth, but that the idea would be to bring in an instructor to do some more in-depth training of the Commission. Am I correct in that?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes, that's our hope.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: That is our hope. We don't have anyone confirmed at this time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. But I will have that blocked out on the agenda.

Outreach -- and unfortunately, Commissioner Sinay is not here. Is Commissioner Vasquez here? I'm not seeing her. Okay.

I currently have from Outreach a request to discuss
strategy for Communities of Interest Tool outreach, and a
discussion on civic technology. And then we have
postponed from this meeting any discussion of further
policies and the meeting ground rules, but we need to get
back to those discussions.

So that's what I have so far, and I am looking to
all of you to let me know what else I need to fit into
the agenda for next time. And actually, as Commissioner
Le Mons alluded, it's not just an agenda. I mean, I do a
schedule and have everything broken down as to where
during the meeting it's likely to fall so that we can do
as best we can to alert the public as to when certain
issues will come up.

So Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We finally made contact
with a Native American group that is willing to come.
Unfortunately, they weren't able to come to this meeting,
so we're hoping to bring them to the next meeting if
there's time, or if there's a slot for that. And then
maybe at that point Commissioner Akutagawa and I would
probably also bring forward our recommendations. I think
that was our -- our intent. I'll let her speak on that,
too.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Oh, she's back; yay.
Commissioner Akutagawa, do you have anything on that at
this point?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: No, I would completely agree with what Commissioner Fernandez just said. We were hoping that we could get the speaker, but unfortunately, he's not feeling well. And we did ask if there was someone else that would be available, but there wasn't, so if we could indulge the Chair for -- their indulgence for the next meeting to have him be able to speak, I think we would love to have him also be the last of our speakers that we would include.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: On the line drawing RFT, you'll notice that we did not -- well, we don't have a posting for many things. That's not posted. It is much more involved than we realized. It's not just the scope of work; it has -- without getting into it. So we might -- if we do not get that approved during our time of this meeting, we will need to do it for the December 1st. At that point it would be a final, but we do need the input of time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I just wanted to bring two items up for consideration. One was the suggestion that I just made in the previous agenda item about time lines for bringing forth our agenda packets. Yes, one part of
it is the administrative part of posting and all that stuff. But the other part is on us to make sure that we compile all of our necessary items and have it shared with our colleagues in a timely manner.

I get it from the Chair's perspective, Vice Chair's perspective. There's so much that goes into the planning and the organization of the agendas, especially at this point when the agendas are so packed and there's a lot of different information included.

So given that, I would ask my colleagues to suggest -- or we all come to an agreement, maybe a straw poll of some sort, to -- by which date we would have the necessary items for our specific agenda items in to the appropriate staff person for posting and releasing that information to the rest of the Commission.

My recommendation on those two dates mentioned of November 29th for our inbox, and then November 30th for public posting was based off of the many conversations we've had over the past several months about how early we would need the items in order to review them in a substantive manner as well as making sure that the items are posted for the public to review prior to our meeting.

So I'm flexible with the dates. I would just like folks to voice their opinions and thoughts on that.

The second item for consideration for the agenda, I
think I would just need clarification in terms of the RFI for the VRA counsel, because Commissioner Turner and I might have something of similar content to review and bring up for discussion regarding the data management piece, if there's time on the agenda for that. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: And I would like to refer the matter of the scheduling of meeting inputs to the Admin and Finance Subcommittee as part of the work that they're doing on ground rules for our meetings, so could I task you with taking a look at that and coming back to us with your recommendations?

Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I'm not clear exactly what you're tasking us to do.

CHAIR KENNEDY: We heard Commissioner Ahmad's recommendations for deadlines. We just need a generic deadline and process for meeting inputs. So subcommittee reports, posting of public comment and so forth.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay so -- so just let me kind of throw this out there and making sure this is what you're looking for. So something to the effect of -- so if we work backwards from the meeting, all the meeting materials will be posted at least one day in advance for the public to review, will be to the -- will be emailed
to the Commissioners two days before the meeting, and
will be -- input from the Commissioners will be to the
staff four days before so the staff can turn it around
and email it out. Is that kind of what you're looking
for?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Generically, yes.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Okay. Yeah, we'll
work with Director Claypool and the staff to figure out
what that turnaround time is -- needs to be.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Right, and it just becomes part of
the ground rules for our meeting.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I'm with you. Okay.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Le Mons and then
Director Claypool.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Can we take up -- this is not
in lieu of taking up Commissioner Ahmad's request for
this upcoming meeting, I hope. I do think that we need
to look backwards from the upcoming meeting because
that's like a process that's still got to happen, so
that's what I'm hoping that we're going to do that in
this meeting as well.

And I think also, I think that we have to think
about changes too, like if we have last minute stuff that
comes in -- and this is to the Ground Rules Team.

Sometimes there's just last-minute things that have to
get put up, and it may be that the Commissioners will
just need to share their screen and the posts will come
after.

I mean, but you've got to think through the
different scenarios and kind of include some parameters
around that as well because we may box ourselves into a
situation. We already know we have a lot of rules in how
we can communicate things, and I think this is kind of
being borne out of -- ground rules are great. I think
this is just kind of being born today out of a lot of
frustration that has a lot of reasons for the
frustration; all valid. But it's kind of an avalanche
today.

So rules won't solve this. Our communication will
be a part of the solve. Our ability to be patient will
be a part of the solve. There will be several things
that will be a part of the solve.

So what you created, at least from my working with
you, Commissioner Kennedy, is this really solid process,
and I know it kind of puts you in a position as the
Chair, but I think you can kind of give us some guidance
on how to best support the next agenda, and that might
end up being a foundation for -- I follow you, so I
could, of course, keep that going. I'll be the next
Chair and Commissioner Taylor will be the next Vice
Chair. And we've already begun talking about how we want to move forward and be in front of this, so I'm listening very carefully to the feedback from my fellow Commissioners so we can help facilitate the process with staff as well to make sure that things are happening.

So yeah, I just wanted to add that.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So I just would like to go back and ask one quick question, and it came out of a statement that Commissioner Ahmad had said. She said, we'd like to have the packet, all the things that are supposed to go to the Commissioners arrive on a certain day.

So are we proposing that for all of the things that get sent to us during the week that need to be posted up and need to be done, are we proposing that we save all those and then send them out at once? Because right now one of the issues also is kind of handling things piecemeal. We get a lot of requests, so this is a great article, just send it out to everybody. And so keeping track of all the piecemeal issues like that, it would be better if we could -- well, it would be better, I hope it would be better if we just saved them all up and said, hey, this is everything that came in this week, and these are the considerations. There are merits to one, there are merits to the other. I would think that in some
cases it would be better for people to get them along the
way because you have more time to kind of adjust it on
your own pace. But it is another one of the things that
we have to consider when we resolve this. And I mainly
just said this right now so that Commissioner Fornaciari
and Commissioner Fernandez could give me the insight of
their wisdom on this. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Ahmad and then
Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Just to clarify, this is the
agenda packet, not email links that I find interesting
that I want to share with my colleagues, and by virtue
share with the public. The agenda packet, so everything
that is required for us to successfully go through the
agenda. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Let me also, before we go to
Commissioner Fernandez, point out that we have
Thanksgiving the Thursday before the Tuesday meeting. So
we have to take that into account in planning all of
this.

Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I agree with what
Commissioner Ahmad said. I hate bringing up, you know,
my school board because I know you're going to get tired
of it, but it was so much easier just having everything
that's associated with that agenda in one email, because
what I do now is I have to go back to, like, a week's
worth of emails to see if there's something that I need
to print out, because it's not posted yet, for this
meeting, and I'm always afraid I'm going to miss
something. So like, the daily media feeds and every
other communication, that can continue daily because that
would just be too overwhelming to try to do it all at
once.

So a package is the agenda package, everything that
goes with that agenda for that meeting, and that way we
have it all in one place. So that's my preference, and
thank you, Commissioner Ahmad, for bringing that up.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Marian and then
Commissioner Sadhwani.

