STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

CRC BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020
9:30 a.m.

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APPEARANCES

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

STAFF
Marian Johnston, Counsel
Raul Villanueva, Acting Executive Director

ALSO PRESENT
Amy Dominguez-Arms, Philanthropy California
Connie Malloy, Former CRC Commissioner
Alejandra Ponce de Leon, Advancement Project California
Jonathan Mehta Stein, Common Cause

PUBLIC COMMENT
Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund
Renee Westa-Lusk
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PROCEDINGS

October 7, 2020

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Welcome, everyone, to day 3 of our meeting, October 7th, 2020. And before I forget like yesterday, Marian, can we do a roll call?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa. Commissioner Akutagawa, are you on mute?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It looks like she's just barely logging on, so we'll come back.

MS. JOHNSTON: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: 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 Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Toledo. All here except Commissioner Toledo.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thank you. Okay, and just for the public, so that they know what the agenda for the day is, we're going to go back to agenda item 10 briefly and have discussion on the cell phones for the Commissioners. And we will then go into agenda item number 11, which is strategies for outreach; that will be at 10:30 this morning. And then agenda item 12, which is strategies for public input meetings, that will be at 2 o'clock.

Just a reminder to all Commissioners, if you plan to attend next week's meeting in the Sacramento office, please let Marian and Raul know via email; that'd be
great. And also if you have any proposed interview
questions for the chief counsel and communications
director, I believe Marian asked for those by tomorrow,
so that would be very helpful for those two
subcommittees.

And let's go to public comment. Raul, can you read
the instructions please?

MR. VILLANUEVA: It would be my pleasure, Chair.

In order to maximize transparency and public
participation in our process, the Commissioners will be
taking public comment during their meeting by phone.
There will be opportunities to address the Commissioners
regarding the items on the agenda. There will also be
opportunities for the public to submit general comments
about items that are not on the agenda.

Please note that the Commission is not able to
comment or discuss on items that are not on the agenda.
The Commission will advise the viewing audience when it
is time to submit public comment. At this time, the
Commission is soliciting public comment on general items.

The Commissioners will then allow time for those who
wish to comment to dial in. To call in, on your phone,
dial the telephone number provided on the livestream
feed. Next, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number
provided on the livestream feed using your dial pad.
Third, when prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound sign.

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 automatic message to press star 9 to raise your hand, which indicates that you wish to comment.

When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automatic message stating, "the host would like you to talk" and to press star 6 to speak. You will have time to provide your comments.

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 remember to turn down the livestream volume.

The Commissioners will take comment for every action item on the agenda, and they will also be soliciting general comments, and we'll let you know what kind of comment is being solicited at that time. That is the time to call in.

The process for making a comment will be the same each time. You begin by dialing the telephone number provided on the livestream feed and following the
instructions as I have provided. These instructions are also located on the website.

Chair Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, sorry about that. My computer froze. Katy, do we have anyone in queue? It doesn't look like we have anyone in queue.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anyone in queue at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So why don't we wait another minute or so.

In the interim, yesterday we talked about the state training and some of the classes they had, and I did look that up and there are quite a few classes. The only issue is you can only get in if you have an account. So what I'm going to do -- and Raul, if it's okay, can I forward my link to you and see if there's some way to get us -- to have the Commissioners get an account for that?

MR. VILLANUEVA: Certainly.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: That'd be best. Just go ahead and send it to me and I'll see what I can do for you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that would be great. Thank you so much.

MR. VILLANUEVA: You're welcome.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair?
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. While we're waiting and very tangentially to this, I remember there was a question earlier about ID cards. And what we were told was that, you know, ID cards are, you know, used for getting into buildings and we wouldn't need them and so forth.

I just wanted to alert staff to the fact that when I drove up to Sacramento for our first meeting of the first eight and the Auditor's Office arranged a rental car for me and I showed up at the rental car place, and they were demanding to see a State ID before they would release the car to me. And of course, we were brand new, there was no possibility of having a State ID at that point.

But I just wanted to highlight that if others end up in that situation of the office renting a car through a state master services agreement or something, you know, you could find yourselves standing in the rental car lot saying, now what do I do. I mean, I ended up having to call Elissa in the Auditor's Office and have her call the rental car location directly and work it out with them. Because otherwise, they just weren't going to release the car to me.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Actually, I'll be setting up a
travel account for the Commission and that'll take care of some that. During the interim, wherein the first 8 were selected until August, the final 6, and actually having a cohesive body of full 14; that was kind of a gray area time, which may have contributed to that. But I certainly hear what you're saying, and I think the travel account will take care of a lot of those concerns.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, I mean, they were not having a problem with the account itself. It was the fact that, you know, they wanted proof that I was a bona fide State, you know, employee or official and could take advantage of the rental that the office had arranged.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: And that will happen with hotels as well. They'll want the State rate, they'll want to see your State ID, so it can become a challenge.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes. Well, I am understanding what you're saying.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Katy, I don't see anyone in queue.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anybody in queue.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. My computer froze out again, so I'm hoping I don't have too many issues today. You were talking State ID. I don't remember the discussion regarding the State ID, and it might have been
prior to me joining on the first day. Is that something that we're going to get in the future? I just want to know what the discussion was.

MR. VILLANUEVA: I actually don't recall that discussion.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah. We were basically told that we wouldn't ever need one; that it was mainly used for accessing buildings and if we did have one, it would only access our building, no other buildings, and it was kind of left at that.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yeah, that's a card key for the building; that's not an ID.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So I guess it kind of makes sense to have an ID, so whenever we are officially going somewhere, there's some sort of documentation that we can show them of who we are. So is that something that maybe we could look into for the future? I mean, obviously, it'll be a little difficult to get IDs for all of us since we're virtual, although I guess we could do a picture from our cameras; that would be great.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Let me look into that for you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That would be great. Thank you so much.

MR. VILLANUEVA: You're welcome. It's on my list.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that keeps growing.

So with that, I don't see any more hands up, I'm just going to go straight back to agenda item 10. We were talking about the cell phones. And yesterday, Raul had only heard back from Verizon. Is that correct, Raul, at that point?

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And that was, I believe you said, it was a Samsung 10 for 50 dollars a month.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes. And they've confirmed that with a separate email, that it's -- you have to make the image larger; it's really tiny writing. Anyway, it's unlimited minutes, unlimited messaging, email, and data, and the phones come with that, which is the Samsung S10e, 128 gigabyte phone. They come in prism black, if anyone is concerned. And so that's at a rate of $52.50 per.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Did you hear back from -- I think you were waiting to hear back from T-Mobile, I believe?

MR. VILLANUEVA: T-Mobile, yes. And the price was less by probably about 20 percent. The issue that I saw there is the quality of phone wasn't the same. And if I may, because of the concerns about the quality of the phone and its capabilities, given what we have now, I kind of put that at the forefront to make sure that we
have something that's modern, that is minimum 4G, and can do the Wi-Fi tethering.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Did you hear back from AT&T?

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes, I did. And it was kind of comparable to the Verizon, except that they were going to charge a fee for each of the phones, as well as a fee for starting the services.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Which ran up into several thousand dollars.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: When you look at the coverage maps for the three services, they're fairly comparable. And so then from my perspective and -- anyway, from my perspective, really what you're looking at then is the type of service, which what we would like is unlimited everything basically, and the quality of phone at either a very reduced price or for free.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So it sounds like at this point, the best choice for us would be to go with the Verizon Samsung. Does anyone have issues going with that phone? Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't have an issue, but I know a lot of people are iPhone fanatics. I'm a Samsung
fanatic. And my husband used to work at Qualcomm and so he knows about the chips and all that, and he always had Samsung until his new job when he left Qualcomm and he got an iPhone, and he misses his Samsung.

So I just wanted to put it out there that Samsung -- and at some points, their cameras are much better than the iPhones. Now, they keep going back and forth. But for those of you who are iPhone folks, I know it's hard sometimes to think about Samsung, but I just wanted to give you some confidence.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I appreciate that.

And I do have iPhone for home, and then I have a Samsung for work. And I was a little hesitant at first because having to learn something new, but the Samsung has been great in terms of taking pictures. I use it as a recorder for work, personally, and I've been able to get reception wherever I go. I do travel remotely and for my job, so it's been reliable for me.

So any concerns with that? I would like to just to move forward because I think all of us are very anxious to get phones that actually work, and we can make calls. So if I don't see any -- Katy?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You do have someone in the queue. I didn't know if you wanted to allow them to make their comment. I don't know if it took them a
second to get dialed in.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll just finish this, and then I'll take the public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay, perfect.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for alerting me to that. So everyone's okay moving forward?

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm perfectly fine moving forward; just a question about logistics. Should we be, like, sending back the phones that we currently have, and what would be the best for us to do that?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Raul, would you like us to send it back or just throw them away? No, I'm kidding. Or maybe at our first meeting together, we just have some sort of -- I don't know.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Donate them to a woman's shelter, not throw them away.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Have a big bonfire.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: There you go.

MR. VILLANUEVA: I'm going to respond in an official way.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Those phones are State property. It would be best to hang onto them and we'll figure out how to get them back to me and then I'll dispose of them
properly according to State procedures.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. JOHNSTON: I have a question. Will we have the same phone numbers that we were given before or whole new phone numbers?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I was just going to ask that, Marian, good question.

MR. VILLANUEVA: And I have the answer for that. I'll be working with the State Auditor's Office to port those, and so we'll do both operations together.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. So we'll be moving forward with Samsung phones, so hopefully they work for everyone.

MR. VILLANUEVA: That's fine. We'll order tomorrow.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And be positive and confident. Okay, so we're going to go public comment.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Andersen, who is waving?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Commissioner Kennedy. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy. I'm just saying I was given, you know, I was one of the first day, right, and we were given very strict instructions. Now, these all belong to the State, save it, the whole nine yards, because you got to give it
MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I appreciate that. And also, if we do, unless I missed it, the first eight never got a list of everyone's phone numbers, but I understand that the rest of the group did, so I have no idea what other people's cell phone -- the CRC, the numbers are.

MS. JOHNSTON: They were supposed to be on the computers you were given the State Auditor. You didn't get them?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, they were for the first eight because I got a first eight computer, but they were never updated.

MS. JOHNSTON: Um-hum.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And actually, not the CRC; we only had -- at that time, we hadn't gotten the phone -- or I didn't know the phone numbers, so I don't have any actual CRC's cell phone numbers.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Right.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So when we change the phones or whatever we do, could you please send the current listing out to all of us?

MR. VILLANUEVA: I will send that today. I was under the same impression as Marian. Geez, I hadn't heard that that wasn't the case, so thank you. I will
make sure that that happens today.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. I keep thinking -- I was thinking of Commissioner Sinay yesterday that the virtual where you hold up the different cards, I was thinking I probably need that, so I hopefully will flag that so I can see everyone. So I apologize, I don't do it on purpose.

Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have thought of making those for everybody but in different colors because the white doesn't work. So if you guys aren't offended, I can make them and laminate them and send them out to all of us, just because I do think it would help. And also, I think it helps to just be able to show that you agree with someone and you don't feel like you have to speak.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I would appreciate that for myself personally, so thank you.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have to find the time to do that, but yes, I will do it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. So nothing further, we're going to go to public comment. Katy?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: All right. If you'll hit star 6 to unmute yourself. If you'll state and spell your name for the court reporter.
MS. GOLD: Yes, good morning. My name is Rosalind, R-O-S-A-L-I-N-D, and the last name is Gold, G-O-L-D. I am the chief public policy officer with the NALEO Educational Fund. Thank you.

Good morning Commissioners, and it is great to see the thoroughness and the skill in which you're dealing with all of the minute details and the big picture issues of getting the Commission up and running. So thank you again for your effort and your work on all of this.

I was going to ask for clarification regarding the selection and the employment or consultant relationship of the person that has been chosen to serve as executive director, Mr. Claypool. According to the position announcement, this position was to be a termed employee position. But I've also become aware that there is a report from an outlet called Capitol Morning Report that has reported that the relationship is one of a contract for two years, an employment contract for two years. And as folks know, there's a difference between an employee relationship and a contractual relationship.

So I basically had two questions, or a question and a comment. The first question is, I was hoping we could get some clarification on whether it is an employee relationship or a contractual relationship. And if it is a two-year contract, we were hoping and really wanted to
strongly encourage the Commission to make the contract public before it is executed.

There is some history of this, for transparency, for keeping the public informed. We know that other contracts -- for example, I believe the contract for reporter and transcription services was made public. And of course, if there's any personally identifying information or anything like that in the contract, it can be redacted.

But we really felt for the purpose of being transparent, keeping us all informed, that if indeed it is a contract, a contractual relationship, that publishing the contract before it's entered into would be furthering the Commission's goals and principles of transparency.

So like I said, a question and then a comment.

Thank you so much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Gold. Yes, the executive director is an employee. There is not a separate contract with that person. They're an employee employed by the Commission. So thank you for the opportunity to clarify.

MS. JOHNSTON: And one other comment on that, if I may. Since the Commission is exempt from civil service requirements, it is terminable by the Commission at any
time. There's no right -- guarantee of a two-year term.
The two years is simply, that's the funding for the
Commission at the present time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

MS. GOLD: Great. Thank you so much for the
clarification. I appreciate it, and again, appreciate
everything you're doing and doing it so thoughtfully.
Thank you so much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that is the only
person in queue.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thank you.

Okay, so at this point, unless there's anything
else, we do have a presentation at 10:30. Oops.
Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much. I think
the caller's mention that contracts can and should be,
like, I think was a helpful reminder to me. I don't know
that I had really thought through that previously.

We do also have this contract with Ogilvy, and I'm
wondering if it would make sense to make that public. I
myself have not seen it and we have approved it. So I
think that that, in the spirit of transparency, which I
know we all support it --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: -- that that is something we would want to move forward with as well.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. That's a good point.

Raul, if you can post that, as well as the IT one that we approved last time? Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I think, yeah, I understand the employee contract is different. But as we discussed yesterday, we weren't given any updates after the closed meeting session, and so we don't even know what the offer was to the executive director, and I don't know if we get privy to that or not. But since we do manage the budget, it feels like we should know that piece.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Right. I appreciate that.

And we were actually, Commissioner Ahmad and I were trying to work with Marian and will work with Marian to see what information we can communicate out, either closed session or -- so yeah, definitely would want to get that information to everyone.

MS. JOHNSTON: If your concern is the salary?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Pardon?

MS. JOHNSTON: Was the concern the salary?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I guess we can talk about the specifics later. I will email you, okay? Okay.

Any other questions?

Okay, so with that, we do have a presentation at
10:30. So actually, if we take a break now and come back at 10:25; that way, we can at least have a full hour and a half uninterrupted if we need to, and then come back. So is everyone okay with that? Okay, so at 10:25. Thank you, everyone.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Welcome back everyone. Thank you for coming back. And we, in a few minutes, unless we do have Ms. Dominguez-Arms that's online, so I'm not sure if she's ready to go, but we could start a few minutes early.

And just for our presenters, every 90 minutes we have to take a break. So at some point once we start, at 90 minutes, we'll take a 15-minute break, and then we'll come back if we need to. Commissioner Sinay is on, okay.

All right, so let's go ahead and go into agenda item number 11, which is a discussion on potential action strategies for outreach. And today, we have Connie Malloy, who is a Commissioner from the 2010 Commission, and we also have Amy Dominguez-Arms, who's a consultant with Philanthropy California.

And I'm actually going to turn it over to Commissioner Sinay, and I want to thank her for coordinating this presentation, so giving it to you.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. I want to thank our
two speakers for presenting -- for joining us today. I'm excited. I've gotten to speak to both Commissioner Malloy and Ms. Dominguez-Arms. I consider them colleagues because we're all in the philanthropy world. And now that I see your picture, I see your face, Amy, I think we have the same circles.

But I thought it was when Commissioner Vasquez and I first started thinking about outreach and stuff, we really wanted to start at the beginning understanding what happened in 2010. There was a lot of investments, a lot of support from the community. It was the first Commission, Citizen Redistricting Commission, and Irvine Foundation really stepped up and wanted to make sure that it was the citizens who were doing the redistricting.

And since then -- foundations do this often; they change their priorities. They do really good work, they learn a lot, and then they move on. We're lucky that Ms. Dominguez-Arms was part of the 2010 investments, as well as the current investments.

So now, Philanthropy California, just to give you background, is the Association of Northern California Grantmakers, Southern California Grantmakers, and San Diego Grantmakers, so it's the associations of foundations and others who made grants in the community have come together to play a stronger role around
advocacy and political engagement.

I know that Commissioner Malloy had a meeting until about 10:30, so I know she's coming. This is the first of several different conversations we'll be having. I do encourage you all to please pull out the framework that we kind of presented yesterday. I learned today that we didn't approve it, so therefore, it's not an official framework or anything. But hopefully, it will be helpful for you as you're listening just to take down notes so that we can continue to build our conversations as we move from presentation to presentation over the next few weeks.

Amy, do you think we can start and then Commissioner Malloy joins us when she gets here?

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Sure, and I will share my screen if that's okay. Get started here. One moment.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: While she's sharing her screen, I'd like to just ask you all to think about -- when it comes to asking questions, we're going to be able to have a lot of dialogue. We'd like to see this as a dialogue and a conversation. But please limit yourself either to two minutes or two questions.

We don't want -- we want to be able to have everybody be able to share their thoughts and opportunities, and we may learn from others. So just
limit your questions to two at a time, please, so that they don't feel bombarded and also we all have an opportunity to talk. Sorry, it's all yours now.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMs: Great. And thank you everyone for having me today. Again, I'm Amy Dominguez-Arms. I'm currently a consultant with Philanthropy California, which, through its fair representation fund, is supporting community-based organized to involve residents in California's upcoming redistricting process.

And previously, I was vice president for programs at the James Irvine Foundation, where I oversaw our grantmaking to support community engagement in the last redistricting cycle.

So today, I'll just spend about ten minutes, and maybe not even that, to open up with an overview of Philanthropy's role in the last redistricting cycle and takeaways from that experience. I'll then share what the philanthropic sector has organized in this round to support public involvement and considerations for the Commission in its role, and then really welcome your questions and comments.

So in the 2011 cycle, the Irvine Foundation exercised a lead role in funding nonprofits to involve the public in the redistricting process. And our goals included, inform a broad base of Californians about the
process and provide them with tools to help them participate, and ensure that public participation throughout the process reflects the diversity of California's population.

So we made grants of just over 3.5 million, both in the initial phase to encourage diverse applicants to apply to the Commission, and then during the deliberation phase to ensure broad public participation with a particular focus on historically underrepresented communities.

We also supported the statewide database and advancement project to provide tools and technical assistance to the public, and we've provided resources for research and assessment, including a summary report done by the League of Women Voters about the 2011 cycle.

I would say during this, some of the takeaways are that we found that the support to groups with longstanding relationships with residents really facilitated their participation. I think we're able to track the difference most closely during the initial application phase, where we noted an increase in the diversity of applicants once the CBOs began conducting outreach.

And then throughout the cycle, nonprofits reached thousands of community members to inform them about the
importance of redistricting and how to get involved, and then facilitated their engagement through map-making workshops and encouraging written input and public testimony.

In this cycle, really the tremendous collaboration among foundations and with the State in supporting outreach to encourage an accurate census has laid the groundwork for funders to work together on redistricting.

So Philanthropy California created a pooled fund through which other funders are contributing, and we've raised 1.7 million thus far, but we know we need to secure additional resources in order to really reach California's diverse communities and regions.

So we've made an initial set of grants to a set of groups working throughout the state. These grants don't cover their full outreach budget, but provide some resources for their development of educational materials, trainings, outreach, and coordination with one another.

And then we recently issued a request for proposals to local civic engagement groups and coalitions to really support their involvement at the grassroots level to engage community members in redistricting. But we know that based on the resources that we have remaining in the fund, we won't be able to cover the requests for support that we anticipate, and so we're continuing to fundraise.
As noted at the top of the slide, all of the Philanthropy California grants are to 501(c)(3) organizations for nonpartisan civic engagement activities.

And I'll just end with outreach considerations for the Commission. We know it's important to prioritize support to organizations working with underrepresented racial and ethnic communities. This is so we can develop a clear understanding of communities of interest and fully comply with the Voting Rights Act.

It's important to identify organizations with trusted relationships, a track record of civic engagement, and an inclination to collaborate with other community groups. And you know, we want to remember that the outreach includes various elements. Folks need to understand the importance of redistricting, why it has relevance to the issues they care about. They need information on the process, when to engage, how to engage. And then there's also tools and technical assistance so that the input community members provide can be most relevant to that of the Commission.

And then, of course, there's accessibility issues to keep in mind, language proficiency, literacy barriers, technology access.

So please know that Philanthropy California is
committed to robust public involvement, and we're really here to be a partner to all of you and look forward to your ideas and questions.

So those are some opening comments, and I think now I will pass it along to my colleague, Connie.

MS. MALLOY: Hi, good morning everyone. Let me set up my screen share.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: And Connie, you're a little muted, so if you can just speak a little closer to your microphone once you're started.

MS. MALLOY: Okay. Let me test the volume. How's that? That works good, okay. Let me pull my slides up.

Well, good morning everyone. It's wonderful to join you. I have been in your shoes, for better or worse, and you know, really admire both the work that you've done and the real work that lies ahead. Let me put this into slideshow for you. Go all the way to the beginning.

All right. So my name is Connie Malloy, and I was one of the Commissioners in the last cycle. So we were the inaugural group trying to build the plane while we were flying it, and so I was asked to just share some reflections on the outreach that we did, and honored to do that.

When I was seated on the Commission, I was working as an urban planner; that's my educational background.
I've spent about the last ten years now in philanthropy, first working with Amy Dominguez-Arms at the James Irvine Foundation, and then now leading a family foundation called the Panta Rhea Foundation. But once you're a redistricting commissioner, you're sort of always in the redistricting mix, for better or worse. I call it a very quirky pastime of mine now.

So lessons learned: lesson number 1, organize the Commission's outreach and operations to reflect your shared mission and values. And I'll just share an anecdote or two as we go through the slide presentation. You know, as a Commission, I know you're still getting to know each other; that is quite an interesting thing to do virtually.

When we were seated as a Commission, we spent quite a bit of time with each other that was not in Commission meetings, where we were traveling, we were just grabbing food in between meetings, et cetera, and so I know what it takes to norm and build a team under these circumstances. You know, it's new to all of us in various ways.

But I'll give some examples of how this mission and values manifests in terms of outreach and operations. On our Commission, one of the things we felt was really important as being, you know, the first Commission out of
the gate that was trying to do this in an independent way, that it was really important to model shared leadership, and that we would design the way we did our work to demonstrate that there was not undue influence or control by any one party or even any personality or perspective.

And so we set up the way that we did our work so that we had a rotating leadership structure; that was both for our business meetings and it also was in terms of who managed the outreach sessions, the public hearings where people would come and give testimony.

We also then felt like it was important for all Commissioners to have visibility and the same set of information on which to make decisions. And back then, you know, we were traveling to different parts of the state, and so we decided that all Commissioners should make their best effort to be at each of the public hearings that was had to make sure that they were having, all of us were really internalizing the same sets of information and inputs on which we would make decisions.

So not to project on this Commission's values and how those should intersect with the outreach and operations, but certainly from one Commission to a next, we all share the same mission around having a set of fair lines that were developed through a transparent public
process. And so any outreach effort should really 
reflect that mission and your emerging values as a group. 
I think it takes time to figure that out, right, so 
I hope you're having those conversations as you set plans 
for outreach.

Lesson number 2. As exciting as I'm sure you all 
think redistricting is, and I still do, most people don't 
actually care about redistricting. The only time that 
they do care is if it is helping or hindering something 
they actually care about. So if there's a really 
concrete connection between, you know, the quality of the 
education that they're receiving and the types of leaders 
that are getting elected or running for that school board 
seat that's making those decisions.

Another way that someone might care about 
redistricting that I found is if someone that we trust 
says it's important. After -- some years back, Stephen 
Colbert did a hilarious segment on redistricting, which 
if you have not seen it, you should probably YouTube it. 
I was not sure that it was appropriate for this kind of 
venue. But I got lot more interest just as a human and 
as a redistricting commissioner after he made it 
something interesting, and a lot of people trust him and 
get a lot of comedy from him, and suddenly it was 
interesting.
Similarly, we have many organizations across the state and in neighborhoods and in cities, many of which Amy referenced. These organizations help community members, everyday people, with all kinds of things that impact their lives. Those organizations, to the extent that they are tracking and involved with redistricting, that may also be a bridge where people begin to see the link between redistricting and the things that they care about.

So really, as a Commission, there's only so much that you can do given that, you know, you may have relationships in your community, but as a body and at a large statewide level, people don't know who you are and aren't necessarily going to get excited about redistricting because of you. But there's so many other kind of messengers and bridge builders that can help to open those doors for broader interest and participation, and that is a key role that I believe the Commission has to build into your outreach plan in order for it to really be robust and successful and to have a broader reach.

Lesson number 3 is that every Californian's voice matters and that we should, as Commissioners, always seek out and welcome them all. It sounds very simple and very intuitive, but there were times where that got messy.
And I'll just, you know, note that we are in a highly charged political environment at a national level. Granted, at the time that you really start doing more of your outreach, we will be at a different phase in whatever this political journey that we're all on together looks like.

But you know, suffice it to say, we found that in some cities, some neighborhoods, some regions, that the sort of tenor relationships and perspectives that were shared were done in a much more collaborative spirit. That certainly, people might come with different perspectives on what their aspirations or concerns were around redistricting, but they were able to kind of be in shared space together, listen to folks who brought different perspectives, and do so in a very respectful way.

There were other parts of the state that were, quite frankly, more challenging to navigate, where there were -- the energy in the room was much more charged, where there were more challenging histories around power and who had it and who did not have it; places where we had to more heavily facilitate, take into consideration different issues around security, both for our Commissioners and for members of the public to all feel comfortable and empowered to be able to speak.
Depending on how the Commission organizes your hearings, whether you do any in person or all online, really thinking about how to create a safe and welcoming and neutral environment for all participants to be able to join in.

As Commissioners, it's also a place where I think individually we can be challenged by hearing things in session that we might disagree with personally. We might think they're wrong, that they don't reflect our perception of a given place or a given group of people. And we actually had as a Commission at times to have to, you know, stop a meeting, go into recess, regroup ourselves, and make sure that we had really clear protocols of -- you know, our job as commissioners was to listen and then, separately, to take all of that information, synthesize it, and make decisions with it.

