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Rosalind Gold, NALEO

Also Present
Michael Wagaman, Legislative Consultant

Public Comment
Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Dan Ichinose, OCCET
Tho Vinh Banh, Disability Rights California
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CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Good morning, everyone. Welcome back and thank you to all who hung in there yesterday with our closed session and then for our viewers who have logged in with us. Welcome back and thanks for joining us again.

So this morning I just wanted to give you a brief update on what we'll be doing today. And we did not expect to be in closed session all day, so I would have given you the rundown of our schedule yesterday if I had expected that, so my apologies on that. So what we're going to do is we're going to start the morning with public comment.

And then what we'd like to do is we do have a panel. We are moving the panel up. This is agenda item number 9. It says General Access. And that is to be combined with agenda item number 12. They were supposed to be a combined panel, but somehow they got separated on the agenda, so agenda items number 9 and 12 are all supposed to be one. So we have a General/Language Access Panel that we will have. We'll be starting that shortly, right after the public comments are completed. We will be going through 11 o'clock, at which time we will then conclude the panel.
And then what we'll do is we'll take a brief break, and the commissioners are going to go back into closed session, hopefully for a brief time, and then what we'll do is we'll reconvene back in open session after lunch at about -- we estimate about 1:30-ish.

And then what we'll do is we will resume with our agenda, starting with agenda item number 5 after lunch with the executive director's report, and then we'll go through we'll follow the agenda through that time.

I also want to mention, just for the sake of making this announcement, agenda item number 8, the Local/Field Level Nonprofit Panel will be taking place tomorrow, Friday, at 11 a.m. And then, shortly after that, agenda item number 10 will take place after the Local Field Level Panel, after tomorrow's lunch. So just from a scheduling point of view, I just wanted to give everybody the big pieces so you'd know what to expect if you're interested in -- in watching during that time.

So with that, Marian, I am going to go ahead and ask you to give roll call.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?
COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Here.
MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

I know he's here. I saw him.

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vazquez?

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

You're frozen. He disappeared again.

Commissioner Vazquez?
I will add them if they appear later. It looks like Mr. Kennedy is trying to get in.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, he was having internet problems yesterday. It looks like he might have had the same issue today, too.

MS. JOHNSTON: Yep.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right.

MS. JOHNSTON: We have a quorum.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, wonderful. Thank you.

Jesse, welcome back. Thanks for joining us again.

And would you please read off the instructions to make public comment, and we'll start with 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 98512592479 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound. Once you have dialed in, you will 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 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 now taking public comment at this
time.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, we'll wait a few minutes
just to let the livestream catch up and hopefully allow
people to call in.

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

Good morning, caller. Can you hear us?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm hearing you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Could you please state
and spell your name for the record, please?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: This is Commissioner Kennedy
dialing in because my internet connection went down.

MS. JOHNSTON: Welcome, Commissioner Kennedy. I
will mark you present.
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Jesse, do we have any other people in queue to make a comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, there are no further comments at this time.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Let me do this, then. We will be starting this morning with our panel, as I mentioned, agenda item number 9 and 12. I'm kind of stalling to allow people to call in if they want to. And what I'm going to do is I will turn this over to Commissioner Fernandez to introduce our panel. It does look like

Jesse, it looks like we may not have any more? Or do we have another panelist?

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

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Then let's go ahead. Let's go ahead.

Commissioner Fernandez, I am going to turn this over to you to introduce our panel.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess I have a question. I'll ask, too, later if Julia's going to be joining us today. I don't see her so far.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I just realized she's not here yet either.
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. QUACH: I texted her and she should be on soon.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: She'll be on soon? Okay.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Good morning, everyone.

It's the last week of, hopefully you remember, it probably seems like so long ago. But Chair Akutagawa established a Language Access Subcommittee, and I'm going to give all the credit to Chair Akutagawa. She's been very diligent in reaching out to different organizations. And today we have Rosalind Gold from she is the chief public policy officer with NALEO Educational Fund, and she has called in a few times, which is great, so thank you so much. She has over three decades with the Latino civic engagement efforts, and she will be providing a presentation relating to our Latinx community.

And then we also have right now we do have Dr. Thu Quach who was the chief deputy of administration programs for the Asian Health Services.

And we will also have Julia joining us soon, hopefully. She's also with the Asian Health Services, and that's a community health center that provides health services to the medically underserved families in Oakland and surrounding communities in fourteen different languages. And they will both provide a presentation
relating to our Asian communities. And we've asked each
of them to present for fifteen minutes, and then after
their fifteen-minute presentations, we'll allow for time
for questioning.

So we thought this was better to have them present
first because I'm thinking our questions will probably be
similar in terms of what we would ask each one, and so
we're just hoping that this will be more efficient. And
I just really want to thank both of them for coming here
today. It was really last minute.

I think, Dr. Quach, I think we just talked to you on
Monday, and Rosalind, I think, was on Friday. So thank
you so much. Their bios are online. And with that, I'm
just going to

I think, Rosalind, you're going to go first, right?
Okay. And then the presentation is online, also, so if
you want to follow along.

MS. GOLD: Great.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rosalind.

MS. GOLD: Thank you so much, Commissioner
Fernandez, Chair Akutagawa, Vice Chair Fornaciari, and
Commissioners. My name is Rosalind Gold. I'm chief
public policy officer of the National Association of
Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, NALEO,
for this invitation to talk about a critical issue facing
the Commission which is: How do we ensure that Latinos
and all Californians have an opportunity to provide input
and a meaningful opportunity to provide input into the
Commission's process, and that the Commission's
activities are clear and understandable to members of the
Latino community and all Californians?

I'm going to start my presentation by talking a bit
about the NALEO Educational Fund and our work in
redistricting. I'm then going to talk about some issues
about overall accessibility and why that is just good for
all Californians. I'll then talk about the importance of
language access and best practices for language access
for Latinos and all Californians.

So what I'd like to do is to start by sharing my
presentation on my screen. All right. So first of all,
the NALEO Educational Fund was founded in 1981. Our
mission is to empower Latinos to participate fully in the
American political process. So of course, the work of
our organization and the work that the Commission is
doing to strengthen California's democracy are very much
resonating together.

And we have -- when we started our work on
redistricting we started several decades ago, but really
got involved in the redistricting of this independent
Commission ten years ago, we articulated some policies and priorities for our efforts. First of all, it is very critical that the Commission's map provide Latinos with a fair opportunity to choose the candidates of their choice, their elected representatives. And so as it's spelled out in the California Constitution, compliance with the U.S. Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act are what should be the top priorities for the maps. And we also feel respecting communities of interest are also a high priority.

We believe the process -- the redistricting process, should be transparent and, as we've been talking about for this panel, the public needs to both understand what the Commission is doing and be heard.

And then finally, as some of you may know from our earlier advocacy, we believe the Commission's membership should reflect the geographic, racial, ethnic, gender, and age diversity of California. And we again want to thank the first eight Commissioners for the choices they made for the full Commission.

In terms of our work, we are going to work and continue to work with a partner organization, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, to mobilize Latinos to participate in the redistricting process. We're going to continue our advocacy with the
Commission, and we'll be reviewing draft maps, and then we're also going to finally continue our work with coalitions and partners, and we're also going to be working on a unity mapping effort.

So as a starting point, you know, we wanted to talk about why is overall accessibility so important, not just for Latinos but for all Californians? Well, first of all, Latinos are the state's largest population group. They comprise thirty-nine percent of the population. And essentially you cannot have an accessible process in California unless it is accessible to Latinos. Overall accessibility increases participation, transparency, it instills public confidence in the work that the Commission is doing, and, again, it's very much a two-way street between the Commission and members of the public.

And I also strongly want to urge the Commission to have a separate session or workshop to address the issues of accessibility for persons with disabilities. This is a community that has some of the same needs as all Californians, but also some special needs. And we know that there are a lot of really good partners and organizations who can really provide important information on this issue.

So I just briefly wanted to highlight some of the best practices for overall accessibility of Commission
hearings. And I wanted to note that the recommendations
in my entire presentation are really the culmination of a
collaborative work of many partners, both in the
Redistricting California Collaborative and the Alliance
Collaborative and that our partners really help to shape
and formulate these recommendations and that all of them
have expertise and would be happy to and willing to share
their particular expertise as well.

Just a couple of highlights about overall
accessibility. There should be a robust number of
hearings, and if they are being done virtually,
especially when you're collecting community of interest
testimony, they need to be held focusing on very
different regions of the state. Thinking about when the
times of those hearings are going to be scheduled, you
know, many people from underrepresented communities have
family and job obligations, and regular business hours
are not going to be good for their participation. So we
suggest a mix of hearings during weekday evenings as well
as on weekends.

And then, also, as we think about the technology
being virtual, we also have to understand that if we're
going to be continuing to do virtual meetings for a
while, there are communities that have no access to
hotspots or internet, and we're going to have to try to
figure out how we can stream and provide for their participation. I think this is just something we're going to have to work with the Commission together on. There are no easy answers to this issue yet. It's just something we're going to have to do a lot more thinking about.

And then, finally, it takes time to get testimony about communities of interest. It's very important that community members have some certainty about when they're going to be permitted to testify. Ten years ago it was basically done on a first-come, first-serve basis. You would show up at the meeting, and you might be waiting three or four hours to testify. You had no certainty about when you would testify. Even if members of the public can be given some kind of window or opportunity, a timeslot, in which they know that they'll be able to testify.

So these recommendations are set forth in a letter that we work with the Redistricting California and the Alliance on, dated October 20th. You'll see much more detail about these recommendations, but you know, I just wanted to provide the highlights.

Okay. I then wanted to address why is language access for the Commission's work important for California Latinos? Well, first of all, many Latinos and
Californians as a whole just may not be very familiar
with redistricting or really understand why it is
important for our communities. You know, the ability
just to educate people about the importance of
redistricting is critical. And redistricting, unlike
other civic engagement opportunities, really only happens
once every ten years. So unlike elections where you have
some going every couple of years, again, it's something
that you have many members of the community are not yet
familiar with it.

Also, dialogues about redistricting use some of the
most complex and unfamiliar terms for community members.
Communities of interest, racially polarized voting,
contiguity, right? These are just not terms that are
typically used in civic engagement.

So having good access and language access and
education about them is important because redistricting
is really a truly democratic process. Every single
Californian can participate, no matter whether they're a
voter, no matter, you know, whether what immigration
status they may have. All Californians can provide
input.

And I think it's also important to remember that for
the Latino community, more than one out of every four
Latinos that's about twenty-eight percent are not yet
fully proficient in English.

As we think about best practices for language access in the Latino community, it's important to understand that Latinos are linguistically diverse. You know, the population not only includes Mexican-Americans, Salvadoran, and Guatemalans, but you can see that the proportions and the diversity are even higher in places such as Los Angeles County, seventy-six percent Mexican, Salvadoran nine percent, Guatemalan six percent. And there are at least eighteen national origin or subgroups within the Latino community in California. There's also diversity by age, by immigrant status, by culture, by region, by education, employment, and family networks. And as a result of this, there is enormous variation in the dialects, the word uses, the pronunciation, and the idioms that are used in Spanish. So basically Latinos are not monolithic, and the language and the pronunciation and usage and idioms are not monolithic either throughout the Latino community.

It's also important to recognize that there is a segment of the Latino community who are not proficient in either English or Spanish. We have a group of indigenous Latin Americans and they speak several languages; Zapoteco, Mixteco, Triqui are some of the most common ones, but there's also Guatemalan Mayan languages and
just a whole host of languages spoken by Latino indigenous Latin Americans.

And just to give you a little sense of the population and where they work, about one-third of Californian immigrant farm workers are estimated to be from southern Mexico indigenous communities, but not only in rural areas. Many indigenous community workers are also in service industries in urban areas such as restaurants or maintenance workers. So this is another population we have to think about when we think about the linguistic diversity of the Latino community.

So what are some of the best practices? Well, first of all, in terms of the initial development of information and translation, we believe that the Commission should use professional translators for all of the key information it provides but supplement this with community review. And in this connection, we suggest getting community review of translations because then that gives you this kind of diversity of perspective on word usage and idioms and different national origin groups.

But also very important to make sure that you provide sufficient time for community reviewers to review materials and stipends. I think some of us who have worked with community based organizations have had the
experience where we get a twenty-page booklet in English and somebody says, "Could you please review this by tomorrow?" So if you're going to involve the community in reviewing materials and information, you need to provide sufficient time and be cognizant of the resources that are needed.

One approach to help you with getting these translation assistants is to establish a Language Accessibility Advisory Committee or a LAAC. The Secretary of State has a LAAC and many county registrars' offices have those committees as well, and they can be a model or they can provide model materials to show how LAACs work on translation and other language access issues.

And finally, your starting point for materials, before you even think about translation, is you should use plain language for the initial English language versions of the key information. If you start with simple and accessible English, it will make it easier to translate it into accessible Spanish and other languages.

Also, in terms of the ability of the public to participate in hearings, we believe that Spanish language interpreters should be provided for all hearings considering, you know, the widespread use of Spanish in the state. You may even want to consider establishing a
dedicated Spanish language video channel, you know, a separate channel that Spanish-dominant Latinos can listen in to the hearings. But again, providing those interpreters should be supplemented by allowing community members to use their own interpreters like family members, friends. This may be, again, important where finding interpretation of a language that is not widely spoken might be a challenge.

And then when interpreters are needed for testimony or comments, it's important to extend the time limits for those comments so that people have time to have interpreters while they're doing comments. And then you should also permit the submission of written comments in any language and expedite the translation of them.

Okay. We also appreciate the work of the statewide database and particularly the work on its Communities of Interest tool. It has started a dialogue with community organizations, and we have let it know it should be translated into Spanish and several other languages. We are also encouraged the statewide database to continue to work with language minority communities on the format and the language used and prompts and other ways of the structure of the tool. And there should also be a -- continue to be opportunities for just hands-on beta testing of the tool. And again, the statewide database...
has made a very promising start in this area.

However, the database tool -- statewide database tool should not be the only way that community members should be able to submit community of interest input. You know, we need some low-tech opportunities such as, you know, just mailing in a drawing or calling someone who can take public comment from that person, letting them call in to provide their comments.

Finally, we want to encourage you to continue to partner with community groups and other institutions familiar with diverse Latino community members. You know, you can build on the foundation of networks of organizations that have do civic engagement and are trusted organizations that do naturalization, you know, we do our organizations that do nonpartisan voter engagement like our Ve y Vota campaign, census mobilization. Our, you know, we have lots of partners in our Hagase Contar campaign.

But you should also continue to expand the networks of organizations that are not solely based, solely focused on civic engagement. So for example, we're delighted to hear that the other panelists on this particular panel come from health services because health services workers are on the front lines of working with community members and are very knowledgeable about their
needs. And there are also other partners' opportunities such as faith-based organization, business leaders, and of course Spanish-language media is a critical partner for anything that the Commission is going to be doing in print or through broadcast media or digital media.

So in conclusion, I just want to thank you all again. We appreciate the opportunity to testify, and we appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with the Commission to strengthen our democracy and to help ensure that there is an accessible process that will produce maps for the next ten years that will shape the contours of our representative democracy and be truly responsive and accountable to all of our residents. Thank you so much.

MS. QUACH: Do you want us to go right now? Julia, do you want to pull up your slides?

And while Julia is setting that up, I just wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity for us to share our work at Asian Health Services. It's a great privilege to be here and excited to be involved in this.

Julia, go ahead.

MS. LIOU: Yeah, thank you, everyone, for this opportunity. It's a pleasure to be here. I'm going to go ahead and kick us off. So Asians are the fastest growing major ethnic group in the United States, and
almost forty percent of the new American arrivals in 2017 were Asian. Nationwide, the Asian population increased twenty-seven percent from 2010 to 2018, making it the fastest growing racial ethnic group. The Asian population is predicted to actually be the largest immigrant group in the country by 2055. Between 1980 and 2010, the Asian population just in the Bay Area increased 300 percent.

So this is just a visual of the diversity of the Asian-American population. California, as a state, has the largest Asian-American population in the United States and the second-highest proportion of Asian-American residents after Hawaii. Asian-Americans are often, though, seen as a monolithic group, and as you heard from the last speaker, it's a very similar theme with the Latinx group. Yet, in California, there are twenty-one distinct Asian-American ethnic groups. So while these ethnic groups often have shared experiences with immigration and language barriers, even discrimination, they each have unique histories and culture and can differ significantly in their educational attainment, employment, and economic status.

There's also considerable social and economic diversity among all ethnic groups. And there's also quite a variance in diversity in dialects. Failure to
recognize the differences really renders invisible the 
needs of some of the most disadvantaged in the Asian 
communities.

So it's really important to recognize these 
differences because there are hidden disparities. And so 
if you aggregate Asian-Americans in totality, you will 
miss many of these disparities. And just an example of a 
very recent example is in COVID we know that Filipinos 
nurses in the United States make up 4 percent of the 
workforce, but nearly thirty-one percent of deaths are 
among registered nurses who are of Filipino descent. In 
California, Filipinos are one-quarter of the Asian-
American population, but they make up one-third of the 
deaths, and nearly forty percent with COVID have died.

I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Thu, to 
share about Asian Health Services.

MS. QUACH: Great. Thanks, Julia.

So just to give you some background on who we are, 
Asian Health Services was founded in 1974 by a group of 
students at UC Berkeley who lived in Chinatown and saw 
that their own community were not accessing care and 
realizing that they needed care, and when they did a 
needs assessment found that many of them were hindered by 
the language barriers. So Asian Health Services started 
in 1974. We have two pillars in our work which is around
both service and advocacy. We provide medical, dental, and behavioral health to about 50,000 patients throughout Alameda County, and we're really proud that we are always pushing for cultural and linguistic competency. So we provide our services in English and in fourteen Asian languages. That's not all the Asian languages, but that's what we do, and these languages are provided among our bilingual and bicultural staff.

And as a community health center, there's a lot of built-in accountability about how we work with our community that our board of directors has to have a majority of them being patient and consumers so that we're really driven by the needs of our community. And then Asian Health Services has gone above and beyond by making sure that we have patient leadership councils from our own patients who help us and direct us on how we steer our organization.

Next slide. So this is a picture and you know, as we're thinking about public engagement, I want to share this picture. So since the beginning, we have started what's called general meetings with our patients. So every year or two what we do is we bring patients in and we actually hear from them. So this is a picture of 500 of our patients, you know, that are brought into one room. Unfortunately, with COVID, we can't do that.
anymore. But we would actually have it translated simultaneously in ten to twelve different languages. And you can see the signs that, kind of, is very similar to the United Nations where they have headsets, and this is how we engage community. We can't just say, oh, there's too many languages and, therefore, we cannot bring the patients in and hear from them. We make it very intentional that we want to hear from them.

And a great quote that comes from our own CEO is: "Our measure of success is not only in how many patients we see, but also in how many are empowered to assert their right to health care." That is the basis of how we do our work is we know they have needs and we know they have voices, and it's up to us to create a platform to hear from them.

Next slide. This is just a graph that shows you the diversity in languages that we serve. Now, a lot of our patients are actually Cantonese speakers, but that does not mean that the other languages which are smaller does not matter. We really look at the different dialects, the different languages that are spoken, and really try to ensure that we have on staff the trained interpreters to serve our patients.

Next slide. Handing it back to you, Julia.

MS. LIOU: Thanks, Thu.
So one thing that is similar to the redistricting process was when we established a process by which our patient and community voices and vision could be heard. So as an example, we established a local partnership with the city to conduct workshops in language about what is urban planning. So similar, redistricting is a very, very challenging concept. Urban planning was also very challenging. There were many developments that were coming into the area, and so we had to work with both our patients and our communities to really educate and help folks understand what was a specific plan and why these developments coming into the community how it might impact them. And so I think similarly with redistricting, it's the ability to be able to break down very, very foreign concepts into something that's understandable and understanding what the impact can be on their community.

So we've built relevant data for advocacy through several aspects. We did community needs assessments with over 1100 community members, we actually trained our patients to conduct surveys, and we collaborated with the churches and schools and community organizations, our art centers, our recreation center, along with urban planners and even affordable housing. It took that type of collaboration in order to be able to help our community
members be empowered to understand what the impacts and
also to really call out what their input is around this
process. And so we organized hundreds of community
members to community meetings in numerous Asian
languages. And with their input we established what were
guiding principles, we developed a platform, we even
utilized mobile apps to be able to track assets and
issues of what was working or not working in the
community. And we did all this training so that we could
identify very specifically what were some of the issues
and also input that people could, that could do in a very
localized neighborhood and area.

I'm going to turn it over to Thu to explain more
about some of the work that we've done as well.

MS. QUACH: So another example we wanted to provide
was our work around pushing back on the Public Charge
rule change. That was a rule change that was introduced
a few years back and it required public comments as part
of that. It's a federal rule, and the basis of it is
that anyone who was applying for legal status yeah, at
that time they look at what they were using and whether
they're a public charge to society.

The Trump administration had proposed changes that
said if they use things like Medicaid, housing, and food
assistance that they could be impacted when they apply
for lawful permanent residence. And we knew that that
would affect our community, not just in those who were
changing their statuses, but also the chilling effects of
it.

So we mobilized not just among our own community but
we worked across the country and we formed what's called
the One Nation Coalition, working with Asian-Americans
and Pacific Islander community groups across the nation
to kind of speak up because we actually knew this rule
change was going to disproportionately affect Asian-
Americans. So we gathered over a hundred different
community organizations to really push in the local level
to let people know that there were public comments coming
and that we needed to be involved and that our
communities' voices needed to be heard.