MS. JOHNSTON: Just a clarification. The items that
you want to send to all of the Commissioners just for
their information and background are not automatically
posted. The articles -- the items that get posted are
ones that you either discussed in your meeting or that
you asked to have posted. But if it's just general
information that you want to share with each other, that
normally is not posted.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I agree very much with both
Commissioner Ahmad and Fernandez's comments. I know these were not my ideas from previous meetings, but an agenda with links to the handouts I think would be extraordinarily helpful. Just keeping everything together is really what is needed for me at this stage.

I'll never forget our first meeting, in which I think we had like sixteen different emails, each with different handouts. It is extremely difficult to keep track of all of these documents. And I can only imagine it must be difficult also for the public as well. So certainly it's a package.

If it's possible to upload the handouts, create a link in the agenda so that even as we're going through the meeting we can simply click a link and there it is. Certainly, you can do that through WordPress. I know we have all of these issues with WordPress, but certainly that is something.

And I would just go back to the prior recommendation. I believe it was Commissioner Vasquez who had mentioned BoardDocs or some other system. Is there a person on staff who could just look into a system to help us manage all of this content? And I recognize, of course, that we will -- we need a whole new website, we need all of this, but at least all of these documents, I think we just need a better system.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Obviously we are working towards the full packet was posted the day before, you go to the website under meeting handouts, there's everything. So the day before, you should be able to go click there and everything is there. And I believe that's what we're talking about getting a board packet, that sort of thing.

What I would not like to see, however, that that is the only time we see them, because a lot of these items and things take time to really go over, and because things come up, that sort of thing, the idea that we're holding on to every item until we post it the day before, or two days before, in our case, that's not going to give us enough time on several items.

So I would like to see us -- the items come to us, but then there is the final two days before, this is where everything is. So during the meeting we can, as Commissioner Sadhwani said, you can go over and look, oh, there's the item, tick, tick, tick, and look it up. That would be the ideal situation, and it's really not that hard to do. We certainly have -- I know IT-wise, that's actually -- it is easy, and is easy in WordPress, because we've done it. So we can just do that again. It's just a question of actually doing it in the time frame.
So I would really propose that we do still get the items as they come in, because again, for the time frame. And particularly some of these, you know the RFP items, some of those things are very long, the outreach items, the plan, that requires deep thought. So thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. And to our amazing staff, I cannot even imagine how hard it is to keep up with all of our desires, and requests, and what we'd like because at the very idea of getting things twice, it causes issue for me. I think we get too many emails, not too many and unnecessary, but there are quite a few already.

So if, indeed, because I would want us to honor what is necessary also for Commissioner Andersen, but I want us to consider, then, at some point differentiating the emails. If we're going to get emails that we need for the agenda items and email because Commissioners think it's a great idea that we read it, and then another packet of emails when it's time to print it, you know, to actually have the meeting. I'm hopeful that maybe there can be some sort of differentiation, differentiating factor that would say, this is associated. I don't know if there's such thing as color coding them, put a standard something in the front of them, something so
that they can stand out so they're not going -- they're
all mixed in together and we're getting them twice.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you for that, Commissioner
Turner. I have shared with staff basically cover sheets
and procedures that I have seen used by election
commissions where, you know, something that is for
consideration is -- is labeled a submission. Things that
are just of general interest that come in are tagged as
documents. There are memos. And each of those series
has a numbering scheme to it so that, you know, things
are less likely to fall through the cracks. It's not --
it's not -- I don't know whether it's possible to come up
with something that is absolutely a hundred percent
failsafe, but you know, by having cover sheets on things
and serial numbers on things, yeah, it's a little more
work but it may help us keep better track of things.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Commissioner Vasquez, was your
hand raised? Okay, thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: But since we have Commissioner
Vasquez, and I believe you weren't here when we were
discussing the agenda for the next meeting, I just wanted
to make sure that we have from you and the Outreach
Subcommittee anything and everything that you would like
to see on the agenda for that next meeting.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I'm sure Commissioner Sinay
said this, but just wanted to make sure, given how much thought has gone into the plan, we did want to make sure that we had a duplicate item for discussion and potential action for this conversation, just to build in a backstop for the conversation, but that's it.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. And just so we're all clear, this will be part of our agenda review on Wednesday morning, but things have cleared from the agenda since the agenda was posted, and so we may, in fact, have time on Wednesday to -- not to have guest speakers about the partners' eighteen-page recommendations document, but I think it would be useful for us to have an internal discussion on that, so I'm hopeful that we continue to have time on Wednesday to have an in-house discussion of that document.

Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: That actually reminds me, I'd like at some point to continue the discussion around ground rules and how we're going to work together. So not urgent, but to the extent that we have space it might be nice to find a time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: That will be on the agenda for the next meeting, and the Admin and Finance Subcommittee is on it.

I'm scanning to see if there are any other questions
or comments at this point.

Director Claypool, do you have anything at this point?

MR. CLAYPOOL: I do not, not until we discuss the budget.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Okay. Then I'm going to suggest that we go ahead and break for lunch, and we definitely want to be back by 1:45. Let's make it 1:40. And we'll have public comment followed by introduction of chief counsel and any report items from chief counsel and our interim counsel. Thank you, everyone.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 12:33 p.m. until 1:41 p.m.)

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, everyone. I hope you had a good lunch break.

We are now going to open up for public comment followed by the introduction of our new chief counsel.

So Jesse, would you please read the instructions for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone.

To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number
provided on the livestream feed. It is 91505532099 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comments. You will also hear an automated message to press star 9. Please do this to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automated message that says, "The host would like you to talk", and press star 6 to speak.

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

These instructions are also located on the website.

The Commission is taking public comment at this time.

Chair, there are currently no callers in the queue.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you very much. We will stand by for two minutes.

(Pause)

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Is there anyone in the queue
for public comment at this point?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. We will proceed, then.

Marian, I turn it over to you for any report that you have and to introduce our new chief counsel, and we look forward to hearing from her.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. One update before I turn it over to her. You all should have gotten a copy of the brief that was filed with the Supreme Court. I was pleased the way it turned out, and of course, pleased that the Attorney General agreed to represent you all. I sent you a letter -- a proposed letter thanking him, and unless I hear anything to the contrary, I'll go ahead and send that. So I hope you enjoy reading the brief.

Now, introducing Kary Marshall, who you all selected as your new chief counsel, and I'm delighted to have her here, and she'd like to say a few words.

MS. MARSHALL: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm glad to be on board and here to do whatever I can to make your life a little easier.

The next couple of weeks I'm going to try to reach out to all of you individually, just to meet you personally and get an understanding of what I can do to make your life easier.
Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you and welcome. Are there any activities that you've already undertaken that you would like to report on?

MS. MARSHALL: Other than the fact that, as Director Claypool mentioned earlier, I reached out to DGS -- I'm sorry, DGS Human Resources, and I'm trying to work things out with them in terms of, you know, administrative matters that are outstanding. So for me to say anything more would just be duplicating what he's already said.

CHAIR KENNEDY: All right. I have understood from, I guess, a conversation with the director that that includes payment of our per diems?

MS. MARSHALL: Yes.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Looking forward to that.

MS. MARSHALL: I'm going for the money.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool, did you have anything you wanted to add at this point?

MR. CLAYPOOL: No, just to -- other than to say that it's great to have Kary on board. Now we have two great counsels, so we'll always be covered. So thank you, Kary for coming aboard.

MS. MARSHALL: Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Excellent. Moving along faster than I expected. Let me then take the opportunity to also
welcome Fredy Ceja as our new director of communications,
and offer him the floor. And we have plenty of time, so
thoughts, suggestions, your background, why you -- well,
I guess we heard why you were interested in this, but
maybe the public didn't, so the floor is yours, Mr. Ceja.
We're not hearing you.