But it wasn't our role, no matter how, you know, intensely we might have a perspective on something, to ever kind of confront or give the third degree to someone that was there to present. And I think it's a really important thing for the Commissioners to think about, about the way that you discuss points of view in a way that is respectful, that we all have different experiences of the same places and the same issues.

Lesson number 4. This builds, certainly, on that
welcoming of all voices, and there's also being really rigorous in our synthesis. As Commissioners, you know, you have a responsibility and a role to not necessarily take everything you hear at face value and really dig deeper. What's there in the information that you're receiving; what might be missing, and more importantly, who might be missing?

We had experiences as we were going up and down the state, that there were times where we'd hear from one aspect of the population loud and clear and overwhelmingly. And then, we would think, huh, you know, it's interesting based on the census data, we have entirely other populations that have not been present or visible and we don't know their story and we don't necessarily know their needs.

And so both in terms of the consultants that you're working with and your own -- what you bring to the table as Commissioners and the ability to help kind of guide your staff on where information is solid and where there are gaps, don't just assume that the information that you're given is complete. And your job is to try and to fill in the missing pieces of the puzzle, literally the missing pieces of the map, as best that you can.

Number 5, this really builds on Amy's presentation and on my own experience as a commissioner. You will
always have a limited amount of time and resources. Even though I'm thrilled that you have more time and more resources than we had as the inaugural Commission, working networks is going to help you get much farther faster, whether it's through community-based organizations, such as the ones Amy was talking about, business or trade associations, public entities, philanthropy, educational institutions, et cetera.

Think about the institutions that have been in communities for many years before you got there and will continue on for many decades after you're there as some of the places where relationships already sit. You know, in many cases, those entities are able to help solicit and aggregate information and data. They may have ready-made pools of information about their communities that could be helpful to the Commission.

At the same time, my cautionary advice around that is similar to how it shakes down at the individual level in that, you know, everyone has a stake in the game. Everyone has their own self-interest. And so similarly to when you're working with individual testimony, you also have to really strive for a level of balance and asking what story am I not being told in order to be able to have a balanced perspective of a given community.

But I will say that working the networks will allow
also for greater leverage in terms of the modest resources that you do have to work with and making sure that those resources go to the highest and best use and where the gaps actually are versus being redundant in some way with what is already existing in the community.

Lesson 6. Go broad statewide and go deep in key regions. Census data will only tell you part of the story, particularly mid-COVID. So I'll give you example of where our values really came into tension with our practical considerations. From the spirit of every Californian's voice matters, we wanted to really explore all corners of the state. At the same time, some parts of the state were dramatically more complex in terms of demographics and dramatically more populated than other parts of the state.

We made a really difficult decision to not be in physical proximity with the north coast, and instead, to invest more time and resources into doing hearings in places like South Los Angeles. And a reason that we did that is, you know, our budget was 3 million dollars, which did not go very far. And in order for us to be able to really do our job as per our mission and draw good maps for the whole state, we felt like we did not actually have enough money to go everywhere as we would have preferred.
So really taking a look at -- as I know that your consultants, your staff, your lawyers will help you do, identifying the areas that, you know, we called hotspots just because there's so much both change in those areas, so much complexity, so much history, make sure you spend the time there. It is really worth the money and the other types of resources that will go into it.

And at the same time, where you have to make those tradeoffs, ensure that there is a robust equitable effort to get participation and allow other means for parts of the state who may not have as much monetary focus in terms of soliciting outreach there.

Just another observation. We're still, as I'm sure you're all tracking closely, the struggle over what form the census data will take by the time that it actually gets to your hands. There are so many live questions on what the quality of that data will look like. And so the outreach that you do and being able to, particularly for a state like California that has such a large, hard-to-count set of populations, being able to supplement what you're getting from the Census with that really kind of in-depth additional outreach that you're able to do is going to be really important in a way that I think is more important perhaps than what we were dealing with in the 2011 cycle.
Lesson number 7. Use technology as an outreach tool, not as an outreach strategy. So having been in philanthropy, and you know, funding a number of organizations who are doing some really exciting experiments with technology, this was a pretty fundamental lesson. You can have a shiny object and a fancy tool that nobody uses; that really does not give you the quality, the breadth or depth of participation that might be aspired to in the redistricting process.

And so technology is going to be more important because of COVID; we want to and we have to use it. And in the outreach process, making sure that the intermediary organizations, those entities who may be doing the actual education, helping to supplement and partner with the Commission on outreach, making sure that these tech tools are really accessible and work for the populations that you're most trying to reach.

Before you do kind of a full-scale development or an option around a tool, has it been beta tested; is there a kind of table of organizations and/or individuals that would be willing to give it a go to see whether it actually is going to serve the purposes that you have?

And I would also say, from my experience partnering with government, you know, tech is a really slow thing to develop when it comes from, you know, going through all
the processes that you have to from the public perspective. So it's also a great avenue for thinking about partnerships, whether they're with business entities and just the great, you know, presence that we have around technology companies here in California and many nonprofit organizations that really are at this crux of innovation between technology and civic engagement and community organizing.

My last lesson learned is making decisions based on shared transparent analysis of the inputs that you receive from that outreach. You know, it is really important from the perspective of creating a sense of shared ownership and satisfaction with the maps, that the public really see the impact of their input onto the maps that you develop; that they're able to know that their voices actually did matter; that you didn't necessarily do everything that they wanted, but when you didn't, that there was really clear rationale around why you did not.

So you know, some of the most powerful moments I remember were when we did our first draft maps, which were terrible. The public had so much to say about all the things that we had done wrong on those first draft maps, and we learned so much and our final maps were, you know, just exponentially better. We were able to incorporate so much feedback and testimony. We were able
to clarify some of the intentions around information and synthesis that we had received. So just really being able to draw a clear and succinct line between information that you're getting, the inputs, and the outputs, which really are those maps. I think it's critical.

You know, you're the second Commission out of the gate here in California, and I really aspire to have us all not be a one-hit wonder and want to just really give cheers to you as you're navigating ground too. I think that you will have some aspects of your work come so much easier and others that are so much harder, mid-COVID in this type of a kind of national election environment, but I know that you're asking all the right questions and you have a number of resources that are really at the ready to help you.

I've left with your team my contact information. I am a recovering Commissioner, and also I'm doing some consulting with local jurisdictions who have independent Citizens Redistricting Commissions now and also running my own family foundation. So thank you so much. I will stop sharing my screen.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Were you going to say something, Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, go ahead.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh no. I was just going to open it up for questions. I didn't --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I didn't know if you wanted me to facilitate the questions so you could participate or if you wanted to do the questions?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'll do it and that way, you can participate. I think that's probably a better tradeoff.

So at this point in time, I do want to thank both of you, just very helpful information. I was lapping up -- not lapping -- the one about that most don't care about redistricting. I think that's for most things until it does personally affect them, so I completely agree with that. And once you personalize it, you know, most of us are just trying to deal with day-to-day, trying to survive, especially in this COVID environment.

But I thank you both, and I'm going to open it up to my fellow Commissioners for questions. Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: First of all, I've never seen this group be quiet, so I know it's coming.

I know that in the first Commission, you all looked -- you created kind of a regional -- you had a regional map and you created teams, and my understanding was -- well, you can explain how you created the teams for the region. And what were those teams'
responsibilities and did that work?

MS. MALLOY: So we did have regional teams. And the way that they were designed was that, where possible, we did have a Commissioner who was more familiar with that region of the state. And also, given that -- even I, as being from, say, Pasadena, doesn't mean that my view of Pasadena necessary reflects all of my neighbors, right?

So we wanted to make sure that that did not become inadvertently a fiefdom of somebody feeling like they kind of had control or even that there was a public perception that that person was therefore going to drive the agenda and draw the maps directly for that area.

So we had a balance of having someone who was familiar with the area and also someone who wasn't that was really going to be kind of check point, ask the tougher questions that, you know, had to dig in from a really neutral, not knowing the area perspective.

And then the roles of those teams was really to take a first pass at digging into the information that we were getting from that region and begin to make sense of it. So it was just a way of, clearly as a team, as a broad Commission, we needed to be the ones in the driver's seat making the decisions. And we also needed the ability, given our time line, which was even tighter than yours, to be able to drill down and really go deeper and to feel
like if we were ever in a position where we were defending the maps, which, you know, as we have done and successfully multiple times, that there was also a set of Commissioners who really kind of could wrap their hands around more.

You know, as one Commissioner, for me to remember all the nuances from all the regions across the state would be very challenging. But in the places that I was able to really go deep in the data that we had to work with in the outreach testimony, et cetera, I was able to therefore kind of focus my energies in a way that was helpful for the whole Commission.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so when you talk about the regional teams, was it, you know, two per regional team and how many regional teams -- regions did you establish?

MS. MALLOY: You know, it's a good question. I can dig in. You know, it has been a decade, I have to admit. I remember when we were working with our consultant team, with Q2, who was developing the maps, the way they originally organized the state, we had about eight regions, if I remember correctly, that every time we sort of shifted where we were doing --

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Nine.

MS. MALLOY: It was nine? Right on. We would have sort of overview of that region and orient ourselves to
that place and then we would dive down into the different areas within it, and so the teams were sort of reflective of those regions.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay, and then Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to follow up. At our next meeting, we will be looking at a regional map; that will be one of the action items that we will bring forward and explain which map we're recommending, so I just wanted full transparency.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for that reminder also. Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. I just wanted to thank both of you for a great presentation and to ask a little bit more about, I believe it was Ms. Dominguez-Arms who spoke about fundraising and trying to build the pot of money for engaging communities. And I just wanted to understand a little bit about what the efforts are to build that a little bit more, and if you have a specific goal in mind or regional strategies, given that this is such a regional effort.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Great question. So we've been reaching out to various foundations, you know, I had listed on an earlier slide. We've received contributions to the fund from four foundations thus far, quite
generous contributions: James Irvine Foundation, California Endowment, Blue Shield of California Foundation, and Weingart Foundation. And we're continuing to have conversations with funders who fund statewide and could be inclined to contribute to the pooled fund to support, you know, additional grantmaking.

We're also in conversation with a number of funders who are focused on particular regions of the state, community foundations and others who may either contribute to the pooled fund for grantmaking in those regions, or may do what we call aligned funding, which is provide resources directly to nonprofits in their area.

In terms of fundraising goals, you know, we had initially just sort of set forth as a ballpark -- boy, it would be great if we could get to 2.5 million and we had raised 1.7. If we can get to that, that will be helpful. I think I would imagine the request for support from community-based organizations is going to even exceed that goal, but we really are hoping that we can do -- you know, it'd be great if we could do at least 800,000 more in fundraising.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great, thank you. Commissioner Le Mons and then Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thanks for the presentation.

If either of you could speak to how the grantmaking to
the nonprofit organizations, how that process worked, how much influence the Commission actually had on that process, and how it was integrated with the work of the Commission, and how much of it was autonomous if at all.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Yeah. So in the last round, which I assume you're speaking to in 2011, the James Irvine Foundation entirely and independently made grantmaking decisions; it was the foundation's resources. You know, we invited proposals and went through our usual process of grantmaking whereby staff reviewed proposals, it goes to our board of directors, and they approve the grants.

So you know, the funding and the outreach was certainly supportive of the Commission's work, but the decision-making was within the Irvine Foundation.

In this round where Philanthropy California's holding the funds on behalf of a set of foundations, there's a team of us at Philanthropy California representing Southern California Grantmakers, Northern California Grantmakers, San Diego Grantmakers, and myself as the lead consultant that, thus far, have reviewed proposals. And in this upcoming RFP, we'll review proposals and make determinations.

The funders who put into the pooled fund, they themselves have indicated that they're putting into the
pooled fund; they're not looking for a decision-making role in the specific grants, but we convene them periodically and update them and get their input on criteria, overall direction and such. So it's really the Philanthropy California team that's making the specific grantmaking decisions.

MS. MALLOY: And maybe I'll just add from the perspective of a Commissioner and then someone who went to work at Irvine after the maps were drawn and all those grants, you know, were already done. That it was, as a Commissioner and in terms of speaking of impact, I am fully confident that the maps we drew were markedly different because of the resources that were able to support a broad set of outreach in communities that I believe would not have had had much, if any, visibility or voice into the process otherwise.

You know, when I understand the resources that are available this time for the work of the Commission, I think there's some potential there to think about whether there are ways that the Commission's resources can more explicitly support outreach and education efforts in the community. It simply was not feasible with the pot of resources that we had to work with. I think it is a very real option for you to consider.

You know, my only suggestion around that though is
that given how massive the job ahead of you is navigating
the twists and turns around the census data, you know,
actually drawing these maps, that having an entity to
partner with who could potentially support your interests
in regranting if that was something to be considered, an
entity that was seen as, you know, apolitical,
nonpartisan that could do the back-end management and due
diligence, handling of the resources on the Commission's
behalf would be really helpful.

I mean, I know towards the end of our tenure, we
received a very modest sized grant regarding a government
innovation that allowed us as a Commission to travel to
other states and be able to provide more information
about California's model and provide technical assistance
to other states who were considering redistricting
reform.

And just being able to take that grant and find a
home for it and manage how those resources flowed for,
you know, a 50,000-dollar grant that was really only to
support our work, it was surprisingly complex to somebody
who had not worked inside government very much before.
And so I think whether it's Philanthropy California or
any of another -- you know, there's a number of different
public foundations, intermediaries that really specialize
in that kind of management of nonprofit resources,
charitable resources, I think I would really recommend that because, otherwise, you will get sucked into a bit of a rabbit hole just around the management of that piece, even if that -- offering those resources is very much aligned with your mission and your values.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. And thank you both so much for taking the time to be here today and it a really great, a very helpful presentations. I actually have two questions, one is a follow-up from Commissioner Le Mons's question. It sounds like there's varying levels here that we can be thinking about, right? On the one hand, the funds being granted are done so very autonomously; on the other hand, what I think Ms. Malloy was just discussing was, you know, the ability for us to be regranting.

But I'm also interested just in terms of the coordination, and this could be -- I think this question is really around the 2010 Commission. There's all these organizations that are receiving grants, right? We are coming up with our outreach strategy. Potentially, we'll use a similar model with the regional teams.

Was it the case in 2010, then, that those regional teams going out were coordinating that outreach plan with the organizations on the ground, or was it that the
regional teams were kind of coming up with the plans and then the organizations were responding, making sure that there were people locally? I guess I wanted to know a little bit more about the nuts and bolts of that collaboration, or perhaps there wasn't any real communication between the two. So that's one.

The second one actually has to do with the outreach meetings themselves. My understanding from 2010 was that the line-drawing consultant was there on hand, showing maps, playing -- you know, potentially moving the lines of a potential map around live, and please correct me if I'm wrong about that. I want to get a sense of was that helpful, was it -- would you do it the same way again or would you -- are there different ways that you might go about it?

And I think just to say with one of the conversations we've had here is that I think a lot of the Commissioners are very interested in having access to the line-drawing software, being very engaged in that process and being able to utilize the mapping software ourselves. And so I kind of wanted to just hear a little bit of reflection on that; did the community like being able to see it live and see some of that interaction?

MS. MALLOY: Absolutely. So in terms -- I'll take your first question first, which is around coordination
or communication. Because of the way that the Irvine
funding flowed, you know, much of the design for it was
actually done either before the Commission was chosen and
seated and/or on a parallel track to as we were just
getting settled, and you know, trying to figure out how
to organize ourselves.

So there was really no formal communication between
the Commission as an entity or the regional teams and the
organizations that were on the ground doing the work.
All of the information that those organizations had to
work with was the same set of information that the
general public did. It was what we shared in meetings;
it was what we shared, you know, kind of as written
information around how to submit your testimony, that
type of thing.

I do think this is an area where public perception
really matters and I encourage you, you know, to be very
thoughtful around this, is that we really appreciated --
and looking back, we know that part of our success was so
much of the groundwork that was laid by all of these
community organizations. And at the same time, as
Commissioners, you're there to represent everyone.

You're there to treat everybody equally. And so in
terms of communication and coordination, I would really
encourage you to bifurcate the funding decisions and kind
of who gets preferential treatment. You know, everyone
gets the same -- it's the same rules at play for
everybody. Everyone gets the same amount of time to
present, whether it's an individual or whether it's a
grouping of individuals that are going to present.

I think that there can be, through the -- if there
is a kind of entity or entities, nonprofit entities that
are helping coordinate and share information, that is
great. But the role of the Commission is to make sure
you reach as many different audiences as possible versus
only going deep with a much smaller set.

So that is just, you know, one, I think, dynamic
because it will be perceived -- or may be perceived by
some that there are people that are being listened to
more by the Commission if there is -- if the
communication is not done in a way that's really kind of
fair and equitable, et cetera.

The second thing I'll say is just around the
meetings. So there were two different types of meetings
that we had; sometimes, they were adjacent to each other
on a very, very long days. But there were the hearings
that we did, the public hearings where their sole purpose
was to be able to receive testimony from community
members. So the many hours of individuals coming and
sharing, you know, sometimes they would just share in
their own voice, sometimes they would have a translator that would help them to be able to communicate to the Commission. And we did not make any decisions in those meetings. It was really just for input for our ability to absorb; that information would all get collected and synthesized for us to refer back to.

The other type of meeting that we had were our business meetings. And so our business meetings are much like what you're doing right now, where you're getting information that will kind of help you with the task at hand. And ultimately, those business meetings will have -- a major part of what you'll be doing is drawing the lines; you'll actually be doing the mapping in real time.

So I think that that distinction is important. Towards the latter part of the process as time gets more compressed, there are moments where you will be drawing lines in real time and you will receive information from the public as you are deliberating on a specific region, you know, a specific issue that you're noodling on.

I remember being, you know, looking at visualizations from our mappers, and you know, talking about different alternatives, and we would get feedback from the community; sometimes it was from a collective of community members, you know, sometimes it was a data
report that was related to -- you know, I remember particularly on the flight path to Los Angeles International Airport, a number of environmental issues with fuel getting dropped in the neighborhoods going over it. You know, so we got that kind of information of, you know, it really matters, that whole area has unique concerns around the airport, et cetera.

So you will be able to do the -- to receive the information in real time from the public, but I think it is important to continue that where people can dynamically and concretely see what the mapping tasks look like. We found that all those hearings that we did up until the point where we released a draft map, there was limited utility in some of the testimony that we were receiving.

Even despite us having given a framework of, here's what your testimony should look like in order for it to be actionable, it was still only once people really saw lines on paper and where neighborhoods had been placed that then they really got concrete and say, well, actually that feedback I gave you before, what I really meant -- and it got much more pointed and crisp and clear.

So I do think that, you know, technology has continued to improve, which is great for your task at
hand, and would really encourage you to keep doing that live interaction.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Now the hands are going. Let's see, I have Commissioner Sinay, Commissioner Toledo. Yes?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'll go last after Pedro.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And I believe Commissioner Taylor had his hand up first.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's great. I'm glad you guys are watching each other. So Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Toledo, Commissioner Ahmad, and then Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you and good morning. This question is to whomever can answer it appropriately. I'm curious to know, although you use the terms broadly often, I'm curious to know what the Irvine Foundation's definition is of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and I guess it's just to make sure that our definitions, I guess, fall within the same realm. Is the Irvine Foundation concerned with the political representation, voting empowerment, or just, you know, more broadly what that definition is?

And then I'm also curious to know for the 2010 Commission, was there a process that they used to choose
which partners they thought could more fulfill their goals? When they thought about the outside partners, did they go through a vetting process where they felt that we could use this group because they can help us reach our goals, or something to that extent?

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: So yeah, I can speak to both the criteria that we utilized at the Irvine Foundation in the last cycle, and it's quite similar to that which Philanthropy California is utilizing in this cycle.

So when we speak of historically underrepresented communities, our consideration is primarily looking at communities of color who vote at lower rates, often, than the general population and who are generally less represented in elected office. So our focus was on organizations who had deep relationships and a track record of working within, for example, the Latino community, the black community, the Asian-American community, as well as immigrant populations who also fit that definition of historical underrepresentation.

And in terms of selecting among groups, we're really looking at a number of criteria. One is organizations that are wholly nonpartisan and focused on 501(c)(3) civic engagement. We're very clear, again both referencing in the last cycle and this cycle, this is not about getting any particular incumbents, you know,
improving their chances for election or leaning, helping any political party.

This is about communities and communities of interest being able to express, you know, their vision and experience of how they see themselves most fairly represented. So we looked for organizations who came to us with that understanding and commitment that that's how they would carry out the work; that was very really primary.

We also look at groups that they themselves demonstrate an understanding of the redistricting process to the extent that they're looking to help others be engaged in it. They'd have a track record of constructive civic engagement in these regions and relationships with the communities they're aiming to engage, and who work well with others.

I mean, you know, we know that there's the importance of communities being able to listen to one another, to think about fairness not just for their own community, but across communities is important, so we're looking for folks that bring that kind of constructive orientation to the effort.

I hope that's helpful.

MS. MALLOY: And I'll add in around the selection of groups and partners that, because we have so little money
in the bank, we were barely able to pay our own bills, much less anybody else's. So in some ways, that made our job easier in that we didn't select partners. Whatever partners showed up to participate in redistricting were the ones who were involved and really helped to weigh in on the process.

As Amy described, there was an autonomy in terms of how the philanthropic entities, which at that point was really largely Irvine, was vetting and selecting the nonprofit organizations. When we would -- I'll give the example of, we had some days where we invited group testimony on the maps. So most of the time when we did outreach hearings, it was individuals coming to share their perspectives.

And then we had a couple of days where we'd had longer presentation slots that were available for, you know, as I talked about these networks, right, whether they were business associations or kind of statewide organizations that had, you know, thousands of members that they were speaking on behalf of, we thought that was a more rich set of information that didn't make sense to squeeze into the two to three minutes that an individual person got.

And so we had those slots that people could, on behalf of their group, sign up for and submit materials
for, and that was an open call. We did not select and
say we want to hear from this entity and not from this
entity; it was really based on what kind of the interest
expressed from the statewide level and in regions was, so
that may be something that the Commission would like to
consider doing this time around.

There were times where, as a Commission, we got all
kinds of unsolicited advice, right? Like, that will just
happen and I'm sure it already has, right? You don't
necessarily need to ask. You know, those organizations
and individuals who have interest and shots for
redistricting, they will let you know what's on their
mind.

And at the same time, there were moments where we,
as a Commission, we were struggling with things that we
specifically named in open session. You know, this is an
issue we're grappling with; we would really welcome
public input on this. And so there were times where that
actually teed up an opportunity for organizations and
individuals to weigh in and to submit a letter, to submit
an email saying, you know, here's what we think or here's
a legal precedent or whatever the thing was that was
going to help us make a decision.

One really concrete example of this was that there
were parts of the state where the demographics were very
complex and where you could actually draw districts in multiple ways. It wasn't as though there was one right answer. Legally, there were multiple configurations that would support, you know, the Voting Rights Act and all the different factors we had to balance.

And so in those places, we actually turned to some of the communities and said, we'd love your feedback, you know. What do you actually want based on the history and the relationships and the aspirations of this area? And so we saw some of the nonprofit entities come together in places to submit what they called unity maps, which were saying, you know, as an entity, I'm not here representing only the African-American community or only the Asian-Pacific Islander community or only the Latinx community, but really those communities coming together and doing some kind of negotiation and talking about scenarios, engaging their community members and coming to the Commission and saying, here's our best thinking.

Obviously, you're the decisions makers, but hopefully this is helpful as you weigh different alternatives.

And so that is also a model that we found to be very successful, and it certainly helped us to avoid some blind spots that we may have had as Commissioners who, for as much research as we might have done, were largely coming in with, you know, this much information about a
place relative to those who actually, you know, live, work, and play in that place.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I just wanted to -- I'm happy to see that various healthcare foundations have stepped up and are contributing to this effort, especially given the fact that where people live actually has a significant impact on individuals' health status, and so that's thrilling.

And in that, I was thinking about, yes, contributing funds is one way that a foundation can support, but have there been efforts to try to get the foundations and their partners to educate the community on what redistricting is and do more of a public education? I know they significant marketing budgets that might be able to contribute to in-kind efforts.

So other types of contributions that these organizations can do, especially the larger ones, just in terms of nonpartisan, just public education about redistricting is, why it's important, how it impacts the local communities, right, a place-based education.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: You know, that's a great idea. What we've done thus far is Philanthropy California, through its various -- they hold various educational forums. So we've educated a broad range of foundations.
What we haven't done is what you're suggesting, or what we haven't focused on is asking the foundations through their own communications apparatus to, you know, share information with their partners, but it's certainly something that can be done in this upcoming cycle.

I mean, I do recall when we looked back ten years ago, the Irvine Foundation did some of that with our own resources. The president at the time wrote an op-ed that was placed, I know, in the San Diego paper and really helped at that time to boost some interest; this was during the commissioner application period. So we had done some of that, but we hadn't yet given some thought to how we encourage our partners in this round to join us in communication, so I appreciate the suggestion.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you both for your presentations. My question was actually asked and answered, so I will pass. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Turner, or do you want Commissioner Turner to go first? Okay, and then Commissioner Yee.

Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I thought I'd taken it off mute. I'm sorry. Thank you both very much for the helpful information. I wanted to ask -- actually, I
almost said asked and passed when Commissioner Toledo
asked this question about just a broader spectrum of
public education, but I think I still want to ask down
that path and maybe a different way.

Thinking of our current time -- looking at what you
did and was successful at in 2010 and thinking, of
course, our current time that we're in with all of the, I
guess, multiple and competing priorities that individuals
have right now, particularly in areas that are
underrepresented. So we do work now -- and everyone made
the switch when we had to, you know, be inside, et
cetera, kind of went to Zoom, and we're at a place now
where that's already seeming to feel overplayed for a lot
of our community groups. People are starting to feel the
pull of, do I show up again to another Zoom call for
things that are already pretty crystallized in their
minds as important.

And then you have the redistricting; that still is
very foreign to a whole lot of people that I'm exposed
to. So I'm wondering about two things: number one, the
gauge of success -- and I'm sure it's somewhere -- from
your outreach efforts that you had in 2010. You had your
hearings. What was the comparative numbers that actually
showed up to participate based on the amount of outreach
that you did?
And then now fast forward 2020 where we're in, we have more outreach that we're going to do. Once people show up, I don't have a doubt that we can really educate them and help them understand what it is, and they're coming because they'll probably already want to participate. I'm still very much unsure about how we're going to get at the numbers that we need to in the time period that we're in, and curious to learn your thoughts taking all of your historical knowledge from 2010 and now fast forward into 2020. How do you get at people that have multiple priorities that may not, you know, understand even why they're showing up?