Next slide. As part of any rule change, there has
to be a period for public comments. And I thought this
is a good example for your redistricting. We mobilized,
and across the nation there were many, many groups not
just our One Nation. We were aiming for 100,000
comments. We ended up with 267,000 comments that were
submitted. And within our coalition, we were able to
mobilize 23,000 comments among our 100 organizations.

And how we did that was we worked with community
groups and we developed sort of because it's an online
public comment submission. While you can send in the written ones, it just wouldn't be read, and so we wanted to work with communities, so we created these portals so that they could submit these comments more easily.

Next slide. We also knew that there was a digital divide, so even with the portals, our communities would have been left out. It was not translated into English -- I mean, into different languages; it was only in English. And so what we did was we also took it to the ground and created these comment cards in different languages and disseminated it to our community and had them write in the languages that they felt most comfortable. We translated it and actually submitted on their behalf to the portal. And this is not just about language, but it's about empowering our community and recognizing that there is a major digital divide, and it was up to us to break down all these barriers so that they could participate.

Next slide. Handing it back to you, Julia.

MS. LIOU: So our general recommendations is that it's important to invest in community-based organizations, community health centers around the state who really have deep roots and established trust and an in-depth understanding of the diverse Asian-American communities that are in California that enables the
cultural and linguistic competency. They are the trusted source as messengers, especially during this time. They play such a significant and in-depth role in outreach and education and engagement and that ability to convene town hall meetings with stakeholders.

And then our second recommendation is really to engage with the ethnic media and social media platforms that are specific to the diversity of the Asian-American community from traditional TV, to radio, to print ethnic media. Because of the wide diversity of our population, there are so many different modalities in the ethnic media. There's things, like, particularly for the Chinese community. There's WeChat. But then there are folks who also go to YouTube. And so we know just from the diversity, again, that can be tackled by taking a multi-tiered approach.

So those are our two main recommendations. I think that the last speaker also had many recommendations that we would also reinforce as well: having translators, interpreters that are at the hearings, and the ability to allow for that cultural linguistic competency to be able to be applied.

And we just thank you for the opportunity overall to be able to partner with you all and to really ensure that our diverse Asian-American communities can provide the
input and engagement that is needed for this very
important and historic redistricting process. So thank
you very much.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you very much.
And I'll wait all right, great, we can go back to gallery
view. All right, we are ready to take questions from the
Commissioners. Okay.

Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I didn't want to disappoint by
not having a question. I have one for kind of I mean,
I'd love to hear from all three of you on it. Regarding
hearings, you know, when I hear hearings, it's the
traditional hearings that we used last time where there's
a diocese and there's a line, and you wait, and you get
two minutes to speak. I feel that with COVID, we get to
blow up a lot of our traditional models and think
differently.

And when I so one of the questions is: Instead of
hearings being the main way that we get public comment
and testimony I would like to get rid of the word
testimony because that is with hearings; it's the
testimony so public comments and input from all
communities. It seems that we really need to focus on
the diversity of tools and partnership on the ground and
doing hub, you know, hub meetings, finding out what
meetings already exist in the community, and talking about it and showing the tool and telling people other ways that they can participate. And that would still cover the quote, unquote, hearings, but it would be meeting the community where it's at. And so that's one you know, that's just been the thought that we keep kind of playing with, and I wanted to get your feedback on that. Why don't we start with that one, and then I'll go to my second question.

    MS. GOLD: Fellow panelists, is it okay for me to start?

    MS. QUACH: Yeah, go ahead, go ahead.

    MS. GOLD: Okay, great. Yeah, so thank you so much, Commissioner. Yes, I think we do have the opportunity to kind of redesign, reimagine what this whole two-way street process would look like. I think that a couple of things to keep in mind as we're thinking about what these convenings would look like is to really know from the outset: What is the purpose of the convening? Okay, is it an informational convening? Is it a way to provide community members with information about the Commission? Or is it an opportunity to get comments and to get input? So it really you know, first of all, you have to be clear. However you're going to do this, you need to be clear on what is the purpose. Right?
Secondly, I think you could consider co-hosting one of these convenings with community partners if that's something that would be permitted in terms of at least it's something to consider and to look into; what kind of relationship you could have with community partners to be part of the convenings.

I would say it's very important, as we had mentioned, to have convenings that, even though they're virtual and anybody could participate, that focus on a particular -- that, you know, focus on region or areas in the state because you get a nice synergy. You get, when people are all talking about a particular region or an area, there's a synergy between what the focus of it is and what people comment about.

And then, finally, again, just really making sure that there are: one, translation services; and, two, even in a convening of the kind you're talking about, you have to have some sense of who's going to speak at one time, at what time for members of the public. So having a system that, again, members of the public can either have an appointment window or some time where they know they'll be able to speak. So you have to have a combination of the Commission feeling very accessible, but a certain structure, as well, and of course you have to educate the community about what that structure is.
Thank you.

MS. LIOU: And maybe just to add to that, I think it is really important to identify where the centers of gravity are in the community. And oftentimes I think that partnering in a cohosting aspect would be pretty critical because it is hard. If you throw out that there's just one meeting and to be able to coalesce people all at once, I do think it needs to be broken down into regions and also into smaller, you know, bite-sized aspects in terms of communities.

And also considering the way -- you know, if it's an educational approach, starting that way, that they have to be translated and putting them all on the various platforms that we had recommended, so from social media to YouTube. You know, we experienced that even with reopening, you know, with nail salons and recognizing that there's many different methods and multi channels by which to do that, and it won't be just one aspect. So I think appreciate the Commission for thinking about a multi approach for reaching out to the communities, especially because they're so diverse.

MS. QUACH: And I would just add that redistricting is a really complex concept, and I think there has to be a lot of work done to explain how it impacts community. Just like with public charge, like, we didn't just put
out the postcards and everyone just came up and actually said, oh, I'll participate. There was deep work that was done by the community-based organizations to say how it affects lives so that the comments make sense when they do participate. We know that this has impact on our communities, but if they're left out of the picture and understanding, then what use is it to have all these ways of engaging if they're not sure what it means.

And then you're competing with, you know, life and death right now for people around COVID. So we really have to explain. You know, I mean, people even had a hard time with the census. And imagine how much work was done around that. And so I just really would want to make sure that we're working to educate and empower communities before asking them to come and participate in these settings.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee? You're on mute.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I think Commissioner Kennedy was first.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just a question regarding sequencing. I've been saying for quite a while that we need the public education element. And looking at the calendar, you know, what is your sense of how much time
we need to devote to public education before we start
soliciting input through the Communities of Interest
input tool that the statewide database is working on?
Thank you.

MS. GOLD: Thank you. I would certainly say, at the
minimum, a month, just because that, the time invested
will enrich the quality of the comments you get.

Also, to be very candid, in terms of the focus of
the community right now and the focus of the partners
with them, you know, basically we just finished census,
which went a little bit longer than we expected; just
finished voter engagement; the holidays are coming up.
You know, we could see maybe some planning going on about
some of this education between now and the end of the
year and then kind of, you know, going into January with
that education effort.

And I think for those of us who are going to be
working in the community, we are going to be trying to
combine both, right, which is to initially talk about the
importance of redistricting, educate people about how it
affects their daily lives, try to work on some of those
concepts, and then at least get people to think about
what a community of interest looks like. And then,
depending on when the Commission starts to really drill
down on, you know, hearing about communities of interest,
we would want to be prepared. But for us, at least, we're doing a lot of that work, the planning, between now and the end of the year and hoping to unveil the actual work in January.

And by the way, I wanted to go back to the earlier question. The other thing I wanted to mention is that if you have convenings that are regionally specific, it's a nice touch to have a Commissioner who's from that region preside because I think that, again, really shows the community that's one of their members is on the Commission and is having a leadership role in that community area.

MS. LIOU: Let me just add, just based on experience when we worked with the city, it actually took us about three months to do the education just with intentionality, the translations, to be able to organize the communities to come, and also to make sure that it was out in ethnic media. I think that we leveraged a lot of those resources to be able to make sure that people even knew about the meeting. So I think similar, when there are these announcements in the meeting, it usually goes through a specific, you know, listserv or a compilation of contacts. But I think that it's worthy to be thinking about how do you expand those contacts and be able to partner with the community-based organizations to
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I have Commissioner Yee, Commissioner Ahmad, and Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. Thank you to our three presenters. Really helpful and very inspiring, actually. My question has to do with how to overcome distrust of government, people having negative experiences either in their nations of origin or here, actually, now in recent years, and really not even thinking that talking to officials, you know, is a good idea at all. So of course partnering with trusted community organizations and so forth, but any other strategies or approaches that you've found helpful?

MS. QUACH: Maybe I can start on this one. I think that the absolute key is working with community-based organizations, with health care providers, and folks that are in contact with the communities. And I just want to give the example that during COVID, you know, we not only were working with our county to start up a community testing site that's in different languages, but now we've been deputized to be contact tracers. Contact tracers are often within the realm of the county. But imagine if you are an immigrant. You know, even if you're not undocumented, you get a call from your government asking you if you've been infected, who you've been in contact
with. Those are scary messages.

But now, you know, in working with our county, they're deputizing us so that we're taking on this role saying, hey, I'm calling as Asian Health Services. We want to let you know that this I mean, it just changes that messaging. So I don't think the strategy is different, but I think the messenger is really key. So it's not just maybe granting funding to community-based organization; it's really partnering with them. It's really saying, hey, we're in this together and we want to hear from you on what's the best way. And so I really encourage that deep partnership with trusted entities. And we've seen that work throughout, again and again, in so many different areas.

MS. GOLD: And you know, I would just want to add, you know, this is very important for many Latino community members who are immigrants from countries where you have very authoritarian regimes, where talking to a government official or talking to a government agency is seen as very intimidating. These kinds of concerns, unfortunately, have been exacerbated by the dialogue about the addition of a citizenship question to the census questionnaire, so we have had to do a lot of education about the Bureau keeping people's information private and confidential.
So first of all, I wanted to thank you for raising the issues. I think, you know, for the Latino community, trusted messengers are not only community organizations but you know, for example, we found that, like, teachers, teachers and family members are among the most trusted people that Latinos look for to get information about civic engagement.

So I think just in terms of, first of all, helping to make sure, again, that there's good information, there has to be a lot of information from the Commission, right, so that people see the Commission as a trusted place to get good information, combined with, you know, not only working with community-based organizations, but just a whole lot of different partners that are trusted. And you know, as you think about and or as we may work together on something, you know, thinking about how we can also position key family members to help work with their other family members on, you know, getting people to participate.

You know, one of the things we've found in research on what are the who are the key messengers to get Latinos to vote is that it's often female family members. And you know, our joke is: If your mother tells you to vote, you will vote. You know, we'd love to think about a way to have your mother tell you to go and testify before the
Commission and provide input before the Commission.

Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. Thank you very much. I have Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Sadhwani, and I think I saw Commissioner Vazquez and Commissioner Turner.

Okay, so -- all right, Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you so much, Chair. And thank you to our panelists for a wonderful presentation.

I don't necessarily have a question, but just a reflection that I would like to share with the group and particularly my colleagues as well. So I language access is something that I'm very passionate about, and I actually ran a test on our current system. So when we went through the application process to actually sit on this Commission, I rolled from my cubicle to my colleague's cubicle, and I said, hey, did you submit your comment yet on my behalf? And if you haven't, would you please submit it in Spanish? And she actually submitted it in Spanish. It took the system approximately two weeks to get me an English translation back into my inbox for review, and that -- at that moment I was like, okay, if I am one of the lucky ones to be chosen to serve on the Commission, we cannot have a two-week delay between someone voicing their perspective on this issue and us actually receiving that information. So I thank you so
much for uplifting this very, very important topic in our community engagement processes moving forward. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you for sharing that. That was very helpful to know.

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And thank you to Commissioner Ahmad for that comment. I think that's really helpful to kind of keep in the back of our minds.

You know, actually, I have one kind of follow-up question for Rosalind and then my other question. So the first one in terms of follow up was you had mentioned teachers and parents and things. I can imagine that that's going to be very difficult for a statewide commission to reach out to teachers on a localized level. Do you have or family members, especially when we don't necessarily have, you know, the community grounding as organizations would. Do you have recommendations on how to do that? So that's my first, kind of, follow-up question.

My broader question, though, is: You know, as I'm thinking about this, you know, and we're talking about different regions and going deep, and I'm hearing this recommendation to spend a lot of time in specific regions, many of these regions have their own
redistricting processes as well, and I'm wondering if our panelists have any thoughts about: one, to what extent should we collaborate with those other efforts in light of redistricting being a complicated process, one that there's not a lot of information for? Community members, right, I think a lot of people understanding voting, but redistricting is a little bit more vague. How do we keep it clean, so to speak? Right? Like, how do we ensure that communities are going to understand these overlapping processes and yet there's two different bodies? Any recommendations for how to do that?

Because I'm imagining, right, I was listening to San Jose City Council talk about redistricting and their efforts yesterday. I know they're moving forward in Long Beach and Los Angeles and Berkeley and other areas. You know, any recommendations on how we should be thinking about this work to make sure that communities can understand that there's multiple processes and that we would hope that they would be involved on both sides?

MS. GOLD: Well, I'd like to start the answer to your first question. Thank you, Commissioner. So really, part of this is what our you know, when the Commission is going to do any kind of communications or, for lack of a better word, marketing of what the Commission does, right, that I think using images, right,
that have these trusted you know, that show families, that show other trusted messengers, using those images as part of the information that's presented. Because I think that, really, the idea is to create a face of the Commission that feels very, very accessible and nonintimidating. So that was really part of what I was getting at in that regard.

I did want to mention also, in developing that, I want to emphasize our recommendation on having a Language Access Advisory Committee to help with developing any kind of, you know, public-facing marketing or the engagement materials of the Commission.

I think, you know, redistricting is just you know, our message is it's how to make sure that your community, you know, has a voice in choosing its leadership, and that is one of the basic messages that we use. I think your idea of trying to collaborate is a very promising one. I think, though, again, we'd have to work out how do you sort of give people general information about redistricting but then give them the specific practical tools to deal with the particular process that's going on, you know, in their city or in their county or in their school district. So I think the idea is promising. It's how do you get that balance of good overall information with information that is specific and not
confusing as to what's going on in the localities. Thank you.

MS. LIOU: Just to chime in, I think I would agree with that. I think that if there are multiple entities from city to regions that are also doing redistricting efforts, I think it would be good to have clarity around what is that overall input process because if there become multiple processes, people will get confused. So I think that if there's some if the Commission can actually envision what that process would look like and work with those entities to create a streamlined manner which you envision that input, I think it would be so helpful because I think the messaging that goes out needs to be clear to community members. I mean, we're just trying to educate on redistricting itself, which is quite complicated, and then to explain if there's, you know, different sources of input, I guess I think the Commission, you know, should consider some kind of streamlined process and work with the other entities around that. That would be my recommendation.

MS. QUACH: And I just wanted to add I agree with that. I have a comment more on the messaging side. So I think over the years of work that we've done and Julia and I in particular have done a lot of different things it really starts with how it affects people's daily
lives. We've worked on nail salon issues where, you know, people were being exposed to chemicals. Julia led this amazing process that was around urban planning, but really it was someone one of our patients getting hit and killed and really thinking about development in other areas.

I think you have to start there and really explain to people how it affects their lives and be very our communities are very sophisticated. They're very smart. It's how we explain how it affects their lives to catch their attention. So the onus is really on us to explain not the process, but the impact that it may have on them. And I think we need to think about that when we consider messaging.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Vazquez?

(No response)

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No, okay. Commissioner Turner COMMISSIONER TURNER: I don't really have my hand up, but I do want to say I appreciate all three of the presenters. And particularly even to work backwards to the last comment that you made and I'm not going to even try to say your name. I think I forgot it again. Say your name?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: That was Thu, I think.

MS. QUACH: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thu. Thu, okay, Thu.

Starting with how it affects people's daily lives, start there to catch their attention, I think that's powerful. I appreciate everything that's been shared, but I really appreciate that frame and the intentionality. And I'm familiar with NALEO and you know, and the a lot of the other community groups that are out there that's working for specific groups that have done years and years of analysis and what works and what gets people's attention and down to, you know, if mom tell you to vote, we know for this particular community this will work.

And so as we expand and go into other groups as well, I think this one message will carry through no matter who the target audience or population is to ensure that we're starting with what is, what how will this impact your life? I think there's a lot of people in our communities, me being one of them prior to this experience, that did not have a lot of information about redistricting or know why it mattered or why I needed to be involved. And as I now have been involved, as I ask people the question, they're like, well, wait, that, yay -- what is that? You know, why is that important? So I think there's a lot of education that we need to do and with everything else, as I've expressed before, that's going on in our environment, I think it has to
start with this is why it's important to you regardless
to whatever else is going on. This is the direct line
and how it will impact you. So I'll just add by saying
thank you for adding that component as well. And thank
you for the presentations.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Okay, Commissioner
Kennedy, is your hand up or I wasn't sure if your hand's
up or if you were just having, resting your hand.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It was going to be. And I
wanted to ask Rosalind very specifically. I liked the
idea of the cards, the comment cards in various
languages, and I just wanted to get Rosalind's thoughts
on whether those would be effective in reaching out to
the Latino community as well. I had written myself a
note a while back, you know, put something like, there
are voter registration cards in stands at city halls and
libraries and so forth, all of these sorts of comment
cards in similar locations around (audio interference) --

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: He hung on for a while there.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. It was pretty quick.
Rosalind, did you get enough of his question to --

MS. GOLD: Yes, yes.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- get an answer?

MS. GOLD: I mean, I think those kind of cards are
just one tool, but they have to really be combined with
an overall effort that does a couple of other things. So those cards have to basically push people or provide a way for them to get information about redistricting and the redistricting process and about what it is they should be commenting about. Okay?

Because, you know, in addition to the message and you know, thank you, Commissioner Turner and my fellow panelists, for bringing up the concept of, you know, the importance of redistricting and how does it affect your daily life. The part of the message that community members need to give in terms of their input is, hey, here's an opportunity to talk about your community, your neighborhood, the people around you, how you want them to be together, right, to translate into decisions that will affect your life. So comment cards really do have to be combined for redistricting with a way to get people to some place where they can get more information about the process and particularly understand, you know, what are the kinds of comments about their neighborhoods, communities of interest. That would be helpful.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay, I also I did realize that I think you had a second question, so I apologize. I think I didn't let you finish that. And then I see Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Turner.
So Commissioner Sinay, do you want to

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. I was good with
just letting just hearing other folks. Now, I have to
find my other one.

I heard you all say that in the campaign for public
charges, the community submitted their comments to the
organizations, and then the organizations translated it
and submitted it to the federal government because the
federal government I think it was the federal government
did not have it was all in English. Which way would be
the I know what would be easier for the organization, but
which way would the community feel was the most
trustworthy; going directly to the Commission or going to
organizations and having organizations translate it? So
where would the point of translation be best for the
trust in the community?

MS. QUACH: I'm a big believer that there's no wrong
door, and so you want to offer all the different ways.
In our case, you know, we're providers. I mean, our
patients trust our providers and trust our staff, and
then we were seeing them, so it's easy to give those
postcards. But we also gave out links through QR codes.
We made it so that they could participate any way that
they felt comfortable because (audio interference) felt
really empowered to go online. So really that point
about communities being able to have multiple ways of participating is really key to this.

The reason why the postcard was something that we worked on was because we were really worried that comments would not just as I think Commissioner Ahmad explained, we could have sent it but it would have been ignored possibly or it would have taken weeks. And so we didn't want to take that chance. And it was a lot more work for our organization that was seeing patients, doing all of this work, but it was important to make that extra step for those who needed it.

And we got tons of postcards in every single language possible, from Tagalog to Cantonese, Vietnamese. I mean, I think I interpreted I mean, I translated some of the Vietnamese ones. It was really a lot of effort by staff who are in clinic, willing to volunteer to do that. So it really took the heart and soul of our community to make sure that

COMMISSIONER SINAY: And before we go on to the other individuals, I want to build on that comment. It took a lot of work from your organization and it took a lot of resources. Can you be more overt or share with us what that means, what's the cost to staff, how is that funded, what is it taking you away from? Because there is a zero sum time. And so how, as an organization, do
you look to make those decisions? And then I promise to
come back to the other two for the translation question.

MS. QUACH: It's hard to put a number. I think for
us, because we knew the impact of the public charge on
our communities, we stepped up and just did it on our
own. But I think if you have to cost that out, you know,
the planning of the portal that was created cost us, I
think, at least 50,000, and it was a very simple portal
that we created. And then the staff time, you know,
including myself, we probably had a staff of ten that was
putting efforts into all of that work for that few
months. And that's with the language translation, and
that didn't even account for all the other folks who were
pushing it out. So it's not a small cost, but it is for
a focused period of time.

MS. LIOU: And maybe just to add on to that, when we
actually did the city urban planning process around
developments, we actually also piloted what was an app
that was in language that enabled folks to go in their
community and really identify where there were places of
blight or where they felt like they needed to see
development, and so they were able we had to do the
training, and we also pushed the folks to you know, in
terms of digital divide, we did have to work with many of
our patients and community members to input that data,
but in some ways it was really great because it was able to collectivize and put it into a database that was accessible and also streamlined. But it did take work because we recognize there are folks who face a digital divide. And so as Thu was saying, we did have to work with them. It was not cards but it ended up being on your phone, so it was very similar. But I do think that the cultural lens of being able to do that and work with different communities, you know, I think that has to also be taken into account as well as we think about the public comment cards or technology.

MS. GOLD: And if I could just add, Commissioner, I do think it's important that the Commission have its own translation services. When we work with our community, we did not want to necessarily be the ones that translated their comments from Spanish into English. We really wanted them we spent a lot of time if you talk about the time, it took a fair amount of staff time to educate people about what a community of interest is.