MR. CEJA: Can you hear me now?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. CEJA: Good. I was saying, since we have
time -- thank you so much. Since we have time, it all
started in 1979 when I was born. I'm so excited to be
here today. Thank you all for your courage to bring me
on and for believing in me. I'm so excited to be here.
It's my first day on the job, so clearly I don't have a
communications plan in place for you, but I will have one
shortly.

I, too, want to connect with each one of you
individually to learn more about you and your story. As
I mentioned in my interview, I will make that a point to
have the public know who you are, have the public
understand what we do and what the process looks like,
and walk them through the way as we move along.

I have already heard this morning that there are
some headaches in getting information out to the public,
and even internally. So let me tell you that I am not
afraid to take on responsibilities outside of my job scope. I think working for an elected official you learn that right off the bat, that you wear multiple hats, and you step in and you step up whenever you're needed.

So if getting agenda items to you Commissioners is an issue, then I will work with Mr. Claypool to get that under control and see how I can help out as a staff member now.

So we will be introducing some ideas for a new website format. I've used NationBuilder in the past, and NationBuilder is great. It helps you build your database of contacts. But it's so easy, I can jump on right now and if we had it in place and make changes to the website, upload documents so that it's current and up to date and it's live.

We also want to build our database so we can communicate to the masses for e-blasts and pertinent information, and the good old social media, which happens to be the preferred way of getting information immediately. I know we don't have a presence right now, but that will change in the near future.

We are looking at staffing needs for communications, somebody who would be on social media and creating content and graphics so that we can push that out. But more than anything, I think for the first week I want to
take inventory of what tools we have at our disposal to 
communicate to the public and see what needs to change 
and where I can make recommendations. 

Right off the bat I'll tell you that the website is 
probably going to change. I already have some 
recommendations in to Mr. Claypool, so hopefully, we'll 
get that running immediately, and locking down the social 
media handle for Twitter and Facebook, or whatever social 
media platforms we decide to use so that they're all the 
same and people are not looking around for who we are. 

But aside from that, I bring twenty years of 
government affairs experience. I recently was with 
Senator Maria Elena Durazo, who is the chair of the 
Latino Caucus. So already I'm bringing in those 
relationships. We are a body of twenty-three, or were a 
body of twenty-three, who met almost biweekly, so I have 
those relationships. If we need to communicate anything 
to that, please use me for that, too, government 
relations or talking to the governor's office. 

But aside from that, I'm ready to work and I'm ready 
to jump in wherever I'm needed. So I hear the 
frustration. I hear that this is the beginning of 
growing pains. But I have been here before. I've been 
board chair, been a board member for commissions, and I 
understand that of essence is getting the information
that you need to make the decisions you need to make in a
timely manner, so that's duly noted. Like I said, we'll
work with the current staff to see how I can help out to
minimize those issues.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Excellent. Thank you. Director
Claypool, just a question at this point. Did the 2010
Commission ever have a list that was specifically media
or were media just part of a bigger list?

MR. CLAYPOOL: So similar to yourself, they
inherited the interested persons list that had been
established by the State Auditor's office, and in that
list were media. But there was no separation of the
media in that list, or segregation, so that they could be
addressed more carefully. And really, their list was
primarily pointed at just getting people to meetings.
They never envisioned what this Commission is envisioning
without reaching and engagement.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yeah. I mean, it seems to me that,
you know, and this could also be part of what the Data
Analytics/Data Mining Subcommittee looks at, or not, or
just the Outreach Subcommittee. But it certainly seems
to me that we need a comprehensive media list for the
whole state, in all the languages. You know, whether
they're interested in the selection process or not, we
want people to be interested in the redistricting
process, and we have to count on all sorts of media to get it out there. I'm now living in a small community where there's a newspaper that publishes twice a week and a small community radio station that if you do go too far down the hill you lose very quickly. But those are people that can really help us get the word out to the entire state. So we're very much looking forward to working with you to achieve some of these objectives.

MR. CEJA: Yes, definitely. So one of the tools in my arsenal that I used in the past is a program called Cision or TrendKite. It's a media monitoring service. But in addition, what they've done is they've -- they have a comprehensive database of all statewide reporters, radio stations, and so you can look up context via geography or topic issue. So that's one of the other things that I hope to bring on to make it easier to capture all those different media outlets, even the smallest ones.

CHAIR KENNEDY: And that brings to mind two other things. One is we've already had some of the members making successful media appearances, but I know from early discussions that there are members who certainly like to have some in-depth media training, how to interact with the media, so we look forward to that.

And now, what was the second item? It escapes me
now.

MR. CEJA: Okay. Well, while you think of that, I did have in mind in those one-on-ones to chat a little bit about each Commissioner's experience with media, and also sending out a survey to see what you as a Commissioner think that we need as a body, and your likelihood or your experience with the media and how well versed you think you are. And if you do need media training, I'm more than capable of doing that, so I'll do one-on-one.

CHAIR KENNEDY: So the second item was training of the media because we know that the media, and you know, both editors and journalists may not have a complete understanding of who we are and what we're doing, and how best to cover it. So look forward at some point to your thoughts on not just pushing information out, but also training the editors and the journalists in how best to cover this process.

MR. CEJA: Yeah. I can add that to the media plan, the communications plan.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, and thank you, Mr. Ceja. We're really excited to have you on, as well as Ms. Marshall. It's very exciting to finally see some additional growth in our staff, so I look forward to
working with both of you.

My question actually is for Director Claypool, and you know, Mr. Ceja, I love all of the ideas that you're talking about, and the tools all sound great. I'm assuming that there's a cost associated with many of those tools, so my question for Dr. Claypool is how do we best support Mr. Ceja in moving that forward?

But as we have discussed at length, there's a lot of components to contracts and other pieces. I would hate to have us caught up in some sort of long process. So I just want to kind of flag that for the full Commission of how -- you know, without giving a complete blank check, obviously, to Mr. Ceja, but how can we best support him in moving forward and actually building on these tools, and you know, revamping our entire website and all of those things? Of course, there are costs that are associated with that.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So the primary support would be giving him the staff that he just referred to, somebody who can bring them on full time that can actually work with our website, redo it. I actually embrace the idea of even getting rid of our website almost in its entirety and just starting again to get something that's easier to use, something that reflects more of the twentieth century -- twenty-first century.
But having said that, for a lot of the things that Director Ceja is talking about, there are probably things that can be purchased through personal services contracts, which we can do almost instantly. Those would be things up to 10,000 dollars. So depending on what these programs cost, we can bring them in fairly quickly. For things that will cost a little bit more, we would try to go to any state, anything that would be on our CMAS contract list, or something else, which is a quicker way to procure those services.

So there are many ways to do this. It just depends on the potential cost. We already have the two million dollars for the -- did I freeze up?

MR. CEJA: No, you're good.

MR. CLAYPOOL: I'm back. We already have the two million dollars for -- for outreach, but that's been spoken for primarily on our other outreach effort. That doesn't mean that we can't look for some additional funds within our own operational budget to fund anything that would be larger than that. The important thing is, is to make the Outreach and Engagement Plan work that you want, not necessarily -- for the time being I'd say not necessarily that we can afford.

Let's see what we want, and then let's see what we can afford. If we need to scale back, we will. But I
don't think we want to scale back from anything that Mr. Ceja will be doing, because it's just critical that the state gets to know who you are and what you're doing. So we'll fully support him, but first we need to see what he wants and how much the basic cost is. Okay.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm trying to remember -- oh, I was going to see if our chief counsel also wanted to provide a background, her experience background, so that's my only comment, but welcome, Mr. Ceja. I'm very excited about Ms. Marshall, too.