So it's the understanding about why I'm coming, and I need to elevate that priority into one of the levels, you know, of importance, that I'm going to show up in spite of all the other things that I'm showing up for. Where does that communication happen in broad advertisement about what it is to make people want to show up? So maybe a comment, maybe a question tied in there, et cetera, but it's kind of where my mind was going at the level that we currently are.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: So I'll take first crack at an answer, and Connie, would love your thoughts on this as well.

You know, the groups that we have supported through
the Philanthropy California fund thus far and the groups that we're reaching out to who will likely apply for grants at the local level, many of these groups employ what's often called in the field, integrated voter engagement. So they employ an ongoing communication relationship with community members in their sphere, not just around election time, not just when the census comes up, but throughout the year, and understanding that, you know, democratic participation is an ongoing need and requirement for the health of our democracy.

And so I think a lot of these groups, what they see is, you know, in terms of the shifting priorities and what's on the front burner of one's democratic participation, in 2021, it's going to be redistricting. So I know, now the fact that sort of folks at the grass tops see that, that there is a challenge.

There is a lift to help community members understand it, it isn't as immediately apparent as voting or filling out the census or some other things, but it's that translation that these groups can do and need to do and are committed to doing so that folks understand this is a critical process; to be a part of it has implications for a decade ahead. So it's not easy, but it's really part of the fabric of these groups' commitment to ongoing civic participation.
And you know, I know -- the last I'll say is I know that many of these groups also were involved in census outreach, and that required some pivoting from events, fairs, door-to-door, you know, some of the other outreach approaches they usually use. I think folks have learned some things. Again, there's still more to learn about how do you continually engage people in a way that's safe but isn't just Zoom call after Zoom call. So hopefully, they'll apply some of those lessons from the census, but I know there's still some creativity that's going to be called for.

Connie, anything you'd add?

MS. MALLOY: You know, my humble opinion is simply that as a Commission, you're not going to be able to do this, but you can help resource and tee up others who will, who have been active in census, who are doing voter education right now or have been over the recent months where there's already a trusted kind of messenger and relationship that you can build on as a Commission.

I would say on trusted messengers, for example, you know, my kids -- I have three kids, they all go to public school. You know, I should have filled out my census form. I didn't fill out my census form for a long time, and then I started getting text messages from our principal about the census, right? There's, you know,
networks.

Each of you may have some other kind of linkage entity that you're connected to that plays a big role in your daily life. And it's those kind of central hubs where embedding this into those organizations, regular points of contact that they have with communities. It can be through social services, it could be through education, et cetera, is going to be really critical. And so we had considered and did just some very modest communications work. My main regret, I think, from the communications work that we did, is that I wish we had had communications staff that had deeper capacity on being able to utilize ethnic media, multilingual media to really expand our reach.

And so that's something to consider both, you know, as you're hiring staff, as you're thinking about consultants, as you're thinking about the kinds of grants that you might make, that those are -- you know, it's not just the kind of 501(c)(3) infrastructure entities.

It's also you know, not always the L.A. Times, even though they're important and you know, I know John Myers is going to cover redistricting, and I also know the vast majority of people you need to hear about are not going to read John Myers' column as much as I will.

So just to kind of keep that in mind as well, that
that intent around public education and information is
certainly something that should be built into your
approach. And it can also get really expensive, right,
so you want to, you know, not spend all your budget on
these big ad buys that may or may not result in
something, in really concrete and valuable information
that the Commission can therefore use.

I will say, in terms of the outreach, the way that
Irvine -- and I came into the foundation, you know, long
after those grants had been made. But the way that the
grants had been set up were that organizations who
applied for that funding, they were the ones that sort of
self-designed what their bodies of outreach would look
like.

And so based on all of the kind of experience and
expertise that they had, they would share, you know,
here's some of the strategies that we are finding are
most effective in this particular population or in this
particular region. Here's how we think we can move the
needle, so here's the numbers, the metrics that we would
use to guide our success and how much we think we can
really up public participation in this process.

And then that helped to guide the decision-making
that Irvine Foundation did and to be able to provide some
sort of tracking in terms of, you know, who showed up to
the table who would not have otherwise.

And so whether it's something that this Commission
decides to do yourself or you decide to partner with an
entity to be able to do some of that regranting and
partnership cultivation, you can certainly build in some
of those upfront questions and analysis to help
prioritize who would actually be the most effective
partners based on your goals and on this, you know,
really tricky time that we're in.

Certainly, I know there are some organizations who
are really critical in local communities who are
struggling to adapt their approaches in ways that deals
with COVID. There's others who have been able to
experiment and are innovating and just really changing
their model in a way that fits the times.

And so you're right in that middle time where
organizations are literally trying to figure it out now,
and so I think you would get some really interesting
proposals and ideas and responses from what organizations
have been learning through this layering of census and
voter education that really has been 2020.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Sinay, are you
still deferring to others? Okay, so Commissioner Yee,
and then I have a couple of questions as well.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes. Thank you to both our
presenters. This is so helpful. I have a question for either or both of you, and specifically looking for advice about the North Coastal region.

As you know, once again, there's no Commissioner from that region. And Commissioner Malloy, you mentioned that there was a choice not to do a public hearing up there, so here we are again. What specific advice for reaching that region? And then more generally, I mean, not to assume anything about that region, how to overcome skepticism you may have encountered, you know, about redistricting work in general and build that kind of trust that we want to have?

MS. MALLOY: So in terms of the regions of the state and the North Coast specifically, one option that we had considered as a Commission, which I think still has some merit, was the idea of dividing up into multi-partisan teams and having a smaller representative team go out and sort of host whatever touch point happened in that community, with other Commissioners being able to watch or join in virtually at the time that it was happening and/or to watch the information afterwards.

You know, believe it or not, ten years ago, that seemed like a really innovative thing to do. Like, how -- there were a lot of legal questions that came up around, well, what if you have three Commissioners there
and the others -- you know, we were not as fluid as we are now with using many of these tools like Zoom.

So I think that may be a way of providing greater reach for the Commission and also being able to manage some of the very real, you know, COVID issues with, you know, trying to limit travel and be very careful about how much you're physically interacting with each other and with members of the public. So that, I think, is worth considering.

And then being very proactive in the areas of the state where you don't foresee sending people physically as a Commission on how do you design an interaction in that community or opportunities for that community to weigh in that have really robust technology that will accommodate that.

You know, having supported from a philanthropic perspective, work in all corners of California, there's quite a variance in terms of quality and consistency of broadband access, Wi-Fi access, et cetera, even in some of our, you know, entities like libraries, et cetera, so it's not something that you want to leave until later in the process to assume that that infrastructure is there and ready to use.

So that vetting process as you get your staff kind of up and running to really prioritize, here's what it
takes to have the specs to do a really great virtual interaction in place. And if you're not able to actually do that virtually in a place that is important for the maps, then there needs to be a plan B that you're developing really early on. You know, you don't want to just, oh well, it didn't work out, because that can really be damaging in terms of the data that you get and also just in terms of public perception and public will.

You do have the gift of time and of foresight to be able to do more planning and to also have more technological tools at your disposal that we did the last time.

And then in regards to skepticism, I believe we combat the skepticism by doing the work. And that, yes, there is a kind of consistent and clear and multi-partisan message and way that you conduct yourselves that really helps to tell the story and kind of paint the picture of what this is.

But we can't pretend that redistricting at a national level, you know, having traveled to many of these other states where reforms are in play or contemplated, you know, we are in a very different position as a state when it comes to redistricting than most of our peers are. And redistricting does have a really complex, and you know, sometimes ugly history in
terms of the politics there.

As a Commissioner, I had times where, you know, someone didn't like what I said in a meeting and I would wake up to a really nasty article and it would be very demoralizing. And I also had to learn to just really have a thicker skin, focus on the task at hand, and know -- learn from maybe there was a valid critique or question or consideration that could be built in how we were working moving forward, so it wasn't to be dismissive of that feedback.

But it certainly, in my opinion, not through words that we will combat the skepticism. It's through actually modeling, doing the work and showing that it can be done in a different way. I know that when we did our hearings, it was the first time that the public had ever had a voice in redistricting, and so they had so much to say because the districts had always been drawn and there was no place for input, right, that was never how it was designed.

You know, now you will have an interesting experience of there will be people you hear from who have benefited from and seen really positive changes in their communities as a result of some of the district shifts that happened the last round. You may also hear from people who don't like the districts that were made and
may say, you know, next time, I want you to X, Y, or Z.
But the beautiful thing about that is that the process
has a level of integrity and visibility that it did not
used to have.

And I think, you know, even as a Commissioner, you
know, I had -- I still have thoughts of, you know, if
we'd had one more month, right, if we had had, you know,
we might have gotten refined this area or this aspect of
the map. And yet, in going through the legal processes
that we had to go through as a Commission where our maps
were opened up to scrutiny from all angles, time and time
again we were told by the courts that we had both solid
products, but more importantly, our process had held up
to what the intent of the voters had been.

And so I think both through the way you do this work
and through, you know, the analyses that will follow,
you're demonstrating that there is a different way. So I
know that's going to feel frustrating and dissatisfying
in some ways, but you're doing it, you know. And I think
over time, it certainly has been the case going to other
states, that the hope and potential of what we've done
here has been so invigorating, so the skepticism you get
here is nothing compared to what's happening in other
states. So just, you know, own that and appreciate
yourselves for the role you're playing in that.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I'm going to -- it's somewhat related to Commissioner Yee's question, where there's that couple of -- what normally would not be considered underrepresented. But in terms of the Commissioners, I think Sacramento is about as northern as we go, and that would be me, so then there's another third of California that's very rural.

And so I think this is a question probably -- well, for both of you, but I was kind of looking towards Amy also. In terms of your network and your resources, how wide is it in terms of, like, north of Sacramento to the rest of California, to the border of -- yeah.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Yeah, no, great question. So in terms of some of the groups that we supported already, they really work statewide and work with local groups throughout the state. But I'll note that in terms of the redistricting -- the RFP that we just put out, you know, I'm thinking in my head, I think a Sacramento group is probably the most northern.

So it's making me think to go back and look at other networks and think about the more northern areas of the state and are there groups that -- you know, with whom we should be sharing the RFP, so I'm taking that as homework. We're asking for the proposals -- it'd be later in October, so there's certainly still time. It's
a very good point.

    MS. MALLOY: And what I would just add to that, too, is that, you know, through, for example, the community foundations. You know, I think of -- if I remember correctly from when I was at Irvine, there's the Humboldt Area Foundation; there's foundations like that that are funding great nonprofit work in some of the regions that are more removed that you may not as easily get to.

Those organizations that they're funding, they may not do redistricting, per se. It might not make sense for them to apply for a grant from this fund, but they could still be really helpful in terms of just outreach, of making those organizations and all their members and clients aware of the fact that these sessions are happening and being able to also kind of drum up support.

So we're happy to support your outreach, and I would just really encourage you to ask your staff to dig deeper on the types of networks that you want them to investigate and to look at the lists of who they're reaching out to, asking them and yourselves the question of who's not here and how can we spread the net wider.

    CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I really appreciate that. That's kind of what we've been trying to focus on. Okay, do we -- you know, and I'm just looking, since I do live in a rural area, I'm thinking what do we have.
We've got, you know, the church groups, we've got Rotary, we've got Lion's Club, you know, and the informal groups, of course, but that's great if that's also similar type structure going north. But I really appreciate your feedback.

And then the other -- there was one other question regarding the disability community. We did have a public comment on that. So do your outreach efforts also -- or your network also reach out to that, to the disability communities?

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: So the Fair Representation Fund isn't focused on the disability community. It's obviously hugely important to reach out to that community and make sure that, you know, opportunities for input is accessible to those communities, but that hasn't been a focus of the Fair Representation Fund.

MS. MALLOY: And one point I would add, too, is that I think this is an area where there's legal requirements on what you provide in terms of accessibility, and then there's also above and beyond what just the bare minimum that you're legally required to do.

And so you know, I've been seeing even in professional conferences that I have tapped into some interesting new things that are done. Say, if I am speaking and then I will take a moment and describe
myself for somebody who might be listening but unable to see.

And so again, I would encourage with the staff you have that is setting up, you know, the backbone infrastructure for these hearings, to really encourage and push them around what is best practice as it relates to accessibility, not just the bare minimum of how do we meet the California state law.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great, thank you. Next we have, I think it was Commissioner Akutagawa we have. We have 4 minutes left right now, and then we'll have to take a 15-minute break, so I just want to give everybody the time frames. So Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, my question will be really fast. I'm just curious, any thoughts or advice on, given the fires that have been happening, especially throughout Northern California and a lot of the rural communities have been really displaced, any thoughts on how best to conduct outreach, given that they'll probably still be in recovery mode while we'll be trying to do our outreach. And I don't know if you've faced anything like that during the 2010 Census time, any major disasters like that.

MS. MALLOY: You know, you've got layers of challenges between COVID, which was already causing some
level of displacement, and when I think about COVID in
particular with educational entities. You know,
normally, a lot of the colleges would have their students
on campus fulltime. Some of them have had to, you know,
find other lodging, go back home, et cetera, so there's
both the fires and the rural displacement.

And then I think with COVID, that may be an area
where collaboration with local elected officials, and
particularly the staff. I think you have to be careful
as it relates to elected officials, you know, even if
they're not at the state level, but the staff is really
able to help you understand how the displacement is
occurring. So there may be other gathering places,
shelters, clearinghouses of information, contact
information for people who have had to temporarily or
permanently relocate where you can design a more targeted
outreach strategy that meets the conditions of what that
part of the state or what those cities are actually going
through.

And I think given how much those communities have at
stake in terms of recovery efforts, in terms of
leadership over the months and years to come, just I
really encourage you as well to be very proactive in
mapping out now what that might look like, because it
will probably be more complex than what you might have in
other parts of the state.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: And the only piece I'd add -- I think those are all excellent suggestions -- is too in many communities, and Connie reminds me with the reference to the Humboldt Area Foundation, there's community foundations who often serve as, you know, a local nexus of information and there to be of assistance and many of them have been involved in recovery efforts.

So you know, one can refer to the League. There's a League of California Community Foundations that lists California community foundations; they can also be helpful partners.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Toledo, I'm going to -- we're going to go ahead and take a break because we are at the 90-minute mark. And so when we come back, you'll be first in line. How's that? And then also we will take public comments. And even if you've asked your two questions, please feel free to follow up with more questions as well.

So at this point, we're going to go ahead and take a break. And if everybody can come back at 12:10, that'd be great. Thank you.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you and welcome back.

And I appreciate Connie and Amy staying on for additional
questions; I really appreciate this conversation and your willingness to share your knowledge with us. So I'm going to go first to Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Just in terms of thinking about the North Coast and other parts -- other rural parts of the state, as well as the importance of tribal governments and Native American communities that are in those areas. I'm -- there are many reservations up in the Mendocino area, Lake County, across the rural portions of California. And perhaps doing more outreach for the fund to ensure that they at least are able to know about it and participate if they're able to. Whether it's, you know, tribal governments or tribal organizations or their consortiums, like the California Rural Indian Health Board, which has been involved in various advocacy, and you know, the engagement efforts throughout all of those regions.

And also, you know, some statewide health organizations have funded efforts out in those regions, such as the California Endowment and with Blue Shield Foundation, just making sure that those areas have engagement, are able to participate in civically, and especially with advocacy in Sacramento and across the -- and nationally as well.

So just thinking about -- ensuring that those
communities also are aware of this effort and are aware of the possible funding opportunities, should they be interested in participating. Thank you.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Yeah, that's a great comment and just a bit of information in that regard. I had a couple of conversations with California Native Vote, an organization that does civic engagement in the Native community.

And in our earlier conversations, they were just quite overwhelmed with, you know, issues related to COVID and other challenging that they were facing. But yeah, I've been planning to reach out to them again to see if we might be able to engage them in this effort. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you, both of you. I think it's all of our -- you helped percolate thoughts, which is exactly what we wanted.

One question -- oh, I think it's important for full disclosure that San Diego Grantmaker -- I'm a consultant with San Diego Grantmakers. I'm facilitating their Binational Migration Funders Group. So since they're one of the partners of California Philanthropy, for the public, I just wanted to have that full disclosure.

I was on one of the national funder civic
participation calls around redistricting, and they were talking about the millions of dollars that their fundraising goal is. And they had 14 states that were a priority and California was not one of them, so I was just curious why that was so.

And then my second question is, what are the gaps that you're seeing based on the investments that Philanthropy California can do; what is keeping you awake at night that you can't do?

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Great, so I can answer both of those. I'm actually also working with this National Funders Collaborative focused on redistricting, and that effort had identified, among all of the states, 14 states, as you noted, in particular in which to focus. And the thinking there really was -- there's a number of thoughts that went into that prioritization.

One is states that have been jerrymandered in the past and where there is also more of a history of voter suppression and suppression of civic engagement among historically underrepresented populations, so where the threats to fair maps are particularly pronounced. And so many of the states are in the South, and then there's some additional states as well. There's also consideration of the loss of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and what that means in particular, again, in
the South to the threats to fair redistricting.

And there's also a recognition in some that California does have a relatively more robust philanthropic sector. This occurred in national funding for census outreach as well, where they know California foundations do have some resources to put to this, so you know, compared to states such as many of the states in the South where there's less philanthropy; that was some of the thinking.

And then in terms of gaps for the philanthropic -- for the Philanthropy California fund, I do think that funding the needs and the interests among local civic engagement groups to educate and mobilize communities around fair -- around redistricting, that the requests will be quite a bit greater than what we've been able to fundraise for.

So I think without additional resources, we just wouldn't be able to support the robust civic engagement throughout the state that we'd like to be able to do. So I think that's where we'll see the gap, is really funding the grassroots groups with strong relationships in these communities to do the kind of outreach that they'd like to do.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Do we have any -- Commissioner Andersen and then Commissioner Vasquez.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you both. This has been very enlightening. I do have one question about how, you know, a lot of the groups that you're talking about and that are already sort of going down that path with the funding, they all tend to be involved in advocacy, obviously, which is a more -- we're looking at redistricting and voting.

But how do we -- but that's not the only communities of interest. You know, obviously there are lots of communities of interests. How do you get in touch with the people who -- you know, they're just busy living their lives and they have no idea that she should be -- how to get involved even if they hear about it. They're not part of organizations; they're just kind of average person out there and aren't part of an advocacy group.

How do they -- how should you try to reach them; how should we try to reach them? And even if they hear, hey, how would they get involved?

MS. MALLOY: I'll just say that this is an area where having your staff team be comprised of people who have some experience doing public outreach and who have some ability on how to segment kind of media participation is going to be really important and helpful to you.

For example, there are ways that you can, for fairly
cheaply, be able to do a good amount of grassroots outreach on social media that won't cost you a lot of money, but there's very different platforms or modes of doing that depending on who you're actually trying to reach. So to go back to the example we had earlier around students who were displaced because of COVID, you know, if you're trying to reach 20-somethings who are, you know, not on campus because of COVID, the platform that you use is not going to be Facebook, right? It might be Instagram or it might be others.

But this is something that you want to make sure that your communications capacity is not just set up to do press releases and kind of high-level messaging for, you know, 40 and 50-something professionals, and being able to kind of target in that arena.

With the individuals who are, you know, in some cases, say, in a more rural area and maybe not as connected on social media, et cetera, I mean, really any kind of place where people gather, even in socially distanced ways, or have their basic needs met is an avenue that you can think about as part of your outreach strategy.

So you know, a grocery store. Like, this is about kind of people power that you'll need to actually get your messages in the right places. But literally, I know
in some communities that are more rural, the bulletin board by the bathrooms in the grocery store is where a lot of people pull off a little piece of paper that has, like, information on how to follow up around something.

So it is going to come down to that level of creativity and having some, you know, what works for certain demographics and just thinking about, you know, the segmentation and really digging in with whoever you're asking to act on your behalf as to what the specifics are of their strategy. Not just, we plan to reach these people and we'll report back on it, but actually what are you doing and being able to have a conversation about that as Commission that the public is aware of so that you can refine it together as a group.

I'll be honest, this was an area that got a little bit challenging, I think, between Commissioners and staff. We had a wonderful staff. We would have never accomplished our goals if it wasn't for the collective effort across Commissioners and staff. But it also, because we had a small team and we were all working overtime to make this happen, we had to really get in the weeds sometimes as Commissioners around, like, what's the strategy here. I see we have some gaps, like, let's address them.

And not just assume that what our staff was doing
was exactly hitting the mark for the task we had at hand, particularly when some of the staff that you may hire -- you know, we made a decision to hire staff that was largely folks who had come from the State. They had come from and were really familiar and comfortable navigating the bureaucracy that we were all really unfamiliar with, but that was a really different task at hand and having to do time sensitive, high stakes outreach for, you know, drawing political maps, right?

It just was a completely different set of tools that we needed to do the external-facing piece of the work. And so we also had to really kind of push and engage and bring what resources we had, make our own suggestions on who to reach out to or what community venues might be worth considering in a place.

So just really, you know, encourage you that you -- obviously here, staff is there to act on your behalf and the task at hand is so important and critical, don't be shy or assume that they are going to be thinking about all these different things. You know, really bring all your best and most creative thinking to the table.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. This is -- thank you to our presenters for their presentation. I have been intentionally stepping back to leave space for other
voices because a lot of this work is really my work, you know, in organizing and community work and grassroots work.

And so really my comment is more somewhat, you know, in response to Commissioner Andersen's question. The community groups that, you know, either are currently being funded, have been funded in the past, or could be potentially funded to support our work are very diverse in terms of their membership, the population that they work with, et cetera.

So I think it made me realize how much I take for granted, how complex these networks of community organizations are. And so certainly I think there are, you know, very robust membership organizations that have explicit, you know, ways for community folks to be members and have that, I think, much more robust infrastructure.

There are also other community organizations that really -- if you live in this geography, larger county region, what have you, we consider you a member whether or not you have engaged with us in any capacity or not. You know, and there's a whole spectrum in terms of how organized these community organizations are.

And so I think sort of to -- a point made earlier that really without -- the way I see this without
additional funding, whether it's from private philanthropy, or you know, the Commission partnering directly with folks that these organizations with vast levels of networks and connections to community groups would not be able to do the kinds of things, like, you know, flyer local grocery stores, or you know, go into PTA meetings and give a short presentation about redistricting and how, you know, the Commission is coming to your region in short order, right?

So I think there's lots of different ways that we can -- we, directly, the Commission, through our staff, promote some of that grassroots organizing. But really, I can't imagine how the Commission, without partnering in some way with a vast network of community organizations would be able to do that hyper-local grassroots organizing ourselves, and that we will really, really need to partner with local community organizers, broadly defined, in order to do that work and those folks should be paid to be doing work on our behalf.

So those are my comments.

MS. MALLOY: I'll just -- from the perspective of someone who's funding not through Irvine and not around redistricting, but also still supports a number of civic engagement efforts. There's also in this moment, there's the people power, the actual kind of time and skills and
capacity it takes to build relationship and do the education and outreach, and because of COVID, there are the technological tools that help enable that relationship.

You know, whereas many organizations have been able to use a kind of door-to-door model or they'll have a community hub where everybody comes to events at the community hub and that's where a lot of the information gets communicated and distributed. Now, many of those organizations have had to, you know, purchase a Zoom account or they've had to, you know, get new tools that they are training their staff or expanding the ability of their members and community members to be able to use those tools.

So I think a question also for the Commission to be wrestling with is, you know, what are the tools that you are going to use in your effort of doing the outreach, and you know, allowing community members and groups to be able to submit map proposals, and are those tools that are -- how can they be more widely available and known?

One example from the last redistricting cycle, which, you know, I think the jury is still out. It wasn't the most successful thing that was funded by philanthropy. But the intention was right, which was having a set of technical assistance locations where
there were computers available that had the mapping software where people could go in and actually get some support around how to do the mapping and how to create their own draft maps, whether it was at a really micro-level or whether they were a larger group that was trying to propose something in a regional level.

Now, I think the actual uptake on how much those were used, et cetera, how much they were promoted, was not as strong as it could have been. But one exciting aspect about this moment is that because of technology, you can actually get a lot more reach and access potentially for the tools that you do choose to adopt.

But whether that's something that -- you know, how are you going to make that available? The sooner you can make that available, the better, because these organizations and staff and volunteers are going to have to figure out how to wrap their heads around it and how to kind of build bridges with their members and clients who will be informing what they produce with it.

So just kind of encouraging thinking about both the resourcing for the actual people and also for the tools. And whether -- you know, it's a different thing for one of these larger statewide groups who may be much bigger and better funded, they may already have some of that infrastructure. But when you're talking about, you know,
like, a neighborhood housing association that does a lot
of their work, like, on the streets locally, they may not
have as many of those tools. So that could be another
parameter or option for funding that could make these
groups more successful.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Do we have any other
questions from the Commissioners before we go to public
comment?

Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: For both of you, what would you
tell your younger selves before you started your
Commission work that we should all hear?

MS. MALLOY: Well, you know, I can -- of course,
I've stayed the same age this whole decade, but if, in
this hypothetical, I could talk to my younger self.
You're going to go through some really stressful times.
You know, it's a really big responsibility that you have
right now and this is sort of the calm before the storm,
even though I know nothing about 2020 feels calm. It's
still, you know, you don't yet have the census data.
You're not yet in the thick of it.

But just to reassure you all that you're asking
really good questions. Like, you're starting off with so
much more insight and context. We made lots of mistakes
that you won't need to make because we already made them.
And even if you don't do it a hundred percent perfectly, if you do it with the right mission and values coming together as a group of citizens, you will be doing it exponentially better than it was done in the past when it was done behind closed doors with politicians that were operating in their own self-interests. And ultimately, that's what the voters wanted. They wanted for this power to sit with everyday people.

And so even though there will always be things that you will look back on later and think, oh, I get that now, or maybe we should have done that, you're moving the ball forward in really significant ways. And you know, people who know how badly redistricting can be done and has been done will really appreciate your work. And then the vast majority of people will have no idea what redistricting is or why you did it, right, and so you will have to do a lot of your patting on the back.

And that's okay, because it's a really wonderful gift that you are giving to the State of California, to the broader field of redistricting reform, and you will also receive more gifts from it than can really be articulated. I think it really has given me a much deeper empathy and appreciation for what it is to be in that decision-maker seat and to be balancing so many different complexities and interests, not just my own.
kind of personal preferences.

