

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE (CSA)
2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

FIRST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING

621 Capitol Mall, 10th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:
Martha Nelson

APPEARANCESCOMMISSIONERS

Jane Andersen, Temporary Chair

Trena Turner, Temporary Vice Chair (Remote attendance)

Isra Ahmad, (Remote attendance)

Neal Fornaciari, (Remote attendance)

J. Ray Kennedy, (Remote attendance)

Antonio Le Mons, (Remote attendance)

Sara Sadhwani, (Remote attendance)

Derric H. Taylor, (Remote attendance)

STAFF

Amanda Saxton, Counsel to the First Eight Commissioners

Shauna Pellman, Secretary, (Remote attendance)

ALSO PRESENT

AT&T Operator

ASL Interpreters

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Yap, Asian Americans United for Self-Government
Thomas Wong
Erik Takayesu, Southern California Edison
Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters of California
Alexander Kim, Orange County Asian & Pacific Islander Comm.
Ed Robinson, Pastor at Hope in Christ Community Church
Chelene Lopez, St. Joseph Health Sonoma County
Jeffrey Lee, San Gabriel Valley Council of Government
Bruce Pickering, City of San Francisco
George (no last name given)
Nahla Kayali, Access California Services
Robert McDonald, Orange County Black Chamber of Commerce
Diqui Lapenta
Myron Quon, National & Asian Pacific American Families
 Against Substance Abuse
Miguel Woo
Laurie Dowling, National Utilities Diversity Council
Tammy Tran
Mabel Huang
Yolanda Latham, Hooper Valley Tribe
Faith Bautista
Alejandra Ponce De Leon, Advancement Project California
Byrd Lochtie
Rob Quan, Unrig L.A.
Grant Sunoo
Daniel Schnur
Silvia Rodriguez
Miguel Gonzales
Kimberly Fuentes, California League of United Latin
 American Citizens
Brian Zwier
Katrina Taylor
Jenny Le
Julia Marks, Asian American Advancing Justice
Emma Jimenez
George Wu
Esperanza Guevara, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy, behalf of Mayor
Khang Bao
Luis Aleman

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (continued)

Dr. Fatima Bustos-Choy, Whole Mind Power Consulting
Otniel Pavia
Jennifer Araujo
Manju Kulkar, Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council
Jacqueline Rodriguez
Rebecca Lee
Chau Pham
Dr. George Potamianos
Chandara Panachone
Vanessa Hernandez
Mariko Kahn
Enancio Goana
Tammy Kim
Inez Gonzales

1 9:30 a.m.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: 9:30 and I will call this
3 meeting to order.

4 So good morning everyone. There'll be a couple
5 of announcements. Counsel's actually just coming in.
6 Commissioner Turner will not be with us today, personal
7 matter. We will be proceeding on as we do have a quorum.

8 And I will also try to speak more slowly and more
9 clearly. I heard a little bit of the playback and I often
10 get, my voice gets muffled and is not distinct. These
11 masks are a little harder to work with than I realized. I
12 do apologize for that.

13 So as we established on the program earlier, we
14 will begin each morning -- first we'll do, I'll ask the
15 secretary for roll call.

16 MS. PELLMAN: Yes.

17 Commissioner Ahmad.

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.

19 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Andersen.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Here.

21 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

23 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

25 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

2 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

4 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Taylor.

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

6 MS. PELLMAN: And Commissioner Turner is not
7 present, as you mentioned.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That's correct. Thank you.
9 There is now a quorum. So we will begin the meeting.
10 Thank you very much. And the first item of business is for
11 public comment. So, at this particular time, I will ask
12 AT&T Operator, actually I will ask Counsel to read the
13 directions for public comment.

14 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

15 If you would like to make public comment
16 regarding Agenda Item 5, discussion, deliberation and
17 action to select the final six members of the commission,
18 please call now by dialing 844-291-5495. In the next few
19 moments, we'll begin taking public comment and that number
20 again is 844-291-5495.

21 After dialing the number, you'll speak to an
22 operator. You'll be asked to provide either the access
23 code for the meeting, which is 8121803 or the name of the
24 meeting, which is CRC Selection Meeting.