MS. MARSHALL: I'll give you a little bit of my background, as I iterated in a very lengthy interview. How do I say it? Worked with the Department of Technology for the past eight years as acting general counsel and interim chief counsel. There I worked with -- I worked on litigation, cybersecurity, multi-million-dollar contracts, communication issues -- external and internal. And that's pretty much the short of the long.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Regarding the existing website, I mean, one of the things that I think we are generally agreed on is that, you know, we need to -- we essentially need to pull all of the 2010 Commission
content out of the 2010 website, archive the 2010
website, or keep it accessible to those who may want to
access it for whatever reason, and come up with our own
with links back and forth. We don't want to toss
everything from the 2010 website because that does have
significant record value.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Commissioner Yee.

MR. CEJA: I'm so sorry. I think the idea is to
migrate all the information over to the new website so we
don't lose anything. I appreciate --

CHAIR KENNEDY: I don't know. My -- thank you,
Commissioner Le Mons. My sense is that the items that
are historical just really need to be separate and not
part of the 2010 Commission's website. Others may have
other thoughts on that, and I think we've got some time.
It's on the list of suggestions for agenda topics, is to
have a web design workshop. So if you would like to let
us know when you would like to do that and how much time
you would like for that, we can make sure that that
happens and get input from all of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you. Ms. Marshall, Mr.
Ceja, so good to have you on board. Welcome.

A quick question for you, although technically I
guess this is a question for Director Claypool is simply
whether you'll plan to be at all Commission meetings. Is
that the expectation for each of you?

MR. CLAYPOOL: Go ahead, Mr. Ceja.

MR. CEJA: Yes, I will be at every meeting.

MR. CLAYPOOL: And my answer is that was my
expectation, so we're already tracking. Thank you.

MS. MARSHALL: Same thing for me. Teamwork makes
the dream work.

CHAIR KENNEDY: I have to scroll to check on
Commissioner Toledo and Commissioner Vasquez because
they're not on my first screen, so --

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Got your back, Commissioner
Kennedy. I'm watching.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you, sir. Okay. Any other
comments? Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just a reminder. If you want
to get everyone on the same screen, just close -- go up
to the corner to the three dots, and hide your self-view.
So you won't see yourself, but you will -- but then all
fit.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Well, I'm not even finding the three
dots, but anyway. Okay, we are moving along a good bit
faster. We have a closed session beginning at 3 o'clock
with the Department of Technology.

We've really covered everything that we have on the
agenda for today. So let me call on -- start calling on
subcommittees, and we can get some of those out of the
way from tomorrow's agenda.

The action on the Census Subcommittee, Commissioner
Sadhwani and Toledo.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I think Commissioner Yee wanted
to make a comment.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I just wanted to mention --

CHAIR KENNEDY: There he is.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I just wanted to mention that all
the handouts for today are up, so I want to know when
Director Claypool wants to circle back to the budget
discussion.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So the thought was earlier when I
spoke with the Chair was that we would allow those --
allow the public to see those at least overnight and for
you all to see it at least overnight, so that there was
the opportunity to -- you've already seen it, of course,
but the opportunity for people to kind of digest it
before we discussed it. I can discuss it at any time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Right. So if we can clear out the
subcommittee reports element at this report then we could
theoretically slot that in at that point tomorrow, which
would be noon.
So Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, thank you. Marian already gave, you know, most of our update. As was reported last time, the Attorney General finally agreed to represent us in submitting an amicus brief. We had a very quick turnaround for that brief. We received it, I think, November 12 and then had twenty-four hours to get back to them. We did. We provided some feedback.

I don't know. Marian, is the brief now public?

Have they submitted it?

MS. JOHNSTON: It has been filed with the Court.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: It has been filed, so that is publicly available. I don't know if we --

MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want to have it posted?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm sorry?

MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want to have it posted? It's lengthy, but we can if you wish.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think it would make sense, and then we can even tweet it out that we've been involved in this, or certainly we could have, you know, perhaps the first press release that we've been involved in this amicus brief for the Supreme Court case, particularly before it moves forward.

The mention of the CRC was not particularly long in the brief, so I think certainly if we wanted to do a
press release or other social media, we could further expand upon the CRC's position, particularly I think being a bipartisan body. But I'll leave that to others to just sort of sort out.

MS. JOHNSTON: They did accept the suggestions that you made, included those changes, and you are listed as the second right after the State of California as a party.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Great. Perfect. So that's all great news. I don't think that we have any other updates. The case is coming up. I should also note, actually just moments ago, you know, I had been tasked by the Commission to outreach out to other commissions. As I reported previously, I hadn't heard back from Arizona, Michigan, or Montana until just now. Michigan responded and said, of course, that the time line was just too tight for them to be able to engage, but it was nice that we received a response. And so hopefully, we can have additional communications with them as we move forward in this process, if there is any. And I don't know, Commissioner Toledo, if you have anything more than that.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No, you did a great job.

Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: And of course, we don't yet have any further understanding of how the Census Bureau is
planning to handle data releases.

MS. JOHNSTON: Nope. They did say they expected to get all the information out to the states by the end of February.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I think there's a lot to be determined in terms of the transition, obviously, of administration.

MS. JOHNSTON: What the new administration might do.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Right. Very good. Thank you.

The hiring of the deputy executive director, Commissioners Fernandez and Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: As Director Claypool mentioned earlier, the approval or the establishment of the position is -- we believe is stuck with the State Controller's office. We have no way of knowing for sure. Needless to say, it's been a very frustrating process that's taken two months from when we initially decided to do this, so it's way beyond the initial three-week projection. So we're continuing to track it. Our chief counsel did reach out, and hopefully that will get some traction, but it's -- I don't think anyone is more frustrated than Commissioner Ahmad and myself in this whole process.

CHAIR KENNEDY: But we are keeping the candidate apprised?
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, of course. We actually just met, had a telephone conference, today at 12:45.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. There is nothing new at this point from the Gantt Chart Subcommittee, but we do continue to invite input as members have ideas of items that they would like on there. It is intended both for our work as well as to be a resource for the 2030 Commission, so we're happy to add things retrospectively as well if they would be of assistance to our successors. So please keep that in mind.

Line Drawing RFP, Commissioners Sadhwani and Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: One thing, sorry, did we skip over the finance?


COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: It's okay. Let's see. We negotiated salary with Raul. Do we share that now or do we share that in a closed session?

MR. CLAYPOOL: You share it now.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Share it now. So we came out to 132,000, which was just a little bit above the midpoint of the salary range. It seemed about, you know, in a relative sense compared to our other folks, it
seemed to be about in the right place. So that's
concluded and Raul is on board.
I think that's it. Is there anything else?
Commissioner Fernandez? Okay.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Just as far -- Commissioner
Fernandez.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Our list just keeps
growing, Commissioner Fornaciari, in terms of what we
have to do. But the next time we'll be bringing a couple
more policies, I think, forward, right?
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, correct.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay.
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: And so one of the other
things I want to work with, just let you guys know. I
want to work with Director Claypool and the staff and
figure out where we're going to post these things or
store these documents so that everyone knows where they
are and can have access to them. So we'll work on that,
too. I think the policy document will be kind of a
guinea pig for kind of figuring this out. And we'll get
posted the policies that we've approved, and then the
meeting processes that we discussed and approved. We'll
get all of that posted in this mystery location before
the next meeting.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Perfect. Do you have an idea of how
long you would like me to block off for the policies
discussion during the next meeting?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't -- I don't think they're going to be controversial policies, so I don't
know. Let's say twenty minutes. You seem to be a super-
efficient Chairperson, Chair Kennedy. Things are moving
along quite expeditiously. And the other thing you
assigned us to do is figure out what this process is for
going documents in, ensuring they're collected, getting
them out to us. So we'll get with Commissioner Claypool
and the staff and work through that process, make sure we
all -- and we'll bring that back next time, too.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: I was just going to ask which -- do you know right now, Commissioner Fornaciari and
Commissioner Fernandez, which policies we're bringing
forward? Those have been selected already, right?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, we have. Do you have a suggestion? I don't remember off the top of my
head which ones we picked.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Okay. But if we were going to also bring -- am I frozen? Oh, no. If we going to also bring
in conversation about process for bringing in documents
and making sure that they're timely and stuff, we would
need more than twenty minutes.
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I see your point.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So I would say that probably we should budget at least an hour for the conversation, Commissioner. I'm guessing. It will be a hot topic.