So you're going to do great, and we're all cheering you on. You have tons of resources behind you, and don't ever hesitate to reach out. I think those of us who were Commissioners in the last round were very conscious of wanting to make sure you have your own space and your own identity and your own approach; that was really the intent of having a fresh set of Commissioners every decade, but it's not for any lack of wanting you to succeed. So we're always at the ready to pop in formally into a meeting or, you know, if you need your staff member to reach out to one of us for clarification, we're on call this whole period.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much. Amy, do you have something?

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: I was just going to say I haven't been in your shoes, so I don't have lessons learned. But I just wanted to let you know that I'm certainly available for any follow-up you have, you know, and on behalf of Philanthropy California, we are here to be a resource to you and support you in any way we can, so please be in touch.

And I'm scheduled to make another presentation somewhere else right now. I think this is the wrap-up of our period with you, so just wanted to say thank you for
having us.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No, thank you so much for coming. We do have public comment, but if you have to leave, we completely understand. We just want to thank you, this is great information. We appreciate what you're doing and we appreciate what you're doing for the Californians, for the majority of who don't know what you're doing, so I'm going to pat you on the back to make sure that you're acknowledged for all of your efforts, so thank you so much.

MS. DOMINGUEZ-ARMS: Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. We're going to go to public comments now. Raul, can you please read the instructions for that or directions for that, and it's just specifically for agenda item number 11. Oh, and they left our -- Connie left and Amy left. Please don't leave.

MS. MALLOY: Oh, no. Oh, sure, sure. Would you like me to stay on? I'm glad to, no problem.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: If you can, that'd be wonderful because normally, it's just public comments for this agenda item and it might be comments for you.

MS. MALLOY: Perfect, will do.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, I appreciate that. Thank you. Okay, Raul.
MR. VILLANUEVA: Thank you, Chair. The Commission will advise the viewing audience when it's time to submit public comment. At this time, we are requesting any public comment on agenda item number 11. The Commissioners will allow time for those who wish to comment to dial in.

To call in, first of all on your phone, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number, which is also provided on the livestream feed, using your dial pad. When prompted, enter a participant ID simply by pressing the pound sign.

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 automatic message to press star 9 to raise your hand, indicating that you wish to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automatic message asking that the host would like you to talk and to press star 6 to speak. You will have time to provide your comments.

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
remember to turn down the livestream volume.

The Commissioners will take comment for every action item on the agenda. At this time, we're seeking public comment for item number 11. The process for making a comment will be the same each time. Begin by dialing the telephone number provided on the livestream feed, and then following the steps that I have described. These instructions are also located on the website.

Chair?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have one person in the queue.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Katie, because my internet went blank again, so thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay, I got you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: If you'll press star 6 to unmute yourself. Thank you. If you could please state and spell your name for the court reporter and then share your comment.

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Yeah. This is Renee Westa-Lusk. My name is spelled R-E-N-E-E, and then the last name is W-E-S-T-A and then there's a hyphen and then it's Lusk, L-U-S-K.

I have a couple of comments. One is I did participate in the regional hearings in 2011 as a
representative of my community. There was one problem I think with informing all the small towns in my county, because the only evidence I saw of outreach was a press release maybe, and maybe one article in my county newspaper, and that happened, like, three weeks -- I think two to three weeks before the hearing happened. And I -- most people in our county, especially the smaller towns, don't subscribe to the county newspaper. There was nothing in my local newspapers. I have two small local newspapers I subscribe to in my town.

And my suggestion for the Commission is that you should run press releases, usually don't cost anything other than the time and labor of a person sending them to the various newspapers. But before you have a regional hearing, I recommend that you contact all the small newspapers in the area, and I think you'd get more turnout, more interest in the smaller areas of the state, the more rural/less populated areas. I think they care about where they're being districted; it's just most don't even know that redistricting is even happening.

And then a second, I have a question regarding regional philanthropies. Are they influenced to fund grants that benefit their area of where they're located versus the overall redistricting effort, because I'm getting the feeling that the regional philanthropies...
concentrate on the large urban populations and that the rural areas are left out.

And I just want to let you know if I had not been involved in another organization, I would not have probably known about these redistricting hearings. But I knew they were coming up, so I, you know, looked in the newspapers I subscribed to at the time to find out where the ones that were closest my area, and my area is very remote where the nearest urban areas are two hours' drive and then there's another one an hour and 45 minutes. And so we're remote, and I think remote areas of the state should have the same rights of finding out about these regional hearings as the urban areas. That's my comment.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much for those comments, and we did bring up the rural areas, and I believe Amy was going to go back and maybe rethink their direction of how they've been outreaching that effort. I think that those two were combined in terms of trying to reach the rural.

Connie, do you have something for that?

MS. MALLOY: I think -- I mean, these are wonderful pieces of feedback. And you know, to the extent there will be press releases that you're generating for circulation, and being able to have a more nuanced assessment of each regional media market and not just who
the biggest player is in town, but also all of the
different more localized or specialized outlets, as well
as the online connection points and forums that exist is
really, really important.

I mean, my experience with philanthropy, having
worked in a statewide foundation, are that the more
locally based, the regional-serving foundations like the
community foundations, they tend to have a specific
geographic area that they serve. And so all of their
grantees are usually located in or at least primarily
serving issues and constituents that are in that region.
So they do take the form of really representing much more
local interests and concerns than some of the
organizations that have more of a statewide presence
with, like, multiple satellite offices or kind of
headquarters in Sacramento, that kind of thing.

But there are some of the community foundations
that -- like, I think about, you know, Fresno where
there's a community foundation there or they have a lot
of activity that's there in the most populated area. But
whether, you know, it's important to understand what
reach they have into the more rural areas around and what
gaps there are to be filled.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: And I think, you know, Amy's
not here to answer this. But in the conversations that
I've heard from the Grantmakers Association, a lot of --
we're building on lessons learned. Philanthropy is
building on the census, that we've just had one of the
most innovative creative funding opportunities with the
census, and they're still out there doing a lot of work,
as well as civic engagement for the election, as well,
you know.

So the redistricting will build on some of that
civic infrastructure, and I want to -- you know, the
civic infrastructure is not just advocacy groups or
lobbying groups. The civic infrastructure is every way
people engage with their communities, so it's PTAs,
community clinics, you know, business associates,
Chambers of Commerce.

So I think everybody is looking at how to continue
building on that. The challenge is limited funding. But
your point is well taken, and it is something that I know
keeps a lot of folks awake at night.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much.

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was our only
person in queue at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Again, Connie, I
just want to thank you. I want to thank you for coming
here today and then also thank you for the work that you did last time in the 2010. You left some -- what is the saying, something about shoes to fill, you know? English is my second language, so I'm not very good at those. But thank you so much for what you did then and what you're continuing to do now, so thank you.

MS. MALLOY: Absolutely. Best of luck to you and look forward to following and supporting your work in whatever way I can. Take care.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay, so before we break for lunch, just a reminder, interviews next week. There's been a couple of questions, follow-ups from Commissioners; one of them had to do with travel. If the Commissioners decide to travel to Sacramento to be here for the interviews, if that would be reimbursed, and I would say it is reimbursed. I think it has to do, as long as you're 50 miles away. And I'm going to defer to Raul for that.

MR. VILLANUEVA: That's true. And actually, the question was an applicant in Southern California.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, it was an applicant.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yeah, an applicant is asking that if they flew here for their interview, would they be reimbursed.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Have we ever done that in the
past? I don't --

MR. VILLANUEVA: It's not typical. But given that you have limited staff at this time, I brought it up for discussion.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I know in my years at state work, if an applicant wanted to come, that was on them in terms of the costs. But it's open for discussion.

Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. We were offered reimbursement to interview for this position. We're hoping at least for someone fairly high-level, and so I know it's not uncommon, if not standard practice in the private sector, if we are inviting someone to interview for a position who is outside of the region, we would, you know, reimburse them for their travel expenses.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other comments? Commissioner Ahmad and then Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: The only thing I would add to that is that if that opportunity is made available to one candidate, it should be made available to all the candidates regardless of which position they are interviewing for, counsel or communications director.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. VILLANUEVA: The choice that was given to the candidates as instructed was that they could either
attend via Zoom or come in in person.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I'm glad to hear that. I mean, my sense has always been it's best to have all candidates interviewing in the same format, whatever format that is. But as long as the choice was given to them, then I guess it's on them.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And also, I mean, if it's something that we decide that we're going to -- we would pay for it, then I would advise that we go back to those that have decided to be virtual to give them the opportunity that if they want to come in person, that we would pay for their expenses as well.

Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. To that end, I would -- to Commissioner Kennedy's point, I do think it'd be nice if possible if we had a similar format whether in person or virtual. And I thought I saw that most of the communications candidates had chosen virtual.

MR. VILLANUEVA: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Okay. Maybe the reimbursement will change some of their minds? Although if they're local, it may more be a flexibility issue since we're asking them about a week out to take a day off work ostensibly to interview.
MR. VILLANUEVA: And Commissioner Vasquez, that's a good point. I spoke with all of them over the phone, and several of them did mention that as a consideration. And I thought it was appropriate because given the short amount of notice -- I mean, a week -- I thought that being able to offer them the opportunity then to attend via live Zoom was a good option for them.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So it was only one candidate, Raul, that request or asked?

MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And was that communications or chief counsel?

MR. VILLANUEVA: It was an applicant for communications director.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And as Commissioner Vasquez noted, the last time we saw four of the five were going to go virtual. Any other comments on this? Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I just wanted to go back to another piece that Commissioner Kennedy mentioned because it was kind of my thought, but it was just a personal preference. I'm hoping that moving forward, we can maintain the same form or way that we interview. I think that there is always -- not always -- I think there has the potential for being a difference of how you receive a
candidate when they're in person, as opposed to when
they're online.

And I think it evens the playing field if those that
are going through the interview process, that they're
either all online or they're all in person, so I'm glad
most of them chose to be online. And if we made any
calls, I'd be hopeful that we call the one that's
planning on coming in and suggest that they just conduct
it online.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other comments on that?
Commissioner Andersen and then Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just for -- but it does
mean, because I think -- and correct me if I'm wrong --
basically all the counsels were coming in in person and
most of the communications were virtual; is that correct?

MR. VILLANUEVA: The decision yesterday was a
request to have all of the chief counsel candidates
appear in person. And because of the way the recruitment
was done with communications director, that that was not
just limited to Sacramento, to allow those candidates to
be able to attend by live Zoom or in person.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Then I --

MR. VILLANUEVA: So that choice was given to them.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Then I would like it if all
three of the chief counsels came in person and then all
five of the communications came virtually, because I agree with Commissioner Turner, there is -- we want to be able to compare equally.

And communications is something we did mention -- I'm not sure who first mentioned that -- but actually, it's sort of part of the interview, how they handle, you know, remote and talking about tools and communications. So I think it's also almost like part of the interview, as opposed to coming in person; whereas, the chief counsel certainly will be in Sacramento in person and then sort of being -- it's in a different position, so that would be what I would prefer.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: My question's been answered. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: So it sounds like the direction to Raul is to communicate -- yes, we would in theory, but also we would like to have all applicants for this position attend via Zoom, that that's our direction.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I think so. Is everybody good with that?

MS. JOHNSTON: Can we make that a motion and have a vote on it?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I motion to --
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So if we make a motion and vote on it, we have to take public comment, correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: Correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Does it have to be a motion?

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, it's a decision that's a change from a consensus yesterday, that's my concern.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It's a new consensus?

MS. JOHNSTON: There was a consensus yesterday to give them a choice and this is a change from that, and I'd like -- I think it's better to formalize it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I don't recall us making a consensus decision on the format of interviews for communications director yesterday.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Commissioner Vasquez, did you have something?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. I mean, we did talk about it. I guess there was that. And I'm not recalling the level of input. I do remember a couple of us talking about it. I don't remember the level of input.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I think it was more a conversation within this, between Commissioner Taylor and I that was observed by the Commission.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Well, it was sufficient to provide
direction in terms of how the group wanted that part to go.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Now the direction is --

MR. VILLANUEVA: -- changed.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- been defined, been redefined that for communications it would be virtual and for the chief counsel would be in person. Anyone that --

Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I'll just say I think our direction from yesterday was pretty clear, right, that we would prioritize --

MS. JOHNSTON: I can't understand you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We can't hear you. Commissioner Toledo, your sound keeps coming in -- or maybe it's me.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think it's my end.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Your sound keeps coming in and out.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: It's a bad connection.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So I thought our direction was pretty clear that we would give folks the ability to --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We still can't hear you.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Oh, you can't? That's okay. Can you hear me now? I'm trying to play with the --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It just keeps going in and out.

Like I'm using my cell phone and I'm going in and out of
range; that's kind of what it sounds like.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I think my broadband is pretty bad right now because I keep getting an error message.

But I think out direction was pretty clear in terms of giving folks the option, right, to participate online or in person with a priority of in person for the general counsel. And I think that direction, the way that Raul framed it, it so made sense to me, right, where we -- where folks have the ability to do both, but are picking one or the other, online or in person.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I probably caught, like, every third word or something. But I think what you were saying -- correct me if I'm wrong -- is that the direction was yesterday, we'd prefer to have the chief counsel in person and then the communications was kind of up in the air in terms of virtual versus them coming in. Is that kind of -- okay.

So the new direction is communications virtual, and then chief counsel in person. Everybody okay with that direction, thumbs up? Okay. All right, so that's the new direction, that piece of it.

Anything else, Raul, in terms of -- oh, you asked about masks, if masks would be required.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Just wanted to verify that the applicants who are coming in, they will be required to
wear a mask throughout the interview process.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Well, I --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, let's just not throw things out there. But I'm going to say something quick and then Commissioner Sinay, then Commissioner Le Mons. I would like to look into that because if we are already social distanced six feet, I believe the mask is not required. But I'm going to go to Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I have heard from many doctors that that six-foot thing is just for protection, but indoors, it's a lot bigger, you know. I would say yes for masks, especially because it's a public meeting and we would like to show publicly that that's responsible. But can we please provide them the lighter paper masks as Commissioner Fornaciari -- I'm going to do it again, sorry -- recommended last time. I keep wanting to say it in Spanish.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: There's a lot of vowels.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Well, they have to come in with a mask.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons.

MS. JOHNSTON: There was one last year that had a
heavy mask on, it made it difficult.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Okay, so we'll give them one of ours?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Well, I was going to ask if we could get a plexiglass barrier or maybe have the shield as an option, but I'll go with whatever. It's very difficult for the person with a mask on trying to interview and ask questions. I mean, I get it and I understand why. But are the people in the room, like for example, right now, we have people in the room that don't have masks on. So it sounds like we're making a policy around indoor air and all that, but then I look and go, well, okay, but we have people in the room without a mask. So I'm not quite sure that we're consistent, but I want to err on the side of safety, of course.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I do like the idea of the plexiglass. Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Sorry, I'm looking it up right now. Whatever we decide has to be in compliance with Sacramento County Health Order and Governor Newsom's Public Health Order. So if we can confirm that, that will help direct us in one way or the other.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. You know, I was the
in the State Auditor's building, which is right next door. I went around the block quite a bit on this very issue with them in terms of -- because, you know, were we supposed to go or not.

And there's a group, which I will forward this information to -- it's called ASHRAE, who they are the group who they design the HVAC systems and they're the standard who set up what you need to do.

And in terms of this, the new building, I don't know if that's actually been cleared in terms of what the filter is that the building is using. But the State Auditor's office, the policy is unless you are in your own office that closes a door, enclosed office, everyone wears masks because everything else is open.

And in the meeting room that the eight were in, it was a much larger room than the space that is currently available in our new space, and it had quite a lot of -- there's a whole thing about airflow which we won't get into right now, but it met all that criteria.

Regardless, you wore a mask the whole time.

And I agree it should be the light mask. But this space, it doesn't have private offices, so it's basically it's all open. And so to be consistent with the State Auditor's office, which is the building next door, and sort of has been State policy, that's really the way I
would come down, and they do always follow the County of Sacramento.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah. I just looked up County of Sacramento's Public Health Order. So "face coverings are required when six feet cannot be maintained." That being said, this is something for us to note. "Businesses must include a policy for face coverings in their protocols and provide face coverings to staff."

So it sounds like we actually do need a policy, and if someone with COVID who was exposed outdoors without a mask, I would like to have a policy that is more conservative towards safety.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And we'll have to remember that for future agenda items, that we need to put that on the list of policies.

So at this point in time, it sounds like masks are a yes and we will try to provide some of the lighter ones. I actually have some, so I'll just bring them with me, the lighter ones that we can use. And then if we can -- I'm not sure if the state government talks about the plexiglass, but that would be an option as well. At least during the interview, if they could take it off
during the interview part and then put it back on as
they're leaving and coming in, that might be an option as
well.

So any other questions? Raul, was there anything
you needed to ask Marian regarding these interviews?

MR. VILLANUEVA: Not that I know of.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

All right, so we're going to break for lunch. It's
going to be shorter than an hour because our next
presentation is at 2 o'clock. So if everybody could come
back at 12:55, and that way we're all here and ready for
the presentation.

Thank you everyone.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, and welcome back,
everyone. And so we are on agenda item number 12, which
is the strategies for public input meetings for
discussion and possible actions. And we have Jonathan
Mehta Stein from Common Cause and Alejandra Ponce De Leon
from Advancement Project California. And I apologize
ahead of time if I did not pronounce your names
correctly.

And so what I'm going to do, I'm going to pass --
first I'm going to thank Commissioner Sinay for
organizing this and coordinating the presentation, and
then I am going to hand it off to Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes, thank you. And thank you to Jonathan and Alejandra for joining us today. The Community Outreach Committee has been engaging several folks and partners in the community who, you know, have been doing this work around redistricting in the previous iteration and also new folks. And we really -- the purpose is for inviting these speakers, both Jonathan and Alejandra, but also future meetings for folks, is really to get a broad 360 view of what strategies there are that we, the Commission, should be considering when we're gathering public input.

So we really appreciate the work that Jonathan and Alejandra and their organizations are doing. And we also want to make sure that the Commission and that the public knows that they are here speaking today on behalf of their perspectives and their respective organizations' perspectives and not necessarily the coalitions -- the various coalitions that they are a part of doing this work.

And the organizations who are also doing this work will have their opportunity to sort of share their perspectives as well. So with that, I will hand it over to Jonathan and Alejandra.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Perfect. Thank you so much.
Really appreciate the opportunity to share this space with all of you and to be able to speak as advocates about the work that has been done so far as individual organizations but also part of these larger collectives, and really trying to increase participation from folks that, you know, get to be heard less of in our political processes, our democratic processes.

So again, my name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon, I am a senior research -- policy and research analyst with the Advancement Project of California. And with me I have my colleague, Jonathan.

MR. STEIN: Hi, everyone. Yeah, hi, everyone. I'm Jonathan Mehta Stein. I'm the Executive Director at California Common Cause. It's a pleasure and an honor to be joined with you today and we look forward to this presentation.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yeah, and so we really hope this presentation is the beginning of several conversations, as Commissioner Vasquez raised, and also Commissioner Sinay also expressed for us, that this is the first of many conversations with so many community organizations out there that are here as allies in support of the work that all of you are doing as Commissioners, and to really see the development of fair district lines for everybody.

And so I'm going to go on to the next slide and just
give you an overview of what we'll be covering today. And so one, we want to first start off with providing, like, just the landscape of the nonprofit and advocacy world that we're a part of, and recognizing that there's a multitude of organizations and other spaces that are also reaching out to you and engaging and representing different communities, but we wanted to give you -- paint a picture of who we are and who we work with.

We will then go ahead and talk a little bit about how our individual organizations approach communities of interest. And then, given the context which we're in, living in COVID, you know, and thinking about the opportunity that you have as Commissioners -- this second cycle of the redistricting process, you know, how can we reimagine the type of engagement that can be seen with communities.

And then, lastly, we will uplift, you know, some broad high-level recommendations around education, outreach and engagement for all of you to consider. And so that's going to be the agenda for today. So next slide?

MR. STEIN: And instead of taking questions at the end, we -- Alejandra and I decided we would take questions after each of these sections. And so hopefully, we can manage our time and get to two hours
sort of all told.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: So we'll begin with the overview of the landscape. And to begin with, we'll begin with ourselves. So who is Advancement Project California? So for many of you that are not familiar with our organization, we are a racial justice civil rights organization. We have been around for over 20 years and have expertise in policy research and advocacy. And so how we do our work is that our focus is focused on transforming public systems and shifting investments to create, you know, what we want to see as a more racially equitable California.

And the way that we do our work is that we partner alongside community organizations to research and advocate for policies that prioritize and meet the needs of low income people of color. And so our participation within the redistricting world, we had the opportunity to be a part of last cycle, where we provided -- we created what was known as Redraw California. And this was a web-based tool that was used to draw a community of interest maps, and to enable community residents to participate in the redistricting process.

And so we created that web-based tool. We provided technical assistance, provided trainings through webinars and onsite training on how to use this tool. And I mean,
you've already been engaging with the statewide database, and basically at that time, there was no other tool. And so Advancement Project California came in to provide that opportunity with, given our capacities at that time, to do this tool and to really enable a lot of the participation of residents. And even, we were able to attend several hearings across the state and bring laptops to the hearings for residents to be able to, you know, develop their maps onsite and print them out on the spot so that they were able to use those during public hearings.

And so at this point, for this redistricting cycle, we convene and provide research and data support to the Redistricting Alliance. And we'll get into a little bit more about this coalition. And much of our work is focused on the capacity building of our partners, of residents. We're also focused on community empowerment with the partners that we're working with in the alliance but also across this larger network, and advocacy. And so that's who we are as Advancement Project. I'll pass it over to you, Jonathan.

MR. STEIN: Thank you. Yeah, so who is California Common Cause? We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a California democracy that includes everyone. We work on redistricting, voting rights, money
and political reform, government transparency, lobbying reform, the full range of democracy related issues.

What's the goal of that work? Our process -- our purpose is not just good civics. We're trying to build democratic systems that are more fair and more accessible, essentially a level playing field. We hope to build California State and local governments that are responsive to everyday people and reflective of California's diverse communities.

We are long-time supporters of independent redistricting. We helped create the California Citizens Redistricting Commission as major supporters and coarchitects of Prop 11 in 2008 and Prop 20 in 2010.

Early on, the first CRC had very little infrastructure and it took a while before they could hire staff, and build a website, and do all these things. We stepped in to provide some early infrastructure for that first redistricting commission. And we held events and conferences to introduce that first CRC to Californians and produced an early website and a variety of materials to help people understand what this newfangled independent redistricting thing was and what it meant for them.

Today, ten years later in this new cycle, we convene a redistricting coalition space, a collaborative space.
On the next slide I'll explain what the different spaces are, the different coalitions are.

We, more so than most of our partners, are focused on issues of process -- accessibility, transparency, independence, and upholding the original intent of Propositions 11 and 20. We are a national organization. I am the executive director of the state chapter here in California, but we have state chapters around the country and a national office in Washington, D.C. And our national team is taking the success of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and bringing it to other states. Other states in a decade since the first CRC was established have used the ballot to pass independent redistricting commissions that are modeled after you all. And so we are on the move, trying to bring -- sort of spreading the gospel of independent redistricting around the country.

So who are our networks? You've already heard us refer to a couple of them. So first, there is the Redistricting California Collaborative. It's an umbrella space, sort of an all-inclusive space that includes representatives from the other two coalitions I'm about to mention in just a second, as well as others. That space is facilitated by California Common Cause.

Then there's also the Redistricting Alliance, which
Alejandra just mentioned, a coalition of regional and statewide organizations working to empower low-income communities of color and helping them participate in the redistricting process. A number of those groups are really community rooted and some of them are newer to redistricting. And then there's the unity mapping, which are larger, usually statewide organizations that are long-time redistricting experts and bring both legal and mapping capacity to the work.

So there's a number of different spaces, but people come together in the Redistricting California Collaborative, and despite a wide variety of priorities and perspectives, we try to act as collaboratively as we can. Alejandra will get into our values and our priorities in just a second.

So this is a full list of the organizations we work with. But I don't mean for you to read this entire list now. It's for your future reference. We have a wide representation from a broad diversity of groups. Alejandra will cover the communities we work in and with on the next slide. But I want to take this moment to note that our networks are not a comprehensive or exhaustive list of every nonprofit in California that cares about redistricting.

There are hundreds of organizations that will be
interested in your work, and there's no way that any one
coalition -- and we're sort of a set of multiple
coordinating coalitions -- there's no way that any
coalition or set of coalitions could represent every
single corner of California. So we have gaps, like any
coalition would. Rural communities are somewhat less
represented. The League of Women Voters of California
has a wide range of chapters, though, in rural
communities. Disability Rights California does voting
rights engagement in rural counties, and PICO California
has some affiliates in rural communities.

Far Northern California, I know that's been a topic
of conversation earlier today and throughout the last
several weeks -- PICO California does have some chapters,
though, in Far Northern California. And then, of course,
there are just a million networks, interests, and
perspectives that we can't represent and no one coalition
could fully represent. Renters, labor, business, transit
users, health networks, the LGBT community, unsheltered
communities. I mean, there's just so many, and we just
want to acknowledge right here at the beginning of our
time with you that there are plenty of communities that
we don't represent, despite sort of a really broad and
inclusive approach to our work.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: So in terms of who do we
represent -- and so given the work that all of our partners carry forward in the communities that they're based in, we actually have a reach to a variety of demographics. And so listed here you can see many of the communities that -- particularly what makes our network unique in many respects is that we are focusing on communities that face the greatest barriers to democratic participation.

And so that includes communities of color, which include, you know, Asian American Pacific Islander, black community, Latinx, Middle Eastern North African, Native-American. It also includes communities that are immigrants and refugees, low-income communities, Muslims and other faith-based communities, as well as people with disabilities, women, and youth, particularly youth of color. And so we do represent a variety of individuals, of communities that we have a particular reach -- a grassroots reach for many of them through the different partners that we work with. Next slide.

So what brings us together are really our values, our shared values and priorities when it comes to redistricting. For us, all of us, we believe that we need to have more equitable democracies. You know, not just at the state level when it comes to redistricting and other forms of participation, but also at the local
level. And when we talk about equitable democracies, it's really thinking about who are the groups that tend to be less represented? You know, either represented by -- as elected officials or their voices are heard less from.

And so as a value, it is about uplifting the voices of communities that historically have been marginalized or locked out of power and participation. And a lot of what allows us to do our work is the fact that we also share the value of collaboration and consensus building. Right? Whatever work that we do, whatever decisions we take, you know, even writing letters to the Commission or speaking, providing public comment, it really is a collaborative effort of digging into the strengths and experiences and expertise that each of us bring, and being able to come to a process of agreeing, you know, and recognizing that that is very, very hard to do. But we do strive for consensus building in the actions that we take together.