25 After providing this information, the operator

1 will ask you to provide your name. Please note you're not
2 required to provide your actual name. When the operator
3 asks for your name, you may provide a name other than your
4 own. When it's your turn to make public comment, the
5 operator will introduce you by the name you provided.
6 Please be assured our office is not maintaining any list of
7 callers by name. We ask for you to provide some name to
8 enable the operator to manage multiple calls simultaneously
9 and let you know when it's your turn to speak.

10 After speaking with the operator, you'll be
11 placed in a listening room. In this room, you'll be able
12 to listen to live audio of the meeting. Please mute your
13 computer audio because the online video and audio will be
14 delayed by approximately 60 seconds and feedback issues may
15 occur, making it difficult for anyone to hear your comment.
16 Also, please do not use a speakerphone, and speak directly
17 into your phone.

18 When you decide that you want to make a comment
19 about an action item on the agenda, press one zero and
20 you'll be placed in the queue to make public comment about
21 that action item -- in this case, Agenda Item 5. After
22 joining the queue to make a public comment, you should hear
23 an automatic recording informing you you've been placed in
24 the queue. When it's your turn, the operator will
25 introduce you. At that time, please state and spell your

1 name for the transcriptionist, then state your comment
2 clearly and concisely. Comments will be limited to two
3 minutes. You will hear a time check when 15 seconds in
4 your time remains.

5 After you finish making your comment, we'll move
6 on to the next caller. At that point, please hang up your
7 phone. If you would like to take comment on another agenda
8 item at a later time, please call back when we open up
9 public comment for that item and repeat this process.

10 If you are disconnected for any reason, please
11 call back and explain the issue to the operator. Then
12 repeat the process and rejoin the public comment queue by
13 pressing one zero.

14 These instructions can also be found on our
15 website.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

17 So at this time we will pause, but AT&T Operator,
18 do we happen to have any people in the queue?

19 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If you wish to make a
20 comment, please press one and then zero at this time.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: So we'll wait. We'll stand down
22 for a few minutes, allowing people time to call in.

23 And AT&T Operator, please let us know if someone
24 is on the line. Thank you.

25 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you.

1 Once again, if you wish to make a comment, please
2 press one and then zero at this time.

3 And it'll be just one moment.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you very much, AT&T
5 Operator.

6 AT&T OPERATOR: And I'm showing 19 in queue.
7 It'll be just one moment for our first line.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you very much.

9 Well, Commissioner Sadhwani, it was a very good
10 idea adding an arranged time for public comment.

11 While we're waiting for the person to come on, I
12 will say one of the, actually we got two different comments
13 yesterday, and yes, we do get them and read them. And
14 actually, I was just getting a hard copy of some of the
15 ones that were delivered even later. Our -- all of the
16 Commissioners have received these via email. But we did
17 have several people sort of have a glitch in trying to call
18 in, so -- yesterday. So we do read the comments, and
19 please, if you do have an issue, please try again and ask
20 the AT&T operator if you're having any kind of trouble or
21 contact the office here. Thank you very much.

22 AT&T Operator, do we have any people in the
23 queue? And could you let the first person through?

24 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you.

25 We'll go to the first line of Nancy Yap. Please

1 spell you name, followed by your comment.

2 MS. YAP: Sure. Hi everyone. I am Nancy Yap,
3 spelled N-A-N-C-Y. Last name, Y-A-P as in Paul. I am the
4 Executive Director of the Center for Asian Americans United
5 for Self-Empowerment. I'm calling today first to
6 acknowledge and thank all of you for your service.

7 I just want to advocate and think of -- have the
8 Commission consider adding an additional Asian and Pacific
9 Islander Commissioner. The community is so diverse and has
10 so many different needs, and I think that I'd like to ask
11 the Commission to select Linda Akutagawa, who has been
12 leading in our community for over 25 years. She has strong
13 ties in both Los Angeles and Orange County, but I know she
14 is also very familiar with the demographics and the
15 different needs of our different communities, which can
16 range from both the Asian-American and also the Native
17 Hawaiian Pacific Islander communities.

18 So, yes, I just wanted to call and make that
19 comment and really encourage you to consider including her
20 as part of the Commission.