CHAIR KENNEDY: We're going to get the process all figured out. It's just going to be streamlined.

MR. CLAYPOOL: Okay.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, but we need more time, forty-five minutes or an hour probably, then.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I did find the email of which ones we're going to have. I don't know if that's pertinent, though. We were going to do the records retention and the staff code of conduct. Those would be the two that we'll bring next time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Let's skip over to the Troubleshooting Subcommittee. Commissioners Le Mons and Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, I'm pleased to report not a lot going on, but I might jump in with a yay. I did hear that Raul has actually received our cell phones, that they might have come in in a box. I walked in as Raul came in the group, and so I might jump in with that to say, wow, good job Troubleshooting Committee.
Actually, it's good job, Raul. Thank you very much.

And nothing else on those. We, of course, were looking at the website which I think we're more than pleased to turn over to our new communications director to work out bugs with that, obviously just finishing up what we have, you know, and moving into our new system.

So with that, I don't think we have anything else, unless Commissioner Le Mons?

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: No, we don't. We're just -- just an invitation to fellow Commissioners if there are things you'd like us to look into, let us know.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Not seeing any hands up. The Lessons Learned Subcommittee. Commissioner Ahmad, do you have anything at this point?

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: You have a hand from Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes. I am wondering if the Troubleshooting Committee has capacity that maybe staff doesn't at this very moment. Perhaps you could consider looking into BoardDocs or some other system in terms of pricing and what those services provide, just so that that can be handed off to our communications director because many of those are often synched with the website, so it's both an external communications platform and an internal administrative platform. We can leave that to
staff to do, but thought they might appreciate some additional scoping.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Yeah, I think -- I'll respond to that. I think Mr. Ceja spoke to that issue a little earlier and he has some ideas. So we prefer not to -- I prefer as support my fellow subcommittee member in turning it over to him, and if there is anything that he would like us to maybe troubleshoot on his behalf, we're really a resource to the fellow Commissioners.

And I do also want to say that there were some things that were forwarded to us specifically by Commissioner Ahmad, and I just want you to know that we will be passing those things along to Mr. Ceja as well. So we haven't dropped the ball on that. We're just waiting for the communications director to come on board and we'll pass those things over.

So again, if there are any things that you feel we -- you'd like us to troubleshoot, you know, of course, send it our way and we will do that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And you know, Mr. Ceja, I didn't mean to essentially dump, oh, we're done. If there's any -- if we can facilitate any -- the little bit that we know, we're more than happy to share with you. You can say that -- you can sum that up in a couple of minutes and move right on, but we're more than willing to
help.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. The Data Analysis Subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. So we have been renamed to Data Management Subcommittee, so we are no longer Data Analysis Subcommittee. We have quite a few things that Commissioner Turner and I would like to share.

We have -- since our last meeting we talked about meeting with Marci Harris from POPVOX. She was able to connect us with some additional colleagues of hers. So we met with Stu Shulman and Amy O'Hare. And then we also reached out to -- per Chair Kennedy's recommendation, U.S. Digital Response, and we met with Alex Allain and Robin Carahan (sic) from USDR as well. And we've had some really insightful conversations.

I think the biggest bummer that we learned was there's no magic button that will take all of the different types of data that we are going to receive and will rely on to help us in this process. So we're going to have to figure out a way to manage all of the pieces that will be coming in. We have a few more conversations in the works. We have not scheduled those yet, but we are awaiting responses on those.

And then kind of a little bit ancillary, but still
related to our conversations about civic technology, so
Lori Shellenberger did reach out to Commissioner Turner
and I after our last meeting, specifically on the topic
of civic technology, and the conversation that we were
having and how that relates to our work. And she sent
over some resources and some articles about that topic.
And upon further review of the content that she shared,
from what I understood of civic technology is the use of
technology to engage people in the civic process. So
that could be anything and everything under the sun at
this point. She actually shared an article that was
posted on Medium by Derek Poppert. I have reached out to
the author, awaiting a response to see if we can connect,
potentially looking at the overlap between the work that
the Data Management Committee is doing and our future
recommendations and civic technology.

In that same email that Lori had sent us, she also
recommended for us to connect with Annelise Grimm from
Code for America. We have been in contact with her and
we are scheduling a meeting with her as well.

And the biggest thing, I think, from the resources
that she sent, which should be forwarded to the group at
some point about civic technology that I understood is
that it's not a one and done type of thing. It should be
incorporated across all of our engagements. So how we
take public comment, how we communicate with the
community to submit, I don't know, from the LOI tool -- I
mean COI tool. And so it was just a reminder for
ourselves that, yes, we're going to actively and
specifically engage strategies and methods to incorporate
civic technology in the data management piece, but that's
also something that everyone else should consider in
their subcommittees as well and in the processes for our
Commission as a whole.

And then lastly, we are in the early stages of
putting together an RFI based off of the different
conversations we've had with folks in terms of what type
of support and expertise that we would need in order to
manage all of the different types of data that will be
coming in.

And so at this point, I think what would be helpful
for our subcommittee, which I think I got some
understanding from the information that Sadhwani shared
about the VRA counsel and the process that they are going
through, is that the RFI process could potentially be
faster than an RFP, maybe. The RFP, from my conversation
with Dan is 80 pages, and I'm sorry, I don't know anyone
who wants to read 80 pages of legalese, and even if it's
boiler, templar plate language, it's in there for a
reason. If it didn't matter, it wouldn't be in there.
So we're just trying to figure out what is the best way to get someone on board to help us with this work in an expedited way.

Something that I learned that I am not sure if everyone else is aware of, or maybe you all are, but if there is a publicly funded university within California and/or a publicly funded university across the U.S. who has an agreement with California, it would fall under an interagency agreement, which I believe Commissioner Sadhwani had highlighted in their process as well. So that's just something for us to consider.

We're going to continue with our conversations, and we're hoping that next meeting in our update we have something more substantive for everyone to react to in terms of recommendations of what types of expertise we would need in someone for the data management piece and have a broader conversation about that topic.

Commissioner Turner, I will turn it over to you before we go back to the Chair.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad. Amazing always. It's been just such a pleasure to be a part of the subcommittee, and just working through all the interesting conversations.

I think at some point we will also look to have some of the speakers come to the full Commission to be able to
answer questions, because the opportunities, I guess, are broad, and as far as directions we can go and choose to go, even to carry on some of the language access conversations or the language as it relates to the COI we talked about earlier and decisions that we make as far as the additional languages, will also even impact this process that we're looking at as far as language that comes in one way. The system, yes, will be able to also handle most languages, but it still then will give us an output in the same language which means we'll still need interpretation again.

So I just mention that here because of today's conversation. I'm thinking, you know, when we spend additional money it won't just stop there. Still may be the right thing to do, but we'll need to include all of that as we're thinking through, you know, how we're going to provide language support in the process in its entirety.

So yeah, so we'll bring some of the speakers in directly, but I think I'm smiling only because I think we started out with one of our first calls that we had was definitely encouraging structure, structure, structure. Make sure that you're getting everything in a structured way. And all the variables and all of the amazing ways we want to take it in, and video, and audio, and we want
to have it in person at some point, and we're going to 
use the COI tool, and you know, we felt like initially we 
rann into this kind of a -- I felt like we ran into almost 
a brick wall of like, yes, don't do it, you know, 
structure.