And we actually had a nice little Spanish-language form that said, you know, answer these questions, and this is going to be your testimony about your community of interest. And that form was in Spanish and guided people to write in Spanish. But I think the ability, if we're going to have robust comment, for us to translate
is going to be very challenging. And again, when it comes to the question of who should translate for the Commission, again, I think that's why having a Language Access Advisory Committee would be very, very helpful in determining how the Commission should approach both written translation and audio translation as well.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Fernandez, I have you next.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I did have some questions but actually, I think everybody else just -- again, Rosalind, thank you so much. And I agree with all three of you that education is going to be the focus, because I think once we do that part I don't want to say the rest is simple, but at least they're aware of it and at that point in time they choose to participate or not.

I did have a question or just a comment for Director Claypool. I don't know if the presentation that Thu and Julia gave, if that's online? And if not, if we can make sure that we post that, please, because that was actually very good information that I'd like to have for the future.

And Thu and Julia, you kind of answered this, but I was actually very curious as to how long you talked about the urban planning effort and also the One Nation coalition, I think it was. Oh, no, the Help City with
Urban. And I was just curious as to how long those two processes were. And you answered it kind of with Commissioner Sinay's question because, you know, we're talking about the education piece and how long that should be, and I'm thinking that might be a longer piece or longer time frame than we initially thought.

MS. LIOU: I can answer in terms of the urban planning effort. You know, it was in phases. And so when we first started out, as I mentioned, it did take time to partner with the city in really making sure that the content of what we were trying to educate folks of what this process is about and why it's important. That took a couple of months. And then being able to push it out so I think that in totality of being able to gather the initial input and do, sort of, the community town halls which I know would all have to be virtual, it took probably over a two- to three-year period. And then we did it in phases as well. So it was a long process, but I think in some ways that it was very important because we were able to engage our community members into the process, and in that way it empowered them and they understood and they felt that they could really elevate their voice and feel that they could shape the process. So it did take time for us. But I think public charge maybe, too, can speak to that.
MS. QUACH: Yeah, public charge was interesting in that we knew it was coming out and it was just, like, every day watching to see when that rule change process begun. But as a federal rule, they were required to give us 60 days, and so as soon as it started we were hitting the ground because we needed to see the specifics of what was being released, but we had gotten everything prepared. So by that time we had our portals ready to go. So you know, if you add on an extra month from there, you know, we were really looking at a three-month process. And so communities can work within the confines of what's restricted, but I think organizing ahead is always helpful.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much. Okay, Commissioner Turner and then back to Commissioner Sinay. No, okay. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So on this messaging and kind of the public education, I know last time the Commission did not have time to do a lot of that work, and they really depended on the community groups. And I even read comments where they used our material, you know, and they were very excited. This time we have a little bit more time. And how do we what recommendations are there to actually create a cohesive message so that there isn't the community's got a message out and the Commission has
a message out? Or does it not matter if there isn't a cohesive message? Just as we're thinking about the public education, this time it's different because the Commission's thinking of doing public education, and the community groups are as well. So how does that look like or what could it look like, I should say?

MS. GOLD: Well, first of all, again, there really should be I think the Commission has a role to have some kind of basic message about the importance of redistricting and some basic message about participation. Right? And there should be this was something we struggled with a little bit during the census. There were a lot of different census campaigns, and so we really wanted to make sure we were coordinated. I would certainly say there should be good coordination between the Commission. If the Commission brings on any contractors or as you're hiring staff, it needs to be contractors or staff who get input and know how to coordinate with the community.

And then I just did want to talk a little bit go back to the timing issue. I know this is a little premature, but I thought I would get us thinking about it. I suggest we think about it now. There is uncertainty about when the redistricting data is going to be delivered to the commission. If the redistricting
data is delivered at the current statutory deadline which
is, you know, by the end of March, right, we would hope
that the Commission would still look at extending the
deadline, keeping the deadline extended for the
redistricting process to later than August 15th.

Because, you know, we've talked about all of the
things that it's going to take to educate the public, to
get the public mobilized, and we're not going to, again,
I think, really be able to get the public attention and
engagement until the beginning of next year. And that
really compresses the maps have to be finalized by August
15th. That really compresses the outreach, education,
and input process. So I wanted to add that as something
the Commission should be thinking about and what kind of
flexibility is there in the Supreme Court declaration
regarding the potential extension of the deadlines.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Ms. Gold, can I just follow up?
You had said that it's really important for the
Commission to get the input from the community. But what
about vice versa? As the community groups are creating
their material, will they also be sharing it with the
Commission staff or the Commission so that we can have
input as well?

MS. GOLD: So I think, you know, that's something
that's a great question. It's something to think about
because, again, I'm going to be candid: I don't have an answer about exactly how that process would work. Certainly during census it was much more of a sharing and coordination, and there were actual regional workshops held where representatives of the Census Bureau, representatives of the state of California's campaign, representatives of L.A. County's campaign would all get together to talk about those issues. We may not have the time to do that in as much of a robust way so, you know, I don't have an immediate answer about what that would look like, whether it would be, you know, mutual input or coordination. So you know, yes, let us do some thinking about that.

MS. LIOU: And I can share a lesson just with our local, sort of, tax commission of what we have been doing is that we actually contracted a communications consultant that was you know, we selected on the basis of looking to see the experience within various communities and being able to look through a cultural linguistic lens, but that that actual consultant was able to conduct focus groups, key focus groups, so that you could hone in on a particular message because I think a unified message and that's practically a marketing campaign, right, that you really want people to understand what you're trying to get at. And so I think I would encourage this
Commission to also think about how you can enlist those
type of focus groups into the messaging, because I think
it does need to be a unified approach. Otherwise, it can
get confusing. And then move from there.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm just looking to see if any
other comments, questions and -- okay.

Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I would just like to remind all
my fellow commissioners that we do have a nice form that
we created for you, a matrix that you can fill out after
this panel to kind of put your thoughts in an organized
way so that you can share it later when we have other
meetings. So it's great to take notes, but we did create
a matrix so that you all can take information like this
and start processing it. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Actually, I know we
have about four minutes, and maybe in that four minutes I
can just quickly ask one question. One of the things
that struck me is, Rosalind, I heard you say that the
Commission should have its own translators. I believe
that we're looking at how do we ensure that all of our
outreach tools and other public comment modalities, I
guess, will be available in various languages. I do have
a question, though. I mean, I'm thinking about obviously
we cannot cover every single various languages that exist
here in the state of California, and that includes both
the particularly, I'm thinking about, like, some of the
indigenous languages in the Latino community and then I'm
thinking about the very multitudes of not only languages
but dialects in the Asian community as well, too. And
that's just these two communities. I mean, there are a
number of other communities, too, I think, we maybe need
to consider.

And so on the one hand it's like, you know, do we
ignore them because they're too small? You know, what
are some of your thoughts on how best we can also ensure
that some of those communities where they have where the
languages are where the populations are so small and the
languages are not prevalent enough that we cannot, in all
practicality, offer up a translated version of it. What
would be your suggestions and how do we help reach those
groups? And I have a feeling I know what you're going to
say, but I think I just wanted to ask it.

MS. QUACH: Yeah, I can start with the (audio
interference) for us, which is with COVID. You know, we
are seeing really high rates in the Latinx community.
And they're working with La Clinica in Alameda. But they
realized that the mountain community was really having
really high rates. And that's where you just don't deal
with translation. You've got to go in and I think,
Linda, you know my (audio interference) working with the community organization that was already there. And so you build off not just around translation but really the deep roots that are existing.

Because you're not just contracting out on a translation or interpretation; you're really going in and using the existing infrastructure of these community organizations to gather that input. And so in that case, you know, I sit on the task force for COVID in the city and the county, and knowing the street level went in there because they already worked these workers that were moving around and understanding what was happening. So really working through them and getting the feedback, the rich feedback, that wasn't just translation and such. But really understanding what was going on and that so they couldn't get testing. Many didn't want to get testing. I think we have to really be creative and not just go with sort of a translation approach but really building on what's already there. A lot is happening around COVID testing, around food distribution and going to those venues and trying to gather feedback rather than kind of just setting out. And I don't think it should be on the Commission but if you partner and I use the word "partner" intentionally you can do a lot of that.

MS. GOLD: I would just want to add that in the
letter that we worked with and sent with the district in California and Alliance members, we do have very specific recommendations on which languages and using demographic information about limited English proficiency populations about what kind of translations we feel are just very critical. And so I would refer you to that letter for that particular set of recommendations.

And I would just echo the comments about if there is a group that is really, really small and it may be difficult to get translation services from the Commission, the overall working through networks and working and just the fact that you're mindful of it. I think that's just wonderful that this is something that's already on the Commission's radar, being very mindful about the fact that these communities are out there.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. So it just definitely sounds like there are and I think this was recommended, too, is there are going to need to be different ways to reach out to some of these groups that just media even the technology may not be enough. It may mean and even working with the CBOs or the community-based organizations, what I'm hearing is that even in this time of COVID we may need to make some decisions about strategic locations where we're just going to have to make some personal in-person visits to hold these
hearings is also part of what I'm hearing as your recommendations. Okay, I do appreciate it.

Any last questions, comments by anybody?

MS. LIOU: Linda, I would just say, like, I think that I really appreciate the Commission for really broadening and thinking about this with intentionality, because I think it is going to take a multi-tiered approach. It's not going to be a one size fits all. So I just want to appreciate all the commissioners for this opportunity to really be a thought partner and also to partner on future aspects as well.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, definitely. And we appreciate that all three of you came in, as Commissioner Fernandez had said at, you know, a pretty last-minute timing. And this was something that you know, we have to create these agendas in advance and just kind of trying to figure out what it's going to look like, what it's going to be. You know, it just started coming together a little bit later.

So Rosalind, I also want to just ask you: Do you have any last words that you want to share? And Thu, also I'll go to you afterwards to see if any last words you might have before we just wrap this up.

MS. GOLD: Again, I just want to echo our appreciation for you thinking about this issue and
thinking about it early. I also hope that this is just 
the beginning of the Commission's dialogue, that there 
are a lot of other communities that may have similar 
needs. But to really get the sense of the true diversity 
of language minority communities in the state, I hope you 
will continue the dialogue with groups that are familiar 
and trusted messengers. And thank you so much for this 
opportunity to help to make our democracy stronger.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thu?

MS. QUACH: I would just echo in that appreciation. 
I feel like we've come a long ways and yet we haven't. 
Some of the issues that we face still continue. But it 
feels nice speaking from the Asian-American community.
And I'm glad you're having a separate one with the Native 
and Pacific Islander communities, that we're not an 
afterthought to this, that you're bringing us on early to
have this discussion, because oftentimes this theme of
invisibility has really come through decades and decades
after, and so I'm really grateful that we were invited to
the table early on. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, thank you, and thank you all
for engaging in this really fascinating and very helpful
discussion. And so with that, I am going to call an end
to this.

And what we'll do is Commissioners, thank you very
much. For the Commissioners, let's go ahead, we'll take a fifteen-minute break, and then what we'll do is we'll reconvene back in closed session.

And for those who have been watching on the livestream, our hope is that we will return from closed session after lunch, which will be roughly around 1:30 in the afternoon.

(whereupon, a recess was held from 11:04 a.m. until 1:37 p.m.)

Chair Akutagawa: Good afternoon. Welcome back, everybody. Hope you had a nice lunch. We are back from closed session and we may possibly do one more closed session, so we will report out on all of the results of closed session tomorrow. So sticking to the agenda, we are going to now go on to agenda item number 5, the executive director report.

Director Claypool?

Director Claypool: Thank you, Chair.

First of all, there is just an announcement that I need to make. The day before yesterday I intended to bring this up yesterday but their -- Misha (ph.) from Ogilvie (ph.) called over and a nonprofit organization in New Mexico called New Mexico First has asked for a representative or representatives from this Commission to discuss redistricting rules and processes and engagement
and transparency.

So I know that, obviously, this is a topic of great interest for this Commission, but we do need to make a decision today about who would like to participate in that conversation if the Commission decides they would like to have someone participate in that workshop. It would be on November 11th or, I'm sorry, November 9th, from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and they're looking for a speaker on the engagement and transparency issues and how they were handled in California obviously how we intend to handle them at this point. I don't know if you want to go through this or to think about it, and then when I'm finished we can have a discussion about it. But I just wanted to make sure that it was out there so everybody knew that we needed to have someone back to Misha today in order for us to have a participant in that.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Claypool, I apologize; I was just reminded that we do take public comment after lunch, so my apologies. So I think that may give everyone a chance to think about what you just announced.

And in the meantime, let's go ahead and, Jesse, I think we're going to go to public comment, and then when we come back out of public comment, then perhaps you could resume, then, your executive director Report and get an answer to that particular question.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Jesse, welcome back. Thanks for joining us again. And would you please read off the instructions to make public comment, and we'll start with 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, dial in 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 985twelve592479 for this week's meeting.

When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound. Once you have dialed in, you will 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 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 AKUTAGAWA: We'll wait a minute or so to let the livestream catch up. Hopefully if anybody does have comments that they want to make, we encourage them to please queue up.

Director Claypool, while we allow time for anybody I think we do have somebody. Okay.

Jesse, do we have someone in queue, or am I just imagining?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do, Chair. I'm waiting for them to unmute themselves.

Good afternoon, caller. Could you please state and spell your name for the record, please?

MS. MARKS: Hi. Can you hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. MARKS: Yes, great. Hi, my name is Julia Marks and I'm calling from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus. And I just wanted to give some brief comment regarding the wonderful presentations and discussion this morning about language access.

First, I wanted to say thank you to the Commission for giving so much attention and care to language access
and to both Asian Health Services and NALEO for their
great presentations.

Our organization has worked on language access in
the context of voting and census outreach and education,
and I just wanted to confirm how much today's
presentations represented many of the key lessons that
we've seen in our work, too. We wholeheartedly support
the recommendations from both of our sets of speakers
this morning and really appreciate their expertise in
providing language access and mobilizing and engaging
communities across different language groups.

I also wanted to affirm and uplift that your
translation plans, if possible, should go beyond the top
twelve language groups in California. As our speakers
earlier noted, there are so many different languages
spoken in California: indigenous languages, African
languages, and a vast array of Asian and Pacific Islander
languages. I'm glad that you'll have additional speakers
next week addressing some of those other language groups.

In today's conversation this morning someone posed a
question about how to meet the needs of language groups
recognizing that you may not be able to translate and
interpret all of your content for every language in the
state. And I just wanted to say we encourage you to,
yes, do all that you can, but then if there are languages
where you aren't able to translate the majority of your outreach material, think about translating some subset for additional languages beyond whatever top set of languages you're focused on. In the state census work, there is a heavy focus on the top twelve languages, which was great for those communities, but it meant in some cases the smaller language groups got left behind.

And when thinking about smaller language groups, it's also helpful to think about what proportion of speakers of those languages are limited English proficient. So for example, there aren't that many people in California who speak Mongolian, but there's still thousands of people in California who speak Mongolian. And of those Mongolian speakers, about sixty percent are limited English proficient. So ideally, it's looking not just at absolute numbers for a given language, but also whether those folks have high rates of LEP status.

And in our census work, as folks mentioned this morning, it was really essential to have partnerships with community-based organizations. One challenge we saw with census is that the online tool that people were sent to, to respond to the census, was only available in twelve languages. And so when people who do not speak those twelve languages and do not speak English were
trying to fill out the census form online, they had huge, huge challenges to do so. So we would encourage you to be very expansive with the COI tool so that community-based orgs who are doing language outreach and in language workshops can send people to an acceptable and usable tool for them as well.

So those are our reflections. We're happy to be a resource to you as well as you continue to think through this. And as Thu from Asian Health Services said, I liked her idea that there's no wrong door, so if we can provide language access through the COI tool or through radio ads for folks with limited literacy, or through social media, or through fact sheets, as many options as possible should be pursued. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Ms. Marks.

Jesse, next public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. I'm waiting for them to unmute themselves.

Callers, if you could press star 6 to unmute yourselves.

Could you please state

MR. ICHINOSE: Hi, my name is

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead. Sorry.

MR. ICHINOSE: My name is Dan Ichinose. Last name is spelled I-c-h-i-n-o-s-e. And I'm research director of
the Orange County Civic Engagement Table or OCCET, which is spelled O-C-C-E-T. OCCET's a multiracial civic engagement alliance with seven local partners that will be helping to lead countywide community engagement efforts around redistricting next year. This will be my third statewide redistricting process, and I want to applaud the Commission for its interest in taking unprecedented steps to provide language access.

To that point, I'd like to reiterate concerns that the languages in which the Commission engages with the public move beyond the twelve languages most commonly spoken statewide. Given our state's diversity, we know that counties will have specific needs. For example, in Orange County, the top twelve languages spoken include Hindi and Ilocano. Among those who are limited English proficient countywide there are nearly 3,000 LEP Ilocano speakers and 2,300 LEP Hindi speakers compared to only 576 LEP Armenian speakers, for example.

Moving beyond the twelve languages will also help engage smaller communities that would otherwise be left out of the process. For example, about twenty-eight percent of those speaking African languages at home countywide are limited English proficient. So I just wanted to underscore a comment that the Asian Law Caucus made about the importance of moving beyond the twelve...
languages.

So thanks so much for the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to working with you throughout this process. Thanks so much.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for your comment.

MS. BANH: Hi, this is can you hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. Please state your name and spell it for the record, please.

MS. BANH: Yes, my name is it's pronounced Tho Vinh Banh. It's spelled T-h-o capital V-i-n-h capital B-a-n-

h.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead.

MS. BANH: Okay, great. Thank you so much. So my name is Tho Vinh Banh, and I'm calling from Disability Rights California. I want to thank Rosalind of NALEO for doing such a great presentation this morning. And I know that one of the piece that she mentioned is disability access. Disability Rights California, we stand ready to provide input, provide resources and, importantly, provide partnerships and entities that can help the Commissioner as you move along in this process to ensure that this process is entirely accessible for people with disabilities.

One piece of language that I think is often not thought about includes language for individuals who are
deaf. So I see that as the Commissioners you guys are
doing a wonderful job of providing ASL interpreters, and
I see that. I want to just give a heads-up that there
are other languages besides ASL. There are Chinese sign
languages, there are Japanese sign languages, there's LSM
which is the Mexican sign languages. So on top of the
language piece to factor in for those who are deaf who
may need signs in other than ASL. So I applaud the
Commissioners and this Commission for providing ASL built
in that's wonderful and to think through other language
groups. And in combination of that, accessibility for
people with disabilities is going to be an important
factor.

And I was a Commissioner on the California Committee
on the Census, and in 2010 I don't sense that there were
a lot of outreach and a lot of thought around disability
communities, but in 2020 they did a wonderful job. So I
know the Commissioner is pressed for time, resources,
money, so if there's anything that you can do to offset
having to start from scratch is to learn from the census
staffers themselves. They've created a nice
infrastructure around outreaches to all of the groups
that probably this Commissioner is interested in reaching
out as well, so I think it would be good to actually
learn from them and learn from the processes and the
infrastructures they've already built up so that you
wouldn't have to repeat it with the limited resources you
may have.

So Disability Rights California again, my name is
Tho Vinh Banh, spelled T-h-o, V-i-n-h, B-a-n-h stand at
the ready to help in whatever ways we can, and we applaud
all that you're doing and continue to do the wonderful
work that you're doing for the citizens of California.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Will you just stay on just a
moment? There is a question for you, it looks like, from
Commissioner Fernandez.

MS. BANH: Sure.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Are you still there? Okay,
great. Because, actually, this is perfect timing because
I'm part of the Language Access Subcommittee, and I was
looking for a contact. So do you mind if I reach out to
you in the next few days?

MS. BANH: Oh, I would love that. Yes, please.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great.

MS. BANH: Do you need my uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. Would you mind going
on our website and giving me your contact information?

That would be great.

MS. BANH: Okay. So I go to the website and look
for your email is what I'm doing?
COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: It should be on there. I'm hoping it is. If not, it's Alicia.Fernandez@crc.ca.gov.

MS. BANH: crc. --

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Or you can also email the staff and they'll forward it to her.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Oh, right.

MS. BANH: Okay. And just for let me spell my let me give you my email as well --

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Actually, please do not. Please don't do it publicly. So --

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Right.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: -- I think it's

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: We'll make contact.

MS. BANH: Okay, no worries. I will reach out to you, Alicia Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Perfect.

MS. BANH: I will look for your email and I look forward to the connection. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you so much.

MS. BANH: Not a problem.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Chair, that concludes all public comment at this time.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. All right, thank you very much. Thank you, Jesse.
All right, so Director Claypool, let's return to you and your report. I do see that we've been joined by the I think we now have all of our commissioners with us, so if you can, perhaps you can just briefly repeat the invitation request.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Certainly. So a group called New Mexico First has a redistricting task force with a goal of developing recommendations to present to the New Mexico legislature on redistricting rules and process. They're having a meeting on November 9th, at 2:30 to 5 p.m., and they would like a speaker from this Commission on public engagement and transparency issues and how this is being handled in California. And this came from Misha, from the Ogilvie, and she was hoping to get a response today so that she can submit it well, she's still under contract but submit it to New Mexico for us.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari and Commissioner Yee.