We also prioritize -- like, as a priority is that we want to see that the redistricting process retains its integrity and it includes everyone. And so for all of us, we can strongly say that we're here to see all of you succeed, the Commission succeed, this redistricting process succeed. So at the end of the day, you know, we
want to make sure that what was put in place through
those propositions that brought forth this opportunity to
have an independent redistricting commission, the
transparency and the accountability mechanisms, we want
to make sure that those actually are reflected and are
carried forward.

And so we're here as maybe, like, your top
supporters and redistricting nerds about everything
redistricting because we know the impact that this has.
And we're here for you, right?

And then also, I mean, another priority is that we
want to make sure that we support legally compliant maps,
you know, with respect to voting rights and other laws.
And that -- you know, that the maps also respect
communities of interest as much as possible. And we
understand that it's a challenge and how lines will be
drawn, but these are the kinds of values and priorities
that brought us together to want to work together on
redistricting. Next slide.

So in talking about who are the communities that we
represent, the values and the priorities that brought us
together, I definitely wanted -- we wanted to make a
pause and kind of really uplift the context that we live
in, you know, in terms of our democracy here in
California, and really raise the question of why do we
need a more equitable California democracy.

And so for Advancement Project in 2016, we led a study in looking at data, collections of data that show voting participation and other forms and other data to really analyze, you know, what is the participation of the communities here in our state. And we compiled this information and put together a report called Unequal Voices. And so folks, feel free to open the link at a later time. But I wanted just to uplift some of the key findings here to really put into context a lot of the motivation for so many of our partners and being engaged in redistricting.

When it comes to voting and just any other form of political participation, you know, racial disparities are there and they're really bad, along with other disparities, such as folks that are communities of -- people with disabilities and others, right? But racial disparities are critical. And what this means is that when it comes to even engaging public officials, and all of you as Commissioners are public officials, right? When it comes to public officials we found that 1 in 10 blacks and only about 1 in 20 Asian Americans and Latinx have contact with public officials to express their opinions, compared to nearly 1 in 6 whites.

And so in looking at education, income, and home
ownership, although these do play significant roles in explaining disparities, racial gaps persist even when we account for these factors. And so at the end of the day, when it comes to making decisions of elections, to determine the outcome of elections, determine the outcome of propositions, who elected officials are hearing from, the reality is that despite California being so progressive when it comes to putting in different policies that are making voting easier, you know, that there is an infrastructure -- relatively speaking, a strong infrastructure of community organizations, civic organizations engaging communities to participate, to get out the vote, to be part of going to city council meetings and whatnot. There are still disparities. And it really breaks down by, at the core, racial disparities that are the gravest for all of us.

And so in thinking about your role, and thinking about the approach that you will have in engaging diversity of communities, we wanted to uplift this context and this crucial issue. The reality is if nothing is done, who will you hear the most from? Right? And then who's going to be left out? And that's critical to center in this presentation as well. So next slide?

And so when we think about it, you know, that there are all of these disparities -- you know, questions may
come up like, well, why? Why are folks not engaging?
Why are particular communities not engaging, not
participating, not voting? Is it apathy? Is it folks
just choosing not to? And the reality is that they are,
for the vast majority, they're mostly impacted by
barriers to engagement. And so these barriers consist of
one, like, lack of civic knowledge. Just not even
understanding, you know, the different levels of
government and the different types of processes that they
take at the federal, state, and local level. Or why is
it important to participate?

And also for a lot of immigrant communities, you
know, they come from backgrounds and countries that their
government system is very much different, and their
experience with government is very different. And so
what -- how things roll out here in the United States is
also very, very new and very foreign, right? The other
thing is that there's lack of civic skills. You know,
how do you engage with public officials? How do you eve
write letters, to address it to who? What's the proper
way? How do you go about providing public comment?
There's definitely a barrier there when you don't have
the civic skills.

The other thing is lack of political efficacy or
confidence, right? Just the fact that you don't have
that knowledge or the skills, it really impacts a
person's ability to feel that they know enough or that --
will their voice matter? And so this really affects even
their ability to want to participate, because there are
questions about -- I don't know enough, why bother if
it's so hard to understand? My voice won't even matter
at the end of the day. Things get done regardless of
what I say or what I could do. And so those are things
that are contributing barriers to engagement. Next
slide?

But other barriers are impacting -- a lot of the
communities that we work with, communities of color, low-
income communities, have a greater impact. And so some
of these barriers include economic hardships. So the
fact that you work two jobs just to make ends meet. You
have no time to attend a public hearing, right? Or the
meetings, when they take place during a time that you're
working. You know, not having enough money, which means
that you might be constrained with the kind of
transportation that you have available. You may not have
the resources or the means to even secure childcare so
that you're able to attend or participate. And that
could also impact your ability to access technology.

Another major barrier for a lot of the communities
that we work with is the lack of language accessibility
and accessibility for folks with disabilities. Right?
And so those are something that are very real and have a
bigger impact, especially among communities that are
more -- that are immigrants, that are not English
proficient -- this impacts their ability to participate.

And then, lastly, another major barrier is just
there isn't sufficient outreach to particular
communities. There's a lack of civic infrastructure,
there's not a lot of organizations out there that are
reaching out to a diversity of populations and bringing
up their capacity -- their knowledge about issues that
are happening on the ground and how to even activate and
feel empowered, right? And there's no mobilization to
many of these communities. Nobody's seeking their input
directly, right? Nobody's putting it out there, the
messaging, the framing, the resources, investing to
really bring those communities in. And so if that's not
there, it makes it much harder for a regular person to
want to participate or even know that they could
participate. Next slide?

So given the complexity, given this context of the
disparities that exist with public participation, given
the diversity of communities that are facing so many
barriers, you know, as a collective, as a network, all of
those are representing different perspectives, different
communities, different geographic areas, and we are working together to try to address those barriers, to remove those barriers, to educate many residents to come in and get involved in this process. But even beyond this process, right, of just staying engaged in other issues that are impacting their community.

And so all of us coming together, working together, again, we are bringing, you know, resources, we are bringing expertise, levels of experience are very different among us. There are some folks that have been engaged with redistricting for decades; others that this is their first time engaging with statewide redistricting. And so for all of us to be able to work together, it does take a lot of our commitment, a lot of time, but again, the values have really helped us to move forward.

And so some aspects that I just wanted to elevate in terms of how we work together is that, again, we are very collaborative and we have a consensus-driven approach. And so we recognize that we don't always see things the same way, and that tensions are always inevitable. Right? However, you know, we also see that those are healthy and it helps to educate and expand also our understanding of so many different things in our own communities and how we each work.
But at the end of the day, we're able to sit, we're able to communicate, we're able to talk through a lot of the issues and the challenges and navigate and figure out how best to approach our collective efforts.

We're also, as a network, very attentive to process and outcome, right? We want to make sure that more communities are participating and engaging. We want to see the result of fair district lines. But how we get there also matters. Right? And so even when we think about -- you know, so we really take time to think about the process that we need to take. Who's being engaged, how we're engaging, the kinds of conversations, the opportunities that we're putting out there, you know, for all of our partners to weigh in.

And so when you see letters that come from our larger network, definitely this letter may seem very simple, like, well, here's your message, but behind that, you know, there's a lot of thoughtful discussion that went through it, negotiation to really think about how we align our interest and our advocacy ultimately to better -- to have a positive impact of improving and just ensuring that everybody who we are working with is impacted in a positive way.

And a lot of the work that we do, you know, we actually -- just like how all of you are organizing
yourselves in work groups, we also do that within our
spaces as well. We want to make sure that we lean into
everybody's expertise and knowledge of certain areas.
And so we definitely want -- you know, we see partners,
like, taking the lead on many issues and helping to
really shape and guide the larger group. Next slide?

And so here I want to pause. But we've kind of laid
out the landscape of who we are, what we do, the values,
the priorities that we have, and really centering in why
we do the work that we do. And so I just want to pause
there and just open it up, if there are any questions at
this point.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Can you just unpin for a minute so
I can see if there are questions from the other
Commissioners? Thank you so much; I appreciate that. Do
we have any questions from the -- Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. It was very
interesting. I have one question. When you were talking
about you actually -- and this is to Ms. Ponce De Leon --
the Advancement Placement Project created the Redraw
California web-based tool. Are you currently now working
with the statewide database on their new COI tool? Are
you part of that beta testing?

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yes, we are, we are.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great.
MS. PONCE DE LEON: We have been in communication with them directly and providing feedback to it. And so we're really happy that they're taking the lead this time. In developing this tool, I think it's best to be within the statewide database to create it. So it's been good to be a part of that and also helping to connect a lot of our partners from the Redistricting Alliance to be part of that testing as well.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you. Mr. Stein, is that also true with Common Cause?

MR. STEIN: We're in conversation with Karin Mac Donald from the statewide database, yes. And we recognize that -- we actually in a recent conversation, all of our partners were able to upload a number of questions, and thoughts, and concerns with Ms. Mac Donald. So yeah, we're providing our feedback. Literally, this week we were doing that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you very much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions before we continue? And I forgot to mention in the morning, or earlier, that every 90 minutes we have to take a break, so I might have to cut you off at some point, but we'll return afterwards. Any questions? Then we can move on. It looks like we can move on. Okay.

MR. STEIN: Okay, let me go back to screen-sharing.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. STEIN: No problem. Okay, so we were asked to share our definitions of communities of interest, and we're going to share our approach to communities of interest. There's sort of a subtle distinction there. I think it is a term that although it's a simple definition, and needs to be used broadly and flexibly. First, we want to just share a couple caveats. We, as Alejandra mentioned, we work with a number of dedicated, active, strongminded advocate partners, and we all think differently at times about some of these issues. Our thoughts today are informed by the dialogues we've had with our colleagues, but they may not be endorsed by every single partner.

And in fact, we actually put this question out, how do you define communities of interest, to our partners. And we got a variety of responses. One said, for example, that they don't define it, essentially. That with very few restrictions, they rely on communities to define themselves, which is a very valid approach as well and really suggests, I think, when you consider that versus how we think about it, the really broad range of thoughts and that people (audio interference) to this concept.

So first, I will hand it back over to Alejandra to
provide a definition from Advancement Project.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: So from our end -- I mean, we also are very similar to that of the League of Women Voters. Like, you know, we take guidance from the community members to define their communities. They live there, they know who's connected and in what ways they're connected to each other. And so we really defer to the community members to define that.

For us, communities of interest can be geographic based, but we don't necessarily believe that they should be constrained by physical boundaries such as freeways. And for us, we uplift that communities of interest -- you know, are those that connect people with who they are? So for example, if they're Vietnamese immigrants, right, and what they value. So for example, the value education, not incarceration, as an example. And/or what their issues or circumstances are. You know, they care about immigrant rights or they're currently being impacted by gentrification.

So at this moment, I mean, that is, like, our very broad definition that we have as an organization. And for us, one of the values that we have about collaboration is that we really follow the guidance of our partners. Because recognizing that we are not a base fielding organization, we definitely defer to our...
partners who are, to help guide us in that way. Pass it over to you.

MR. STEIN: So from our perspective, the first thing -- and there's a lot on this slide and I'd ask you just to focus on the first bullet for the time being. I really want -- I hope you will all resist an easy or simple definition of communities of interest. You have so much to wrap your arms around right now. And it would be great if there was one simple straightforward definition of communities of interest. And in fact, I think it's a term that deserves flexibility.

There are probably across California hundreds or thousands of different communities of interest and different people, or families, or neighborhoods might fit into more than one or several. It is a really, really diverse, flexible, and dynamic term.

So in my attempt to define -- have something close to a definition, I came up -- or we came up with the following: Neighborhoods, networks, communities, and groups that share identities, interests, cultures, histories, languages, and/or values. So I mean, just from that definition, quote-unquote, "definition", you can see the capaciousness we've tried to bake in here, how flexible this needs to be.

It may be helpful to talk about examples, and these
examples sort of show, I think, how diverse communities of interest can be. So one straightforward form of a community of interest is a group that shares a racial ethnic identity, cultural identity, faith, or language, right? So the historic Filipino community in Stockton. For a period of the 20th century, the Filipino community in Stockton was the largest Filipino community outside of the Philippines, and there's a rich and history there. That's a community of interest.

The Chaldean community in East San Diego County, and specifically in El Cajon. That's a community of interest. And these sort of -- these smaller cultural or ethnic communities are all over California, and I'm sure all of you know several.

Another example, though, is a community that shares common interests in some policy issue or political issue. Schools, or housing, or crime, or transit, or whatever the case me be, right? So all the parents who send their children to the Fremont Union High School District, where I grew up in the Bay Area, South Bay Area. That might be a community of interest. Communities impacted by environmental justice issues created by the Chevron refineries in Richmond, California. Those could be a community of interest. Or Northern California communities -- and I mean, Northern-Northern California
communities. They're all impacted by the same fire
patterns year after year and use the same wildfire
response systems. That -- those could be a community of
interest.

And we're not done yet. There's way more. So
communities that share similar socioeconomic statuses,
right? Income, home ownership, education levels. But
more than that. So for example, the historically lower
income east side of San Jose. And this is a good
illustration of how communities of interest overlap.
They bring in multiple factors, right? So that lower
income east side of San Jose is disproportionately people
of color because of redlining and racial covenants that
existed in wealthier parts of San Jose. And so you have
not just a shared socioeconomic status but you also have
a higher percentage of communities of color with a shared
history and a shared set of interest around housing,
schools, crime, and other issues.

Another way to define a community of interest might
be common social, business, or civic networks. For
example, Koreatown in Los Angeles, the queer community in
San Diego's Hillcrest neighborhood. I mean, there are
legion -- I mean, there are so many of these that we can
think of in every city and every town. Or simply regions
or parts of town that are bound by natural features or
manmade features. So one example that I know well because I worked on the districting process in the City of Chula Vista, is the southeastern corner of Chula Vista, which is bound to the west by the coast, it's bound to the east by the 805, it's bound to the north by the city's downtown area, and it's bound to the south by the city's border.

Now, here, that is a really definable, clear chunk of town. And they came forward in the districting process to say, we are one community and we want our own district. But the reality is that this is, again, an example of how communities overlap. That is a lower socioeconomic status part of town. It's just a lower income part of town, lower education levels, fewer city services, fewer sidewalks, streetlights. They shared an interest in developing better city services for their community, right?

So one community might fit into multiple examples that I provided today, and also one person, one family, one community might fit into multiple communities of interest. There's a huge degree of flexibility that's needed, I think, when we think about this topic.

And I want to zero in by giving you one really concrete example. I had the opportunity, the privilege to work on the City of Fremont's districting process.
The City of Fremont, many believe is home to the largest Afghan community outside of Afghanistan. If you watched the movie or read the book "Kite Runner", you know that it's set in Afghanistan and in the City of Fremont. The Afghan community -- the Afghan diaspora worldwide knows this one suburb in the Bay Area because of how rich the Afghan community -- the way in which the Afghan community has made Fremont their home.

And yet despite that history, the Afghan community is largely left out of local politics and local government. And I was working at a different organization at the time. We realized that the districting process in the City of Fremont had begun and the Afghan community knew nothing about it. So we found community leaders that could unlock the rest of the community for us and could open gateways to community organizations and community settings, and we started talking about what redistricting is and why it's important.

Now, we tried to get the city to bring forward data about the Afghan community, and they really seemed incapable of doing it. At one point the demographer said to us that there were 2,000 Afghans in the City of Fremont. And we took that information to Afghan community leaders and they said, there might be 2,000
Afghans at one high school in Fremont. They really felt that the city could not wrap their hands around the size and the importance of their community.

And so we sat -- we printed 8-1/2 by 11 maps of the City of Fremont and we sat over tea at kitchen tables and at cafes with folks, and we gave them markers and asked them to plot out where are your restaurants, where are your markets, where are your community centers, where are your nonprofits, where are your religious institutions, where are the apartment buildings with the greatest densities of Afghan residents and renters? And we brought those forward to the city and we said, listen, if you can't map the Afghan community, we did it for you. Look at these hand-drawn maps that show you where the Afghan community is.

And Afghan community speakers came forward for the first time, having never spoken to city council or any government body before. They gave testimony, sometimes through a translator, talking about how important Fremont was to the Afghan community and talking about how important they hoped the Afghan community was to Fremont.

And one mother said to the dais, I had to leave Afghanistan at a time of war, and I'm happy that I found a new home here in Fremont, but I know I haven't had opportunities that I would like to, to live my life in
this country. But my son, he has had those
opportunities, and my hope is that my son will someday be
sitting where you are as the mayor of Fremont. And all
of these people in this city hall erupted into applause.
People who had an eyebrow cocked about the Afghan
community -- who were these newcomers that were showing
up in city politics we'd never heard from before? But
the power of that moment was so great that no one could
deny it. Literally, the entire room erupted into
applause.

And ultimately, a district was drawn that kept the
Afghan cultural and commercial hub together and grouped
it with apartment buildings that had concentrations of
Afghan renters. And at the end of the process, city
councilmembers in the City of Fremont came down off the
dais and approached Afghan community leaders and said,
how can we keep you involved in future processes? How
can we keep you involved in all the policy discussions
that we're having here that impact our city?

And so it is an opportunity, districting and
redistricting have these waterfall effects. If you can
bring people into this process, they become more
civically engaged in all the work that comes forward.
And California has thousands of equivalents of the Afghan
community in Fremont. I've mentioned some of them
already today. And your joyful task is to find all of them and listen as best you can.

So that was a shorter section, and with that, we're going to stop for questions again before I hand it back over to Ale. And I will take off screen share so we can see each other.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay. Great, thank you. Do any of the Commissioners have questions at this point? Oh, Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I loved your story because that makes it even more fun for us to think through. I kind of look at it as Easter eggs, you know, in different ways. But how do we, as Commissioners, who have a whole state to look at, find those communities of interest if they're not in the data -- like, Afghans a lot of times -- you know, Chaldeans, they'll say they're white. They don't say they're Chaldean.

And if the local government doesn't acknowledge them -- so how -- what are some of the strategies that you all have used to identify communities of interest that may not be as visible?

MR. STEIN: Well, I'll just say that from my personal experience, at the time, I worked with an Asian American civil rights organization in the Bay Area called Asian Law Caucus, and we had a wide range of networks in
different API and Middle Eastern communities. We put real investments -- 20 years of work into reaching not -- a really broad notion of the Asian American community, including Middle Eastern, Muslim, South Asian communities, and so on.

And so it was because we heard from a community leader that this was happening, that we were able to dive in and ultimately really it was about finding the one right person. It was the executive director of a group called Afghan Coalition. And she unlocked the whole community for us.

And so it was a -- really, in that instance, it was a larger organization finding a smaller organization that then led to community. And so I guess my answer would be you just have to tap these networks. And I'm cognizant that there is really different levels of civic infrastructure in -- among -- by community, right?

When I was working at Asian Law Caucus, if we wanted to work with the Filipino community, because of different eras of immigration history and because of different past experiences of activism, we could find networks, we could find infrastructure -- civic infrastructure. And then, conversely, we tried to reach the Indian American community. Even the Indian American community, where I grew up, a community that I was rooted, and there's
almost no civic infrastructure. I mean, there's a religious infrastructure, there's a cultural infrastructure, but there's very little sort of civic or political infrastructure. And so you just have to find the people who have mapped these things and do your best to tap their knowledge.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to get your sense of how you see this interacting with local redistricting -- counties, cities, whatever, because that's a new variable that the 2010 Commission wasn't really dealing with. I mean, we're already looking at, okay, how do we reduce the confusion of somebody who says, well, I just went to a redistricting here and I don't need to come to this one or -- you know, you're telling me something completely different than what I heard elsewhere. So I wanted to get your sense of what you see as the issues and how we might deal with them.

MR. STEIN: Yeah, I'm happy to take that. Alejandra, would you like to go first, though? If you --

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Sure. So one thing that comes to mind, I think, for a lot of the partners that are doing the organizing on the ground, one, it's a lot about building up, like, the education and making those
connections, right? Because even though you have all of these different levels of redistricting happening, I think at the end of the day it's like, how do you make that connection to an individual of, like, why they all matter and how they're all impacting your quality of life, your ability to have a healthy community, your ability to have better economic opportunities or for your education system to be better for your children. Right?

And so I think it's, one, building up the capacity and knowledge of residents, and that's where a lot of the community organizations, grassroots organizations are best equipped and have the experience to really think through, you know, how do you utilize popular education methods, of example? How do you build up the consciousness of residents and speak to the residents that they work with in a way that it makes sense to them -- that becomes tangible to them?

They are the best messengers, right? And they also are really thoughtful and intentional about what -- how do you approach something this abstract, this foreign, you know, in many ways, and actually crystallize it to kind of connect the dots of their everyday life circumstances and how the lines are drawn will impact, you know, your livelihood in the next ten years.

And so I think that it is about the community
organizations being able to bridge that gap of understanding. That they have a sense of what -- you know, what is the approach in terms of the culture, of the language, the understanding of the socioeconomic, you know, situation -- you know, the context that these communities live in, to really break it down in a very simple way and very direct, like, what it means to you to participate.

And so I think that that's something -- like, that's where I do encourage all of you, as you're beginning this segment of, like, having these conversations and these presentations, to bring in organizations that do that work directly because they're the ones that actually have the innovative ideas of how to do it. And even now with COVID, you know, how have they been engaging residents to talk about census and why census matters? You know, and also now with the election, why it matters to get involved. All the different levels of elections that they're going to be able to vote on.

And so I do recommend and highly encourage that, you know, you create a space where you have those groups that are speaking and working in community to be the ones that really bring more -- shed more light in terms of how best to do it.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And if I can toss a follow-up
in, do you see value in us going out and organizing sessions to gather input on how people perceive the 2010 Commission's maps? I mean, it seems to me that that's something that would help them understand how we're different from their county redistricting commission or city redistricting commission, and at the same time, perhaps help us gather some useful information from them and establish some of these ties before we get the 2020 Census data.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: I mean, I think it's super helpful to be able to engage at a smaller scale with a lot of groups. Like, having either these smaller discussions -- kind of breaking -- creating those channels of communication and getting their input. I think for a lot of organizations, I think they can give a lot of their perspective, maybe, of 2010. But I would say at least from our network, there's a good number of folks that were not involved with the redistricting ten years ago. Some of them were. I mean, there were a lot that have been involved for years -- at least for the ones that are involved with the Redistricting Alliance, a lot of them, this is their first time. Others had had experience working at the local level for their local redistricting. For example (Indiscernible) Foundation, (Indiscernible) was another organization that was
involved with redistricting last time around as well.

But a lot of them are new, right? And so you're going to get a lot of organizations that are going to be thinking also like, well, how do we now connect communities now to redistricting, and to thinking about redistricting? And I think it's very valuable to be able to hold like, focus groups -- a focus group discussion with a variety of groups that can really be a thought partner to all of you in thinking about all of these different questions.

And for them, I would say something to uplift -- that a lot of the partners that we work with are currently engaging in census, you know, and are currently engaged in getting out the vote. And so even just thinking about how many of the things that they're currently doing, a lot of the innovative things that they're doing, how do those transfer over to now redistricting (audio interference) valuable to engage and just for your own knowledge -- also to build -- I would say, not just to gain knowledge and get ideas, but to build a partnership. You know, what does building a partnership with community look like? And how do you as individual Commissioners and as a collective, you know, build those partnerships? And what do those mean, and what do those look like as an opportunity, right?
MR. STEIN: Commissioner Kennedy, I'll add a couple thoughts, and thank you for the question. I'll just say, one, the fact that redistricting at the state and local level sort of overlaps this year might be -- it's a challenge but also potentially an opportunity, if you can find economies of scale in terms of advertising and publicity. If you are able to coordinate with -- when you're advertising in the Sacramento region, if you're able to coordinate with the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, for example, because they're leading their country redistricting hearings at the same time you're leading a state redistricting hearing, or the same week, or whatever the case may be. I wonder if there's an opportunity, through collaboration, careful coordination, to find economies of scale in your advertising dollars and your publicity dollars.

I also think when seeking to distinguish between the two, one, the important way to do so might be to distinguish on substance. So what I mean by that is we are working on state redistricting. That means the people who are going to be elected for the next decade to determine California's budget, California's climate goals, California's X, Y, and Z. Name the sort of function, the core functions of state government.

Whereas at the local level, redistricting is
different. We're talking about who is able to get elected, to govern issues around public safety and policing in your community, or health services in your county, or what parks and green spaces look like, or -- name the other sort of local function. Simply telling people, we're drawing one set of lines and these other folks are drawing a different set of lines, may be too esoteric. But if you're able to attach those different sets of lines from different policy issues that the different levels of government control, maybe you're able to create a more meaningful distinction for folks.

And then the last thing I'll say on this subject is ultimately it comes down to funding. I mean, the fact of the matter is -- you heard a lot about funding in the earlier agenda item today -- there's less money for state redistricting this year than there was ten years ago, but there's substantially less money for local redistricting this time than there is for state redistricting this time. That is to say, it's at current a relatively barren landscape.

And so if groups are going to really dig in on redistricting in the city and local level -- sorry, city and county level, and I hope that they can because this opportunity of working on them both simultaneously is just sitting waiting for us, it will require investment
and it's TBD, I think, on where that comes from.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And we've spoken, at least on a conceptual level with Statewide Database about, okay, if somebody comes to us and says, this is my community of interest, and I want to share it both with you and with my local redistricting commission, how do we do that? So right now that's set just as, okay, the person's going to get a PDF of what they input as far as a description of their community of interest, both geographic description as well as the narrative description, and they would just have to give that PDF -- a copy of that PDF to the local commission. But eventually we may be able to find other ways to tighten the links between the two.

MR. STEIN: Right.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions? I kind of have one question, I think. Jonathan, when you were talking about the Afghan community, how do you address when there's, like, a disconnect? Like, you have a group saying, this is our community and then you have another group saying, no, this is our community. So how do you approach that?

MR. STEIN: Yeah. I mean, you're likely to see that -- you know, this is an unscientific number -- but thousands of times over the course of the next couple
years. I mean, it's inevitable in your work. You know, I had the opportunity to work in the districting process in the City of Sunnyvale, which is very close to where I grew up. And we had -- we were able to invest community organizing capacity, a community organizer on my team who was a wonderful organizer was able to do direct face-to-face outreach in which she was able to bring together the Asian American community, the Latino community, the mobile home community, renters, representatives from neighborhood associations, and work on building a map together. And they were able to go forward to the city council with one, what they called a unity map. That's such a powerful opportunity. It builds new bonds.