But anyway, we've had several conversations since 
then that provided some variety, so we'll continue 
talking about it, and I'll give you some summary of 
everything later when we make a recommendation of which 
way we should actually go. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. I mean, that's all very 
exciting and I think represents some excellent steps 
forward for us. That's going to be very instrumental in 
our success over the long term.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair Kennedy?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think one other thing I just 
wanted to say, we were really excited, too, about your 
recommendation on the U.S. Digital Response Team, because 
I think we will end up with a discovery sprint, which is 
an entire -- well, I'll say an entire team, but it could 
be three or four, you know, of techy type people that 
will come in that will just answer questions, allow us to 
talk at them to kind of determine what it is that we 
need, and so I thought this is pretty cool. We're going
to have a whole team of people that's dedicated at
providing us what we need, and you're right, it so far
looks like that way, that particular part will not cost
us any money also. We'll see.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Excellent. Any questions for the
subcommittee? Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Don't be afraid. It's an easy
one. Thank you. That was a lot of great work, and it's
an exciting field.

I just want to follow up, Commissioner Ahmad, you're
absolutely right, we're all going to have to think about
how we use technology, and that's something we've talked
about since kind of the beginning. I mean, I would love
to figure out how we could actually see people during
public comments versus just see a box, because body
language and all that is so critical.

How do we interact with -- you're putting together
an RFI, and if we do this -- this discovery sprint which
sounds so exciting, how do -- is that going to take place
before the RFI or after the RFI so it can, you know, it
can verify -- I think I'm saying it right, the RFI
incorporates all the ideas, or each group will then have
to put out an RFI for the tools that they need developed?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Well, let me attempt to
respond.
One of the challenges that we'll have is timing for sure, because with every conversation we have we're introduced to more people that has more information and perhaps a slightly different manner in which we should move forward, and we recognize that there is a time element, particularly whether we're going to go, you know the RFI or the -- you know, whichever direction we're going to go.

So Commissioner Sinay, it just continues at this point to be a challenge and something that we're trying to work through to kind of map out the process. But we're still in the early stages of doing that.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah, I'll just echo what Commissioner Turner said. By the way, I am not scared. Thank you for that disclaimer. Come, come at me.

But I think right now the RFI is just an option for us to consider, and since, you know, some of the other subcommittees are moving in that direction, we also wanted to take a look at what that process would look like for data management.

In terms of the discovery sprint, we haven't scheduled a time for that yet. Our contact is Alex, who is reaching out to folks within USCR -- which, by the way, is a civic tech firm. They explicitly state that, and along with Code for America as well. So that was a
happy -- a happy alignment that we were excited to see. And so that date hasn't been set yet, so we -- as we continue to meet with more folks, we do hope to incorporate all of the information that they're sharing with us in whatever recruitment process that we embark on as a Commission for this particular task that we have.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry, just for Mr. Ceja. One of the things that we have heard is we really need to think through the civic -- who understands civic technology when it comes to marketing, outreach, and engagement as well, so that may -- you know, we can talk about it when we have our one-on-one meetings, but that is going to be critical in a staff that is hired to be -- and I know -- again, civic technology is any tool -- any technology you use to engage people, and so we just want in this day of COVID, and we look at COVID as an opportunity to actually move forward in big ways with use of civic technology.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah. I'll just close off with thanking Commissioner Sinay for bringing up civic technology very early on in our conversations. And I, for one, if it wasn't clear in the last meeting, I had no idea what you all were talking about when it came to
civic technology. And when I saw that article come through that Lori had sent -- publicly available -- by Derek Poppert, the first piece that he did write about in that article was trying to define what is civic technology is a huge task in and of itself because it could mean so many different things.

So I think it's going to be great having that conversation with all of you to figure out how we can best engage with the tools that we have in the most meaningful way to get the information that we need to best represent California in these maps. So thank you for that.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry. The reason I said I don't want to scare you is because I did realize that last time we brought up civic technology I wasn't explaining myself very well, and it was very frustrating for a lot of you, and then luckily -- yeah, so that's why I said that. And sometimes when you've been kind of excited about something you've immersed yourself in it, it's hard to kind of pull yourself out.

So I thank the rest of you, especially Commissioner Sadhwani, for being able to put simply what I had not been able to say. So I do apologize, and that's why I had said I didn't want to scare you.
CHAIR KENNEDY: And just following up, Commissioner Sinay, from the list of potential agenda topics and so forth, I have on the list for the agenda for the next meeting some time to discuss civic technology. So what I'm wondering is, is that a time where having this -- join us for some brainstorming, is that going to be timely or do we need to put that off for the subsequent meeting?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So when I had put that as a potential topic, it was based on Commissioner Turner and I in our first conversation around civic technology, and it became obvious that we needed someone to work with us on this, and that's what I think this discovery sprint is -- was exactly what we were envisioning. We didn't know that it was called that, because that -- I had heard that terminology used before with tech.

So I -- Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner Turner can advise you on when is the best time to put that on the agenda.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Can we get back to you on that item?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Sure.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you.
CHAIR KENNEDY: But -- well, I mean, yes, but if I have to -- if we have to post the agenda for the next meeting tomorrow, I need to -- I need a good sense of where we want to go. We can always schedule it and not have it. We just can't not schedule it and then have it.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I was thinking I'll get back to you, like, within the next thirty minutes.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Perfect. Okay. That was data management. Next we have --

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Commissioner, Commissioner Andersen has a comment.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry. This is on me, not, as Commissioner Sinay said, don't let me scare you. I also don't mean to scare you, but the RFI that you've been looking at and talking about, yes, you can use that for contracts, actually picking people if you're doing legal services. And state agencies, you know, state agencies like you're mentioning universities, things like that, yes, you can also do that.

If we need to go out and actually get, you know, different vendors and pick a vendor, an RFI is only for information, and it can only, like, get more information, then we have to start an -- an IFB or a couple of
different RFP proposals. And that's why what I would say is we're doing this sprint to get more information, but this is definitely one of the realms of the RFP 2, which is exactly kind of what the line drawers are using in that we want them to come up with ideas for us.

And the other two items are very, very specific. You have to say this is what we want because that's the way they're -- they're more for standard, like, you know, hey, we need a new furnace, or we need -- you know, it's very, very standardized. And this is something that's unusual and more creative.

That said, in terms of oh, my God, all the paperwork stuff, that's exactly what I'm kind of doing on this one, so if you need to go down that route you will only have to work on the good parts, not necessarily the awful parts, and I'm more than willing to help on that.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you so much for that, Commissioner Andersen. I had sent over a note to Dan and a follow-up as well, but I haven't heard back yet about a piece of clarification I need just in terms of the RFI process that is exactly contingent upon what you are talking about.

If we go through the RFI process, does that mean we can hire off of someone who we like during that process,
or do we still have to go out for bid after that process?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: So as we discussed earlier -- you can hear me, right? Okay. As we discussed earlier in the week, Commissioner Ahmad, the RFI process is exactly -- in this case, because it's not an attorney, it's exactly what Commissioner Andersen has said. It's a request for that information. Typically, when you use it, then you chain it up with an RFP or an invitation for bid, either a request for proposal or invitation for bid, but you can shorten the amount of time that you need to have people bid for it because they've already seen it and they've already given you some ideas about it.

You can't -- with attorneys, you can use the attorney that you'd like, but with outside bidders like this for these types of contracts, you would have to bring in the bidders and use a competitive bid process because otherwise it would be a noncompetitive bid, and that takes as long as running an invitation for bid or a request for proposal.

So I am looking for your email and I'll answer it very quickly, but the upshot of it is like Commissioner Andersen said it correct, and so if time is of the essence on this it may be better to do the sprint and then use that information to craft the RFP. Is that
CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And to clarify on that, the RFI and the regular RFP, those are -- who's the cheapest. The RFP 2, you do a whole scoring process. You have to come up with how you're evaluating it, and that's when you use experience and criteria. But your minimum -- the cost is also a component of that, and it has to be at least thirty percent. But you can also -- on both of them you can have interviews as part of it. But the RFP 2 is -- it isn't just solely based on bottom line, you know, who's the cheapest.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Director Claypool.

MR. CLAYPOOL: With one caveat, Commissioner Andersen. It's always lowest responsible bidder. It's not who's cheapest but who can responsibly provide the product at the lowest cost.