Commissioner Fornaciari?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes. So I had been on the email chain since I was the vice chair for this meeting, and I had expressed an interest in participating since I work for a company that was headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and I spend a lot of time down there. But I thought that since, you know, their questions are really
about outreach that maybe if someone from the Outreach Committee might be interested in joining too, but I don't have to be on it. I just I'm interested so

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

Commissioner Yee and then Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm also interested but don't have the deep connections in New Mexico and I'm not on the Outreach Committee, but I am interested.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Are their questions really about outreach or transparency?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It says public engagement slash transparency issues.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I could do it. I've looked at my calendar. I am open if that makes sense for me to be involved.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Director Claypool, so would it be do you know if two commissioners would be appropriate or acceptable to them?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It only says they're looking for a speaker. It didn't say they were looking for multiple. I would think it would be acceptable for two. I don't know. Probably not fourteen. So we have to make a decision.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Neal, why don't you go and we can just brief you if you need some briefing?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. I mean, I think I probably have enough of an understanding to answer the questions right now, but I thought you guys have just been thinking about it more deeply. But maybe we can just have a brief chat before the call and I can come up to speed a little bit better.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Yee, are you okay with that?

COMMISSIONER YEE: That's fine. And if you had more than one, they should be of two different parties anyway so

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Probably, okay. That's a good point.

So Director Claypool, looks like you have your volunteer speaker.

Everybody is looking and they're pointing in different ways and I'm like, wait a minute. Commissioner Sadhwani is in the middle of my screen and I'm seeing people go this way.

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I just wanted to chime in. I do not need to do this, and I'm happy that Commissioner Fornaciari and Commissioner Sinay are going
to do it. But just in listening to the conversation yesterday by the San Jose City Council, this was the exact issue that they were dealing with was around transparency and community engagement. And I think that I don't know what New Mexico's questions are, but my sense is that there's a question about, like, to what extent can commissioners talk to or engage with community groups and still be transparent. Right?

So for example, like our subcommittees we have decided it's okay if our subcommittees go out and talk to different groups and then we come and report back or we're doing it for training purposes and not for actual line drawing purposes. So my sense is, like, the ability to just talk about the differences there and our constraints under Bagley-Keene or the Brown Act would probably be really helpful in those kinds of conversations. But that's just kind of after listening to the conversation last night from the city of San Jose.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari, did you have something you wanted to say? Okay.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: You're welcome to join, too. I mean, that's fine. No, okay. Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I mean, I can, but I think that the two of you will be just fine.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: It does sound like it might just
be helpful to perhaps get maybe some suggestions and
comments from Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner
Sinay. And I would also encourage also perhaps from
Marian in terms of the questions that Commissioner
Sadhwani just brought up about transparency and how much
we can be transparent and still engaged. I think that
that's really a great question, especially under the
rules of Bagley-Keene.

I'm just going to make sure I'm not missing anybody
else.

Director Claypool, I'm turning this back to you to
complete your report.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Thank you. So I sent all of you
five documents, and you should have received them, and
there was also some statements about why I wanted you to
take a look at them. The first thing I'd like to talk to
you about is your budget. The first document I'd like
you to look at is the budget document by categories.
It's something that you've already seen. I only want to
touch on three things with it so that we can be clear as
to what's going on here.

The first one is the state auditor's budget of $5.2
million. I want it to be very clear there had been a
discussion as to whether some of that money would flow
back to the Commission. It will not. If there is any
money left in that fund, it will revert back to the
general fund. The reason for this is because this amount
was predicated on what they spent last time, and the
state auditor will go ahead and put together a document
saying how much they spent this time, and it will be the
budget for the 2030 selection effort. They continue to
spend on your behalf. They're still spending somewhat
for your videography services, and we're still getting
the last of our supplies and so forth. But I just didn't
want anyone to think that some portion of that money
would revert. It's not the way it's going to work.

The next sum of money I'd like you to look at is
actually, as we go down the detail, the 1.313 million is
your operational budget. It's for all your staff
salaries, it's all your TECs. All of your money is going
to come out of that for our basic operations.

After that, you have your 2,065,000. This is
outreach. This is money, as I've been told, can be used
for grants as well as for the expense of reaching out to
individuals. And this can be augmented, but we would
have to give them an explanation for why we're having the
augmentation.

The next one is your legal fund. It's basically
held and reserved for any defense of the maps that you
may have, and this money was determined by what we spent
in 2010 for all legal services before the Commission turned over the final case which was I'm trying to remember.

Who was the final case, Marian?

Connerly. I'm sorry. The Connerly case went to the Department of Justice so that the Commission, the 2010 Commission could be kind of sent into dormancy, if you will.

The next one says available and there's 3,936,000. This is the money that was never put in any category. It's uncategorized money. As we make a determination as to what you're going to do and how you're going to do it, then we'll make requests for this money to cover those costs. Best example would be your data mining. So it was never done before in the past, and so when you establish a contract we will go to the Department of Finance and ask for a q release to encumber the amount of that contract out of that money. Hopefully it will be less than 3,900,000. But these are the funds that are in reserve.

When these funds are used, once we have allocated them and we've said, okay, this is the amount of our effort across through the maps, I anticipate that we will be over the amount that you have been given. At that point, once we know those amounts, we will go into what
they call spring revision. And in spring revision we will ask for the legislature to revise our budget and to consider that we have these additional costs and to expand your budget to cover them. They may or may not do that. We're just going to say these are going to be our expenses. If they don't do that, then we will have a deficit in the following year, and we will have to go to a deficit hearing and they will appropriate funds for the deficit in a different manner. And I had talked to you about that when I interviewed with you. But we're past the budget change proposal process. That was two months ago it started, and so we are now looking at the spring revision. There's every reason to believe that they will look at your budget and grant some or all of the amount that you asked for. But there are no guarantees in that process, but I wanted to tell you: anticipate we'll go over and that's how we will handle it.

The final number is I bring it up briefly. If you look down, there's a line item that says Fiscal Year 2019-20 Expenditures, and it says minus 69,000. Okay, this money is a continual appropriation to this Commission every single year. And after you move through and after June 30th, 2022, that will be your only source of income for your operations. It will be in a line item called 0730. That's the money that we need to start
planning for next year in a budget change proposal to get it increased for you so you have an increased amount of funding when you go into what I call dormancy. So I just want you to be aware that there are three different funding sources, and we have to keep our eye on all three of them, and I will.

So if there are no questions about this part, then I'd like to just move into your budget.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen, Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. I do have a question. If your revision, what's the date you have to ask that by?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I'm working with the Department of Finance on that. We have to start it now. Because it's kind of a moving target, I can't tell you when the spring revision will actually occur. I can just tell you that it is in the spring and we have time to move for it. And I'm also, at the same time, in a conversation with the Department of Finance about how we get the release of these funds as soon as we know how to get them. So I'll have more information next time, but we are well ahead of the spring revision as opposed to being behind on the budget change proposal.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And second question: Do you
have a time frame for when we go to ask that we actually get?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yes. We'll know before June thirty of this year, clearly, because that's when there's actually a process called May revise. We'll know by May and during that revision period what our expansion is going to be. I would anticipate that the actual spring revision will occur in February or March our submission and then the negotiation.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sadhwani and then Commissioner Yee.

And I'm sorry, I just need to step away.

Commissioner Fornaciari, can you take over?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Sadhwani and then Yee.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Director Claypool, I just wanted to get a little clarity. So when Commissioner Andersen and I have had some initial conversations with line drawers, multiple people have told us that they would expect that this cost for that service here in a state as large as California would run 2 to $3 million perhaps. Just for clarity, would we expect that that comes out of that 5 million that's allocated to the state auditor? If not, if it's
operational costs, then we certainly wouldn't have the funds to cover that.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So for clarity, the state auditor's funds will never be available and, in fact, they've been expended. So that bucket is gone. Those funds would come out of that group that's called available. Those aren't operational funds that you're talking about for the line drawer. Those are actually contract funds. So that 3,936,000 is going to be the bucket that we pull out of for our data mining, it's going to be the bucket we pull out for the line drawer, for all over our services, and that bucket will go dry very quickly as we encumber those funds.

The thing to keep in mind is that this budget was never built to handle your process. This budget was built off the last process. And 2030 will be built off of whatever you spend this time. We just have to figure out what we want to do, figure out what the cost is, and then in the spring revision say: This is what the cost is; we need to revise our budget and it needs to expand to match this operation. And that's the negotiation.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Got it. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. Thank you, Dr. Claypool.

I appreciate the deep and detailed grasp of these numbers
and what's behind them. Concerning the additional monies you expect to request, I think you've mentioned before mostly that's for additional outreach work you expect us to do that the previous Commission did not. Is that most of it? Or is there other things you have in mind that will drive that additional need?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So our operational costs are going to be higher because you're hiring more staff than the last Commission did, and you have a bigger operation because we've taken on this commitment to have better engagement, better outreach, better education. And so some of those funds are going to be a request for additional operational funds. Some of those funds are going to be for additional funds in that category that just says available where we start cutting our contracts out of it and paying for them, encumbering those funds. When we get to litigation, that some 4,297,000, they may allow us to use a portion of it for operational costs if we're running low at that point. They may allow it because it would most of your costs after the lines are drawn are directly related to litigation. But at that time, if we start running short on funds, then we might have to not be able to use that funds but ask for a deficiency amount to cover our bills until we can get across to cover them in the 2022-23 budget.
So we have many mechanisms available to us to cover your costs. No contractor will go unpaid. None of your staff will go unpaid. You won't go unpaid. But it's just we're such a different animal for the way they budget in the state that they've given us these big pools of money and now they're waiting to see what we tell them it will cover and how much more they will give us. And so we just do it a little bit different than, say, the state auditor or the Department of General Services.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, carry on, Director Claypool.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So the next thing I'd like to look, there's actually the proposed fiscal year spending plan to spreadsheet. You can see the same numbers are in this spreadsheet. I put in all of the known expenses that we have at this point, including a half a month of my expense and Marian's expenses. It's in chief counsel. You're going to look at this and say it doesn't seem like a lot of bills for having run for two months. That's because state auditors covered most of your costs.

So the actual amount that you have expended for these three months, the amount encumbered, if you will, expended or encumbered, is that amount in the operational budget at the bottom. I apologize for not having it
totaled, but it's about $100,000 worth of expenses, about $101,000. This is clearly going to start increasing. But the biggest expenses at this point are your per diems. And even though you haven't been paid, the reason they're shown there is because the money is encumbered. So I'm sure all of you we all took some accounting sometime even though we didn't want to do it. Just encumbering is knowing that there's a demand for the money even though it hasn't been expended, but it's earmarked and it's not going anywhere else.

If you go to the bottom, you can see that your remaining total allocation as of this time is only $100,000 less than that top figure, and you currently or currently as of this accounting have 11,581,000 left in all your buckets. Again, remembering that the amount for legal, that 4,097,000, whatever it is 4,297,000 can't be touched until you actually have litigation. So the true amount is closer to about 7 million available before we have to start asking for a revision to cover the rest of your expenses.

Any questions on this one?

(No response)

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Commissioner Fornaciari, I believe Commissioner Kennedy has a question.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Kennedy?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I'm just wondering because you mentioned a total expended so far of 100,000. And if we were only looking at August and September, I'd say yes, but once we include the 21,000 from July, it looks like we're looking at 122,000 and change.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay. You are right on that. I was going by the bottom balance and just going the 1,291,000 minus the 1190. So it appears that I have a $20,000 glitch in this spreadsheet. I apologize for that. But these are your total expenditures. I'll clean that up.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So one thing that I thought we might see is kind of the left column full so we know what we think is going to be the expenditure for the full year. And then, you know, we compare the far left with, you know, what we actually spent. But on the different areas, like for outreach, should we be setting up a meeting like with you and the Outreach Committee? Because outreach is also engagement, so that would be you know, different groups are doing different parts of all the work that we're calling outreach. But there seems to be a lot of stuff missing, and it would be or do we wait until the rest of our staff comes on board and do a
robust planning so we know how much it's going to cost?

Because I think we need to start moving. There's no
material on there like collateral material and videos and
all this stuff that we've been talking about.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So on developing the projected
costs, I don't actually have what we're going to pay
these individuals, so I can't project on salaries that
way. I now know what we're going to pay our chief
counsel and I can make that projection. I can get the
amount that we'll pay to the deputy. But for everyone
else, I'd just be pulling a number out of the air for
operational expenses. And then when we drop down into
outreach, I need to know -- we need to have that
conversation, clearly, but that conversation needs to be
about what we're actually going to do. We could project
against different plans. If you said, well, what if we
did this, or what if we do that, we could say, okay, then
this amount would come out of this bucket if it costs
this amount. This amount would come out of that bucket
if it costs that amount. But other than that, I don't
have anything to project to.

Does that make sense?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. Yeah, it goes back to
the conversation we had at the last meeting, kind of the
chicken and egg thing, is planning and waiting for
there's a lot of missing pieces here, but as soon as we
have the staff, I think we probably should sit down and
create that straw plan that we bring right back to the
Commission and start moving on it because there's just
some pieces that the development of actual good material
and videos and all that and more tools than just the COI
tool is going to take some time, especially with the
holidays around the corner.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Well, I agree with you 100
percent that we need to have that conversation and get
that straw plan out there because even if it's a straw
plan that's going to be the basis of our request in the
revision. So yeah, we absolutely need that plan and then
we go asking for whatever additional funds we need.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Quickly, the line item for Daily
Journal; can you remind us what that is?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It was given to me as an
expense, and I could only -- I need to check on that.

But the reason I put it in there was because it is an
expense of ours. I believe the Daily Journal is for our
advertising for positions, but I'll have to confirm that
with you because that's the only thing I've ever seen the
Daily Journal used for.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez?
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, can I -- that was for the chief counsel advertisement. You know, the Daily Journal is where we actually advertised other than on the state, and that's what that was for.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Did you have something, Commissioner Fernandez?

And then Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Is there a way we can create a budget that's not detailed like that? Because if not, this group is going to get stuck every single time you show a budget and be, like, what's this line item, what's this line item. Maybe just, you know, contractors because we can see the whole thing but I don't think we can go line item by line item. That's why we have staff and that's why I actually would like to see a concrete budget that says this much for contracts, you know, what we predict. Every place I've been involved with projects what their budget's going to be. You're not pulling out of the air the cost for staff because you know what the salary range will be for these staff. And so you say you know, you just make some of these projections. That's what creating an annual budget is about. I don't want us getting stuck in the weeds. We've got to pull out of the weeds and let staff do their job and we focus on vision.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So I can make this a much more
less detailed budget. The issue is that the last time we did line drawers with 597,000. Now we're predicting 2 million. The number is going to be somewhere in between. There are just so many imponderables that have to come out of a concrete plan. So if it just were a matter of the operational expenses I could push it out and we'd have a pretty good idea of what our operational expense will be for the year. But for everything else, without a decision by the Commission as to how they want to operate, then I am pulling those numbers out of the air.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez and then Toledo.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Personally, I like the detailed, but I do see the benefit of, like, a one-page summary with the major line items, and if you want the detail you can go to the next page for the detail. But I do appreciate having the detailed information. But a one-page is better in terms of speaking in terms of the big picture. And I agree that at some point in time we really do need to put projected expenditures in there. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: This is just a question for Director Claypool in terms of time line for getting the
projected negotiation with the state around revisions of
the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

So at what point do you need the projected budget so
you can go to the state and begin the process of
negotiating increases to the budget?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: As I had explained earlier, I
believe that's February and March so we can be ahead of
May revise, so as early as February. Now, we're going to
look at some time lines on contracting that are going to
come up that are going to go past what I'm looking for,
concrete numbers. So for the numbers that we're going to
project for our line drawer and for some of these others,
they might not be firm numbers but at least once we've
gone out we'll have a fairly good idea of the scope of
what you're asking for and then the scope of what and
then the cost of that ask, if you will.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: And just remind me, because
I haven't been in the budget office for a long time: Can
you encumber more than your budget?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: No.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Because I'm just thinking
if we do the line drawer and all of these other contracts
and it goes beyond what has been appropriated to us, can
we encumber beyond it? Or do we have to wait until the
May revise gives us the authority?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: We have to ask we have to have the May revise to give us the authority. We can have a contract in place. I believe that we can even contract for a portion of services so that they can start, but we cannot encumber past what we have.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Carry on.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Chair?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I'm sorry?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Chair, I'm sorry.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: No, that's okay. So I think I'm understanding the sequencing of some of this budget stuff. But we have the May revision to next year's budget which is when we'll be inserting our ask for additional funds. I guess given that budget negotiations especially in COVID times are going to be pretty cutthroat in the legislature, we won't really know until the legislature sends well, really until the governor signs a budget in, what, late June, early July, correct?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Um-hmm. Very little change is at the May revise so you'll know in May. Some minor changes might be made but we will know when we get into May what our situation is. Okay?

So the next thing I'd like to talk to you about is
contracts. And the first thing, there is a document I
sent Contract Time lines, and I'd like to explain some
things about your contracts right now. Right now, we're
trying to do an interim contract to cover our videography
services, take over from the state auditor's office, and
start paying them out of our own funds. Raul has a
request for offer on a CMAS contract, and that's at the
Department of General Services' review and approval. You
can see it there.

That amount will cover thirty-eight meetings, the
amount that we're asking for. The maximum on that
contract is $250,000. So thirty-eight meetings should
give us plenty of time to do the second contract that's
below there that says on that list it says RFP and final
contracts through 6/30/22. So we're looking to put in a
contract that will cover all of your services across for
videography for your business meetings and your line
drawing meetings, but not your outreach meetings. This
is strictly for the services for these meetings and once
you sit in one place to draw your lines. That RFP is
being created so that we can get it out and we can get
offers on it.

If you look at this across, this is what I call the
worst-case scenario, also called the typical amount of
time it takes to go ahead and contract through the state.
If you go all the way out to the end, you see that these typical times take us into March to put contracts in place. Part of this is more time around Christmastime and Thanksgiving. If you see the red lines at the top of the on the dates those are times when people take off you know, around the state take off in private industry. Everything slows down around Christmastime. This should only be thirty days and we budgeted forty-two days in it. We're hoping to decrease the amount of time and get special reviews of your contracts because of the critical nature of our work. And so we're going to see how much time we can cut out of there.

We're also looking at posting times. All of this assumes that you would want to post for at least thirty days for all of these different contracts. The one thing you're going to notice when you look at these time lines; the state process doesn't change at all. It doesn't matter whether we're contracting for a Voting Rights Act counsel, or for a line drawer; the process remains the same. The only one that's different is for outside litigation and counsel. That's actually a shorter period of time because you can identify who you want and post your RFP and have them answer. I believe that's the way it works. But it is a shorter period of time for lawyers. Everything else, these steps, the five-day
protest period, those are just parts of state contract code. So we're going to look to save time on the end.

DGS review and approval, that's a thirty-days process. We'd like to get DGS legal services to cut that down to one or two weeks. We're going to look to cut this forty-two-day period down here to about three weeks. And if we can do that, then we can save ourselves five weeks on this process. But I gave you these bars because I want everybody to see the length of time that this takes just to get something to contact if it's done and we get no help at all.

So I talked with Commissioner Sadhwani about the Voting Rights Act counsel and the outside counsel for litigation. I also talked with Commissioner Andersen too. And I think that the best for this Commission to do is to advertise for both those positions. They're two different things. Your Voting Right Act counsel, we know what that is. Your outside litigation will be the attorneys that go to the Supreme Court for you. That's not a job for your chief counsel or your assistant, Marian, to the chief counsel. It's a big deal to go to the Supreme Court and that's why the legislature recognized that by setting aside $4 million for the process.

Some of these outside counsel will be willing to
wrap a Voting Rights Act counsel into their contract so that you only need one, but it was I think Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner Andersen, when I spoke with them, believed that it would be better to go with two different ones to make sure that you get a good idea of who's available individually as a Voting Rights Act. You don't want to miss the best Voting Rights Act counsel available by trying to wrap it into a different contract. But that is a possibility and I imagine that's what Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher did last time. They sold themselves on the basis of being able to provide all services under one contract, and there wasn't satisfaction, I believe, with the Voting Rights Act counsel out of that contract. So that's why you see them as two separate contracts that we'll put out an RFP for.

So questions?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

So if we're looking at the time line for the videography, outreach and public hearings, taking us basically to the end of March I mean, all of these basically take to the end of March. What are we going to be able to do between now and the end of March as far as outreach? I mean, are we limited to things that don't cost anything?
DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Well, you're limited to the things that we could put under the operational budget. So we could have outreach come in to your offices. That's a possibility. We're limited to things where we have to get creative. But as far as putting in this massive effort for outreach and engagement and so forth, this is why I'm making the case here that the faster we get these RFPs in, the harder we'll lean on Department of General Services to help us. We might make it so that we can be in at the 1st of February. But January would be a very hard date to make. So yes, Commissioner Kennedy, we are limited to things that we could do creatively through your operational budget and the videography that we'll have in place here until we get these contracts in place. And this goes back to Commissioner Sinay's putting together straw plan. That straw plan is not only necessary for us to go to spring revision, but it's also a hard plan that's necessary for us to be ready to do what you need to do by February.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right. But at this point, you know, all of our discussions about splashing the COI tool and so forth, we don't know if we're going to be able to do that.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Well, the COI tool, as I understand it, is a tool that's being run on a statewide
database, so it could go online without you funding it.
Am I correct?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: It could go online, yes, but the issue is the education about it and promotion of it which, unless statewide database has budget for that aspect of it, that falls on us.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Maybe, maybe. And the reason I say that is because perhaps there's a chance to do some type of interagency agreement between us and the statewide database that would fund some of your educational an interagency agreement will move more quickly than and we'll talk about that in a second. But an interagency agreement would move more quickly. Again, that's why we have to know what we want to do so that we can start trying to be as creative as possible on making it happen. And a lot of the creativity is just going to be leaning on people and saying, hey, this needs to happen. But we can't lean on anybody for something that we don't have in play.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay had a comment?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I hear what you're both saying. And Commissioner Kennedy, I'm a little nervous about that too. But I do hear that within the operation budget if we have staff that knows how to do design work and knows
how to create you know, the outreach stuff, a lot of you know, there are things that we can do internally. What I want to make sure, though, is that we keep capturing the other ways of taking input in and make sure that those are in the contracts that are going out for, like, the data and all that, because the COI tool is great but it's a limited audience that will be using that, and we want to be more expansive. And that's where my concern is.