21 Thank you so much.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

23 Do we have the next person, please?

24 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next over to the line
25 of Thomas Wong. Please spell your name, followed by your

1 comment.

2 MR. WONG: Hi, good morning. My name is Thomas
3 Wong T-H-O-M-A-S W-O-N-G and just wanted to echo earlier
4 sentiments in commending the Commissioners and the
5 Commission in your work and in taking time out of your days
6 in the next year or so in doing this critical work of
7 redistricting and drawing the lines for the next decade.

8 I remember voting in my first presidential
9 election in 2008 and quickly after that started to
10 understand the role of redistricting and this new process
11 at that time to the state, and just watching unfold
12 largely in a very fair process compared to the rest of the
13 country. And hope will -- the process again this decade,
14 will unfold in the same way. And wanted to acknowledge the
15 need for fair representation and representation of
16 diversity of all our communities in California to make sure
17 that that is representative, represented on the Commission
18 through Commissioners.

19 With that said, I'd like to offer my support and
20 urge the Commission to support Commissioner Turner and
21 Sadhwani's slates. I know there are many differences and
22 many, lots of legitimate conversation around who should be
23 picked out of the many qualified candidates, but I want to
24 just urge the Commission and Commissioners to make sure
25 that the rest of the Commission continues to reflect the

1 vast diversity of the state. And also wanted to echo the
2 earlier first commenter's suggestion for Linda Akutagawa,
3 specifically who I've known for a number of years now in
4 her work in the API community in Southern California, who
5 is super familiar with our community issues and has been
6 engaged in the community and the political process --

7 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

8 MR. WONG: And so, wanted to just urge the
9 selection of Linda Akutagawa as one of the additional
10 Commissioners going forward.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

13 Next person in the queue.

14 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next over to the line
15 of Erik Takayesu. Please spell your name, followed by your
16 comment.

17 MR. TAKAYESU: Yes, good morning everyone. My
18 name is Erik Takayesu, spelled E-R-I-K. Last name is
19 spelled T-A-K-A-Y-E-S-U. I'm currently a resident of
20 Cypress in Orange County, and I currently am an executive
21 for Southern California Edison working on a transmission
22 and distribution grid. And I do, also, as the previous
23 speakers have, really want to thank you, not just for your
24 public service, but for your time and effort in this really
25 important endeavor to represent communities in a very

1 diverse and fair way. And I would also like to kindly
2 request the Commission to also -- my suggestion is to
3 encourage Linda Akutagawa's appointment.

4 I have known her for a number of years. She
5 certainly has a passion and very strong ties in L.A. and
6 community of varying knowledgeable and demographic trends,
7 and all the different nuances between the different
8 communities, and a very strong foundation in research and
9 policy. I believe Linda is already on two slates and would
10 like to encourage to be added on more. And again, I do
11 think having someone like her would really be a strong
12 voice for our community in ensuring that we simply reflect,
13 you know, how the rest of the community looks here in
14 Orange County.

15 Thank you very much for your consideration.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

17 The next person in the queue, please.

18 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
19 line of Eliot Enriquez. Please spell your name, followed
20 by your comment.

21 MR. ENRIQUEZ: Yes. My name is Eliot Enriquez,
22 E-L-I-O-T, E-N-R-I-Q-U-E-Z. Good morning, everyone. I am
23 a board member for the Graton Day Labor Center in Sonoma
24 County and I'm writing to urge you to support Pedro
25 Toledo's application. I was thrilled to see Mr. Toledo, a

1 nonpartisan Latino, on all the slates because he will be a
2 great candidate for one hundred percent of Californians,
3 not just the 40 percent of the state that is Latinx.
4 However, it is important for our Latinx community and
5 particularly, our young people to see themselves reflected
6 on the Commission.

7 I've had the opportunity to work with Pedro on
8 various community initiatives over the past ten years, and
9 I believe he will be a fantastic addition to your
10 committee. Pedro's work with rural and underserved
11 communities in the North Bay and throughout northern
12 California and beyond has helped me to gain a deep respect
13 and appreciation for people from different backgrounds. In
14 fact, one of his original three letters of support is from
15 Tina Tvedt, a community leader in Humboldt County, who also
16 has worked with him.