So quite often, in fact, in the last Commission when they got down to their line drawer, they discarded two people as not being responsible. One person said, well, I'll do the line drawing for you for -- I think it was 75,000 dollars, and we knew that wasn't possible, so it's always important to remember it's lowest responsible bidder, but the RFP 2 is exactly what you said. It's more of a qualifications-based analysis. That's all.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Okay. Next on the list is the Language Access Subcommittee. Commissioners Akutagawa and Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We're both so excited.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I don't know. I was like, looking at her, she's probably looking at me.

Well, one, we do have a panel scheduled for tomorrow and I believe it's the panelist -- the agenda has been updated to reflect the panelist, but just so that everybody is aware, we do have a -- we do have panelists from the Black Redistricting and Census Hub, and we also will have a panelist from Access Services California, which serves the Arab, Middle East, North American -- North African, and Muslim communities.

We did -- Commissioner Fernandez tried very, very hard. She sent out multiple emails to Native American organizations to try to get a speaker. We got one and then the person had to pull out. We did finally get a positive response from someone who is willing or available to speak, but -- from the California Native Vote Project. Unfortunately, he's gotten sick and, so he is unable now to present to us, and so we're hoping that, Commissioner Le Mons, I think you're going to run the next meeting or chair the next meeting. We hope that we would be able to accommodate him for that one. He felt
really bad that he was not able to join us.

And then at that point we will -- I believe Commissioner Fernandez and I will be ready to come forth with our recommendations for the broader language access.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Clarification. Commissioner Kennedy will be chairing the next meeting, 1 through 3, December 1 through 3, and I'll be chairing 14 through 16, I believe it is.

CHAIR KENNEDY: As well as the following one.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Pardon me?

CHAIR KENNEDY: As well as the following one.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: As well as the following one, based on the new two-meeting mandate from the previous meeting. So that's the clarity.

But my question, first, I wanted to reacknowledge the subcommittee for the conversation earlier around language. And we were talking about the COI or Communities of Interest tool. I'm hoping that this conversation with the presentations we're about to have and the previous presentations, that we'll be able to create at least a short list of additional languages, whatever that looks like, for the COI tool, if there are going to be some, so they can at least begin to do that research beyond the two that we talked about today.
Because I didn't get the impression that that was exhaustive. It was just as far as we were getting today as it related to what they were willing to do with the budget they have, and then it sounds like there's the second opportunity to potentially get some other languages in front of them, even for the COI tool, and that is aside from the augmented access opportunities that I know Global Access are looking at and Outreach are looking at, et cetera. So I just wanted to lift that up and make sure that I had a clear -- that that was an accurate understanding of what is available to us. Yes. And I thought this committee is the committee that's kind of shepherding that; is that correct?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'll respond to that, and, please, Commissioner Akutagawa, please fill in.

We actually kept the two separate, the COI versus the -- so what we're looking at, our recommendations will be is when we actually go out and do our outreach or our education, that was the language recommendations that we'll be coming forward with. Whether or not we can step into the Communities of Interest database, I'm not sure. I guess Commissioner Akutagawa and I will have to go back. Because we honestly felt that this meeting, that decision was going to be made, for the Communities of
Interest would be made, and then ours would be a separate one in terms of the education and outreach, in terms of what our recommendations were for the languages and then also even more specific in terms of languages by different areas. Because obviously, you know, we'll need different languages in Los Angeles County versus, you know, Butte County or something. So that's what we're looking at, at this point.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Great. So I'm glad I asked that because I have to say, I left an earlier conversation unclear as to whether there is an additional opportunity and maybe it's the COI Subcommittee this question should have been directed to. And if it isn't, that's fine, too, but I do think that, like myself, the public may not be clear either as to whether or not we're considering any additional languages for the COI beyond Thai and Hmong.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy, if I can speak here?

CHAIR KENNEDY: Right.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: To respond, so I think, Commissioner Le Mons, Commissioner Fernandez and I did discuss other languages with the ideas in mind similar to what our speaker or our public commentor, Julia Marks
from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, brought up. We
did also speak about and consider should we try to
include some of the African languages, some of the
Pacific Islander languages as a point of inclusivity as
well too.

But again, I think to the earlier question that was
also asked about how much is this all going to cost
before any decisions are made, we were also trying to be
conscious of that as well, too, and then also trying to
keep in mind about the -- the kind of potential for
partnerships to be able to reach some of the other
communities.

With that said, we did separate out the COI tool
from the outreach and education materials from the public
input meetings. We bucketed in those ways, looking at
language and accessibility in those broader ways, partly
because we needed to give an answer to the Statewide
Database around the Communities of Interest Tool, and
then we also wanted to make sure that we heard from our
presenters that are going to be speaking tomorrow before
we made some assumptions about what would needed to be
done in terms of global access and language
accessibility. So I don't know if that really provides
clarity, but that's what we're looking at.

So in terms of the COI tool, part of it is, you
know, I think it is going to come down to cost. I heard that loud and clear, and I think Commissioner Fernandez and I are trying to balance all of that. I think there's the, what we would like to do, and then there's the, what's possible to do.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Yeah. Thank you for that. I still feel like it is somewhat of a cliffhanger, and so I think what I'm asking about is process and opportunity specific to the COI tool at this point based upon the response to my first question in this segment. So I'm just asking, I think we should -- either we have brought closure to, and where we are with the COI tool is the twelve/thirteen languages plus Hmong and Thai, pending the research and price tag.

My question is beyond that. Is there an additional opportunity -- and I think us as a commission have to be definitive about that. Either there is or isn't additional opportunity for additional languages for the COI tool. Like, I'm being very specific to that. And either way, you know, we decide, but I think we should be clear. I don't think we've been definitive. So that's why it feels still like a cliffhanger to me.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons, you are very right on that, and I did indicate that I would like to
come back to that before the end of the day, and it looks like we will have time.

At this point we need to break to go into closed session for our discussion on cybersecurity issues, and then once we come back from that, we can, hopefully, finalize the discussion on languages for the Communities of Interest Tool. So thank you, everyone. We will reconvene in closed session. Let's do like the applicant review panel and be back one minute before 3 so that we can start promptly at 3, and then we should be back shortly after 3:30 into open session. Thank you, all.

(Whereupon, a closed session was held from 2:54 p.m. until 4:06 p.m.)

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Welcome back. We have just a couple more things to make our way through before the end of the day.

First of all, I would like to bring the issue of language coverage and the Communities of Interest Tool back to the table.

I would like to propose that we do two things at this point. One is endorse the Statewide Database's intent to proceed with the twelve -- or thirteen, if we split the Chinese into two -- languages; and second, that we ask Statewide Database to provide cost estimates for five additional languages, which would be Thai, Hmong,
Somali, Amharic, and Swahili.

So that is my proposal, and I will open it up to comment or question.

Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Just repeat your suggestion. You said Thai, Hmong --

CHAIR KENNEDY: Swahili, Somali, and Amharic.

Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I second that, your motion.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Any further comments?

Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I'm just curious about Samoan because there's also a large population of Samoan. I'd like to see them included.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Seeing as how we're simply asking for cost estimates at this point, that's entirely reasonable and I will accept that as a friendly amendment.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And I'd second that.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Turner, for adding Samoan. I was actually going to suggest that we include Marshallese and Tongan as well as Samoan. I think we need to include the Pacific Islander languages as well, too, so I'd like to -- since as you
said, Commissioner Kennedy, we're just getting the cost estimates. I'd like to suggest getting the cost estimates for those as well.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. So I will accept that as a friendly amendment.

Anything further on the discussion on this?

Jesse, would you please read the instructions for public comment, please.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone.

To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. The telephone number is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is 91505532099 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound.

Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue from which a moderator will begin unmuting callers to submit their comments. You will also hear an automated message to press star 9. Please do this to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automated message that says, "The host would like you to talk", and to press
star 6 to speak.