We'll talk a little bit about this during the visioning, and hopefully that will give us more of an idea. But if it doesn't, we can just say, hey, I think we all agree that these are the five ways we want input into our process, and that will make sure that it's in some of these other RFPs.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: You know, I'll be the first to say: looking at this, we're screwed.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: No.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay? I mean, bluntly, because we can't you know, we're saying can't have a line drawer on board, can't have a Voting Rights counsel on board, none of that until the end of March. When is our, you know, let's jump on this, get on it? That's what we've been saying about can we do something other than different types of RFPs. I mean, to say that this is
going on and maybe we can pull stuff out, that's a real problem, a real problem.

Unless, you know, we can do stuff in-house, I mean, this puts us back at we don't start doing anything until after the data gets in, and that's too late. You know, our whole ideas of working with the Voting Rights and doing a bit of preliminary on that, we don't have the counsel. I mean, this is why we keep on saying we really want to work staff, we really want to do things, and we've got to shorten these time frames up, however that needs to be. I really want to I understand. I appreciate that you put this out here, and I think this makes us realize just how important it is and how difficult this is using some of these processes. So we need to be creative here because, otherwise, all our "let's do things ahead of time" our hands are tied.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I think Commissioner Sinay had her hand raised.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: This only buys us two weeks, but where we say that we want the RFP out for thirty days, you know, in most cases we're posting it in January. You know, is there ways that we can start letting people know this is going to be out in January and so they can start prepping, and then it's only a two-week window to submit it? I mean, I know that only buys
us two weeks, but I've had many RFPs where I've had to respond within two weeks. That's a silly one, but

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, Director Claypool?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: It's not silly. It's a good idea. But we have to be very careful that we don't promise anything in this. And to answer Commissioner Andersen, we can make this work, but we can't make it work if we're sitting on RFPs from a month from now. We have to get these things into the hopper. Your RFPs do not have to be exact. You can contract for your services with people, and then you can work out some of the details when you get there. The important thing is to get them in and get moving with them.

And so if I'm looking at this, your outside counsel would have been important if we had gone with Commissioner Le Mons' suggestion to get an opinion. That's where we would have gotten it because we'll never get an opinion out of the Supreme Court, according to Marian, who's actually been to the Supreme Court. But right now, the least of our problems are outside counsel. Those line drawer, data management, voting rights, your racially polarized voting consultant, we need to get those moving.

The videography for outreach and public hearings, we can put together that straw plan and we can put an RFP
out for that. There were some ideas amongst you about
doing that regionally. We can put out an RFP that allows
some people to bid on more than one region. We have ten
regions; pick which ones that you could provide our
services. We're going to need this many meetings of this
type in them. But if we get started there and then we go
to the Office of Legal Services and we can get these
things reviewed before we hit Christmas, and we can tell
people up front this is coming, particularly line drawers
and your data management company and stuff, be ready for
it, we're going to require a full response and so forth,
that we can get creative that way and we can shave a lot
of time.

Perhaps we can shave time off of the actual
advertisement but remember this about advertising,
particularly for your line drawer and your well,
actually, for any of these people: The less time you
advertise for, the less time they have to put together
this document for you and the less time they it makes
somebody have to react almost instantaneously if you use
the minimum ten days. If you go fifteen days it's
better. If you go twenty days it's better. For a big
contract like line drawer, they may need a full thirty
days to actually put together all the proposals, pull the
different people in that they're going to need to have
help them. So on big contracts, thirty days is kind of a
standard, but we could do twenty-five days. If we do
twenty-five days, we've saved ourselves five days. We
get them out here very quickly.

And so let me say the biggest part of this
creativity thing right now is this: For these different
contracts, let us try to write those put the whole thing
together for you and then you edit the statements of
work. You go in and you work on the parts that you care
about and not try to write a request for proposal. That
will increase our speed as well.

Now, the last thing I want to tell you is I asked
our representative at the Department of Finance whether
or not we had to be bound by state contracting rules
because I was going for the ultimate "this would be
really creative," but I got a response back that came
through their legal counsel that said you are absolutely
a member of the state, you are absolutely under state
contracting laws because if the citizens of California
had intended you to be exempt from contractor rules, they
would have given you the same exemption that they gave
you for hiring. So this is our game, this is what we
have to play with, and we're going to try to condense it
as quickly as possible, but it all starts with that
product, with that RFP and getting it out.
VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I appreciate that creative
that attempt at being creative with contracting too.
Thank you.

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

I think the subject came up a couple weeks ago, and
there's a different term for it in the state parlance
than what I'm used to, but essentially is it possible to
break these RFPs into a first phase, which is an
expression of interest and/or pre-qualification where
we're not asking for a cost bid but we're just asking for
the qualifications? And I think Commissioner Andersen is
familiar with this sort of thing. And then have a second
part which is the actual bidding. Is that possible? And
could something like that speed us up any? Thank you.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: A request for a qualification
cannot be the basis of a contract. It can help you get
to who's the most qualified, but what it's going to do is
add a step in front of this that I don't believe so the
theory might be that we would put out a request for
qualifications for fifteen days and see who's qualified
and then only give them a ten-day period to get their RFP
in.

The problem for a major contract like this, the RFP
becomes the basis of the contract, and so it's really not
just putting together their proposal to you but establishing all the things in that proposal that they will have to live up to when they come out and it becomes the contract. So you just have to give them more time than ten or fifteen days. I don't know that an RFQ or a request for qualifications is going to save us any time, and I could very well see where it might increase the amount of time.

I firmly believe that we're best using the RFP and just getting it out quickly, and then if there are gaps in it they're going to call in with questions and they're going to say I have a question about it. I don't see this or I don't see that; what are you expecting? We can fill in those gaps at that time while they're making their consideration on their proposal. So there's a way to clean these up while they're flying, but we need to get them moving right now.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I just have one question. I can see what teams are leading the RFPs except for the videography for outreach and public hearings. Is that the Outreach Team that's working that RFP? Or who is going to be working that?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So it seems to me that we can put together your staff can put together the RFP for
that, but the statement of work is where we're going to need Commissioner Sinay and actually this whole Commission because this is a two-part process. And I had kind of broached this in our conversation yesterday where I said: And I'd like to propose a plan for the public meetings.

The outreach and the education and so forth, that's critical to our success, and we need to have a plan for that. But the plan for the outreach meetings themselves, you have to do that. You have to do it in some form because it's required by the Constitution that you have public meetings. And so at a minimum we need to have that nailed down, that we'll have a videographer, to have this many meetings, this and this, once we get that information because forbid that something not work with education and outreach, you can still come out of this with a solid set of maps if you have a plan in place to have the public hearings. We want it all to work, but we need that second half to work in order for you to meet your requirements.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I don't know who was first between Commissioner Sinay and Kennedy. Kennedy? Okay. Go ahead, Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thanks. One thing that I'm not seeing on here that I think is particularly after
this morning's session our language support services. Is that going to be subject to an RFP? And if so, we need to get that on this time line as well. Thank you.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah. Do you want to respond to that question?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Only in that it depends on how you contact for those services. If you use some of these outside entities and do it through a grant, then perhaps and didn't do it yourselves you may be able to do it by giving somebody the money to provide the services. But if you decide to have the services yourselves and you're going to take I heard the one individual talking about the census language infrastructure. If you're going to take that census language infrastructure and take it over and save yourself time, you're also going to have to put some money behind it in order to make it work. That will require an RFP. Well, it may even require a competitive bid, but we'll get into that, but that would require we go through the state process.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: All right. So you've said grants twice now.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Right.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: But you haven't really
explained them. And I know Commissioner Vázquez and I have been sitting here crazy trying to think about how grants may work. So what do you mean by grants?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So we talk about what the foundation did last time and how they stepped in for the Commission and they gave individuals grants. Exactly the same thing that you might

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So what's the process we need to do for that and how long does that take?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I would have to look into that. I just know that it was contemplated that a portion of that $2 million for your outreach was contemplated to be grants. I'll go into this saying that I spoke to the individual about this and I said I didn't even know that a Commission could give grants, and this person said, oh, no, a portion of that money was intended to be let in grants. So if part of your outreach were to be in a region and you said we need to move our message through these people but they need money to stay in place, then perhaps you could do a grant to do that. That's exactly what I'm thinking.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So you have to do some more homework to figure out what that looks like and how we do it?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I do.
VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. So you think you might be able to come back next week or the week after or something?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I absolutely will. I promise you that. Yes, it's a critical piece of but I didn't understand to be honest with you, I didn't understand it because I'd never seen it. And when the person told me that, I asked as many questions as I could, and when I walked away I still didn't really understand it. So I need to just I need to go to our person at Department of Finance and have that person clarify it for me.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Commissioner Claypool, if it's helpful to have any of us who understand grants in the community, you know, what a foundation grant system is like with you on that conversation, let us know, because some of us live off of giving grants and others of us live off of getting grants so

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I appreciate that.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Super helpful. My question is sort of: What about re-granting? My concern even with the Commission being a grant maker that in order to achieve many of our goals, we could potentially put ourselves in a situation where we are managing or even forget managing we are just issuing dozens of grants, you
1 know, smallish grants to organizations for a part-time
2 volunteer coordinator or for them to print collateral
3 locally to distribute.
4
5 So if you have an opportunity to ask about the grant
6 process in general, know that at least for myself and
7 probably Commissioner Sinay the idea of the Commission
8 directly managing dozens of grants could be a challenge
9 and probably one we could overcome with, like, a staff
10 person and that's just, like, their job and we can do the
11 steps. But just know that there is in terms of an
12 outreach plan, we're hoping that there's a way to get
13 this outreach money into the hands of several trusted
14 messengers across the state.
15
16 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So I kind of felt like there
17 were two things in there. And so there's a re-granting
18 or a what's the right term?
19
20 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Sub-grant. It's a
21 subcontract but
22
23 VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Right, right.
24
25 COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Right.
ground type folks. Okay, I wasn't exactly clear. I just want to make sure that we're all clear.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes, understood.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay. And then Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I just wanted to say that I'd like to be a part of those conversations. I'm very familiar with these processes, as I mentioned earlier today, as it relates to working at the state level and getting information out across an entire state and using granting process. As a matter of fact, I created a granting process for very similar work, although a decade ago or more. I certainly know how it's done, and I'd like to be included in those conversations early on.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: You're on the list.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Okay, Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: It sounds like maybe then I'm not sure how this would work. Either Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Le Mons or myself and Commissioner Le Mons have -- I don't want -- I would like if there are three people who want to be involved in the same process so just maybe Marian can assist us with how best to accomplish that.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: We can't hear you, Marian.
MS. JOHNSTON: I said it's difficult. I'm not sure three of you could go to a meeting and then report back to the Commission. Is that what you're thinking; a virtual meeting?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I guess, yeah, then, if that's the solution. I just wanted to make sure there was a way for three to, like, receive information as long as we discuss the information in public. Is that what I'm hearing?

MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Fernandez and then Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So two things. I like the sub-granting, like, to this larger organization, but I want to make sure we do it on a competitive basis because, like, the same names keep coming up all the time, but I'm sure there's other organizations that could do this as well. But I do like sub-granting only because they already know how to do it instead of us having to hire someone that's going to have to learn how to do it and establish it from scratch versus they already have that information.

And then I think I'm just going to stop there.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Commissioner Le Mons? Thank you.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I was going to say I know we'll have to figure that part out that Commissioner Vazquez raised. I'm really waiting for our communications director. The reason I haven't raised this request earlier is I know that there's some foundational work being done, but I don't think that we're doing this in a vacuum. And we're talking about our communications director being -- I'm sorry, not our communications director; our deputy executive director. I mean, I'm really waiting for that person needs to be involved in this process. And the reason I said what I said is because this seems to be very new to Director Claypool, and I think having multiple people with multiple perspectives and varying experience in this process will just be helpful to the Commission because it seems like it's not something that a lot of commissioners do or are familiar with. So I want to make sure that I am plugging in to our process, particularly where I have expertise, and helping to ensure that we move this along.

I've expressed earlier today my concerns about the time line and how this all takes even the granting processes take time. So I also want to make sure that if that means having another subcommittee that's subdivided I mean, I think how we solve it we can get to. Right now I'm just asking to participate in the conversations and
VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Well, it sounds like that's doable, that the three of you could meet with Commissioner Claypool and the person he's getting information from and just report back, so I think we're okay there.

Any other comments before we move on?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: The only other document that I wanted to present to you was just the methods of solicitation. We cleaned this up and we added quite a bit of information for state contracting code at the bottom so that if you wanted to actually get into those weeds you could. Two of the changes are most notable. Fair and Reasonable I added under 10,000. This is formerly what a Personal Services Contract was, so I was a little confused when I saw Fair and Reasonable and didn't see Personal Services Contract. That's because they're the same.

We also added at the bottom Noncompetitive Bidding. You can go with a noncompetitive bid, but it has to meet the two bullet items that are there. The proposed acquisition of goods or services are the only goods and services that meets the state's need.
And emergencies were immediate acquisition is necessary for the protection of public health, welfare, safety. It's a very high bar to cross. Commissioner Fernandez did it because they had prisons and so that was the bar but because it was health and safety, I'm sure. I would take that guess.

But having said that, after the statement from the Department of Finance, these are the things that we can use. These are our tools. And when we think about RFP 1 or RFP 2, whether we want to bring people in for interviews or just have a closed-bid process, we'll work those details out when we're talking with you. But beyond that, our creativity has to be in shrinking the time lines by getting people to look at our work and to clear it more quickly.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Any questions on this? It was very thorough. Thank you for that.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: And that is the end of my report. It's like a world record, I hear.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Very good.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Commissioner Yee?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Oh, sorry. Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, while we're on the executive director's report, I'm wondering if this is
1 appropriate to bring up. If not, maybe we can defer it
to later. But I'm wondering about responding to public
comments that come in and whether staff under the
executive director should be tasked with at least
acknowledging comments that come in? The ones that we
got last night are quite substantive and should be
acknowledged, if not actually replied to in some detail.
And I'm just wondering with the executive director, the
current chair, you know, what we should put in place to
deal with this, yeah.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, Commissioner I mean,
Director Claypool?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So one of the two people that
you have that I asked you to consider that we will be
bringing aboard, Ms. Sheffield, is an experienced person
at doing this. What I've asked Raul to consider and what
I want to consider with him is that we will take Ms.
Sheffield, she will sit in and do a short minutes of
these meetings because that seems to be something that
this Commission would like to see. She will respond to
the correspondence that comes in and reply to people.
She will also be the person that I hope will be able to
route different things for the agenda or different things
that the commissioners are asking for so that you get a
shorter response time and so that our agendas are put
together the way they should be put together and that things are posted in the order that they're going to be posted. That's my sense that we need a person that can do all of those things. I don't believe it's too much to ask for one person to do. But I believe it's something that it touches many areas of concern by this Commission, and I'd like all your areas of concerns to be addressed.

So she will be here Friday. We're going to talk to her I guess that's tomorrow. And then we're going to bring her on next week to start the process of transitioning her into that role, Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Very good. So I'm wondering, then, past and current will she go back and respond to past public comments as well?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I'm also wondering, you know, acknowledging comments? Absolutely we need to do that. She can do that. Providing substantive responses to the comments? Like, some of the ones we got last night really bear substantive responses, I think. That's probably a different discussion but what would be the best way to approach that?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Part of that routing would be to route those to me. I'd take a look at the types of responses that I would give, and then the Chair and the
Vice Chair get to review and edit, and then we make the response. That's what I would suggest to the Commission. If there's a better way you would like to handle it, you tell me, but that's the most rapid. Because many of the responses will simply be: Thank you very much for your comments, you know, they've been received and reviewed.

But for the one about having all your interviews be held in public, interviews of prospective staff, then that takes a more substantive response.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Very good. I was just taking a note for later.

I believe, Kristian, we came back at 1:36-ish?

MR. MANOFF: Yeah, that's right, Chair.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Is that correct?

MR. MANOFF: Yep.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: So it's 3:06, so that's an hour and a half by my math. So why don't we come back at 3:21?

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 3:06 p.m. until 3:24 p.m.)

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, everyone. Welcome back. We are now onto agenda item number 6. And I just want to say that in terms of the key milestones and action steps that we had planned for October through March we did complete the discussion at the meeting last
week. We did put this on the agenda in the event that we did not complete the discussion.

However, just in terms of going beyond March, I do want to just for clarity, we did not put on the other major milestones that would take us beyond March, which would be the April 1st deadline of when we expect to receive, as far as we know, the census data. And then at which time the next large milestone would be August 15th, when our initial maps are due or our maps are due. So I just wanted to say that out loud that those were not identified on the key milestones, but I wanted to just say that out loud for everybody right now.

MS. JOHNSTON: July 1st the draft maps are due and August 15th

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm sorry, yes. July 1st is the draft maps and then our final maps are the August 15th date.

Is that correct, Marian? Yes?

MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So for the purposes of the work that the Commission is doing, we just wanted to make sure that we were conscious of the other big items that we needed to be making sure that we're keeping our focus on prior to the census data coming out on April 1st.

With that, let's go on to Subcommittee Reports,
agenda item number 7. And let's start with agenda item number 7-A, and that would be Commissioner Sadhwani and Toledo. I know that Commissioner Sadhwani had to step away for a little bit.

Is Commissioner Toledo oh, there you are. Okay.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here I am. Can you hear me?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: In terms of the census and the amicus brief, we've been reaching out to various commissions and organizations to see whether we can partner with them and collaborate on an amicus brief, and so far we've been getting a lot of leads but we haven't committed to anything at this point. We're just in communication with various organizations. I know Marian did have conversations with the Attorney General's Office in an attempt to try to get the Commission to join any amicus brief that they might pursue.

MS. JOHNSTON: And we were turned down.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And we were turned down by the Attorney General.

MS. JOHNSTON: By the Attorney General's Office.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So at this point we're still working on finding other like-minded commissions and organizations that we might be able to partner with on an amicus brief.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Toledo. And perhaps just to remind anyone who is listening in or who did not join us last week, would you please clarify what the amicus brief is for?

MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want to go? Do you want me to do it?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sure, thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: It's the New York v. Trump case that's now pending before the United States Supreme Court. The Court accepted it a week or so ago and has set it for expedited briefing and hearing. The hearing will be held on November 30th. This is on whether or not to count undocumented immigrants in the census.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much. I just want to make sure that we're clear for everybody.

Any additional updates, Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No additional updates. We're still working on identifying partners.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much. Also, I guess, just for clarification, I'm sure there may be a question out there: What kind of partners are you looking for? So that if anybody is interested in referring anybody to you that might be helpful for those listening.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. That would be
collaborators on an amicus brief.

MS. JOHNSTON: We've contacted the redistricting commissions in other states, so far without any lively prospects. And I've contacted the Brennan Center who is coordinating amicus briefs to put us in touch with anyone.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you very much, just for clarity and transparency.

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So what was the date we need to file that by?

MS. JOHNSTON: November 16.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Subcommittee agenda item 7-B, Subcommittee for the Hiring of the deputy executive director, Commissioners Fernandez and Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are making progress in establishing the duty statement for the deputy executive director position. It is making its way through the system and we are hopeful that we will have more updates in the weeks to come.

Commissioner Fernandez, is there anything else that you would like to add?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No. I mean, the latest information that we received yesterday is that it's gone
through DGS-HR, human resources. They're the ones that
process our personnel items, and it's currently at let's
see at the State Controller's Office. So we're waiting
for the State Controller's Office to, I guess, establish
a position in the system. I really don't know what they
do. But normally unfortunately, the State Controller's
Office is the one that's the longest in terms of their
process, so we're hoping within a couple weeks to get
this through the process.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you very much.

Subcommittee item number 7-C, the hiring of the
chief counsel.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just a quick we have done
good progress on this, and this will be part of the on
Friday we come out of closed session. All of the closed
sessions, there will be an announcement at that time.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And then subcommittee report
number 7-D, the hiring of the communications director,
Commissioners Taylor and Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: We have a verbal acceptance
from our candidates, and we will make a public
announcement when it is appropriate. But for the rest of
the commissioners who are waiting on that, we have a
verbal acceptance, so we're in a good position on this
one.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, wonderful. Thank you both for your work and thank you to Commissioners Andersen and Toledo for your work on the Chief Counsel, and to Commissioners Fernandez and Ahmad for continuing to usher the deputy executive director position along. That is winding its way through. I'll just say that.

Let's go to subcommittee report number 7-E, the finance report with Commissioners Fornaciari and Fernandez.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Want me to go? Okay.

So we're now the Finance and Administrative Subcommittee, and so our tasking was to look at the policies -- the policy manual, and review it and put together some revisions and bring it back. So where we're at is, you know, there was 11 policies and policy manuals, thirty pages long. We've reviewed them all.

Some need to be revised, but they need to have org chart in place and some of the key hires in place to work those policies. But there are several others that just need to be updated and reviewed.