17 Pedro often gets placed in positions of trust
18 because he thinks things through and communicates
19 effectively with people of different backgrounds. He's
20 also very comfortable with interpreting legal and
21 regulatory rules, and taking complex concepts and making
22 them easier to understand. He works effectively in team
23 meetings and settings. He's very driven, impartial and
24 objective. Mr. Toledo's father was a farmworker and I urge
25 you to give him an opportunity to join you in ensuring

1 everyone in California has a voice.

2 Thank you very much for your time.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

4 Next in the call, in the queue, please.

5 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to
6 Helen Hutchinson. Please spell your name, followed by your
7 comment.

8 MS. HUTCHISON: Thank you. Good morning.
9 This is Helen Hutchinson, H-E-L-E-N. Hutchinson is
10 H-U-T-C-H-I-S-O-N. I'm here today on behalf of the League
11 of Women Voters of California. I'm speaking for the
12 League. We've been involved in redistricting since the
13 very beginning and we are one of the proponents of the
14 reforms that led to this Commission.

15 As the measure was being crafted, we knew that
16 deciding about the Commission selection was going to be a
17 really difficult system. And we knew that the system based
18 solely on random selection could lead to imbalance in the
19 final Commission. And we therefore added the system that
20 has you random eight selection and then choosing the six
21 final Commissioners, so that you, those first eight, would
22 have the opportunity to fix any imbalances. And we commend
23 for how carefully you're dealing with this.

24 We recognize it's impossible to be fully
25 representative of California's wonderful diversity in just

1 14 people, and we also recognize that the pool of
2 applicants that you're looking at contains a wealth of
3 gifts and that you'd like to have them all. So we thank
4 you for doing the hard work of balancing and trying to find
5 the best mix.

6 And finally, I want to thank you for listening to
7 our colleagues who spoke yesterday afternoon and for
8 stepping up and ensuring a strong Latinx representation on
9 the final Commission. Optics really do matter and it's a
10 critical part to the credibility of the Commission and to
11 your really important work.

12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

14 Next in the queue, please.

15 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next, we'll go to the
16 line of Alexander Kim. Please spell

17
18 your name, followed by your comment.

19 MR. KIM: Yes. My name is Alexander Kim,
20 A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R. Last name K-I-M. Good evening -- good
21 morning everybody. Thank you so much for your time and
22 commitment to helping give fair representation in our
23 state.

24 I currently serve on several board nonprofits in
25 the Orange County and Los Angeles area, and, such as the

1 Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community
2 Alliance. Also on the Public Broadcasting System community
3 council advisory board at New Way California that was
4 established by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, as a
5 board member.

6 I'm here to give my support to Linda Akutagawa,
7 who I've known for since over 20 years, working and not
8 only representing the Asian Pacific Islander communities
9 for the Los Angeles and Orange County areas, but also, in
10 the terms of intersectionalities. She's always been a
11 bridge builder with the mainstream. As a former government
12 official myself, I served as Deputy Director to Governor
13 Arnold Schwarzenegger and L.A. City Mayor James Hahn, as a
14 director there, I've always seen Linda in numerous
15 occasions as either a moderator or a leader representing
16 the API community to the mainstream.

17 So, her talents and abilities to be a bridge
18 builder with other diverse communities is very important
19 and fully representative for a good example to be on the
20 Redistricting Commission to understand the concerns as a
21 politically independent person, and as well as a bridge
22 builder to diverse communities in general. So --

23 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

24 MR. KIM: -- hopefully that did the -- okay.

25 So thank you so much for your time and appreciate

1 it. Thank you.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

3 Next in the queue, please.

4 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to the line
5 of Ed Robinson. Please spell your name, followed by your
6 comment.

7 MR. ROBINSON: E-D, R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N. I'd like to
8 say good morning to each and every one of you, and thank
9 you, Commissioner, for the time and the great work you're
10 doing across California.

11 My name is Ed Robinson and I serve as the Pastor
12 of the Hope in Christ Community Church in the city of
13 Compton. I've been pastoring there for ten years. I'm a
14 resident of Compton for nearly 50 years. Before my service
15 there, I spent over 30 years in management in the utilities
16 industry, and I was managing diverse teams and dealing with
17 a lot of community engagement. However, the best part of
18 my job was working with the diverse communities and leaders
19 like Linda Akutagawa.