And a gentleman said at the last redistricting hearing in the City of Sunnyvale, I've lived in Sunnyvale for 50 years. I have met more of my neighbors in the last one than I did in the previous 49. Like, this is what I mean about the sort of -- the power of districting and redistricting. It is this incredible exercise in civic engagement. But those moments are rare. You need somebody who's willing to play that sort of connective tissue role, right?

And it's possible in some settings, particularly I think in cities and communities that have more of that civic infrastructure. But it's not always possible and
you will have people who say, like, we differ, right?
And then it's up to you to look more deeply at sort of
the -- what's animating people. When they say, my
community is bound by this avenue or this highway, are
they really saying like, there is something specific
about this outer bound of my community? Or are they
speaking from a place of values and saying, I want the --
you know, I want the Chinese American community in this
part of town to be largely kept together because it is my
faith network, and my social network, and my cultural
network.

And so it's up to you to determine, like, are we
able to satisfy everybody by looking more deeply at their
testimony and saying, are they coming from a place of
values as opposed to hard boundaries? But even then,
you're going to have conflicts. Like, it's just
inevitable. And sometimes you're going to be forced into
really, really hard decisions.

And you may even have situations -- I know all of
you know this -- you may even have situations where the
communities of interest -- the community of interest
testimony aligns, but the community of interest testimony
conflicts with what the demands of the Voting Rights Act
are, or the demands of the Constitution with respect to
population equality. And so you're just going to be
forced into really hard decisions in which people are
left unhappy.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any other questions
before we continue? I think we're good. Oh, wait.
Commission Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: In short, just on what we just
heard, as much as it's overwhelming to hear what you're
saying and us to think about how are we going to do this,
I think you've given us kind of the answer by saying you
can't do it all yourselves as Commissioners. That you
really need to partner with organizations that are kind
of that connective tissue, and there are different
organizations in different places but don't start
stressing yourselves out that you're going to have to
find that Afghan community yourself.

MR. STEIN: Right. Please do not start stressing
yourself out. You have so much time. I know you feel
like you have the most monumental task in the history of
a public commission, but you have so much time and
everybody wants you to succeed.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any other questions
before we proceed? Okay.

MR. STEIN: Okay. I will go back to the screen
share, and I'm going to hand it over to Alejandra.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Okay. All right. So for this
section, I just wanted to preface that this was an opportunity to invite all of you to think about how you could reimagine your engagement with community. The purpose of this is really just to, you know, get your juices flowing and thinking outside the box, and thinking about -- you have this opportunity, you just received the baton from the former Commission 10 years ago and all the amazing work that they did to lay the foundation, and now it's thinking about what you as the Commissioners will be able to carry forward. And even thinking about what are aspects to the engagement of a community that you could really think about how it could be different. And so this is just an invitation. It's not like, a set of like, these are recommendations that we're pushing for -- but it's just more, I think, our collective thoughts between Jonathan and I of just thinking about, you know, outside the box and rethinking engagement with community. And this is just a starting point, and I think that there is a lot of creativity and innovation that's already coming from other community partners that are on the ground doing this work. And so I just wanted to preface that for this section. And so next slide?

So first off, COVID. Yes, it's here. This is the new normal. And we don't know what things are going to look like in the upcoming year, you know, and the impact
that it will have with the approach and the process for redistricting. And so this is just -- this is for us to be grounded. Now that we're in a new playing field with COVID, that if circumstances continue as they are, you know, it's really going to, one, create challenges, right, of how do we carry out a redistricting process to bring as many people to come together and uplift their communities of interest -- but also it's an opportunity to imagine, reimagine the processes, to think about other ways of engagement.

And so it's an invitation, right? To think about COVID as that opportunity to develop something that could be new and even more effective, you know? And to also not feel like it's on all of you to think about all these innovative ideas, but to be open to possibilities and ideas, right? Next slide?

So in thinking about reimagining engagement, you know, one arena, I guess, or one concept to think about is, like, how could -- as you're outreaching into the community, how are you building with community, right? And the idea around building community, and that that means to each of you, right? Building community. And your own personal experience of what you've seen, what you've engaged in as practices of building community.

One thing we wanted to uplift, you know, was like,
how can this be an opportunity to tear down hierarchies?

I think for a lot of folks to engage public officials, elected officials, and thinking about, like, having the lack of civic skills or efficacy, you know, how can you as Commissioners help to break that dynamic, that power structure that exists? You know, the 14 of you sitting in a big dais, you know, and members having to go up and give their piece in like, two minutes, and how do you do it in a way -- how do we break that dynamic?

What are different things, different elements, different practices that could be integrated as you move forward and making sure that communities don't feel like they're down here and you're up here, and I need to speak to you in a certain way because you are the Commission, right? And not to take away the level of responsibility and decision-making that you have, but how is it that you're bringing communities closer to you versus keeping them at a distance, right, because of the hierarchy, right?

So this is just for you all to think about. What are ways that you can break those hierarchies? What are things, practices? Even the smallest things can make a big impact in the ability for residents to feel more comfortable, more at ease, and more feeling like we're working together.
And that comes to another idea. You know, we're in this together, right? And a lot has to do with even just how you personally will be approaching, you know, communities. You'll have opportunities to maybe hopefully come and speak to different organizations as they're doing a training on, like, why does redistricting matter and coming out to a hearing.

But there might be an opportunity for you to be a guest speaker and talking to folks directly, or being invited to the local radio station that plays mariachi music, or whatever, right? Like, the local ethnic media. You know, you're coming in and talking about the work that you're doing in redistricting. How do you do it in a way that they hear from you as a person, a regular person? Like, hi, my name is Patricia Sinay. This is my story of how I've been unseen and unheard.

And I bring up unseen and unheard because when we think about redistricting and drawing lines, and just in our democracy and general processes, you know, how many communities that face the greatest barriers do feel invisible and do feel unheard. And so for you to connect at a human level, you know, moments where you felt unseen and unheard. It's something that can really help them to feel connected to you personally and find shared experiences of being unseen and unheard, right?
And for them to hear from you like, I want to hear your story. Here's my story of how I've been unseen and unheard. I want to hear your story. You know, like your community story. And uplifting how -- again, I need you -- we need you, the Commission needs you so that together we can make fair district maps so that we're all seen and we're all heard.

So bringing it down to that value or to that sentiment of being seen and heard, I think it allows for communities to be one with you directly as individuals but then also to see how redistricting really connects to them in a deeper way that is not like, what are the boundaries of your community, right? Next slide?

And continuing on with like, building community, right? Again, so I talked about, like, tell me your story, right, and for you to share your story, right? So the power of story -- I just wanted to uplift this. And this is something from my own personal experience, and working with so many community organizations, like, that is central to their organizing and to connecting with people and their base. You know, the power of story, and how can you use the power of story to enable and to facilitate residents to talk about communities of interest?

You know, like, who is part of your community and
what's been your community's story of shared struggles?
What's been your community's story on the shared hopes for the future? So those are other ways of approaching the questions of, like, well, who's in your community? Who do you define as community of interest? What are the boundaries? What are the shared values? You know, what are the shared issues? Maybe there's a way of approaching it that is utilizing narrative and storytelling. And that, I think, for a lot of our communities across the board -- you know, folks connect to story, right? And it's easier to talk about that than using certain jargon when it comes to redistricting.

And another way of thinking about building community is, you know, how powerful it is to hear from Commissioners to say, you know -- naming the communities that are mostly left out of our democracy, and that you're saying, I want to hear your story. You know, I want to hear from the mom that has two jobs, you know, and is trying to make ends meet and not lose her apartment -- to talk to me about your story of your community.

I want to hear from that young person going to college and having to work, you know, multiple jobs, part-time jobs so that they're able to pay their tuition and still struggling to pay tuition but going --
committed to, you know, getting their higher education.
I want to hear your story of your community.

I want to hear the story of the residents that, you know, regardless of your immigration status, that you're undocumented, you're a permanent resident -- your story matters to me because you're in this community of California. So calling out specific groups that you are aware will either be more fearful of engaging or feel like they're disconnected or that they don't matter. If you're able to even uplift them by identifying them, that is powerful. And to hear that from Commissioners, that you're acknowledging their existence, that makes folks feel like they belong and that they are more interested in participating because someone actually is thinking about them.

And then thinking about the gaps that you have in terms of who, as Commissioners, who -- the different communities and intersectional identities that you all have, be like, who's missing? And like, damn, I need to hear from this community, because we don't get to work with someone who is from that community, right? So those are some ideas in terms of like, how do you build community, or have that approach of building community?

Next slide?

So reimagining also, you know, physical and online
hearings. That's going to be one of the major ways that you'll be engaging with the public, right? And so if, you know, things change and improve and that we're able to be in a physical setting with one another, how can -- or even online, you know, how do you make hearings feel welcoming, friendly, accessible, comfortable, familiar? Versus just, it's a hearing. And for folks that are not comfortable in those settings, are not very -- don't have that experience, those are intimidating settings.

So how are things -- elements that could be interjected in there to transform how it even feels to be in a hearing, versus if it's either online or physically onsite, right? So thinking about elements like that.

Thinking about how, you know -- and again, this is something that may be common sense, but again, you know, how are we scheduling times when people work and have family responsibilities that they can attend? Being mindful of those. And other ideas like -- an opportunity to cohost hearings, right? This is -- we have -- all of these organizations from this region are hosting us to come and speak to you, you know, from a variety of groups that are known in that community, that are trusted messengers for distinct communities. The fact that collectively they're saying, like, we're hosting this, come. And you can see representation from them in
banners and signs. Signs that say welcome, bienvenidos, you know, in multiple languages. Whatever the visuals -- but having organizations that are working with you, coordinating with you to really make it a community event.

And then, lastly, thinking about do we want to provide childcare? That is something that -- in thinking like -- in my background, I did a lot of community organizing. And the things that really helped when we wanted to put events together, to bring the community to come forward, is thinking about what's going to make it easy for someone to come. And so providing childcare. That makes a huge difference, you know? To have refreshments, you know, cafe con pan, you know, some coffee and some sweet bread, or whatever. It makes a big difference to stay in a meeting that's going to be hours and hours and to know that, hey, there'll be a snack at least. And that can be an opportunity even for like, the local food vendors to say, we're sponsoring this. We're going to bring this many dozens of whatever. They're advertising but they're also supporting the community to be present. And having interpretation and translation. Next slide?

And then just additional -- just a few more ideas of reimagining. You know, ensuring -- you know, again,
ensuring and announcing accessibility. You know, that you're providing language, you're providing ESL interpreters, other accommodations to ensure that multiple communities can actually feel welcomed to participate and to be there.

Thinking about the power of culture, music, and art, and especially elevating regions that, you know, have distinct communities that have their culture, their taste, their vibe, their flavor. If you were to inject some of that in whatever form. But it feels like we're in community again, right?

And then also just making virtual meetings accessible. And maybe thinking about can we have breakout groups, you know, smaller spaces, so that we're in conversation with Commissioners during hearings? Build that connection. Have more dialogue versus, here we are sharing our thoughts in two minutes and then stepping away to the next person.

So again, we are not providing, like, this is the best way of doing it, but it's just putting some ideas -- elevating some ideas, you know, to spark some inspiration to all of you. Next slide?

And so with that, I just wanted to pause and open it up and hear from you if you all are already thinking about innovative ideas, you know, in terms of how you can
reimagine community engagement, and even think -- like, pulling back from, like, your own personal experience of working in a multitude of settings, groups, organizations. What has helped? What could be best practices that you've already been experiencing that you want to infuse here? So I wanted to pause and hear from you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, I will give you one of my experiences. I'm very involved with the local school district and with the schools. And we had the ELAC, which is the English Language Advisory Council. And so it's to try to get many of our Latino parents to come in to tell us what some of the issues may be with the school system or whatever the case may be. And initially we would be lucky to have one or two parents come. And we got innovative -- we thought we were, but you've already come up with that -- is we actually decided to do a potluck. And boy, did we not have a roomful of participants, and everyone was positive.

And we also had -- we also coordinated with the local high school because the high school students are required to perform a certain number of volunteer hours. So we got babysitters for the children, so the kids were happy because they could go outside and play, and the parents were just having a great time. The only problem,
it was hard to focus in terms of what we needed to
accomplish. But yes, I definitely think food does
definitely bring people together. So thank you for that.
Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
you so much for everything you've been speaking about so
far. I'd just like to share that in my organizing days,
we would implement the three F words: Fun, free, and
food. And that always gets people in the room. Of
course there's going to have to be some modifications,
given COVID, but just a good thing to start with.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions before we move
on from the Commissioners? Commissioner Sinay and then
Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Alejandra, I love this whole
idea about stories. You know, kind of connect our
stories, connect their stories. I mean, as
Commissioners, we're just starting to learn each other's
stories. We took time yesterday for the first time to
really kind of start knowing our stories. So I think in
this day of COVID where it's -- yeah, we just need to
think through creatively that story and that California
is one story and you're a part of that story.
As you were talking, I was just getting
goosebumps -- not because you used my name for the story.
And so I really wanted to thank you on just sparking kind of our innovation. I know one of the thoughts that I've had from the beginning -- we keep going to digital mapmaking, but I'm wondering if we do have that opportunity, I know that when we did workshops -- as a school board member, we did workshops -- we got the school board members off the dais and we sat at tables and parents came. One group -- we did speed-dating, kind of. But -- and I've also done this at other times where you have just maps, paper maps, big paper maps, and they draw it right there and we have conversations, versus digital.

I know it's a little harder, but just thinking more of that whole idea of doing things together in smaller groups, I was just wondering how that sounded. And if we work -- what keeps coming to mind is the need to train the trainer, you know, just how do we get groups -- you know, how do we get groups -- especially with like, the COI tool and whatever other tools we may have -- how do we get you all up to speed, and then how do you all get others up to speed? And so it's had -- I heard in Michigan I think they're calling them academies. And they're trying to figure out how to do it. So I was just curious on your thoughts on something like that.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: On training the trainers?
COMMISSIONER SINAY: Or what you're thinking about right now. How do you get the information from us to your network, to the network down even further on knowing how to use the tools that are created?

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Um-hum. I mean, I think definitely the train the trainer model is something that, for a lot of our partners, that's their go-to, right, in terms of all the other organizing that they do. And it's about building capacity, and like, it's leadership development, right? From the staff level down to, you know, the community volunteer, the leader that's coming in. Like, how are we enabling folks to be more knowledgeable and expanding their skillsets.

And so I think that it is an opportunity. It's something that already a lot of community groups do, because it's powerful, right? And at the end of the day, you know, I think it'd be great to no longer need the organizer, because the people are already doing what they've got to do, you know? So I think that that approach is something that's super helpful. And I think that the reality is that even within organizations, the grass tops, there's education that needs to happen there, right, in terms of what is redistricting and how does this connect to the mission of my organization, and why should we be investing time and so forth?
And so it is that chain, right, of like, being able to go through the large networks, the organizations -- for them to then bring up all of the community leaders to also be at the same level of understanding. And so how do you provide the resources, the tools that they can then carry forward and share onto others? And I think that that's something that is helpful.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Also one thing that struck me, though, on the storytelling is that when you all are meeting with Jamie and Karin, to really pay attention to the questions that we're asking. Because I think right now they're too academic jargon-y. But as you were talking, just asking for your story or what are your shared struggles or your shared visions, we'd get a lot more out of it than, how do you define your community? I don't know. So just looking at that when you all are looking -- if you could put that lens in, since it's a very innovative lens.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: And it could also be that there might be parallel approaches, right? You have the opportunity to do it with the tool of asking those specific questions. And I think what we've heard from Karin is also thinking like, what's going to be helpful to you as Commissioners, like, as folks are using that platform to provide you information. But I think maybe
there's another way of, like -- you know, you're connecting with multiple organizations and saying, this is how we're also collecting information. It's going to be through story. Have your -- have a conversation, hold a potluck in your organization. You're going to do a training on what is redistricting and then you're going to do some short, like, storytelling, and you're going to gather than information and send it back to us.

Maybe that's another format, another approach in collecting that information that is more accessible and it's different but it's getting you that information in a way that makes it easier for someone to rather tell a story and someone captures it for them, or they do something versus, like, I'm going to go to this tool and I'm going to learn how to use the map, and I'm going to do these boundaries. So it's just -- I think you want to provide maybe multiple avenues for folks to give you that information.

MR. STEIN: I know there are several Commissioners who have questions, so I'll just add one very quick note, which is that people don't care what you know until they know who you are. There's real power in small groups, right? People are going to share their story of their experience in California -- their family, their neighborhood, their community. If -- you're a human who
has a life, and a history, and a story to tell yourself. And so the tool is really useful. And there will be some people who jump to use it because they really want to get their views in front of you.

There are other folks for whom the tool, it's a mechanism, but first you have to put that upfront investment in so that they know that there's someone listening if they choose to tell their story.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa, Vasquez, and Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: First off, I just want to say thank you to the both of you for the presentation. It's been really interesting and I've just been listening really with quite a bit of interest, even when I was off-camera for a little bit.

I do have some questions, but first off, Alejandra, I just want to say what you just said at the very end about these other alternative ways of collecting some of the inputs really resonated. Because one of the concerns that I have is words and the way questions can be worded can mean so many different things to different people that in the quest to try to draw out one group of people, we may end up completely also -- not disenfranchising but maybe excluding someone else because they read the question in such a different way that it may be at cross
purposes to what we want to do. So I really do like the idea that -- trying to think about it in multiple ways.

And I'll be honest. I mean, I think before I was on the Commission, I don't think I would've gone to the tool. I would've just preferred to just tell somebody else, this is what I think it is, and then let somebody else figure out how to get the input to the Commission. I'm just kind of, like, putting that hat on.

But I do have some questions and I'm just interested to hear your perspectives on it. I think, you know, what you said at the very beginning when you started this portion about COVID -- and I think we're all pretty much conscious about it. I know that you said something about breaking down the hierarchy and being on daises and other things like that. I'm also just trying to think about, are we really going to be on daises? Because with many of the communities that I think we want to draw, they're coming from vulnerable places.

Maybe this is then going back to -- maybe the idea that you were saying that we're working through organizations like yours. But then even identifying others that may not necessarily be directly affiliated with redistricting but may have those connections into the community might be ways to draw out their input without -- I don't know, I'm just kind of thinking about
how do we tear down these hierarchies if we're not going
to meet in person? And if online isn't going to be the
easiest way because either, A, they don't have that kind
of capability, or it's just not the way they feel
comfortable communicating. I think I'm just kind of
struggling with that, and I would love to hear some other
ideas from you around that.

The other thing that I was really curious about, and
it just really intrigued me, because again, I'm also
trying to think about it from kind of the angles of
different communities -- you said, infuse culture, music,
and art. And I'm thinking about, okay, as an Asian
American, I'm just thinking I don't know -- I mean, when
I think about Asian American kind of things, we don't
always think about music, art, unless somebody else says
it. But I don't -- it's kind of almost like we're just
like, tell us what we need to know and then we'll just
kind of work with that and then just, boom, we're done,
right?

But all these other things, though, it's almost kind
of like that has a place but this work doesn't seem to be
a place where that would normally kind of converge. And
I'm just kind of thinking about how Asian Americans would
react to some of this. I mean, they'd be like, okay,
this is good but I'm also thinking I don't know if they
think it's important, but I also realize too that for
some communities even within the Asian American
community, it would be seen as a positive thing.
And so I think I'm just kind of trying to wrap my
head around that too, so. I'll stop there and I'd love
to hear your thoughts on all that.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: My goodness. Yes. I mean, I
think in terms of the hierarchies, I definitely hear you
in terms of, like, if we're not in person, like, how do
you break that, right? And I think maybe again, it's how
do you use that virtual space that you're having hearings
where you could -- there's a moment where you break up
into smaller groups, and two Commissioners are
facilitating a break group, you know, with other
community members. That's one way that you're just like,
coming closer. You're having a conversation, right?
You're having a dialogue.

Something that I really want to uplift and kind of
appreciate from Patricia -- and I'm calling her Patricia
because she shared with us that she felt more comfortable
being addressed as Patricia than Commissioner Sinay. And
so even just breaking those titles as a way of like -- my
name's Linda. I'm just Linda. You know, like -- and I
want to recognize that not everybody might share that
same sentiment. But that can be an example of just like,
it's very simple, just call me by my first name, you know, and that just breaks that like -- oh. Because usually if you go to a city council meeting, you know, the mayor, you know Councilmember Blah, and it's like this level of like -- I can't -- there needs to be this distance, this respect because you're here. But talking, you know, in first name, that can be something that can help.

I think there might be other ideas. I feel like one -- I'm sure like, all of you have some ideas, but I think I wanted to invite even the larger public -- you know, communities, you know, like, what are other ways that they could suggest ideas of how they can break that?

In terms of the arts and the culture, you know, I think that's going to be something that -- I definitely hear you in terms of like, is this the place for it, you know, and how would that look like? And maybe this is the opportunity to say like, paradigm shift, like, yeah. Because as you're coming in to talk about your community, you're coming in with your culture, with your identity, with your music. Who you are is all of that, right? And it's like, welcoming that.

Some ideas that I was thinking of, like, wow, you know, imagine you have a public hearing and -- come in, the hearing's going to be at 5 p.m. but at 4:30 the local
Japanese drumline is going to be performing and the local Aztec dancers are going to come and they're going to have -- it's going to feel like a festivity, a party. So you come in into culture but you're staying for the conversation, right? And so that's another way of infusing it, you know. Even just visuals. You have the local artists. Like, do you want to come and exhibit your art that speaks to community, that speaks to identity, that speaks to, like, you know, we are California. So who is California? Show it to me visually, right? And displaying art.

Another way -- you can have the local youth that they do spoken word. They open up the session with a spoken word that reflects not only the culture of that community but also speaks to, like, the values and the goals within redistricting. So maybe those are some ways that you infuse it that it's not like, taking up space but rather, it's creating that space where someone feels like, wow, you brought in the mariachi? You know, or I don't know, you brought in these dancers from the local high school dance group to come in -- the youth.

When even thinking about young people participating -- you know, they're not able to, given the criteria, they're not able to apply to be on the redistricting commission, right? But youth should be
heard. They're going to be impacted by the lines, how they're going to be drawn for the next ten years because in ten years they're going to be the adults, right, that are going to be able to vote, right? So how do you even infuse the young people to come in, and they come in with a lot of ideas that's engaging and that's -- it just builds, it just builds this connection. Like, wow, our community consists of all of these people and all of these backgrounds. And the fact that there's a space, even if it's small, to uplift that, that's inviting. And I want to go because that sounds fun to attend, right? And so those are some ideas.

MR. STEIN: I'll just add one very brief note, very practical-minded, which is that one of the most intimidating things about speaking at a public hearing or a city council meeting or county board of supervisors meeting is you have to go walk up to the microphone by yourself, and you're sitting there isolated with five or nine people staring down on you usually from an elevated dais. It's very isolating.

And while we lose a lot of the community building aspects, we lose food, we lose music perhaps in a virtual setting, it does allow people to come together with family or with others to provide a sort of -- their testimony in a collaborative or a group fashion. So you
could have one Commissioner sitting with five people and they're sharing out together, instead of one person on a microphone in front of a whole room.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for that. We are at our 90 minutes, and I do have Commissioners Vasquez and Sadhwani. Alejandra and Jonathan, are you able to stay with us after a 15-minute break?

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Yeah.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so let's go ahead and take a quick break and we come back at 3:42. Thank you.

(Whereupon, a recess was held)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Welcome back, everyone. We were in the middle of asking questions and we still have a couple more Commissioners. We have Commissioner Vasquez and Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Thank you both for your presentation. Alejandra, I recognize the nice green walls behind you. As a former Advancement Project employee, I was on staff while -- I was not part of the department that was working on Redraw California, but I remember the Healthy City team -- all of their work in the office doing a lot of the mapping, and I was always both very proud and very -- I think that experience sort of vicariously turned me on to the importance and power of just not redistricting but also community-based --
community-based mapping as a tool for advocacy for many
issues.

And so to that end, my question for you both is to
what extent have community organizations used mapping for
other purposes beyond redistricting, sort of in the last
maybe ten years? And are those -- how can we tap into
that expertise to both bring them into redistricting, to
help them support our work, but then also I'm thinking --
so a two-part question.

And then to your point about breaking down barriers
and power dynamics, and it's very, I agree -- very --
potential for there still to be a power dynamic when
we're inviting community to speak to us in a particular
way. You know, do you have thoughts on hosting smaller
sort of like labs, where community -- if we implement
this sort of train the trainer model, we get some sort of
toolkit out to the trainers about how to use either the
mapping tool or to create their own mechanism for drawing
maps and getting community input, what would be your
thoughts on sort of either the Commission attending
really an observation and in listening mode, or perhaps
even one or two Commissioners attending those, again, in
listen and learning mode to these sort of like, lab
spaces that are much more about teaching the community
the process and getting them sort of excited about
community-based mapping as a precursor to, again, pulling them into a more discrete project?

MS. PONCE DE LEON: So in terms of the first question -- so I know, like, the use of maps by community groups and other things outside of redistricting -- I feel like at least for Advancement Project, one major use of maps that has come up for us along with partners has been with census, right? And so we convene the We Count L.A. table. So it's basically like a regional table for L.A. County of a multitude of community organizations, nonprofits, different sectors from education, just all of these different groups that are working and coordinating together around census outreach.

And so they are really leading the efforts with partners in terms of getting the outreach. And thinking about, you know, how are we having coverage across the county? And so Advancement Project has been providing the mapping support -- data and mapping support in that space. And being able to update maps, to show where -- what's been the response rate so far by -- down to, like, I think, the city level but down to blocks, I want to say. And it actually shows with colors, right, like, how -- where are the areas that you still have -- you still have a high percentage of the folks that have not responded to the census.
And so that has been something that we've been updating, like, every two weeks with data from the Census Bureau. And actually, that's been helping to inform a lot of the strategy and the organizing and the outreach activities that a lot of the partners are then carrying forward. So knowing just visually, like, oh, my gosh, South L.A., that's where we still have so many areas that have not been responding. And these are the percentages -- the percentages of folks that actually have responded.

And so having that visual has been super helpful and informing a lot of their organizing and their outreach. And it's been critical data that we've been able to help bring in for their work. I know that a lot of other -- from a lot of other projects, so with, like, education, the use of public funds, I now that we tend to use -- we always fuse like, data and mapping together to demonstrate the need.