So Commissioner Fernandez and I are meeting tomorrow, I think, with Director Claypool to review a few more of those. And we don't want to inundate you all with forty pages of policies at once, and some are more urgent than others, so we'll bring a few at a time. A
few next week because we have an agenda item to approve them. So we've incorporated for instance, in the per diem policy, we've completely revised that based on our prior discussions on how we're going to manage that. In the communications protocol we've added a paragraph in there to talk about the response time that we want to see with regard to public comments and questions, and we're going to clarify how we're going to manage that. So I just want to show you that we're incorporating the work that we're doing now, and we'll bring a few of these forward next week.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fernandez, did you want to say anything?

Thank you both for all that work. I did see the previous policies and procedures manual and I am quite so glad that someone else is able to go through all that and help us pull together ours.

Any questions from any of the commissioners on any of the items so far from A through E, especially on the one on finance that was just provided?

Let's go on to subcommittee report number 7-F, Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just to say that Gantt chart is being updated to include some of the procurement time lines that the executive director has provided us and a
few other things and will be posted well in advance of
next week's meeting.

Commissioner Taylor, anything else?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, sir. You do the heavy
lifting. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great. Thank you very much to
both of you.

I know that Commissioner Sadhwani is going to be
away for a little bit.

So our next one is subcommittee report 7-G,
Commissioners Sadhwani and Andersen. Commissioner
Andersen, do you want to give the report or do you want
to wait? I thought Commissioner Sadhwani is going to be
returning soon, but we can have you do it if you want to,
or if you want to wait for her and tag team with her,
it's up to you.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I can go ahead. We have
been doing quite a lot. We've been meeting with
prospective line drawers, other areas, getting
information about what are qualifications, how they
reply, things like that. And basically, without going
into a lot of detail, we're getting a lot of good
information, getting a lot of different perspectives on
things, what did work, what didn't work, and we actually
are working on the scope part of the RFP which will be
coming to for next meeting.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That's what's going on.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So if I heard you correctly, you will be coming with a draft of the RFP for the commissioners to all review. Okay, wonderful. Thank you. Well, we're making good progress.

So let's move on to our next subcommittee report, 7-H, VRA Compliance, Commissioners Sadhwani and Yee.

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Sure. Similarly, so we've been meeting with various consultants to just get more of an idea of how to proceed with this. I met again with Matt Barreto and Justin Levitt, chatted about what their advice would be to us. We anticipate bringing some kind of training to you on the meeting November 16 through 18. Commissioner Kennedy, I think you're sharing that. I think Commissioner Sadhwani had already alerted you to that.

Between now and then we're hoping to start assembling kind of a briefing book for you, getting you little two-page summaries of what is racially polarized voting analysis, what is coalition voting, and so on, just to get everyone up to speed.

And then there's the RFP which I'm very glad to hear
staff is helping draft. And so Commissioner Sadhwani and
I will need to meet with staff to make progress on that
and hopefully also bring drafts to you at the next
meeting.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Any questions on either the VRA or
the line drawer?

(No response)

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. We are just moving
along.

All right, subcommittee report number 7-I, outreach
and engagement, Commissioners Vazquez and Sinay.

Oh, Commissioner Andersen, yes?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Since Commissioner Sadhwani
just came back, and I'd just kind of like to give her a
shot if she wants to. We just quickly ran through both
the line drawing and the VRA.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, good.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Basically said we're doing a
lot and, you know, the scope RFP for line drawers next
week; the VRA in the 14th, 16th.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Perfect, yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Anything else you want to
add? Please do.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I mean, I would just make
sure that we talked about all of the different people
that we've been talking to for the VRA subcommittee. I
don't know if Commissioner Yee already covered this but

COMMISSIONER YEE: I did, yeah.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay, great. Then I'll
leave it with that. Thank you.

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

Let's go to subcommittee report 7-I, our Outreach
and Engagement Committee, Commissioners Sinay and
Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: So we will be facilitating
the visioning exercise tomorrow after our panel. Was
very glad to have the access panel today because that
will also that will be serving as sort of grist for the
mill for tomorrow as we're thinking through what our
vision is for outreach, engagement, educating the public
about who we are and what we're asking of them. So all
that to say and we sort of previewed this a little bit in
the previous discussion, but Commissioner Sinay and I
recognize from the start of our work on this committee
that outreach and engagement is going to be a big job,
and to manage the dozens of grassroots organizations,
trusted messengers, volunteers, to really make this come
alive in the community, it's going to be a big job. And
so we're very eager to have this conversation, not just
with Director Claypool but with the deputy executive
director and, to some extent, our communications director
to figure out how we might be able to fund that boots on
the ground work. And so that is what the visioning that
is a piece of what is the purpose of the visioning
exercise tomorrow.

I'm trying to read through my notes. Let's see. So
just the rest of the Commission and the public should
know that we also are working with this idea that these
RFPs are going to take a long time and we need to
formulate that plan in short order and also leaving room
for the deputy executive director to have a hand in
shaping also what that looks like. So more to come, and
we're excited for the discussion tomorrow.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, if I can add just two
things. I wanted, again, to thank the community network,
you know, the community groups for submitting a letter
giving us recommendations. That was a lot of good food
for thought. Some of it was shared with us this morning,
but there's more to the letter, so it would be great I
just want to make sure all the commissioners do read it.

And then on the Nuroke (ph.) for tomorrow, I know
Commissioner Turner said I got stuck because it asked me
for my teams and don't worry about all that because it's
kind of like Zoom, an email gets sent to you, and you go
to the board. So I can't remember what I wrote in for
mine so --

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I just skipped it. I'm
pretty sure I just pushed cancel.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I thought I skipped it,
too, so don't let that get you hung up. And the only
piece we're going to use tomorrow is the Post-it Notes.
So yes, I figured out how to do Post-it Notes virtually.

And I think oh, I had a quick question: Do we want
to submit to executive director like, when we're meeting
with a lot of different community folks, should we be
creating a report to the community of who we met in the
community? I know I've done that in other commissions
and stuff, and so I just wanted to check.

The morning report or yesterday, when we started, I
forgot to say that Commissioner Vazquez and I met with
the head of the San Diego Economic Development Council,
and he gave us some really good ideas of how to create
economic panels, so we can kind of hear from economic
interests as well.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Dr. Claypool, can you answer that?

Thank you.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Yes. So that's some of the
information that you sent forward that we were posting
their materials to our website; am I correct?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, no, that's a whole other
great question is: Do we want to because we have reports
on different regions, and if we want to create, at some
point, when we have a good website and stuff, do we want
to have the different regions and the different county
reports on those things? This is more you know how we
said we've been meeting with line drawers, we've been
meeting with this person, you know, we've been saying it
very broadly? And I didn't know if we wanted just to
have a report that we give to the committee that just has
the names of who we've been meeting just to be
transparent, or if that doesn't matter?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: For practical purpose, it
matters how you want to report out this information to
each other. I think it would be good to have different
categories so we can capture who we're talking to and
also some of the results of those meetings. But I hadn't
really given a thought as to that capture until you
mentioned it right now. Can we meet on that or have a
discussion?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, that would be good,
because I also want to figure out how we're going to
capture people's contact information so we keep them in
the loop when we need them later. Capturing people now
is important for later, too.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: One preliminary method that we could use for that is to always have them sign up on our website, because at least there we can search through and find them by organization. That's not an ideal method for very specific items like this, but at least we don't lose people, so that might be --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: And then I just wanted to check in to see how many of the region teams did go out and have talked to their census folks.

All right, let's get to it because some of them are disbanding. And they do actually what we learned from our conversation because Commissioner Ahmad and I did our conversation is that they have lists of organizations and lists all sorts of stuff that we could use to actually implement at the local level. So it is important to connect with them so we don't lose those opportunities.

Thanks, everybody.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay, do you want to acknowledge that Commissioner Yee did raise his hand? So I believe he has

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yay.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Only halfway, only halfway.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, and I will admit to being a little I went as far as just initiating the "we need to
talk."

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was going to say I don't know why Kennedy was being shy, but our team has reached out as well and set our appointments, so I'll say it.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay, if I can ask you a question? And then I'll go to Commissioner Turner. Just in terms of the reporting form that you're talking about, is that something similar to the other form that you had given us previously? Is that something that could be repurposed in a way that could be used for what you're suggesting?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, for which one? For the census or for the people we're talking out in the community?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: The people we're talking out in the community. I thought that that was the form we were supposed to be using anyways.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: You can use it for that, but I'm just saying in some of the let me think about it. I mean, my whole thought was sometimes it's just easy to have a report and it says, you know, the commissioners spoke to over twenty people in the community and the report is just online.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Got it. I see. So something that
the staff could compile so then it would be easily
captured in one document for anyone, including future
commissions and the public could also take a look at.
Okay, that makes sense. That way, they're not looking
through pages and pages of single sheets, so makes sense.

All right, Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, I was just going to
mention I was out when the assignments were made, but you
made it kind of easy for me. I was the selected ACBO for
the region. I was chosen Region 6 and so, with my
partner Pablo, I've kind of had those answers, but we
will reach out and ensure that there is additional and I
was also part of the ACBO 4, so I will have it ready when
it's time.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Conflict of interest.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I guess you talked to yourself,
then, right? All right, thank you very much.

Commissioner Sinay, you're on mute, so I don't know
we heard you say or saw you trying to say something.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, I was just thinking, I
don't think it's conflict of interest; I think it's
overlap of interest which is a good thing.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you.

So thank you very much. Again, thank you to our
Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee for all the work
that you're doing.

Let's see. I need to ask a question of Director Claypool on subcommittee report 7-J. Commissioner Kennedy and I had thought that we would just use the previous PowerPoint that was submitted last week as our materials for our report today since the timeline was laid out on that PowerPoint, but is this something that Mr. Wagaman and Jaime Clark would like to come and report on? And if so, then I will delay this report until either later today or tomorrow when they can join us.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I would delay the report because I believe that they will want to have the opportunity to speak more to you about COI, and you might get some additional information, so I would delay it. Have they been asked to be here?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Well, I am only responding to an inquiry that I got from Raul, and so that is the deal. Otherwise, I think Commissioner Kennedy was ready to report on 7-J.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Okay, I was not aware of that. The message from Raul. I thought that if they had been given an invitation we'd certainly want to hear from them, but if Commissioner Kennedy is ready, then we should do it now.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, the basic item at this point is, according to the time line set out in the PowerPoint from Ms. Clark and Mr. Wagaman, what we owe the statewide database by the end of tomorrow is feedback on what information to request from users about themselves. So I would just, at this point, open a discussion of what information we want to collect from individual users and we'll try to capture that and come back with a summary of that that we can then provide to the statewide database.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So before we move on to it, because there is a deadline request for those questions and that is one of the actions that was requested of us by tomorrow, is there any additional feedback on other questions that should be included as part of the COI tool? I know we did have a conversation about it last week, but I think this part was pushed off to this week because that was the deadline.

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Actually, I'm looking at the you know, I printed out the slides. And what they're expected to get from us today is about the users. Like, currently, they ask the name and ZIP code.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And an email authenticated
by users. What else do we want? What's option and what's required? That's what they're expecting; not so much the questions. That was basically what we said last time, I think, is what they ran with. And I know that we had discussed they can get the IP addresses. You know, the idea of privacy and sharing you know, they have to get an email for, like, the authenticated users. On the COI tool you can make an account and/or not. You can just be as a guest. And so obviously if someone makes an account they have an email address.

Currently, they have a name and a ZIP code. What else would we essentially want, that we want the database to collect, and what do we not want them to collect? I would like as much area as possible in terms of or even well, I don't quite know if the subcommittee could answer this question: Other than the questions, what other information are they implying in this area?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm not following the implying part.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: What else could we be asking, I guess? I mean, they can get the email, they can get a name, they obviously have the name of the group from the questions we're asking. Basically, I'm wondering what else are we do we want to look at the IP address? Do we want to get the location of where they
are submitting from? I mean, I'm assuming that's the kind of information they're looking for. So is that correct?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: No. Actually, Commissioner Andersen, I believe this is also what is the name and I like the way Commissioner Yee said it the last time, I think: What is the name that they would give their community or the name for their community? And then it's also questions like what is the mutual interest and why should it be kept together? And I believe Commissioner Kennedy had also either requested or suggested, you know, what other communities of interest would they want to be affiliated with or something along those lines. I believe these are the questions that they're hoping to have finalized by tomorrow.

So Commissioner Turner, I saw you --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: No, actually, that was the older date. It says by the 30th because I'm looking at it. They had by the 21st. That's when they wanted that other information, which is what we did last week.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, you're right, you're right, yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The 30th is CRC provides feedback on what information to request from users about themselves.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, okay. Yes, you're right. Going back to that PowerPoint, it looks like it's the very last page of the PowerPoint, and there's a section at the top that says About Users, and then below that it says Languages, which is the next deadline that they've requested. So the About Users one, it's some pretty basic things like their name, ZIP code I think we did, I guess email for authentication, and they said that they could also capture IP addresses, and they want to know is there other information we want to collect.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So for example, would we want to ask either required or optional for a person's racial or ethnic identification. I mean, is that something that we want to ask them? And if so, do we want to require it or make it optional? I mean, that's just an example. That's not intended to be a suggestion or an exhaustive list.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: One of the things that we were supposed to follow up with this particular date was to state which of these did we recommend as required and which was optional. One of them was in regards to the email address, recognizing that everyone may not have an email address. Are we saying that, no, we think that that needs to be required? We were trying to balance between security measures and authenticity. And so the
suggestion, you know, if they had to put in address so
what we're trying to decide now is what are we saying is
definite and what is optional, and that's the feedback
for today.
And so I'd like to suggest we definitely do want
them to track the IP address, that we want to request an
e-mail address as not as a required but as a requested
item. And I think those would be the two I would want.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?
COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I was going to suggest very,
very basic optional demographic information: race,
ethnicity, gender, with options to enter your own. And
if we could avoid the use of "other" and just put "submit
your own" or just an open text box, that would be great.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee? Commissioner
Yee?
COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, I guess I'm thinking if
this were a public hearing what would we require. And we
basically require absolutely nothing except that you show
up, right? You don't even have to give your real name.
You know, not that that's the standard necessarily, but
that has been standard in one way, shape, or form.
The other question is so we're going to hire a data
analysis team and they can give us reports with whatever
we want. But the question is: What will actually be
helpful to us? If I'm looking at the report, which numbers will there be a metric for anonymous submissions and how will I mentally weigh those versus those that are signed? I don't know. I mean, I think we're going to have to talk about that. I supposed the more information someone gives, the more weight I would give the submission. That's what I'm thinking right now just sitting here. But I kind of don't really know.

But the bottom line, I think I would make all the information optional, including email. Yeah, I guess, yeah.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The IP address, I think that will give us an idea of where they're all coming from. It's certainly like remember we were talking about if they set up, say, at a library or school or something like that, we'll understand how many are coming from a certain location. I think that would help us in terms of understanding particularly blanks. Like, we're not getting anything from this county and we have a station there. You know, what happened, or something like that.

In terms of if they make an account, then they have their email, they have to actually do that to have an account. And I think we should if someone wants to go ahead and do that, I think there's no harm in collecting
that information.

And I like ZIP code because that also, again, collects. And I believe that is required right now. Well, the email, if they make an account, is required. I would like to get the IP address, obviously the email if they make an account, and I would really like the ZIP code. I'd like the name, too, but it doesn't have to be optional that can be optional, in my opinion. Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I think I hear that people are trying to think of this in terms of verified information. From my standpoint, the only thing that's verified information, to a degree, would be a IP address. That being the case, make all the information optional because there's no way to corroborate any of it to any degree beyond the IP address, and then we're still trusting of a third-party source.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I am fine with that. I just wanted to remind or maybe refresh my memory and our collective memory about the conversation about the ZIP code came from this idea of having a check on potential bots or out-of-state submissions, and that requiring a ZIP code served as an initial check. So again, I'm sort
of agnostic, but if I remember the conversation correctly, requiring the ZIP code was a check on the IP address so that we wouldn't have to go we wouldn't have to necessarily go through an entire region's IP address to find if there were any weirdness.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee and Commissioner Fornaciari and then Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Hi, Jaime.

MS. CLARK: Hi, Commissioners. How are you?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, hi.

MS. CLARK: Thanks for having me today.

MR. WAGAMAN: Mr. Wagaman is here as well.

MS. CLARK: Just received the Zoom info, so happy to jump on.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you for jumping on so quickly and so unexpectedly, so thank you.

Commissioner Yee and then Fornaciari and then Commissioner Turner. And this is nice to know that we have Mr. Wagaman and Ms. Clark here with us to chime in if we have questions.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, I was just saying hi to Jaime and Michael.

But just to get us up to speed, so we're wondering what information you were looking to us for today. It's precisely I think it was: What do we require from the
users and kind of where that is right now.

MR. WAGAMAN: So yes, and again we apologize for this being a little disjointed. We'd messaged with staff a couple of times about when they wanted to handle this, and I guess there was a snafu on that communication. But this is really about the user themselves and how much or how little do you want to ask them. I think Commissioner Yee identified do you want to do a more minimalist model where you're just basically getting name and address, or do you want I think as I heard Commissioner -- I think it was, Vazquez, maybe, referring to do you want to gather more information about them so you can sort and organize that data later? And there are two different models, there are different ways of organizing that, so really kind of what information is important to you. So you know, we did hear the conversation about the IP address so we have noted that feedback from the Commission already.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari and then -- Commissioner Fornaciari?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: I was just trying to let you know that they had joined. That's all.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, just to the
commissioners, a thought: If indeed we are making everything voluntarily, you know, it's not required and I'm fine with that, but I just want to think, then, do we need to making it optional. I don't know, I feel like if I go through and fill out everything on there, everything you ask, age, date, birth, you know, firstborn, whatever, whatever is on there, if I fill it out and it's not required and others don't have to, number 1, any information we pull from it would not be accurate because it won't reflect everyone's information at all. We wouldn't be able to say if someone did or didn't participate from a certain area because it's not necessarily required information. And we are then, in essence, having some people go through all of the extra steps and others not. So I agree that I like the optional, but if it's not going to give us what we need, why are we asking for it all? Maybe we need to just go back with the IP addresses.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: And then Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That's a perfect intro into what I was going to say and also throw this question, in part, to Commissioner Sadhwani. I mean, I think we need and this comes also from what Michael was saying. Part of this is: What do we want or need for immediate use?
And the other part can be for permanent record value. So the part that would go to Commissioner Sadhwani is you know, as a researcher, if you were looking twenty years from now, what would you really want to see as far as what's been captured for permanent record value and research value?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Well, that's an interesting question. Thank you for putting me on the spot like that. I mean, I certainly can envision the value of having geographic, location, racial and ethnic background, gender, age, any of those kinds of general demographic pieces from a research standpoint. I mean, I think that as you're saying it I'm like, whoo, I could write a paper about this. Just to think about, right, the level of involvement and the diversity of involvement that could be potentially captured, I wasn't thinking about it from the perspective in all honesty. I was actually just thinking about it more so from a Commission standpoint. We want the most number of people to participate. And to the extent that any of those questions might be off-putting to someone, I would hate to require it and limit participation if that were to be the case. Certainly from a research standpoint it would be interesting to have, but I don't know that we necessarily need to use that as our guiding principle.
But I'll write something about it if we collect it.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So part of the discussion on this has been if we design the input screen in such a way that the required elements are clearly delineated from the optional elements, even looking at the possibility of having the optional elements on a subsequent page so that the input page for the required data only has the input elements that are required, and then we have something on the bottom saying if you'd be willing to share additional information for future research purposes, please go to the next page; otherwise, skip this. You know, something like that.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, so I have Commissioner Vazquez next, Commissioner Fornaciari next, then Commissioner Sadhwani, Yee, and Turner.

Commissioner Vazquez, you're next.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I think more than research purposes if folks are willing to offer that information, I would like to have it to evaluate and weigh their comments within the context in which they're delivering it, which is a person with an identity from a region. So if they want to volunteer that information, I would like to have it. I absolutely don't think it's required, but I would like to see ethnic communities, racial communities, and be able, as I am looking at a map
submitted by the tool to be able to put that in context.
And even for reporting purposes it would also be nice in
terms of tracking the progress on our outreach and
engagement to be able to see, like, wow, we are really of
those who submitted this kind of information, we're
really skewing very young and we need to make sure that
we're also in these other tools getting older folks,
right? Or we're really missing men or women or what have
you. Right? Like, it would just be nice to know of the
people who volunteered this information, these are the
people we're capturing.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, and I don't know the
answer to this question. I'm not sure anyone does at
this point. But I kind of wonder what kind of metadata
our data mining contractor's going to need to help us
work through this? I don't know if Commissioner Ahmad or
Commissioner Sadhwani might have some insights into that
or anybody, but I'm just throwing it out there.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sure. I was just going to
respond, actually, to Commissioner Kennedy's original
idea. I think if it's going to be a subpage and this is
going beyond the scope, really, of the COI tool and Jaime
and Michael's participation necessarily here but if we're
going to have a secondary page in which we begin to
collect some of this data, if we feel that there's value
to it, which certainly I do, we could actually run a
short survey which could at least give us some indication
of people's interest, involvement, it could be a test of
their knowledge, it could be looking at their various
interests within redistricting. I mean, I think there's
a whole range of options there if we want to go down that
road.

Certainly, I would be happy to help put together a
survey of that nature if that's what we wanted to do, but
I also you know, only if there's a broad sense from the
Commission that that would be helpful or that we would
utilize that data in our process.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Yee, then followed by
Commissioner Turner, Fernandez, and Sinay.

COMMISSIONER YEE: A question and a thought. The
question for Jaime or Michael: It would be nice when
someone has a submission to acknowledge the submission
and alert them that we won't actually reply personally to
this but the Commission will take a look at it, so on and
so on. But do we need their email address to do that?
We can only acknowledge submissions if they supply an
email address?