20 Linda was recruited to be on our consumer
21 advisory panel based on her reputation. And for over three
22 years, Linda provided keen inside, feedback. She was
23 support to the outreach that we were doing, and she was
24 also well-versed in the complex issues in the utility
25 industry. So, she was a quick learner. Also, Linda earned

1 the respect of 13 to 15 other advisory members representing
2 the Black, Latino, LGBTQ, veteran, small business, people
3 with disabilities and special needs, and so forth. And I
4 knew that she would earn -- I know that she will earn your
5 respect. I've worked with Linda a lot and I know that she
6 understands what the underrepresented communities need, and
7 has worked a lot in not only the API community, but the
8 Black community and others.

9 So, let me just end by saying that I, myself, had
10 considered applying to this Commission. And yet, I chose
11 not to do so. But I'm very happy to see someone like Linda
12 doing so. And so, to Commissioner Sadhwani and to Turner,
13 I hope that -- I'm very glad that you have her on your
14 slate and I trust and hope that my comments will make a
15 difference.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. And you should have
18 applied. We would have loved to have your presence on the
19 Board. Thank -- or the Commission. Thank you.

20 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you. Maybe next time.
21 Thank you. Goodbye.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Next in the line, please.

23 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to
24 Chelene Lopez. Please spell your name, followed by your
25 comment.

1 MS. LOPEZ: Good morning. My name is Chelene
2 Lopez, C-H-E-L-E-N-E. Last name Lopez, L-O-P-E-Z.

3 And I am the Coordinator of Health Promotions and
4 Program for St. Joseph Health in Sonoma County, and I'm
5 reaching out to you today to respectfully urge the AW to
6 please prioritize the representation of the Latino
7 community onto this incredibly important Commission.

8 As you know, Latinos comprise 40 percent of
9 California's population, and the lack of Latino
10 representation on this Commission at this time, as our
11 community grows, is deeply concerning. It is for that
12 reason that I would like to support Mr. Pedro Toledo from
13 Sonoma County, as he is an excellent leader who has
14 dedicated his career to ensuring all Californians have fair
15 representation.

16 The Latinx community is very diverse in terms of
17 politics, geography, language, immigration status, and the
18 culture. I urge you to select at least four Latinos and at
19 least one Latino from each of the political areas. I also
20 urge you to pay particular consideration to Mr. Toledo, the
21 nonpartisan Latino from Sonoma County.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

24 Next in the queue, please.

25 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to the line

1 of Jeffrey Lee. Please spell your name, followed by your
2 comment.

3 MR. LEE: Hi. J-E-F-F-R-E-Y, and the last name
4 is L-E-E. And I'm going to just start with my comment.

5 Thank you, Commissioners, for your public
6 service. I, too, am a local community member, an active
7 one, and I'm a Planning Commissioner. I'm also a committee
8 member in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government.
9 And as a millennial, I am pleased to see Commissioner Ahmad
10 serve. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and I hope that
11 more young people will be engaged. And I also appreciate
12 that many of you have strong academic, military, research,
13 public service, and community backgrounds.

14 As you know, we may lose one or two congressional
15 seats in California. You know, through the last ten years,
16 the population shifts are kind of a concern to me because
17 redrawing lines could very well mean diluting certain
18 voices. So, you know, as a 29-year San Gabriel Valley
19 resident, where our population growth has slowed, you know,
20 this is an issue I'm thinking about. And while there are
21 no candidates from this area, I did review the five
22 proposed slates yesterday.

23 I strongly urge you to support Commissioner
24 Turner's and Commissioner Sadhwani's slate. It's a strong,
25 it's a balanced slate, and especially with the addition of

1 Linda Akutagawa. I have one hundred percent confidence
2 that Linda Akutagawa's ability to form the larger body's
3 decision making, and you will find Linda Akutagawa a very
4 collaborative member.