So even developing like, the equity index for our education -- where is the highest need when it comes to L.A., like the county, in terms of the student populations? Where would be -- where are they located geographically? And then being able to then tie that with the need for funding, right? And so in having that information, having that mapping capability has really
strengthened the advocacy efforts of partners to really point to a map and say, like, look, this is where we really need the resources. And so for Advancement Project that's been something that's been very vital and very helpful.

I think recognizing also that, you know, a lot of the community organizations -- you know, not all of them have that in-house capability of developing maps and bringing that data. But I think that that has been something that's very useful when it is accessible to partners and to have that that actually speaks to the work that they're doing and informs their work. I mean, that's something that is super critical to bring in.

In terms of the power dynamics, and like, the idea of hosting smaller labs, I think that is a great opportunity. And I think that not only just for a couple of Commissioners to attend and observe, but even if there's a moment for you to engage, right? Even just to say like, hi, you know, like, here I am, I'm listening to you, I'm engaging with you. Or I appreciate what you're saying. I didn't know about this, about your commute. So even being able to react, even if you're not able to -- given your responsibility and your role, that you can't make decisions or whatever the Brown law, the Brown Act has. But at least to participate at the level would
If you are going to be developing tools that you can share with partners, I think that having that partnership with you where you come in and even just uplift your story or uplift why it matters that your -- this community is engaging together to develop maps or think through even just initial maps of, like, as an activity. Like, how would we define our communities here? And like, they're engaging and you're just hearing the conversation. I think that's super rich, and I'm sure that maybe community groups might have additional ideas of like, how best to utilize those spaces, what roles you all could be playing in those spaces -- that could be helpful for them, and also for the community base that they're working with to engage and be comfortable in talking about those things. Jonathan, I don't know if you have other --

MR. STEIN: Yeah. Commission Vasquez, thank you for the question. I'll be very brief. Since the last redistricting cycle, dozens, and dozens, and dozens of California cities have undergone districting, which means that there are lots of communities across the state who are familiar at least somewhat with how census data is used in drawing maps, why districts matter, etc.

Be mindful, though, that a number of those -- while
some of those jurisdictions really were uplifted through that process because their cities took the time to educate, and engage, and hear from community, there are just as many, if not more jurisdictions where it left a bad taste in their mouth because their city council moved very quickly, did not do outreach, and moved through a set of maps that were advantageous to incumbents with very little community participation.

And so while there might be an awareness, there are also some hurdles to overcome when you approach them about this work. And saying that you're doing it from a different perspective, an independent, public-driven commission approach as opposed to a politician-led approach will help. But just be mindful that people have had different experiences with that process.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Most of my questions and comments have already been covered and addressed, but I just -- I actually -- I have to leave very soon. I have to jump off today a little early, but I wanted to just truly say thank you for coming and sharing with us all of these ideas. It's one of those funny moments when -- I study barriers to participation and inclusion, I have worked in communities of color that face all of these kinds of barriers, and yet I wasn't
really thinking about applying all of these kind of best practices to this process, right?

I mean, Alejandra, when you were talking about, you know, bringing in music, and art, and food, and I'm just thinking, well, of course, like, I do this even in my classrooms. And yet for some reason I just had never -- I think we are so locked -- at least for myself -- so locked into kind of thinking about how it was done in 2010, that I just so appreciate both of you being here today and the presentation that you gave because it's definitely gotten the juices flowing.

And also thinking about -- okay, well, if you were to do small groups, how do we systematize it, right? Because I think one of the things that I've heard from my colleagues here on the Commission is we really -- all of us, I think, share this desire to really hear from all of the people. So if we do the smaller groups, then how do we bring that back, right? How do we -- maybe it's using a focus group kind of methodology of systematizing what we're hearing and bringing that information back, or something like that. But I think this has been so incredibly helpful and I just wanted to thank you both for really being here today and sharing this. And with that, I'm going to actually jump out.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Do we have any other
questions from the Commissioners before we continue on?  
Actually, when I say we continue on, before Alejandra and  
Jonathan continue on with their presentation. Okay.  
  
MR. STEIN: I am mindful of time and so I can move  
relatively quickly through our final slides today. Okay,  
we were asked to provide some high-level -- some  
recommendations around education, outreach and  
engagement, and in the process of Alejandra and I  
beginning to put together this presentation, we realized  
there's just dozens if not hundreds of recommendations  
that are super, super small and super specific, that are  
really, really important, and there was just no way we  
were going to be able to put them into this presentation.  
And so what we have done instead is just provided  
some high-level thoughts acknowledging that you're going  
to hear more from a wide range of partners about how --  
what they think would be the best model for education and  
outreach.  
First, you are blessed with more time than your  
predecessors and you have the opportunity to consult with  
experts on civic engagement, with experts on engaging the  
public on redistricting, with experts on civic design,  
with experts in language access and disability access.  
The good news is that in California you have lots of  
organizations, either community-rooted organizations or
ethnic media, for example, that have spent years, and
years, and years talking with community and working with
community on esoteric governmental systems like
redistricting, but other things as well.

You know, you were talking about school funding
formulas as one example, right? A really specific, very
complicated governmental process that has huge
implications in the lives of California's families, and
there are organizations that have been translating those
really difficult topics for families on the ground,
right? So there's people you can learn from. So you
have the opportunity to consult and consult broadly.

With respect to actual recommendations, I want to
provide just the broadest of thoughts here. With respect
to all of your education, all of your outreach, and all
of your hearings, please, we urge you to use easy to
access systems and language and prioritize plain language
wherever possible. Prioritize also language access and
disability access.

And I just want to flag something that's probably
already obvious, but if you can get plain language right,
you're solving a lot of other problems at the same time.
So a lot of voting information -- like, for example, your
voter pamphlet that you've probably just received in the
mail in the last few days, feels sometimes like it's
written at a high school graduate level or a college graduate level. Other governmental information is often written at the same level. The best practice around plain language is you're supposed to be writing at a much, much more basic level than that.

And if you can accomplish that, you're ensuring access for everybody, because that plain language is easier to translate into other languages and it's easier to make accessible to people with disabilities. And so if you can achieve plain language, it's a win -- an access win for everybody across the board.

And also, we urge you to provide a range of formats for people to engage in. And there's been a really robust conversation about this today already, and so I don't need to go into it in great depth. But some folks will want a low-tech solution, some folks will want a high-tech solution. Some people will not need much outreach and a low-touch approach is fine. There are others were that high-touch approach is necessary.

I'm thinking of the Afghan community members where we sat and had tea with a handwritten map. It was through building bonds, through building community, as Alejandra mentioned, that we were able to draw out that really important community of interest testimony. Some folks will need assistance and some folks won't. I'm
thinking of language assistance and disability assistance. And then some folks will want to provide input solo and some will come forward in groups or with a community-based organization. And hopefully, you can create systems that are flexible enough to fit all of these different formats.

And then, lastly, I'll just note one thing I said again, which is that you will get detailed recommendations I think quite soon from a wide range of community organizations and partners that we work with who want to bring a more granular and more detailed set of recommendations to you.

Last thought. The virtues of moving slowly. Because of certain practical realities, one, that you're seated earlier than your predecessors, so you have more time available to you. And two, COVID places us in this period of flux where we don't know when census data will be available and we don't know how the community will be able to participate in your process. There's a lot left to be figured out, right? And so you're sort of -- you have the opportunity to slow down and in some ways you're forced to slow down. And that presents you with this beautiful opportunity to listen to California.

I am so jealous of the work you get to do. You get to go to every corner of this state and listen to people
talk about their families, their neighborhoods, their communities, and what they hope their community means to the broader California story. I don't know if you've ever had the opportunity to sit in a districting hearing or sit in a redistricting hearing and listen to people give community of interest testimony.

Some people are just saying, my community is bound by Lawrence Expressway to the east and Homestead Avenue on the south, or whatever. But other people are truly opening their hearts and sharing their story of struggle, and presence, and participation. And you have the opportunity, you have the privilege of doing that across the state, up and down, for people of all kinds. And so I hope that you will be able to take the time to build the most effective, most accessible, most inclusive processes you can so that that California story can be told.

And that's it. That's all Alejandra and I have for you. We have deeply appreciated the opportunity to join you today and to share our thoughts, and to engage in this conversation, knowing that it's the first of many. So we want to say thank you and we also want to make ourselves available right now for further questions but also in the future for further communication by letter, at one of your meetings, or in any other format.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you so much. I got a little chuckle when you said that's it, that's all we've got. And I'm like, well, you actually gave us quite a bit. So thank you so much. I'm going to open it up for questions from the Commissioners, and then after that we'll be going to public comment. So if Alejandra and Jonathan can stay for that too because if there are public comment it would be associated with this agenda item, so that'd be very beneficial to us.

So let's see, I've got Commissioner Akutagawa, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Fornaciari. Okay, here we go.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Do you have me?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And Sinay. There you are. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm sorry, I didn't realize I was --

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Jonathan, thank you very much for that wonderful recap. That was actually -- wow, that was really a nice way to encapsulate everything that you both just talked about. I will say that I feel the privilege too of being able to know that we'll be able to talk to so many other people from across California, although I will also confess to feeling a little frustrated and constrained because of COVID in that we
can't just go out and do it the way we would normally
would've thought we would've been able to do it. And I
think -- but I hear what you're saying about slow it down
and to really think about how we can both hear and invite
all of those stories from across every corner of
California. And I know that that's something of great
interest to me.

I have what maybe a somewhat detailed question, I
guess, and part of it is what you were just saying about
easy access to language and utilizing plain basic
language. You know, I'm going to probably say whether --
I don't know, Marian, if I start to stray into places
where I should not be straying, can you just cut me off
then?

MS. JOHNSTON: I'm sure you'll do fine.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Well, I'm thinking -- I'm
figuring, okay, I want to take advantage of both Jonathan
and Alejandra because I'm just thinking about this COI
tool that we've been having this discussion about, and
about, you know, language access and -- for me, I'm just
kind of like what's been on my mind is like, what's that
sweet spot? Besides beyond what is state-mandated, you
know, what is that kind of right number of languages can
we -- should we be looking at to ensure that we're going
to offer the broadest, most balanced prospect of language
access without breaking the bank, too? Because I think that's what we're -- that's what I understand. It's, unfortunately, not that extensive in terms of how much we could spend.

And then the other question I have around that too is, you know, we've also talked about keeping into -- taking into account not just the questions but also in terms of providing access through the COI tool or the communities of interest tool for people where they may have more of an oral or verbal kind of language, or even like, their preferences to understand and to process is more verbal versus written. I'd be interested to hear what your thoughts would be on both the suggestions on, you know, how many languages, what languages should we be looking at? And then also video and how do we make it in such a way that is also going to be the most accessible to the broadest people?

MR. STEIN: Thank you for the question. I'll say a handful of things. First, there are -- we have -- Alejandra and I have partner organizations that have worked on language access for years and decades, and we should allow them to come forward and give their thoughts on that question. And so I won't attempt to speak for them.

I'll just say that if you can -- there are certain
very large language communities in California where I think that the translation is a no-brainer. And then where you determine that you don't have the finances to translate into additional languages, really intentional outreach to community organizations in those communities may pay dividends. That is to say, they may do outreach in their own language or outreach to local media. They may do publicity for you free of cost in language because you've just made the investment of time and staff capacity, right? Instead of an investment of money.

With respect to people who have an oral tradition and are less comfortable with the COI tool, I hope what you're hearing us say is that you need a broad diversity of formats for people to engage with you. And the COI tool is a really valuable asset, and it will work for a large portion of Californians. It will also not be ideal for a large portion of Californians. And so you just have to ensure that you have formats for people to come forward to you that work for everybody.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. Jonathan, I know Common Cause is a member of the Future of California Elections Collective. I've participated in a number of their events. So I guess I've been surprised that, to date, they haven't mentioned redistricting or the
Commission. So I wanted to get your thoughts on how we could engage with the Collective and maybe, you know, tap into them and their networks to help us.

MR. STEIN: Well, I would be happy to be a liaison, if it would be useful, and to connect to you. I think the reality is that it is an all hands on deck situation with respect to the election. And so you may get more engagement from that network after November 3rd, assuming that things are resolved on November 3rd, and I may mean after January something. So there just may be a capacity issue at the current moment, Commissioner Kennedy, but I know a number of the groups that are very focused on the election will be able to turn more attention to the redistricting soon.

And specifically with respect to that group, we work together all the time and I would be happy to sort of forward your message verbally that you hope that they will engage -- that the Commission is ready to engage with them.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I just want to say thanks for your energetic, thoughtful, really creative presentation and ideas. It's given me an awful lot to think about. And to echo Commissioner Sadhwani, you
know, I was kind of stuck in this mindset of what they did last time and now I'm envisioning all these great ideas that you have, how we might implement those great ideas to be more effective in getting the participation we want. So thank you very much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias. Thank you. You guys, I think you hit it out of the ballpark. So thank you. I know it took a lot of time and effort to put this all together, but that time and effort really, I think, has moved all of us on the Commission way forward in our thinking. We were looking for an opportunity to start -- get away from administration and think of the other stuff. So thank you very much for giving us that.

I would like to actually not receive a plan, if it's all right with all the other Commissioners. We do -- it would be better if the partners actually presented it to us and we could make time on the agenda. We have space. And I have it on -- kind of in our thought -- yeah, in our thoughts in planning it out.

So Jonathan, if you could have whoever is -- Jonathan and Alejandra, I'm sorry -- just connect with me. Agendas get made way in advance, so the sooner they can connect with me so I can make sure we put them in an agenda. But I think everybody here is very excited to
see your face, Alejandra, since we've heard your voice so many times. Jonathan, I think we've heard it a couple of times, but Alejandra -- she hasn't called in in the last two days and I've missed her.

But I know people also want to see some of the other faces that we've heard. And so we do want this to be something that we're doing together and we're learning together. None of us -- as you all said, you all don't have the answers and we don't have the answers put together. I believe in the wisdom of crowds, and we'll get there.

And so if -- you know, just have whoever or whatever -- let's -- you know, you guys have my email and we can figure out where to put it on the agenda if all the Commissioners agree.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah. Just for the public out there, we'll be going to public comment soon. And I just wanted to make a comment about -- I can't remember if it was Jonathan or Alejandra that said that you're lucky you have so much more time. And honestly, I don't feel like I have so much more time. I just feel like this pressure that -- you know, I'm getting ready to run the race and they don't -- they're not letting me go. Because I really want to be out there. I mean, that's what I believe is going to be -- where my passion's going
to be is being out there with the people. And so right
here, having to do it virtually is, to me, like, very
restricting. And I feel that for -- some of the public
may love it. I have a nephew that absolutely loves
social distancing. But many of them do need that
interaction.

But I also want to echo what Commission Sinay said
and thank you very much for taking the time, on short
notice, to come today and speak with us and to be one of
our partners. So thank you so much. If there aren't any
more questions, I'm going to go -- oh, Commissioner
Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. One quick thing.
Well, two. One, I was so pleased to hear Commissioner
Sadhwani, then Commissioner Fornaciari say they hadn't --
this is sort of a break in that they're looking at -- the
way it was done is not the way we should do it. Because
I actually brought that up when I was interviewed. I
think that might be one of the reasons why I stayed in
the group. To me, I've immediately gone -- we need to
work in small groups, and we need to get people working
with the map because ultimately that's where we need to
go. And I really appreciate the input and the different
ways of doing that. Because that's what I was not able
to actually -- to really put into words. And I really
appreciate that you're helping on that.

But then I have a very specific question and it goes more to the how do we get out there? And this goes for Common Cause. Since you actually were part of the actual supporters and architects of the propositions which created us, could you help us please research the intent behind -- it's a very specific question -- our posting. The Bagley-Keene is usually a ten-day notification. But then it says 14 days for public meetings. And what we want -- we've just been doing 14 days for everything. And the 10-day window could help us just a little teeny bit, but we're concerned that if we go to 10 day then we can't actually take the public input about redistricting because it wasn't given 14 days.

So if you could sort of help us research the intent there, because we don't want to do anything that's inconsistent, we just want a little bit more information, so.

MR. STEIN: Commissioner Andersen, thank you for the question. I anticipated that might come up. And we can do our homework on our end and come back to you either in a written format or in some other way.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair, I have a question. Are we going to have an opportunity to discuss
amongst ourselves in this meeting the presentations that we've heard today? Or like, what's happening after public comment?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So after public comment, this is the last thing that we have on our agenda. If you'd like to discuss it further as a commission, is that what you're asking?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, because I don't have questions for our presenters. Thank you, by the way, for your presentations. I don't have so much questions for them --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: But I have several comments that I'd like to make with regard to us as a Commission around this particular issue.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So we'll go to public comments now and then we can still discuss after. Okay? I don't think there are any other questions, so Raul, can you please read the instructions for public comment? And this is for agenda item number 12.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Number 12, yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. VILLANUEVA: To the public: The Commission will advise the viewing audience when it's time to submit public comment. At this time, we are soliciting public
comment for agenda item number 12. The Commissioners will allow time for those who wish to comment to dial in. To do so, first, on your phone dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. Second, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the live stream feed using your dial pad. Third, when prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound sign.

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 automatic message to press star 9 to raise your hand which indicates that you wish to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and you will hear an automatic message, "the host would like you to talk" and to press star 6 to speak. You will then be provided time to make your comments.

Please make sure to mute your computer or live stream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call. Once you're waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please remember to turn down the live stream volume.

Commissioners will take comment for every action item on the agenda. At this time we are soliciting comment for agenda item number 12. The process for making a comment will be the same each time. Begin by dialing the
telephone number provided on the live stream feed, and
then follow the instructions. As I have stated, these
instructions are also on the website. Madam Chair?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Raul. Katy, do we have
anyone?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anyone in
the queue at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess we'll just wait
another minute. Although I appreciate your instructions,
Raul, because that gives about a one-minute warning
too -- so that helps.

MR. VILLANUEVA: If I read them slowly, yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, right.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You also mentioned it, I
would say, about 60 seconds before you read them, so.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's true. So maybe at this
time we probably don't need to wait. We did give them
plenty of advance notice. See, I'm stalling and it's
working. I've got ten more seconds. No. I'm kidding.
It doesn't look like we have anyone, correct, Katy?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, so then with that, I
want to thank Alejandra and Jonathan once again for their
presentation, and getting us to start thinking about some
other ways and creative ways to, as we move forward into
our public input meetings, when we eventually have them.
So thank you so much.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Thank you, all. Appreciate your
time and sharing this space with us too. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. STEIN: Thank you for the opportunity. It's
been a pleasure.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Of course. Us, too. Thank you.

Okay, so this is our last agenda item but I'm going to
open it up to Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So that was a great light
agenda today in terms of we didn't try to, you know,
stuff everything in here and we were able to really take
in the information. So I want to thank the individuals
that put this meeting's agenda together. It felt like
there were breathing moments, et cetera, so I appreciate
that. I think we're getting our rhythm on that part.

What I found interesting -- so I think -- let me
preface by saying I'm glad to hear that fellow
Commissioners' sort of thinking around this issue has
been cracked open, and I think it may be setting us up to
be prepared to have some poignant discussions about how
we want to move forward.

I know we have a subcommittee that's focused on
this, but I think that this is one of the most important
aspects of the work, probably next to drawing the maps
themselves, that we're going to be doing. And I'm trying
to -- I don't see where we had built in today any
opportunity to really synthesize the information that we
received today and how it really informs where we want to
go as a Commission.

So that's not a criticism; it's just sort of to me,
a logical next step. And I don't know if we've agendized
it. I don't think we have for our next meeting, so I'm
kind of concerned about the amount of time and space that
will happen between now and whenever it is going to be
agendized. And I think some probably pretty significant
time needs to be made available for us to begin to figure
out what our plan is.

I mean, I took a lot of notes just on, like, who is
our audience? I mean, who really are -- who is the
Commission talking to? And I'm not asking to answer that
today, but I think we need to define that. Who are we
talking to? Things like partnering versus facilitating,
organizing versus outreach. I mean, I think we really
have to define our strategy and what our goals and
objectives are because -- is it advocacy? I mean,
there's all these questions that I think as a Commission,
we have to decide. Because that's going to influence our
strategy and approach.
And I won't get any further in the weeds on this than that. I thought the presentations were great. I've done a lot of community organizing and working with community in the last 20, 25 years, so I felt like -- I wasn't as bowled over as maybe some of my fellow Commissioners with the content, to be honest with you, but I think it's right on point. So it's just how are we going to operationalize this? We have millions of people that we have to represent in this. And I think the operationalizing of it is our real hurdle, not just with COVID but in general.

And then one other point I'll make, if I understood this correctly -- this came from our morning presentation -- is when it comes to resources. It seems like the Irvine Foundation took a significant role in the outreach and funded that process, and that dictated how that kind of played out. This particular time around, we actually have resources ourselves, but then there's also 1.7 million dollars out there right now that's being utilized in service of our work as well. So I think we're different in that we have two pots -- we have our own money that we have to figure out how to use and we want to make sure we're not duplicating efforts, what's being done by the 1.7 million that they're hoping to grow another 800,000 to make it 2.5 million that'll be out in
the state in service of our work.
So I think these are all the kinds of strategic
things that we as a Commission have got to explore in
terms of the best use of our resources, how we partner
with these other organizations, et cetera, et cetera, et
cetera. So I think I got my point across.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think you did. I think that
sounds like a future working meeting where we talk about
our vision, our strategies, our mission, all of that good
stuff. And I'm going to pass -- and I do know that
Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez, they have put together a
listing of in the future, which topics in the outreach
area we'll be discussing. But I'm going to turn it over
to Commissioner Sinay right now.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry. A couple things.
First, on the 1.7 million, we need to be careful. A lot
of that money has already been spent on the -- on the
recruitment of the Commissioners. So I don't remember --
I have the number somewhere but I think they only have
about 400 right now. So they had already -- they see it
as a two-part phase, and the first phase is making sure
that we have the most diverse Commissioners that applied
and were seated.

So if you attended any of the webinars that were
presented by the different groups to how do you apply,
what is the Commission -- if you got any coaching at any point or practicing questions, or just handouts and mailings, all of that was funded by this money. So I think that that part is really important to understand. That they really have a limited pool.

But you're right, Commissioner Le Mons, that last time it was kind of done separately. Now, this time we've got the funding but there are some major barriers, if you remember the conversation we had yesterday. The hardest thing about the agenda is how fast it comes up. The other hardest thing is being able to present information on the agenda but also what needs to be approved, what can -- it's scary to kind of bring things forward because it can't be vetted by too many people ahead of time, but it's also a public document.

And just like you said, Commissioner Le Mons, a lot of us -- this wasn't news. A lot of us, we do it in other ways, but we haven't brought it over here. But we're not all at that same place, and we all are going to have to remember that we were brought together because we have different expertise. And so a lot of what Commissioner Vasquez and I have been saying is, what are all -- what are some of the themes? Because there's still the way we've broken it down is there's still the whole theme of the grassroots groups. So today we
heard a little bit from the grass tops. But what are some of the grassroots? And what are some of the language access? And so we've tried to break it down into smaller pieces.

But we all -- just like when it comes time to understand data, some of us were going to be more, like, trying to catch up. We all just have to be patient -- you know, learn together. But we have thought through a way to roll all this out to December, and that's why I was asking a lot of the questions yesterday, Commissioner Le Mons, about when do we need to know about funding decisions? Like, if we were going to do this, what do we -- you know, to place some of those.

And we can -- I'm like, trying to -- I'm looking at Commissioner Le Mons who's going, okay, we're both totally swamped with the next few meetings. And that's something you all have to understand. We've been told bring us something we can start working around, and then we're also hearing, you know, come prepared -- bring us a strong person and let us work around that. And then other times we're told, we want to facilitate conversations; and other times --

So I guess we need a little bit more instruction because we do realize this is a big piece. But we also want to make sure, as Jonathan and Alejandra said, this
was just the top, but it does go deeper. Understanding the communities of interest, understanding power politics. You know, there are some pieces that go deeper, and how do we do outreach in certain places? How, if we're going to do public education, how do we get to high school students and community colleges? There's all those questions you've all thrown out -- we've actually played with and tried to figure out who could be speakers for all those topics.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons, and then Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Maybe -- so I guess I'll say that Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner Vasquez, you guys have a clear understanding of the path you're on -- or kind of. Okay, maybe Commissioner Sinay has more of a vision of what path she wants to go down. I don't know. But that sounded like it's kind of -- I don't mean it's all fleshed out. So that's not what I mean. I don't believe that I think you guys have some secret plan.

That's not what I'm talking about at all.

But I think even at this high level of -- because when I think of the various speakers that may come in, if you have some sense of what is the intersection of that? Because, to me, when they're coming in and they're giving us information that, unfortunately, in these formats we
get to ask questions but they're usually clarifying
questions, they're sparked by different Commissioners'
curiosity. But very little of that information gets
operationalized. And that's not just with this. That's
almost with any of the groups that we have come in and
talk to us. Because we haven't had the luxury of the
actual concentrated time do that piece.

So when I hear that, okay, there's potentially
speakers coming in over the next couple months just based
on knowing how far out our agendas are, et cetera, et
cetera, at what point do we get to work? And I don't
mean get out in the community talking to people. Like,
we don't even have a plan -- like, when do we get to work
on the plan? That's kind of what I'm curious. I know
we're about to wrap up for, like, next time, and I now
next time is focused on employment things, by and large.
So I'm just like, when does this come back up? How do we
put any of what we learned today into service? It's more
like that.

So I hope -- my attempt is not to put either of you
on the defensive. I think you're doing awesome work, and
I thought the presentations were awesome. I really do.
And the fact that it cracked open listening on a whole
other level is valuable beyond belief, in and of itself,
with the Commission and a group of 14 people. So yeah.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes, thank you. Yeah, I was looking at our future schedules and I'm thinking maybe, like, our meeting in November, the first week -- the first one is the 4th through the 6th. That might be a good time to schedule, like, a working type meeting to try to bring all of this together. And then maybe at the next meeting, if Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez can kind of go through their lists in terms of how they've thought and they've scheduled out the different presentations by meeting, that would also be helpful. Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yep, thank you. That's exactly what I was going to say. And then also ask -- and I really enjoyed the presentations. A lot of it was familiar, including the organizations. I'm wondering if there's a way, Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez, if you could post perhaps an email, the plans of who you think -- where you think you're going with all of the upcoming speakers and what have you. I'd like to know them in advance.