MS. CLARK: When a user submits a community of
interest through the COI tool, then a little dialogue box
will pop up that says: Congratulations, your community
has been submitted to the statewide redistricting
process. Don't quote me verbatim on that. So there will
be an acknowledgement there inside the tool itself, and
users who are logged in will receive a confirmation email
to the email address that they provided when they logged
in, and I believe that users who are using as a guest
account will have an opportunity to provide an email to
receive that confirmation, even if they used it as a
guest user as opposed to a logged-in user.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Very good. Thank you. Then a
comment. And so I'm thinking, okay, as a Commissioner
what am I going to look at? What am I going to care
about? I like Commissioner Vazquez thoughts of getting
data on the way to track our efforts and see what kind of
outreach we're getting and penetration. But when it
comes to the mapping, I think all I'm going to really
care about are the shape and the reasons. Right? I
mean, that's what I'm going to look at. And if somebody
with a Latino-sounding name is commenting about Koreatown
borders, who knows how that could be weighed. You know?
I mean, that's not it's the reasons, really, I think,
that I'm going to look at and care about and that will
actually affect the mapping effort.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

Okay, Commissioner Turner next, and Commissioner Andersen will be after Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I appreciate, Commissioner Yee, you stating that because I think the importance will be the drawing of the lines, the shape, et cetera, when we started the conversation a little bit earlier and we started talking about waiting in consideration of individuals that are filling out the information and utilizing it to see who's not at the table.

And maybe when we get into any of that, I do know, I believe, that there are certain cultures more so than others that are less likely to give more information. And if we're now thinking they're just not at the table because they chose not to, I don't want I guess I'm not comfortable with any of that type of analysis knowing that we made it so open as to whether or not people would or would not give the information.

If we were understand analysis when you fill this out and this is what it tells us. But if we're saying you know, this is voluntary information, you know, put it in or don't put it in or whatever the case may be. I want to make sure that we recognize that that's what we received and we're not then extrapolating that information out across a whole group of people as
representative of anybody.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

Next is Commissioner Fernandez, followed by Commissioner Sinay and then Andersen.

Commissioner Fernandez, before you go, Mr. Wagaman, is this in response to the comments that have been made so far?

MR. WAGAMAN: I can catch up so the other commissioners can go. I just wanted to make sure I was on your list.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I'll definitely add you.

Commissioner Fernandez, and then Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: You know you're becoming one of us when you know there's a list and you've got to get in queue.

I would be more of the preference of the less questions asked the better. One, even if they put all this information in, we have no way to validate that it's accurate information they're putting in anyway. And if we are going to ask for optional questions, I would prefer that it be at the end and let them submit you can submit now and answer more questions if you want, but I want to make it crystal clear in the tool what's optional versus what's not optional. And again, I would just want to have very minimal in terms of what's required. Maybe
a ZIP code. Even then, when they draw their tool, they should know what their ZIP code is or their community of interest because I would have to assume that's where they live is their community of interest. I just don't want anyone to get discouraged or they just lose interest because there's all these questions and they're optional. You know, yeah, they might be optional, but some people might not understand they're optional, and then they're just we're done. So I would just be maybe one question that's required and then the rest I think the objective is for us to get as many communities of interest as possible and not to discourage people.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I wanted to kind of support exactly what Commissioner Fernandez said. And I felt that's where we ended last time was let's make this accessible as possible, and to make it accessible as possible, it needs to be as simple as possible and fun. It needs to be fun. And so I think -- but the language piece is really important. And one of the things is that this is an opportunity. Again, I do want to capture emails if we can or cell phones. I mean, that's the other thing is people are more willing these days to give
their cell phone numbers sometimes than their emails, and
text is the number one way to reach a lot of diverse
communities. And so it's just something to think about
is how do we start -- I forgot what the word is where you
capture all this stuff. But anyway because we're going
to need to go back to all these individuals and invite
them to look at the maps and see if we got it right or
not. And so I see two reasons is we want to get their
information, and then we want them to share it with
others so we get more information from other people. And
so part of outreach is always capture the information you
can as well as have them touch other people. And so we
have talked about, you know, putting it on Facebook or
sharing it, you know, just different ways that people can
say, hey, I did this and you should do it, too.

So I'm of: keep it as simple as possible, as fun as
possible, and encourage others to engage.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

Commissioner Andersen, followed by Mr. Wagaman,
Commissioner Ahmad, and Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair. I totally
agree with we want to make it simple, we want to get
people to participate. One thing I thought of is often,
you know, if you do a survey or anything like that, you
know, if we have questions, may we contact you? And then
there's a name, email, phone number. You know, because that's obviously you know, it's totally optional. So that's an idea in terms of handling any of that stuff. Because the one thing that we aren't getting is we're getting the names of the community of interest; we don't know who is filling it out, which is why that might help. Because we might have a legitimate, like, uh-oh, wait, did you mean this or over here? And it would be nice. And if they don't give it, that's fine. But I am concerned about authentication and particularly like bots.

And so I'd like Mr. Wagaman, when he goes next, if he could ask should we I think asking for a ZIP code I mean, if you're drawing a map, you should know what the ZIP code is. You know? I mean, that's or you could quickly look it up. I mean, that's not a hard thing. And you know, I'm thinking in bots. Wow, what's the first thing that they you know, I don't know. I'm not quite clear, but I'd like to put something in that's to prevent us from either getting completely bogged down or overwhelmed by, you know, evildoers. So if you could answer that one? Thank you.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Mr. Wagaman, we've been waiting for you. You're next.

MR. WAGAMAN: And I apologize. We could have done a
better job framing this discussion at the front end. You know, we tried to schedule a time specific. So again, apologies. It's been a little bit more freewheeling but it's been great in that you are hitting those big issues.

To note, the current design does have that "less is more" design. That's in part based on the fact that you're not asking a lot of questions of everybody from all the other data input sources you're getting, right? So if somebody calls in, you're not asking, you know, how old are you, what's your ethnicity. And we were cognizant I'm sure Professor Sadhwani knows about the information bias effect of if you know all this stuff about the COI testimony but you don't know it about the other testimony, does that affect your deliberations? So we were cognizant of that issue and wanted that feedback from you to make sure that was a piece.

I think Commissioner Andersen just touched on an important point, and it would apply not only to testimony submitted through the tool but to any testimony you gather where if you did want to gather that demographic information, you could have your data analytics team sending a follow-up email to people who sign up at hearings, people who submit emails saying, here's an optional demographic survey, so then not everyone would reply, but it would give you some of those markers. And
we would be, again, capturing and I heard the feedback
about potentially emphasizing trying to get contact
information for folks, so you would have that feedback.

One thing I don't know if we've mentioned or
highlighted or if it was a while ago is each of these
pieces of testimony will have a unique identifier
associated with it. So if somebody does want to submit a
gEOGRAPHY and then wants to testify at one of your
hearings, they would be able to say I'm referring to map
96284, and you would be able to look at that geography
and see that physical human being now in front of you.

The ZIP code information is in there. So previously
the Commission did express a concern about were people
going to be testifying about their own actual community,
and that's why that ZIP code lets you tie those two
pieces together.

On the bot concern, that's something we can
certainly raise with our programmers and people who know
more about this. I think off the top of my head, one
thing would be remember, they're going to have to
interact with the software to draw an actual community of
interest before they are able to submit anything at all.
So I don't know that that is something that would be a
bot-friendly activity of drawing a polygon in a, you
know, not Microsoft Word-type software.
I just rambled on. I don't know if, Jaime, I
misspoke on any of those items. If you have anything to
add?

MS. CLARK: Yeah. Thank you so much. The only item
I have to add is that we'll also implement a reCAPTCHA,
"I'm not a robot" checkbox to also minimize any bot
activity, should a bot even be able to participate in the
redistricting in this way.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. So I have
Commissioner Ahmad, Commissioner Sadhwani. I believe,
Commissioner Vazquez, you had your hand up, and now
Commissioner Sinay as well.

No, okay.

So Commissioner Sinay after Commissioner Sadhwani.

So Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
think I'm also on the thought process of less is more in
this particular tool. We will have many other sources of
data. Trying to add in a survey or additional questions
on demographics won't do us any help in this process
because that data would not be usable to make any
generalizations for the population. It would be a biased
sample. It wouldn't be random sample which would mean
that each person in the population has an equal
probability of being selected in the analysis, and that
wouldn't be the case with this since it's a self-selected tool that people will choose to participate in. So I would caution against adding any additional questions that I too would be interested in knowing but would not serve our purpose for the tool. And we do have many other sources of data that we will be relying on.

And Commissioner Turner and I are tasked with thinking through how are we going to mush all of these data points together to give us some information that we can actually make decisions off of? And so just keeping really focused on the COI tool being a tool in which we can visually see suggested maps for our next steps in the process. Thanks.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani, you're next, and then followed by Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And I agree with you completely, Commissioner Ahmad. In terms of when a map is submitted, I know that we'll get the shape file. Will we get, like, the coordinates of the map that's drawn? Will we have a sense or, like, counties that it touches? Will we be able to search these maps by region and location? And I guess the underlying question there also is: I know that we're ultimately responsible for figuring out how to collect all of these maps, but is there any infrastructure at this point for what we should
do with these submissions?

So infrastructure for submissions and then to that geo-coded data of the actual map that's drawn. Right?
So if we're going to go in and say, hey, today we're looking at San Diego; can we cull all of the San Diego maps that have been submitted? Is that data kind of being exported with a map submission?

MS. CLARK: Sure. Thank you, thank you for that question. Certainly, the shape files can be geo-coded to include their FIPS code, the county FIPS code, which basically you can search all of the shape files that have my county code that I'm looking at in. Also, we will send the equivalency file which can be used to integrate all of the COIs into one big layer so that all of the COIs can pop up at once, which of course then you could see all of the COIs in any given area that you're looking at, at the same time.

Yeah, and of course your line drawing consultants will be able to also pull up individual COIs that you're interested in seeing. If you remember a specific COI or want to look at a specific COI, then your line drawer will be able to pull them up individually with the shape files as well.

MR. WAGAMAN: And I'll just add that if you refer to the PowerPoint that this is not the end of the
collaboration between the statewide database and the Commission in that one of the items for throughout 2020 is to continue to work with the subcommittee on that backend process as both security and reporting. Right now, the time pressure is to figure out and lock down that frontend user interface so that that design can be completed and so that we can start the many, many, many translations that need to be done.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just to clarify, when it comes to ZIP code, people live, work, and play in different ZIP codes. And some areas have a ZIP code that covers a lot of space, but in places like L.A., every block seems to have a different ZIP code. So I don't want us to feel you know, I just wanted to bring that up so that we didn't have a bias against people submitting multiple different ZIP codes because we are asking them: where do you live, work, and play?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, thank you. All right, I will also just give a comment. I think just given what we also heard about language access, I will also perhaps put out there that the more questions that we ask and the less simple it becomes, the more we have to translate, and then, therefore, I'm also thinking the more complicated and expensive it's going to get.
And I think my other thought and I would say this is in agreement with those who said simpler is better in other types of submissions that we would be taking in, the COI tool not being the only one, if somebody mails something, if they hand us a drive as was suggested, if they write one on a paper napkin and send it in to us, or whatever means that they submit their view of what their community of interest would be, my understanding is that we will not have all of this information. And so I also want to just put that out there for all of our consideration.

What I think I heard from everybody is that it seems like there seems to be general agreement that and it sounds like you've already taken this into account, the IP address and there's just generally, I think, just a desire for simpler is better. I think if there is the optional questions, I do agree that perhaps from a placement point of view that we consider what Commissioner Fernandez also said and put it at the end, after it's submitted, so that then it's not a requirement to submit it, but after the submission if they choose to want to provide additional information then they could. But I think what Commissioner Yee and I believe let's see, maybe it was Commissioner Sinay and also Commissioner Fernandez and Vazquez and Andersen all said
something similar which is: What is the value of all of this information that we're going to be asking for? And if there isn't a value, is it going to be the best use of what we'll be asking everybody to do as well, too.

So with that said, I think Mr. Wagaman and Ms. Clark, the question is: What is going to be perhaps most useful given what we've all said? Is it to just collect just the IP addresses? I know that there's some mixed ideas between emails or texts, but it sounds like there are ways that we could, I guess, reach back out to people. Or do we ask people to reach back out to us?

MR. WAGAMAN: So what I've heard from the Commission is that the key here is that you want to preserve the option to reach back out to these people and to be able to gather more information. So we'll look at making sure that we are at least encouraging not as a barrier but as an encouragement to try to capture that. So then as your plans for outreach continue to develop, folks who are using the COI tool aren't biased against being able to participate in that follow-up process and, beyond that, trying to keep the tool as simple and user-friendly as possible while still preserving the option to do things like capture that IP address, capture that ZIP code. So if there is testimony that you really want to dig in on and look at its validity, you would have and retain that
option. If that's the Commission feedback, we're good to go.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I was just going to say that I think my fellow commissioners made, to me, a fairly convincing argument of why the negatives for collecting demographic information probably outweigh the partial benefits and that we can, I think, still explore reaching back out to folks who have agreed to be reached out to, to collect some of that information if we decide it's meaningful for data collection purposes.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: The reaching back to people is not just to collect more information, but also we want you to stay part of this whole process. I mean, we want them to say this is the you know, I go back to my old analogy of this is a piece of the puzzle and we want you to keep seeing how we build the puzzle. So I don't want to lose that because I didn't hear that on your

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think on that note I also wonder and maybe this is more for Director Claypool and the Commission staff would it be appropriate to perhaps I know there's different schools of thought about this but automatically put people onto the Commission mailing list so that, then, they can stay engaged and they can also
opt out after they get added? And then that way, then, there's that secondary touch point as well, too, to Commissioner Sinay's point. And I guess that's separate from what the statewide database is doing, but just a thought there. Okay?

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just that one last thought, you know, because the 2010 did get inundated with maps which were drawn some people drew it of other areas, you know, essentially false information.

In terms of is there a way that we could kind of do some sort of verification without you know, we don't want to without turning people away? Because we want to collect information, we want to collect information, but on the other hand we don't want to be totally naïve. And I'm still kind of wondering: Is there any kind of way we can say, oh, these people are drawing someone else's district because that would benefit them? And I'm just wondering. I see Commissioner Sinay might be able to answer this.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes, okay. So Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't think I can answer it, but I wanted clarification. Did 2010 get inundated? Because that's a huge word to say someone got inundated with false information. That's the first time I hear
that, so I just wanted to make sure since we're in public. You know, if that's true, I'd like to hear more about that, maybe later. But I just wanted to be clear if they got inundated or not.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Should we hear from the executive director.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Mr. Claypool.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: There you are. Mr. Claypool?

Sorry about that. You were on another screen. I didn't realize it. I'm like, where did you go?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: First of all, Jaime and Michael, thank you for showing up so quickly. And there was a mistake, but they jumped to it and I appreciate it.

I would say that the Commission got inundated with people who came to some of the meetings and would just come up and repeat the same thing over and over and over again, and it caused some of the commissioners on that Commission to believe that there had been coaching.

As far as inundated with actual information that was provided to us, I don't remember that being an issue. We coded as much as we could by the assistants that we used; however, a lot of that information just became unusable because we didn't code it well. And so the Commission we had no way to go back to it. Hence, the need to have
somebody do it professionally for us rather than trying
to just do it ad hoc like we tried to do last time. So
yes, there was some inundation, but it was in the public
meetings and it was in the public the people who came and
spoke. I don't remember it in the documentation itself.

MR. WAGAMAN: And I just want to add from the
legislative feedback that we've given the database, we
are very cognizant of not getting in the middle of those
kind of subjective decisions. So the joke I use with
Jaime is that we're not the COI cops on this deciding
which COI are good and bad. That would put the
legislature in an awkward position of trying to set up a
tool that was designed to decide if somebody's COI
testimony was valid or not.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And also in listening to our
conversation, we can't be totally married to the fact
that someone outside of the community doesn't have
intimate knowledge about a community. And just to use a
police officer, for example, a police officer who doesn't
live in a community might know the ins and outs of a
particular place because they're working there. So we
have people that are outside that can provide a lot of
guidance. So even from the standpoint of a IP address,
you can have someone outside of that area from a
different IP address that's providing relevant information.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. And I think one of the thoughts around the IP address is maybe more to ensure that a non-Californian was not submitting versus someone in California. I think this was to Commissioner Sinay's point. We understand that people live, work, and play in different areas and so may want to weigh in on those areas. For example, I do not live very close to where I work, and so people may look at where I'm submitting from, if I'm submitting on behalf of where I work, and might think, well, my map may be not as legitimate because my IP address is not from that area. So I think it was more the concern of anyone outside of California. I think that was the security concern that we had.

But thank you for your comment, Commissioner Taylor. I think that's well remembered.

Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Just as a flag, again, I know that we're using this as a piece of information to gauge whether something funny is happening, but IP addresses, if folks are using things like VPNs the IP address is not a perfect tool. So we can collect it. I am fine with collecting it, but just know even as we're evaluating that, it's imperfect.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Good to remember. So may I just ask for Mr. Wagaman and Ms. Clark did we provide you with what you need to move forward? I just want to make sure that we respect the deadline that you need to stay on track.

So okay, very good. Thank you very much. I'm also conscious that we're at 4:42. I do know that some of the commissioners need to move on, and I appreciate, Ms. Clark and Mr. Wagaman, for you jumping on very quickly with us. Yes, we had a little bit of a communication breakdown, so thank you for being on with us so that we can have this robust discussion.

Okay, so thank you. We are going to go ahead and move on. If we can, maybe in the time that we have, I am hopeful that maybe we can even just whip through some of our other reports. We have next subcommittee 7-K is our next item on our subcommittee list agenda,

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Le Mons, do you want to start out or

We basically have three tasks that we're going to do a quick two are quick; one is not so quick in terms of reporting on. The first one is the website and the minutes. I think Commissioner Le Mons and the last one is the computers.
I'll just do a quick you know, trying to get our new computers. We have a list from Raul who basically these are already kind of packaged. We might be able to get them faster, so we're trying to go through that. It's an extremely detailed list, and so we're just trying to go through it and figure out if there is something we could just use.

The other item is the COVID policy, and I don't know if we can do that quickly or not.

But let's start with the website. So

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Sure. So of course we met with Raul and Riana (ph.) to discuss what we had captured in some of the changes. Hopefully, those were reflective in what commissioners saw. She was able to turn those around really quickly. We kept it very high level in terms of making it clear this wasn't a redesign but an opportunity to reorganize the information in a way that was clearer, that created somewhat of a partition or distinction between what was current and related to the 2020 Commission versus archived quote/unquote information from last time. So I think at this point we felt that she actually did address she had told us it would take her up to five days, but it looked like she turned around from my estimation, Commissioner Andersen, based on the
checklist we gave her, it looked like she actually turned around all of the things that we asked, which I was surprised that she had gotten it done so quickly.

So I guess I would just say that if there are other things that commissioners see, little tweaks that you'd like to see, just shoot an email to Raul and we'll work with him to make sure that those adjustments can be made as well.

But hopefully the agendas and meetings, as you saw, were condensed into one section of the site so they could be easily accessed. There was a graphic put on the home page so that you could click to that or you could go from the Nav bar. We put the list of the fourteen of us in a column to just shorten the amount of real estate on the home page to prevent unnecessary scrolling. So it was those kinds of things. She was very knowledgeable, very easy to work with, and very open to our feedback.

So if you agree, Commissioner Andersen, I think if there's any additional tweaks that the commissioners would like to see, if they'd just shoot an email and cc the subcommittee, we'll facilitate it happening.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see the little clapping from Commissioner Kennedy.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Sorry, go
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Go ahead, Commissioner Andersen.

Sorry.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So yes, there are a couple little tweaks that I am actually going to forward, because there were a couple of little things going on, but it was a huge improvement, I think.

Next is oh, I'm sorry, did anyone have any questions?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez had, I think, something that she wanted to say.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes. It's just one of our public comments had very extensive feedback. Some of it might be relevant to incorporate. So if we could just make sure to go through that particular public comment on the website and our number, et cetera, and just see what is doable, that would be great.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Okay, moving on to the COVID policy. You did get a document that we have a look at. Basically, this document Raul essentially helped us. He put this together, combining essentially two documents which was the California Department of Public Health Guidance and there's also essentially the CDC, which is the Center of Communicable Diseases, their guidance as well. He put this together, and it is comprehensive. There are only two areas that we really
need to talk about in terms of items that we need to
to address. And just quickly, one of which is employers
must indicate: are we going to do any kind of medical
screening? And that would include such as, you know, the
temperature, like there's a list of symptoms. Do you
have to fill that out every day? Do you not have to fill
that out? And also testing protocol. You know, should
employees be tested once a week, that sort of thing.
That's an item to discuss.

The other item to discuss, which might be easier, is
the issue of in our offices do people need to be wearing
face coverings at all times? And the reason I bring that
up is because our office is right now, there's
essentially only one actual closed office space,
individual office, and the bulk of the office is a large,
open area with cubbies, and they're ten by ten, say,
something like that. And the California Department of
Public Health's guidance document, you could imply the
way it's written is that as long as you're more than six
feet away from people, you don't have to wear the mask.
Now, that is not all common areas, all hallways,
elevators, there's no question: everyone has to be masked
up. But you could interpret it that way. But that is
not consistent with the CDC and everyone else where it
clearly says you must wear masks in any room or enclosed
area where other people are present. And we need to
decide how we will apply that to our facilities, you
know, our offices and to our staff.