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

These instructions are also located on the website. The Commission is taking public comment at this time.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. And we will stand by for two minutes for the livestream to catch up to see -- and to give people a chance to call in.

Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: While we're waiting, Chair Kennedy, could you repeat those languages again? I got like, the second half of it, so I apologize for that.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. The entire list is Thai, Hmong, Somali, Swahili, Amharic, Samoan, Marshallese, and Tongan.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was just wondering, has the language access group looked at all at the Central American refugees who are -- is it a large enough population that we should be considering? Their language
-- a lot of them are speaking the indigenous languages of
their country, not necessarily Spanish.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We hadn't gotten that far, although I think based on the presentation that NALEO
gave us, my recollection was that I think on those
languages, their recommendation is that we work with the
various community groups on that one. I think that's my
recollection from that particular one.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Sinay, I have a contact
in the Mayan community in Los Angeles. I'm happy to
reach out to her and get her thoughts, if that would be
useful.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I was just curious to know, just percentagewise, you know, if it -- I don't know if
it's a large enough community for us to reach out. I
don't think they would use a COI tool. They'd most
likely use other forms of contacting. Pedro, I don't
know -- I'm sorry, Commissioner Toledo, I don't know if
your organization has been working with them and if you
have some input.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: More the Oaxacans, less the
Mayans, but yeah, a lot of times it's more of the, you
know, local interpreters and such as opposed to written
material.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So if we provided video, that
they could submit video, that would be accessible to
them?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Potentially, yeah.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I think to Commissioner
Sinay's last comment or question, that is something that
Commissioner Fernandez and I are looking at, is keeping
in mind that the COI tool is not the only form of input
that we would try to solicit input. I think we're also
trying to figure out other ways in which we can, not only
working with the community-based organizations, but
working with them, figuring out are there other ways in
which we can gather input from some of these other
communities that may not be just through the COI tool?
Because I think to your other earlier point, to not --
and I think both the presentation that we had from PANA
and also the presentation that we had from EPIC, both of
them spoke to kind of different -- getting to the same
place but because of different reasons, like, PANA talked
about, you know, a lot of the African languages are --
have an oral tradition, and then in terms of some of the
Pacific Islander communities, we're also dealing with
some communities that may not be fully literate, even in
their own languages.

And I think to the comment that you made earlier
about the Hmong community, I did get a response from one
of my contacts in the Hmong community and she did say
that that does make translation in the Hmong community
complicated, but there is a high need. She did mention,
like you said, that there is a high rate of a lack of
literacy in the community, and so the methods by which we
would need to communicate with some of these people or a
lot of these communities may be on just like a
written/video, and there may have to be trusted
resources.

And so we are -- Commissioner Fernandez and I are
looking at that so that we can try to solicit as much
input from some of these more difficult -- not only
difficult to reach, but communities in which it's more
than just language accessibility that's a challenge.
We're trying to also keep that in mind as well, too, as
we come up with our recommendations to advise, actually,
Commissioner Sinay, your subcommittee and then also the
larger commission as well.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Great. Thank you. Any further
comments? Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: So just to nail it down, with
Chinese since the COI tool is written, I mean, it's
graphic, it's written, so we're talking about traditional
and simplified script Chinese, not Mandarin and
Cantonese. Those would pertain to oral, verbal Chinese.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I wasn't sure whether there was going to be a video component, so that's why the Cantonese came in.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: I guess this is more of a process question. I feel like we're retreading all of the clarity we did this morning on this very thing, and I'm just wondering why. I thought we understood all this. You put forward a very clear proposal. It's very narrow to something, very specific, and I just don't understand how we can't stay on task with -- and stay in context of what it is that we're talking about without going off in all of these directions, which is not what we're talking about. I just do not understand it.

So I just wanted to say that. Like, I thought it couldn't have been any clearer where we were and what we're talking about, unless these are recommendations to add languages for the COI tool specifically, which we all know how the COI tool works. We've all trained on it. We know it's written. Like, we know all of this. So that's what I thought we were talking about, and I just wish we could stay focused on what we're talking about so we don't convolute the discussions. That's what I wanted to say.
CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you. Jesse, are there any callers in line?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: There are currently no callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Then, not seeing further discussion, I will call the question. Is Wanda there ready to take the vote?

MS. SHEFFIELD: Yes.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair, we need a -- did we have a second already?

MS. SHEFFIELD: Yes.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes, Commissioner Andersen seconded.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: All right. Thank you.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Kennedy.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Yes.
MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Le Mons.

VICE CHAIR LE MONS: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Commissioner Vasquez. I don't see her. And Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

MS. SHEFFIELD: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Thank you very much. Commissioner Akutagawa, I will draft a note to the Statewide Database and ship that off to you, probably after I get the next agenda done.

Okay. And finally, because at least Commissioner Sinay was not with us when we were discussing agenda items for the 1st through the 3rd of December, before we say goodbye for the afternoon I just wanted to open discussion for one last time for anyone who has requests
of items to go on the next agenda, which should post
tomorrow. And keep in mind that we can always not do
something that is on the agenda, but we can't do
something that's not on the agenda.

So I saw Commissioner Ahmad and the Commissioner
Sinay.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. Following up
on our earlier conversation, I sent over a note to you
and Vice Chair about the agenda item for civic
technology.

Commissioner Turner and I will reach out to someone
that we've spoken to, to come and present high level of
what data management looks like and the intersection with
civic technology for our considerations and future
discussions.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Perfect. Thank you so much for
that. Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm not sure if Commissioner
Vasquez was here during the agenda setting, so I
apologize if I'm repeating myself. But we just want the
agenda item number 10, that's on this agenda, we just
wanted to make sure that it was on the next agenda just
in case the conversation takes longer. Even if the
conversation does not, there's still going to be more, so
basically "outreach presentation discussion related to
the regional teams and presentation on outreach strategy", but not C, just A and B.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay, very good. She was here at one point when we were discussing agenda, and you know, I just wanted to indicate that depending on timings on Wednesday, if we have some free time I would very much like to see us undertake an internal discussion on C, without outside presenters, but I think it would be useful for us to have our own internal discussion on C.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I recommend, then, that staff repost the letter so people can find it very easily on the handouts for this meeting so everybody can reread it and not have to hunt for it.

And also we had talked about --

MS. JOHNSTON: Which letter are you talking about, Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: The letter from the community to us around -- around outreach. It was an eighteen-page letter. I can email it to you if you can't find it, Marian. I have it.

MS. JOHNSTON: If you'd email it today, that would be great.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Okay. And then completely forgot my other one, so probably didn't need it.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Okay. Commissioner Yee.
COMMISSIONER YEE: For the Outreach Committee, so the homework we're doing, researching the various regions and counties, I know you had a form for us, but can you tell us more about the plan for what to do with all that and when we like get to that?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: It is part of the agenda item number 10 where folks will share their regional -- what they've learned from their regional areas and that at any time you can submit ideas on the form. We have -- there is a plan that we'll be sharing. It's not a plan, it's a -- we keep coming up with different names for it, but basically a strategy roadmap, because we really don't feel like we can create a plan without Mr. Ceja and all of you together. So the framework that we shared earlier, if you have additional ideas and thoughts. We shared the framework so it's easier to submit more ideas and thoughts. And it's the same -- the framework -- the roadmap is in the same format that the framework was, that handout was. So both of them have been sent out today.

COMMISSIONER YEE: But you're not giving us necessarily a hard deadline to, you know --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No. We need to work with Mr. Ceja to figure out how we're going to collect -- how we're going to create a database of different
organizations we identify and such. You know, at some point we're going to -- we need to collect a lot of that, and so we need to figure out the best format. But if you want to get it out of your hands and not lose it and get it into our hands, feel free to.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

CHAIR KENNEDY: Very good. Okay. That looks like it's it for today. Thank you, everyone, for your patience, and look forward to seeing you tomorrow, so we stand in recess until 9:30 tomorrow morning.

(Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.)
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TRACI FINE, CDLT-169

May 30, 2022
DATE