A lot of us also have kind of some input as far as who can speak on a particular topic. When we spoke earlier, even I think maybe it was the earlier speaker who was talking about Northern connections and what have you. Being a people federation, I also have close ties
with TrueNorth in that area that covers -- that whole Klamath-Trinity River Basin area. You know, and so with that, I think just -- not to change the plan but to be able to say, oh, yes -- and as they're coming in, here's something else that we can think about or maybe couple with.

So yeah, so I wanted to state that. And to say that one of you just now spoke about the varied experiences that we come in with. And so you're in an area now that I'm very comfortable with and excited about, and I'm beginning to see the connections and the tie-in. But it's almost -- I'm feeling like I'm having to do the connections, as opposed to knowing the whole path as far as how we're tying in VRA, tying in with this other piece, tying with --

You know, so with a charted path, I think it would help me begin to connect the pieces sooner and know where I'm going to have a level of comfort and where will be my stretch zone that I'll need someone to walk me through, to make sure -- one of our speakers today talked about the importance of having -- lifting everyone's knowledge and making sure we're all being able to input at an equal level. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I have Commissioners Yee, Akutagawa, and Vasquez?
COMMISSIONER Yee: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa was first?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I saw both of you, so I'm not sure.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner Yee. I wanted to share that -- and I believe the agenda for the 20th and 21st has already been posted now. But as Commissioner Fornaciari and I discussed the agenda for the 20th and 21st with Raul and with Marian, I think some of what is coming up now I'll say was shared by us. And our intent for that 20th and 21st meeting is to start a conversation around milestones.

And it's built off of the GANTT chart, but I think it's taking it a little bit away from the GANTT chart and just identify what are the major milestones that we need to be focusing on between now and essentially March, for the next six months, so that then we can see those intersections that I think Commissioner Le Mons was talking about. Because I'm feeling the same way that you were. It's like, we have all these things that we can do, but I think we just need to at least put it out in a high level even milestone way where we know we need to be focusing on this. If we don't do this now, then we're going to be really behind three months from now, especially because of the requirements around the agenda.
So we wanted to at least start that conversation. If we could finish it, that'd be awesome. But I think we wanted to at least start that conversation for the 20th and 21st. We still have a few more days. I think that we have time to then build out the 28th and 29th agenda, so that if we need to roll over, some of the 20th and 21st, it can go over to the next one.

I will say that also Commissioner Sinay has also -- I think it was in the documents that were shared yesterday, the list of all of the suggested speakers that her and Commissioner Vasquez has put together between now and at least through December, and she had some suggested speakers.

When we created the agenda for the 20th and 21st, we did take that into account. But to make space for this milestone discussion, I will say, Commission Sinay, that we're going to move it to the 28th and 29th. So your time line may go down -- is being moved a week, just so that we can have this. And then all of these other ideas from the other subcommittees can also be brought in, and then put into place in a way that makes sense for at least the next six months.

And Commissioner Fornaciari, if I can -- Chair Fernandez, if I can invite Commissioner Fornaciari to also say something and maybe chime in on this discussion?
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, I think you covered it really well. The intent is to ask -- is to -- we'll just flesh out the details in more detail, I guess, underneath the categories in the GANTT chart so we can get more detail of the activities that need to be done and some idea of what the milestones are. So we can at least have a broader, more detailed view of all the work ahead of us and kind of figure out how it's going to flow. At least have those initial discussions because that continues to keep coming up.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And just a little clarification. If that is discussed on the 20th and 21st and we do have to move it, we couldn't discuss it the following week because you've got that 14-day requirement, so that'd have to be pushed to November. So just keep focused on that.

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, the alternative would be to put it on the agenda. And then if you complete everything on the 20th and 21st, you don't have -- you can remove it from the agenda. It's much easier to remove it than to add it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, Commissioners Yee, Vasquez and Turner?

COMMISSIONER YEE: About public input, if anyone hasn't read Mr. Claypool's memo, his long memo that's in
public comment -- Chapter 11 is a long play-by-play about public input meetings and many stories of what they went through -- many gripping stories. It's really quite dramatic. So I recommend that to you.

On the other hand, of course, now we're in the time of COVID, and you know, I would love to have potlucks but I don't anticipate that happening for the foreseeable future. So I think we really need to emphasize, you know, virtual meetings as much as we would rather be in person with the public -- to really emphasize that and really get that figured out. Because, as far as I can tell, that's going to be our future for a long time. It could be the whole of the process, you know? We may never get out of this pandemic situation before the maps are due. So just to be ready for that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah, I just -- I wanted to just be transparent with the rest of the Commission that I think some of this is also limited by the fact that I've been really sick the previous two or three weeks. So I've had trouble engaging on the Committee work outside of these meetings with Commissioner Sinay. So she's been carrying water for both of us over the last couple of weeks.

So I'm feeling better and now have the brain space
and the physical capacity to sort of go through a lot of
the ideas that -- you know, that she and I have sort of
talked about when we've checked in. But I've not
honestly had brain space to really engage on until now.
And so I'm hopeful in the next couple of meetings that we
can present to you something more robust for discussion
but also keeping in mind -- I think Commission Sinay was
saying something that we're both struggling with is on
the one hand, we do want to -- we want to do a lot of the
pre-work, because that's sort of, in some ways, the
purpose of a committee, right, is that we're diffusing
the division of labor, right? That we do a lot of the
pre-work and we have something somewhat half-baked for
the Commission to finalize; and at the same time, not
trying to get out too far in front of different folks.
So there's very much this feeling like we're stuck
between a rock and a hard place of doing pre-work but
also running out too far ahead from where folks feel we
should be as a collective. So thank you for being
patient and hopefully, through some of this
overcorrecting, we will get to a middle.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, your health is definitely
important, Commissioner Vasquez. Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, thank you. I want to go
back to how we're communicating. Thank you, I think it
was Commissioner Akutagawa who mentioned that there was a list that was sent out either the day before or what have you. A couple of meetings back, we discussed how emails were going to come out, information as far as itemizing them, putting some sort of note or what have you. And I don't know if I'm the only one missing them, but this seems to be about the second time that something has been sent out and I still didn't see it -- whether it was in public comment or whether it was sent a day before the meeting or what have you. But I am missing, and I do want us to figure out how are we getting notification.

I know part of what's going to help us with the new phones -- because then you can set up the notification like I do for everything else when things come through. I don't get an opportunity every day to go and check to see if an email came out about something we're getting ready to do the next day. It's a lot of reading and I want to be on top of it, but I just want to figure out how are we being notified about material that's going out?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I don't think you're missing anything. I think it's a working document that Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez have right now. Oh, Commissioner Vasquez, do you want to respond quickly?

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah, I believe -- so I think
only Commissioners Akutagawa and Commissioner Fornaciari have. As we shared it with future chairs in order to build out the agenda, then because the conversation -- we either build agendas collectively via large committee, or you know, we have to be very, very focused in who we're sharing information. And I think that also is not always clear. It's not always easy to remember, oh, did I just send it to that person or is that for everyone? So I think also when we receive emails, it's also not clear, did everyone get this or was this just me? So you are not missing anything.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay, that's helpful. I was thinking, (indiscernible).

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And that's what I was thinking -- brought it up maybe at the next meeting is that Commissioner Sinay and Vasquez can share that information with everyone, instead of just the future chairs. That way we all have an idea of -- and plus, it's going to be a discussion item, as Commissioner Akutagawa mentioned. Commissioner Le Mons, you had something, and then Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I have a question. Is there a way -- and I don't know if this is a counsel question and it's probably too late for the next agenda, but is there, like, a, I don't know, a catch-all category like
miscellaneous, or -- I don't know. Because it seems like there are things that we need to, like, talk about -- like come up, and we need to decide something about.

Yeah. I'm struggling --

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, miscellaneous wouldn't cut it.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So I guess -- so the other thing would be is there -- maybe we need some more guidance on our limits. No, maybe not. I think we just need -- I think we're just frustrated with our limits. I don't think we're not clear on our limits.

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, I think if you have ideas that you might think we want to put up, put them on the agenda. If we don't have something in there, it's easy to skip over it. But if it's not on the agenda -- and the purpose of the agenda is not only to give you notice, to give notice to the public. So that's why a miscellaneous category wouldn't work.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We have to be specific, correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, hold on, I've got Commissioner Sinay, Akutagawa, and Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I just have a response.

Sorry. But I do have a response on that particular thing, in that -- it's -- I think we need a better way to come up with these agenda items. Because, as an example,
we just found out we have a requirement to come up with a mask policy, a face-covering policy for our business. And there was a whole conversation about, okay, who's the chair? What meeting would that come up in? Who's the chair? And then there wasn't really anyone assigned to write down, put this on the agenda item. So because it's important --

MS. JOHNSTON: I wrote it down.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Well, I didn't know that. It's important to me, so I went through the process of coming up with that agenda item and then sending it to the chairs who I figured out were the chairs for a potential meeting. So yeah, we just need a way to do that outside of the discussion for future agenda items.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I believe Marian tracks those.

MS. JOHNSTON: I try.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And that's why -- right?

MS. JOHNSTON: I try.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Because I try to make sure I say, okay, for future agenda item and hopefully that kind of flags it. We have Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Akutagawa, and Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Neal, did you want to say something too? Okay, I'd seen your hand up earlier so I
just wanted to make sure.

Sorry if I sound defensive. I'm not defensive. I'm actually feeling -- I'm frustrated because of the limits. Commissioner Le Mons -- you know, I think you said it well. But there are some limits to -- so we have the document that just Commissioner Vasquez and I are working on. I shared it but I couldn't include Commissioner Vasquez when I was sharing it with only one other Commissioner. So it's just two of us. They can't make any comments.

Any -- if more of us will get it, it has to become a public document. And what's happened to me, I'll be honest, is things get put on the agenda -- no one has touched back with me or Commissioner Vasquez. So UC Riverside got put on the agenda. I all of a sudden get an email from UC Riverside saying, hey, I saw that we were on the agenda. I'm like, yeah, I did too. And now, tomorrow I'm trying to figure out what we're going to do, and I think we've figured it out.

But we need -- the chairs also need to communicate back to the subcommittees and the speakers. Because today wasn't just a five-minute -- you know, this took work to prep everybody and prep ourselves. And then those conversations are really interesting because I can't tell them what my vision is; I have to say, well,
what would you -- you know, it's a lot of going around
the bush, I mean, because we're not supposed to be
sharing what we're thinking. We're just supposed to be
going what other people are --
So the limitation is tough and I hope it hasn't come
off as me being defense or me trying to railroad. Okay,
English is my second language, Alicia -- I mean,
Commissioner Fernandez. I was so made you took that --
because I say that every time. I was like, no, she took
it from me. And people always look at me and go, what --
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I was first.
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I say it all the time when
I'm facilitating. So I just need to figure out how to
create this document without putting the names. Because
when this document becomes public, then the names -- the
potential speakers are out there and that gets
complicated. So I just want you all to know that we're
kind of the guinea pigs and you're all going to have to
go through this at different times. But our goal for the
next meeting will be to looking at the regional map and
having that conversation about regional teams. Because
I'm hoping that once we get regional teams, if we decide
to go that way, we get to share this responsibility with
all of you. So I did have a plan and I'll just put it
out there.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So you're delegating now. I see.
I see how this is working.

MS. JOHNSTON: Can I just respond to two points?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, sure, Marian.

MS. JOHNSTON: One, if you have a topic for
speakers, you don't need to have the names of the
speakers in order to put it on the agenda. The names of
the participants can be added later. So that is one
possibility that Bagley-Keene does allow you.

Secondly, if the topic is on the agenda, it's
perfectly fine for you to express your views as well as
asking questions of the speaker, like Commissioner Le
Mons did today. It's a topic that's there for you -- for
your speakers, for you all to do whatever it is you want
to do with that topic.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: But she was referring more to
her -- when she's talking with the --

MS. JOHNSTON: Her draft.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- presenters, it's not
necessarily, like, her point of view but it's more like
from the Commission. I think that's what I came away
with.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, when I'm prepping the
speakers to speak, I can't share my opinion until it's in
the public setting.
MS. JOHNSTON: You can share your opinion as long as you make it clear it's just your opinion.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Oh, okay, that makes life a lot easier.

MS. JOHNSTON: Yeah. Just don't say this is the Commission's opinion if the Commission hasn't acted on it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, that makes sense. I have Commissioners Akutagawa, Andersen, Kennedy, and Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I feel like we got a little off talking in terms of what I wanted to mention but maybe it's still relevant. To the point about what Commissioner Le Mons was saying about a miscellaneous list or something like that, I guess I have two thoughts: One is perhaps -- the first thought was that we could create what's called a parking lot. So the parking lot is like all those future agenda items that we need to get to but maybe is not relevant immediately, but that list can be passed on from chair to chair.

I will say that we're trying to think in advance so that we can try to create more of this space so that we'll have this kind of time to think through all the details of the agendas. Commissioner Sinay, I meant to tell you, I was going to circle back to you after the
meetings finished this week to let you know that we were
going to delay your suggested speaker to the 29th. But I
figure we just bought you an extra week, so it's not
moving it up a week but pushing it back a week. But I
know that you have some plans.

But that was just my thought is that perhaps we
could create a parking lot list. Perhaps once our
executive director is onboard, that that would be
something that he would also be responsible for keeping
track of. So that then it could be passed on from chair
to chair. So that then as it's relevant, it can be
slotted in. Or at the very least, he can be looking at
the parking lot items and saying, you know, this fits in
with this meeting and already pre-slotting into specific
meetings agenda items that should be in those places
because it fits within the order of other things that
will need to be done either first or afterwards or -- all
that kind of stuff. So I just wanted to make that
suggestion for consideration.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That's good. It's a good way to
organize it all so it doesn't fall through the cracks.

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. First of all, I
want to say I really appreciate everyone kind of
summarizing things and putting them in very nice, easy to
understand, and very well-spoken. I really appreciate that on many fronts.

So I have a couple quick things. I did expect to see Commissioner -- the outreach subcommittee -- an outline is, I think, all we're really looking for. The names, that's up to you. And yes, you don't want that going public yet or anything like that. I think that was just an outline.

Then in terms of the handouts, because I have also had an issue -- oops, oh, no, I don't have that document. And twice now I've had to go into -- where do I find it on the website, as the presenters are presenting something. I think if we could possibly have the documents go directly to us as well as just being posted on the website, or an email saying -- just to the whole group, saying, a new document has been posted under meeting notes. So that way we would have an idea rather than having, before every single meeting and sometimes during the meeting, have to go in and check on the website -- oh, here are the additional -- you know, the slides. I think that would be really helpful.

Because I don't know if you realize, Raul and Marian, that we don't know that anything got posted unless we go to the We Draw the Lines. We have no idea. Like, in terms of the agendas, we don't know that.
There's no notification that goes to us -- by the way, Commissioners, a new document has been added. So I think that would be very helpful.

And then the COVID policy, I know a place to put that. Troubleshooting. So we can do that. And I was going to present all the ASHRAE and the work I had already done -- I was going to actually pull that together and send that to everybody. If I want to just -- if we want to -- you know, I can -- that could be public record or not. I don't know how we want to do that. If you want to send comments to the subcommittee, i.e., through the staff and then come to the subcommittee. Then we can bring that up at the very next meeting. That was my thought on addressing that policy, you know, now.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Just a quick question to Marian on that. If the troubleshooting subcommittee comes up with a draft policy on COVID and we want to discuss it, can we discuss it during the subcommittee or does it have to be a separate action item?

MS. JOHNSTON: If it's something you want to adopt, it should be an action item.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. JOHNSTON: But just another layer on all this: the State has its own rules for State employees and State
buildings.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

MS. JOHNSTON: And probably that's what we ought to be looking at, rather than which county we're in or --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

MR. VILLANUEVA: I have a draft policy that we use here in the office. I mean, I can provide that to the troubleshooting subcommittee.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, that would be great if you could provide it to the troubleshooting. And then at the point in time when the troubleshooting subcommittee is ready, to let us know so that we can agendize it as an action item.

MS. JOHNSTON: And the soonest that would be would be for the October 28th -- 29th, whenever it is.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, right. Well, yeah, and that'd have to be pretty soon.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That 28th -- just to -- that'll be our date? We can go ahead and put it on the agenda?

MS. JOHNSTON: Madam Chair, up to you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Again, that's only a two-day meeting so I'm not sure if Commissioner Akutagawa already has a full agenda for that meeting.

MS. JOHNSTON: We don't have an agenda for the 28th
and 29th yet.

    CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I know, but I think she's already thinking about what she's going to put on that agenda.
So I'm just saying if there's time --

    MR. VILLANUEVA: We had that discussion on Monday.

    CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

    MR. VILLANUEVA: Yes. She's shaking her head yes. We'll just follow through, Commissioner, whatever you need, let Marian and I know. We'll get together.

    CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I have Commissioner Kennedy, Vasquez, and Sinay.

    COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just if counsel can go back over and clarify a little bit -- when the subcommittees provide updates, how far can we go in discussing topics under the responsibility of a given subcommittee? I know that we can't necessarily take votes on anything, but how far can we go in discussing matters that have been referred to a subcommittee when that subcommittee's report comes up on any agenda?

    MS. JOHNSTON: That's more a question for the Chair. And I suggest if it's a lengthy report, you work with the chair for that meeting ahead of time to see what else is on the agenda and how much time should be allotted for each report.

    CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I believe -- as long as it's
within the topic of that subcommittee and you don't take
action, you can discuss it.

MS. JOHNSTON: Right.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: But once it becomes an actionable
item --

MS. JOHNSTON: It has to be in the agenda.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- then that has to be -- that has
to be agendized.

MS. JOHNSTON: No, all I was talking about was the
depth of the discussion should be a decision between the
subcommittee and the chair, knowing what else is going to
be discussed at a particular meeting.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did that answer your question,
Commissioner Kennedy? Right. Okay. Commissioner
Vasquez? You're on mute.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Sorry. And with that -- I
lost my original point. But the other thought I had.
I've done a terrible job of it this time, but it seems if
vice chair -- if vice chairs can take the responsibility
of trying to track those future agenda items and sort of
kicking them down that parking lot, maybe they have the
parking lot and continue to add, and then you pass it off
to your -- to whoever would be your vice chair who would
be the chair of the working agenda -- yeah, of the
working agenda, is how we could operationalize
immediately tracking of agenda items.

So again, in this case, because I want to discuss a COVID policy, I have asked my vice chair, Commissioner Akutagawa, who will be chairing the 28th-29th meeting, to put it on the agenda. And again, it's at her discretion, building her own agenda. There may or may not be time on the 28th-29th, given our varying priorities. But if it doesn't happen, I would hope that the -- you know, Commissioner Fornaciari takes up that mantle for the November meetings.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Good idea.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. What I will do is -- what I'll do after this meeting is I will go back over my notes and all of those times that we said will be for the future. I will CC Marian on it because I'm hopeful that Marian will have a running total or a running list. And then I will also probably go to two meetings out, three meetings out and share it with them as well, so that we have it. And so now I have Commissioners Sinay, Ahmad, and Fornaciari. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: The whole getting approval of things is a little frustrating as well. Like, the template we shared two days ago -- yesterday, whatever. You know, kind of the outreach template. The idea was we use it as a tool kind of helping us to start putting our
ideas -- but a thought I had last night in the middle of the night was, wait, wouldn't it be cool if all our communication directors kind of use that to think through their ideas and present to us and see if they're creative. And the response I got back from counsel was, well, it wasn't approved, so therefore you can't do it. And I was like, we needed that approved?

Yeah, so the whole thing is just -- the limits are frustrating, (indiscernible). I wanted -- so I want to get approval before we move forward on -- I would rather not get a public comment with the recommendations from the community groups. You know, the big network is working really hard on a collaborative document to send to us.

I think it would make sense -- and we could limit the time to an hour or something for them to actually present it face-to-face -- face-to-face, as we are. But that way we can ask questions and we can actually hear it, versus it just gets sent to us and Commissioner Vasquez and I. So I just wanted to put it out there that if people think it's a good idea, can we move forward on that?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner -- I do have Ahmad, Fornaciari, and Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just
really quickly. Next week's agenda item number 8 is Introduction of Executive Staff. I wanted to bring to then-Chair Commissioner Vasquez and Vice Chair Commissioner Akutagawa, if you all would like myself and Commissioner Fernandez, if she's willing to, to introduce our executive staff. And that -- within that agenda item, if it's permissible to allow each Commissioner one to two minutes to speak directly to the executive director about your vision of the role for the Commission. I just wanted to throw that out there for consideration for next week and for folks to think that through prior to agenda item 8 for next week, if that's something you are interested in.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes, I think that's appropriate and I appreciate you giving Commissioners -- offering the Commissioners that space to share their views with our new executive director.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, that's great. Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't know if you noticed, but I changed my name to make it more accessible to you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Bless your heart.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Neal. Let's see. So I think the answer's probably no. But I guess
I'm going to ask Marian, can we create --

MS. JOHNSTON: I don't always say no.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can we create a shared Google Doc to track agenda items, future agenda items?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes, I think that --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So we don't have to forward it around on email and transcribe or whatever -- but if we have a shared Google Doc where we could put future agenda items, can we do that?

MS. JOHNSTON: I think that's what Commissioner Vasquez was suggesting. Make the vice chair responsible for maintaining that list and passing it along to the next vice chair, if I understood her correctly. That could be in a Google Doc, yes.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Oh, it could be in a Google Doc?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes. But I suggest instead of each Commissioner individually putting it on there, you convey your thoughts to the vice chair so that one person is responsible for maintaining the list.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay, so let me -- so my vision was a shared Google Doc where we all have access to the Google Doc --

MS. JOHNSTON: All have access but not all -- add to it.
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Right. But the vice chair is responsible for adding to it, and the chair would be responsible for subtracting from it as we do the action items.

MS. JOHNSTON: That's perfectly legal if that's what the Commission would like to do.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, I -- okay, so if we can do that, then I don't know the comfort level with all of my peers with working with a Google Doc, so I just would throw that out.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It's a good idea. And she didn't say no. Right?

MS. JOHNSTON: What a reputation I'm getting.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Neal, I already created it, so you all can -- you all can -- I'll share it with everybody.


COMMISSIONER SINAY: I will make it shareable, but I started doing that because Commissioner Akutagawa asked me to.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, if you can share it and then I can -- I'll just compare it to what we had for this week and I can add if I need to add. That'd be great. Thank you. Commissioner Le Mons?
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: In response to Commissioner Sinay's question, since they're planning to submit this document as public comment, I would recommend letting them go on and do that, and then that way we -- that's a mechanism by which we can all have an opportunity to review it. And then based on the content, we can decide how we might want them to focus their presentation, rather than coming and presenting a document to us.

So it might sort of manage for some of the concerns that some of us has raised in wanting to have information ahead of time. And then we can more tailor the presentations. Particularly as we're getting closer to a working plan that we're creating -- then we can zero the presenters in on the content that we're particularly interested in hearing as opposed to just more global. That would be my thought on that. And we'd have the benefit of their more detailed information as well vis-a-vis the document.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. I mean, personally, I like to have something ahead of time because it triggers other questions then real time. Because tomorrow I'll think of a question and it's gone.

Any other comments? We'll proceed that way. Is there anything else? Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I'd just like to share for the
good of all of the Commissioners, I know you appreciate seeing me straight on without moving or dropping camera. I received my package in the mail from Commissioner Fornaciari, and it works beautifully and it looks beautiful. So thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: You're welcome.

COMMISSIONER YEE: What color did you get?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I should get mine next week.

COMMISSIONER YEE: What color did you get?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: A beautiful golden just like my life.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: That's why -- you know, I just thought what color should I pick for you, and that's the color that came to me. So I'm glad you like it.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Now I'm afraid what color I'm going to get if that's what you were going for. Marian, do we have to do public comments?

MS. JOHNSTON: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So if there is nothing else, we're going to go to public comments. And Raul, this one will be for items not on the agenda. If you could read those instructions, please.

MR. VILLANUEVA: For general items, right?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Okay, the Commission will
advise the viewing audience when it is time to submit
public comment; at this time we are requesting anyone who
wants to provide comments on items not on the agenda,
general items, please do so. We are going to allow time
for those who wish to comment to be able to dial in. To
call in on your phone, dial the telephone number provided
on the live stream feed.

Next, when prompted, enter the meeting ID number
provided on the live stream feed using your dial pad.
And finally, when prompted to enter a participant ID,
simply press the pound sign. Once you have dialed in,
you’ll be placed in a queue from which a moderator will
begin unmuting callers to submit their comment. You will
also hear an automatic message to press star 9 to raise
your hand indicating that you wish to comment. When it
is your turn to speak, the moderator will unmute you and
you will hear an automatic message: "The host would like
you to talk" and to press star 6 to speak and then you
will have time to provide your comments.

Please make sure to mute your computer 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
remember to turn down the livestream volume.

Commissioners are taking comment, general items --
general comment for items not on the agenda. So that is
the time to call in now. The process for making a
comment will be -- is the same each time. Begin by
dialing the telephone number provided on the live stream
feed following the instructions that I have provided.
These instructions are also located on the website.
Madam Chair?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Raul. Katy? Do we
have anyone on queue?

PUBLI COMMENT MODERATOR: We do not have anybody in
queue at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll just wait another
minute since I didn't forewarn anyone. Just a reminder
regarding interviews next week, or if any of the
Commissioners plan to be present in the Sacramento
office, please let Marian and Raul know. And then if you
have any questions for the chief counsel interviews or
the communications director, forward that to Marian as
well by the end of tomorrow, I believe is what she asked.

That was only 30 seconds, so. I've got to talk
slower.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I'll plan to be in Sacramento for
the counsel interviews.

MS. JOHNSTON: For the two days or three days?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Just the counsel, I guess.
MS. JOHNSTON: Just for the counsel?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah.

MS. JOHNSTON: That's Tuesday.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I will as well.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What day was the counsel again?

MS. JOHNSTON: Tuesday.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That was on --

COMMISSIONER YEE: 13th?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: The 13th, I thought it was.

It's the 13th. So I will as well.

MR. VILLANUEVA: Okay, very good. Thank you, Commissioners, for letting us know.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I let Marian and Raul know, but for the rest of you, I'm out next week. So I'll see you in a couple.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Fun. All right, Katy?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We still do not have anyone in the queue.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you so much. And with that, since there is nothing else, I will close the meeting. It is 5:08, and I wish everyone a great rest of the week and we'll see you on Monday -- except for Commissioner Turner.

(Whereupon, the Public Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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

TRACI FINE, CDLT

5/20/2022

DATE