So those are the two items that we need to discuss,
and I'd like to have basically input on I think let's do
the basically, the subcommittee's recommendation is, yes,
you have to have masks on at all times unless there is
another way you can address that issue in terms of the
adequate ventilation. And you actually have to have a
consultant come in and evaluate the space and determine
what kind of airflow you have and can you be in certain
areas that you do not require them. But that's a whole
other step.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez and then
Commissioner Fernandez, and then Marian?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Can we hear from Marian
first?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Sure.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: That may impact my comments.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Marian? We can't hear you.

MS. JOHNSTON: Do you want the required break time?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Are we at that point now?

MS. JOHNSTON: You are.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

MS. JOHNSTON: If you think it's over shortly, maybe
we could ask the interpreters if they could last for
another five or ten minutes?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I get the feeling that it might
not happen that way, so I think just yeah, okay, we'll
take a break. Fifteen minutes. We'll be back at 5:04 --
or 5:06. What is fifteen minutes? 5:06.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 4:51 p.m.
until 5:06 p.m.)

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Welcome back. We will
continue our conversation on the report just submitted by
the Troubleshooting Subcommittee on the COVID policy.
And I believe we were about to take comment on that. And
I believe I saw

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Can I just say one thing
before? Commissioner Turner sent in some nice edits.
There were grammatical and she was absolutely correct.
She sent them in to the office, and the office had
forwarded them to us. It just involves in many instances
it says they, they, they. And in this case it should
actually say "you," that sort of thing. So that will be
cleaned up as well. I just wanted to mention that.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Commissioner Fernandez, I
know Commissioner Vazquez had a comment, but Commissioner
Fernandez, I think I saw your hand up too.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I mean, there's a few
grammatical stuff, too, and I'll just probably just send those to you instead of, like, going through that.

But I just wanted to answer your question in terms of or give my feedback in terms of testing. Are we going to test people coming in to the office? I know in our office we just have a sign that says, hey, if you have these symptoms turn around and go home, basically, is what it says. So we kind of do like a self-assessment before we go in, just kind of like a reminder. That might be something that's simple to do. You post on the door. You don't have to worry about somebody doing temperature checks or anything like that. Because then that opens up a whole other what do you do then, I mean, if they do have a fever or something?

And then in terms of in the office face coverings at all times, I think I would just I know the state or the governor put out directives for state buildings and state agencies, and I really don't know what the exact language is, but as long as we're in line with that it's unfortunate there is only one there's only, like, a couple offices, hard offices. Everything else is cubicles. But that's the world we live in right now.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And sorry, just to answer that one, this document does include what the governor the California Department of Public Guidance is
essentially what the governor said.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So I would just suggest we go with that, then.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez, I believe you had wanted to make a comment also? I think you're frozen.

Does anybody while we wait for her, does anybody else want to make a comment?

Commissioner Vazquez, you're still frozen.

Commissioner Fornaciari? You're on mute. Okay.

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yeah, Marian has a comment.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. My comment is just when it says "employees and other workers." Shouldn't it be "and other people in the office," not just workers?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Are you talking about right at the beginning?

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it's several places. It's in the beginning and then it's on page 3 and other places where it says "employees and other workers." But since this is an office where we do have other people come in

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: There is one that says something about in terms of the general public. This is actually, you know, individuals right at the beginning, right at the top, it says the very first line is to
"employees, other workers, and members of the public."

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, thank you. For instance, we had the question from an applicant about whether she needed I don't know if it's a he or a she needed to wear a face mask coming in to be interviewed, and our answer was yes, but I'm not sure if that was required or just we did it.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That would be required. What I would suggest in terms of the issue in terms of who wears face coverings and who doesn't, the only issue really is: as long as we are all consistent with basically, if you're inside and you are not in your own enclosed, close-the-door office, you need to have a face covering on. It doesn't matter if you're within six feet or not. You should try to stay away from six feet. We should all and as long as we are a straw pool that that's what we want to say, then I would propose making one change which is on the second page under Social Distancing and eliminate the first two bulletins, and our policy will be totally consistent with that.

And so what we would be eliminating is where it says "In any area where social distancing cannot be maintained, a protective face covering such as a cloth is required." And it already says that. The reason why the next bulletin is "The majority of CRC office spaces are
of adequate size to promote social distancing." And that's where it implies that as long as you're far enough away you don't have to wear the face covering. If we just take those two bulletins out, it says "At all times try to maintain a distance of at least six feet between yourself and others." And then "Telecommuting and conducting meetings through available technology continues to be encouraged as a method of social distancing." Then everything else is totally consistent about face coverings. It says "In any room or enclosed area where other people are present you must wear a face covering."

So that could be as simple as we crossed those out, we're done with that, and then we can just talk about the testing, which I would so propose.

Now, Commissioner Vazquez is with us.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: You're back, Commissioner Vazquez.

Okay, there you go.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Having many tech issues today.

Yes, I agree with the committee's proposal to eliminate those two. The best way to think about this virus is like smoke. If you could smell someone's cigarette after they walk away, you're breathing in their aerosols. So I do think we should if staff are in the
office and there's another person there, you should be
wearing masks at all times. And if that's not acceptable
to our staff, I would rather work with them to figure out
a way for them to work from home rather than expose
themselves and others.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Anyone else?

(No response)

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, Commissioners Andersen
and Le Mons, do you have what you need for right now?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The one other item is in
terms of the employer is supposed to come up with and I'm
thinking not just we have a few people right now, but
we're trying to hire many more people on, so all of these
would be applying is we should come up with the actual
wording which we can do. We can grab it from another
place. Basically, you're supposed to take your
temperatures at home, you know, before you come in to the
office, and then it complies.

And there's also the idea we could do it in a form.
You know, like, have you ever gone to the dentist or a
doctor's office, there's the four statements or there's
all this list of questions. Each employee could fill
that out every couple of weeks or something like that. I
don't know if we want to do that.

Also, the one item is: Should we have an idea of
everyone needs to get tested, like, once a month, once a week, that sort of thing actually get tested for COVID.

MS. JOHNSTON: I'm not sure you can get tested here in Sacramento, can you? I don't think you can get tested here without a doctor's order.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can get tested at Cal Expo. They're a drive-in.

MS. JOHNSTON: Drive through?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Drive through, yeah.

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, that's something we need to discuss because

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad and then Claypool and then Commissioner Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah, thank you to the subcommittee for putting this together. I think my question was just or question/response-ish to Commissioner Andersen's last point where this I'm assuming and please correct me if I'm wrong that this document, although it's a worksite plan, it would travel wherever the Commission travels, correct? And so if at some point, you know, COVID is not 100 percent gone but we are meeting at a location outside of this building, there's other considerations to take into there's other considerations such as who can get tested, ease of access to testing, costs associated, local jurisdiction, health
orders, which at this point we're in a hodgepodge across
the state. Some counties are more open than others. So
reading this and thinking about this particular worksite,
it makes sense to me, but if we were having a meeting in
San Jose there would be a lot of things that would be a
little different. So just wanting to pose that question
to the group: Is this worksite plan specific to our
meetings here in Sacramento?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I have Director Claypool,
Commissioner Vazquez, and then I saw Commissioner Le Mons
and then Commissioner Andersen, and then Commissioner
Fernandez.

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: So on the testing, I think that
we need to do a little more investigation as to what's
available, particularly given that if we surge I don't
know that testing will be available without having a
doctor's order. It goes back and forth. So I wouldn't
want to have a hard and fast rule that somebody would
have to become tested every month if it weren't possible
for them to actually get the test. So I think we need to
be a little more open on that one and we need to do a
little more investigation. That's all.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: This might surprise folks but
I'm pretty agnostic as to our testing policy. To be
quite honest, the tests are still about thirty percent false and highly dependent on the perfect window of getting tested whether it is positive or not when you actually do have the virus. So I'm okay with a more honor system. You know, if you are having symptoms or if you've been in contact with somebody who has symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, then you should tell your employer and stay home. But the testing, for me, is a way for testing and temperature checks, to be honest, are a way for people to hygiene meter and not especially useful as a policy, in my opinion.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I was just going to respond to the question about whether this was a portable policy or it was our office policy. We were approaching it from it being our office workplace policy. Isn't that correct, Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, we were. My question to actually follow was: Why wouldn't this pertain virtually on the road? Are we not being inclusive enough or

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh, I thought we were looking at it as when we talked about this, I thought we were approaching this as an employer about our staff and workplace. I think that what's being raised I'm not
taking a position on the other thing but again, I'd like
to answer the question with the frame that it was. And
if we're going to do something for the road, let's make
that a separate thing and not

Okay, thank you, Commissioner Ahmad, for that
support.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Okay, I like that idea.

Commissioner Andersen and then Commissioner
Fernandez and then back to Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Mine was just the
Commissioner Le Mons was absolutely correct. This was
based on the office, knowing full well that as we travel,
you know, there's going to be some tweaking. But the way
it's kind of written, I'm not sure there's that much, so
when we as we choose to go on the road, I'd like to have
a bit more feedback about what do we want to do before we
head that way.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, Commissioner Fernandez and
then Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I go back to the
honor system in terms of requiring employees to test. I
don't think that's appropriate. I don't think any
agencies are requiring their employees well, I shouldn't
say any. Some probably are, but I don't think the
majority are.
And then, also, I saw this as at the worksite. If at some point we ever travel, it's wherever we're traveling to, we have to adhere to whatever policy they have, if that makes sense, because every place would have their own policy. Every county is going to be at a different level. So we just need to make sure that we adhere to whatever their COVID policy is instead of I mean, it's going to be hard to try to capture one that's going to fit all, so my recommendation would be just whatever that policy is.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad and then back to Commissioner Vazquez and then Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Oh, I just wanted to say thank you for the clarification. That helps.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'd actual disagree with Commissioner Fernandez. I think we should at least around the mask policy either whichever is more conservative or this is the policy. If you are on staff time, if you are on CRC staff time, you're adhering even out in the field adhering to our face covering policy.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: As an employer, our responsibility is to ensure that we have a safe environment for our staff. I think the policy does that,
I think, and that's what we aim to do. In terms of testing, I don't think the risk is great at this point because there's so few staff, but as we staff up there will be more risk because there will be more folks more people in a crowded environment. And at that point, once we get to a certain threshold and folks if they aren't tabled to socially distance, then that would be that may potentially increase the likelihood that folks might get sick, and so that would be problematic. But as long as folks are able to socially distance, which the policy is very clear about that, and we have a mask policy, I think that would be sufficient.

And of course if folks have symptoms, they would be on the honor system and would need to report it to somebody on staff and stay home or quarantine or whatever they need to do, but that would be the that seems perfectly appropriate at this point. Of course, if staff didn't feel safe, then of course that's something we would need to know about.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. We're assuming that more and more people are going to be in the office, but I'd like to hear Director Claypool's thoughts on how many would end up working from the office and how many would end up working from home. Thank you.
DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I think that we're going to encourage people to do things from home that they can do from home, if they're comfortable with that. Some people like to come in to the office just because they like the social environment and they like to and they feel like they're more productive. However, we're not going to discourage anyone who says I would rather do this from home and work that way. But if they're in the office, I think that Commissioner Vazquez is absolutely right; they have to adhere to our policy or we have to make that arrangement.

I don't know how many people will be coming in once we have a more robust outreach policy. Deputy Executive Director Hernandez is going to make some decisions, and those decisions may bring people in to the office just because of the need. I don't know what that plan is. But having said that, that's a possibility.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So if I can just make a suggestion? First off, I think that, one, it does sound like just for the sake of covering all of our bases, could I ask the Troubleshooting Committee to just draft a portable or one in which the Commission will be on the road that will apply to both the staff and the Commission? I think it sounds like we just need to have that written out, and then I think we're following the
So Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: We'd love to do that, but I think we should wait until the Outreach Director and that whole team so we're clear on what we're drafting and all of that. I think right now we were trying to solve one very simple issue: our workplace. And I'd like us to table the on-the-road policy for when we're developing what are we doing on the road? We don't even know what we're going to do on the road. Are we even going on the road? I mean, I just don't think that's urgent with all the other stuff that we have to do.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, all right.

Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I mean, I understand and hear that, Commissioner Le Mons, and for me it seems really simple to just amend the policy to say while on staff time. Because, for me, I will not be voting for an on-the-road policy that is less conservative than what we'd ask of staff in the Sacramento office, to be quite frank. So to me, it seems like a simple amendment.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, this one is built on the state's recommendations, the county, the California Health Department. I mean, all of the restrictive so, I mean, we could just call it "on the road" but if we
wanted to really examine what on the road looks like, et
cetera and the truth of the matter is we're not on the
road. That's really my point. It's not that I don't
think we should do it, but we're not even on the road,
period.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right, Commissioner Fernandez
and then Commissioner Andersen?

Oh, I'm sorry, also my apologies. Before we go to
Commissioner Fernandez and Andersen; Commissioner
Kennedy, I apologize.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. I mean, to me,
the only thing that we need to perhaps add is that in the
instance that commissioners or staff visit a locality
that has a more restrictive policy that we will abide by
that more restrictive policy and then we're done.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I'm just going to
respectfully disagree with Commissioner Vazquez. I still
feel that it can be two separate things.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Andersen and then
Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Le Mons, do you
want to quickly say something? Because then I'll

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. I guess I was thinking
of on the road more comprehensively. There are things about being in closed vehicles with people. I mean, I think there are all kinds of things we might need to consider on the road that is different than our workplace policy. So I would simply suggest being that as we design what on the road looks like, we remember that we're in COVID and make sure that we have a COVID policy that protects people being on the road. But to just assume that it's going to look exactly like our office, it isn't. So that's all I was suggesting. Not that I was anti-on-the-road policy.

It's just again, I guess I'm just coming from we convolute everything. We are working on a very simple office policy. We can always do a on-the-road policy, but we're not -- that's not even where we are. We're trying to make sure our staff is safe who are coming in to the workplace. We're not on the road.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So okay, just quickly here, basically what the subcommittee is going to do is we're going to modify the wording for the medical screening based on the sense that we're doing the honor system, putting the proper edits in, and then I will just say Okay, we actually are going to stick with the conservative part of it, and it's not based that it's more conservative. If we're at any kind of and
Commissioner Le Mons is correct: As we go on the road there are more specific things that we will need to work out such as in cars, carrying equipment, that kind of thing, which we have not done here because we're not doing that. So yes, we'll do that at a different time.

But right now, in terms of our policy, do we need to modify it if we go to different places? No, we don't, because this is also based on above all the system is a group who it's called ASHRAE. And they are the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers. They're the people who write the standards for any indoor space. And basically I'm following their guidelines which building managers are owners have to follow, and the rest of this is all nice and what we talk about over coffee time and stuff. There is one standard and that's what we're sticking with.

And we've decided as a group that basically if you're in a building and you are not in your own closed space, it's an open space, you're wearing a face mask. And anyone who comes into our office, that's the way it is because that's

If you want to do anything other than that, you actually have to have an expert come in and evaluate your open space to actually indicate where you could be without open masks and that kind of stuff. I don't
propose we do that, and I did not include all the
documents that involve this, but I will attach I can
submit for the public and for everybody just a reference
sheet of items to look at so you can see it is airborne
as opposed to you know, transmission of coronavirus
through the air is sufficiently likely that airborne
exposure to the virus needs to be controlled. And there
are pictures of what size the, you know, the, all the,
you know, microns, and that's where the MERV standards
come from, MERV standards for your filters, and these are
all the things that we've been looking at putting this
in.

So got it covered. We're going to make these
changes. We'll be there, and the next will be when we go
to go on the road, they'll be more specific for on the
road and the closed areas, but I think that takes care of
it all.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, I just wanted to be
clear. I was not advocating for I want a single policy
for the worksite. If we get to a certain place where we
need to revise or add a policy, that makes sense. So
yeah, I was not advocating that we go down a separate
policy road because I do think this particular piece is
simple.
CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, great. Thank you very much for your work, Commissioner Andersen and Le Mons. I know that we are at 5:30. I'm going to hope if we could just finish up 7-L, Commissioners Kennedy and Ahmad, and then perhaps we can then adjourn and finish the rest tomorrow morning.

Commissioner Fernandez, yes?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I didn't know it says action. You wanted to take action on the policy or on the COVID or

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Do we need to formally accept it? Is that what you're asking?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I was just looking at the agenda item, and it looked like you wanted us to take action on it. Is that what you

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, yes. I think we were supposed to we'd like to make this policy. Can we do it as the proposed amended? I don't know if we can do that.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I think if we're going to formally accept it as policy then I think we do need to actually have a motion and vote on it, and perhaps it is with the caveats based on the edits that have been fed back to the committee.

Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I just have another option
because Commissioner Fornaciari and I are working on the policies, so I don't know if maybe we just incorporate that with our other policies that we're doing, also, and then we kind of approve them all at one time? It's whatever the Commission

MS. JOHNSTON: It's never going to happen.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Marian, what do you think? Are you commenting on that?

MS. JOHNSTON: I guess the policy package is so big, I can't imagine having one motion to approve it all.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: No, no, no. We're bringing the policies one or two at a time.

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, then, let's approve this one while we have it here. I don't know. Whatever.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Fornaciari, I saw that your hand did go up. Let's have you

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: You've got to love the open mic. No, I was just going to raise I was going to offer that maybe we could they could make the modifications and we could approve it next week when we have the you know, that session. But you know, I kind of agree, you know, we spent all that time talking about it, I think the team knows the changes we want to make, so I move we go ahead and vote and accept the policy.

MS. JOHNSTON: Is that a formal motion?
VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I second.

MS. JOHNSTON: That was Ahmad?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Commissioner Ahmad, okay, thank you.

Is there any additional comments? If not

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Public comment.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, that's right. My apologies.

Thank you. We do need to go to public comment for this.

So Jesse?

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 98512592479 for this week's meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press pound. Once you have dialed in, you will be placed in a queue from which the 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 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 AKUTAGAWA: We'll wait a minute or so.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Can I add some trivia while we're
waiting? So my wife works at Asian Health Services and I
asked her about her colleagues' names, so L-i-o-u, Liou,
Liou.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Oh, so I did have it correct?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay.

COMMISSIONER YEE: And Thu, she said she actually
doesn't know for sure. She hears people in the office
saying Quack or Quach, but they're not sure whether to
pronounce the c-h or not, so not even she is

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I understand Vietnamese that I
know with similar names is they pronounce it Quach.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Cantonese would be Quach, but in
Vietnamese, I don't know. The c-h may or may not be

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think they take, like, a
translation of the if they're of Chinese heritage the
Chinese name and translated into, I guess, Vietnamese.

Okay, Jesse, do we have anybody queued up for public
comment on this issue?

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

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Okay, then, I do believe, then, we
can move on to a vote. Marian?

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioners Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari?

VICE CHAIR FORNACIARI: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sadhwani?
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Sinay?

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I believe she had to leave.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Turner?

Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

MS. JOHNSTON: The motion passes.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: All right. Thank you very much.

Let's just finish up our last item, number 7-L, lessons learned, Commissioners Kennedy and Ahmad. Do you have anything to report at this time?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No new information to report.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: I was so hoping you would have said that. Thank you. Sorry, it's 5:38.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I do have one thing, though, and this is for the Lessons Learned Committee info. It's been raised to my attention that the state auditors are actually starting work already on the 2030. They're getting their information together for in terms of
getting the right counsel involved. And so I would recommend that the subcommittee contact the state auditors to let them know that you guys exist and have ideas coming and so you can make that connection now.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Great suggestion. Thank you. I also just want to acknowledge it's not on the agenda but it will be on the agenda, I believe, for the next meeting. And please correct me if I'm wrong, but I just want to acknowledge that we did form a Language Access Committee and a data I'll just call it for right now a data committee because they are currently looking at renaming themselves. And I think I do understand that there is a Director Claypool, I don't know if you made this suggestion, but at the risk of opening up a can of worms and perhaps we can talk about this tomorrow but did you make a suggestion about a legal subcommittee?

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: I did, and I think the suggestion was that it should probably just be the VRA Committee just expanded because they're handling counsel, and then they can pick it up. Although, can you remind me who is on the VRA Committee? I'm just

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: It's Commissioner Yee and Commissioner Sadhwani so

DIRECTOR CLAYPOOL: Sure. Okay? The only reason I
mentioned that was because we have one attorney on the
Commission and I don't know what the is there, Marian, a
prohibition as to three or -- okay, well, then, that's
okay. I was just thinking it might be good to have
Commissioner Toledo on it, but on the other hand, we
already have a committee in place and probably just fold
that straight into them.

CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: So just for the sake of recapping
what we'll be covering tomorrow, so tomorrow morning when
we resume our meeting, we will be looking at what I would
like to do is because our first panel agenda item number
8 will start at 11 a.m.

I am going to start the agenda tomorrow morning with
agenda item number 13, which is the discussion about
information security concerns. We'll then go to agenda
item number 15, agenda item number 16, and then hopefully
well, hopefully we will be able to go to agenda item
number 8.

Commissioner Kennedy, I am going to point this out
to you. Perhaps depending on the time that we will be
at, we may just decide to discuss agenda item number 17
tomorrow morning prior to the panel based on where we
will be. And then at that point, after the panel, we'll
discuss agenda item number 10. And then we will continue
to take public comments on any actions, should we take
them. We'll take public comment in the morning, we'll
take public comment after lunch, and then we'll take
public comment once more before the end of the day.

And I think given that we had just called for public
comment, I think it may be okay to not take public
comment. Am I seeing a thumbs-up from Commissioner
Vazquez? Yes, okay.

All right, so we can recess for the evening. Thank
you very much to everybody for hanging in there, and
we'll see you in the morning.

(Whereupon, the CRC Business Meeting adjourned
at 5:43 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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_______________________
LORI RAHTES, CDLT-108

May 24, 2022
DATE