5 I know Linda Akutagawa by reputation, due to her
6 working developing the next generation of leaders. You
7 know, I'm also very active and I'm an admirer of her work.
8 She is already shaping the future of California and she
9 will bring great credibility, in my opinion, to your
10 Commission. So --

11 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

12 MR. LEE: Yeah, so I just wanted to end off with
13 saying, you know, thank you, Chairwoman Andersen. Thank
14 you, Commissioners. And please, I urge you to consider
15 Linda Akutagawa, as well as possibly adding her to more
16 slates.

17 Thanks.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

19 Next in the queue, please.

20 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to the line
21 of Bruce Pickering. Please spell your name, followed by
22 your comment.

23 MR. PICKERING: Hi. My name is Bruce Pickering.
24 It's N, N. Bruce Pickering. N, B-R-U-C-E. Last name is
25 Pickering, P-I-C-K-E-R-I-N-G. And I'm currently a visiting

1 scholar at UC Berkeley and a Policy Advisor to the city of
2 San Francisco for its international work.

3 I've known Linda for probably, Linda Akutagawa
4 for probably over 20 years when I was the Executive
5 Director of the Asia Society's office in San Francisco, as
6 well as the Vice President for global programs for the
7 institution. And I first got to know her when I asked for
8 her help in a project examining diversity of leadership,
9 not only in the State of California, but across the United
10 States. And not only did I find her hugely helpful, she
11 actually helped me work through the issue in a way that my
12 Board, which was largely white male, would understand, and
13 understand why it was important.

14 I found that she was deeply knowledgeable about
15 issues of importance, of the importance of diversity in
16 voter representation, but much more than that. I found
17 that she listened to all points of view. I found her to be
18 very collaborative. I thought she expressed her opinions
19 in a very positive manner, and she does have opinions. She
20 is not a kind of somebody who sits back. She's actually an
21 active and engaged individual.

22 But for all of that, a very positive person to
23 work with. And I was also impressed by the fact that she
24 worked across all the communities in California, not just
25 southern California. But I feel, even as a northern

1 Californian, that she would be a terrific addition and
2 would look out for the interest of the entire state.

3 And I'd just like to conclude by saying that I
4 can't think of anyone better to hold such an important
5 trust on behalf of the people of California. At all times,
6 I found her to be open-minded, professional, and yet, very
7 direct.

8 So, thank you for taking the time to listen to
9 me.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Pickering.

11 Next in line, please.

12 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to the line
13 of George. Please spell your name, followed by your
14 comment.

15 MR. GEORGE: Hi. My name is George, G-E-O-R-G-E.
16 I am a college administrator in Humboldt County, and I am
17 calling because I was very supportive of the Redistricting
18 Commission when it was first proposed. And I'm calling
19 because I want to at least put a bug in your ear about the
20 northern area being neglected so many times in state
21 commissions like this.

22 So I would urge you to consider the region past
23 Sonoma County as an important part of the state that
24 deserves some kind of representation on this Commission.
25 We have some of the most diverse groups of Native American

1 tribal organizations up here and we are very often omitted
2 from these kinds of considerations when the state
3 committees deliberate about putting together commissions
4 like this. And I think geography is very important in a
5 commission, such as yours.

6 So, I would urge you -- I can see this kind of
7 representation in the slate proposed by Andersen and
8 Le Mons and I would urge you to consider supporting those
9 slates.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. George.

12 Next in the queue, please.

13 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next, we'll go to the
14 line of Nahla Kayali. Please go ahead.

15 MS. KAYALI: Nahla Kayali, N-A-H-L-A,
16 K-A-Y-A-L-I. Good morning. Thank you all for your
17 dedication services. My name is Nahla Kayali and I am the
18 founder and Executive Director of Access California
19 Services.

20 The purpose of my call today is to recommend
21 Linda Akutagawa. Access California Services is a
22 community-based organization nonprofit in Anahiem, Orange
23 County, where the mission is to provide wrap around
24 service, health and human services to all underserved
25 community, with a focus on Arab-American and the

1 Muslim-American communities, including immigrants and
2 refugees. Access California Services is known to be a
3 voice for this population in Orange County.

4 As a representative of this population, I
5 appreciate that the Commissioner Isra Ahmad is serving on
6 this Commission and speaks to how important it is to have
7 this diverse representation.

8 Through my leadership, I have witnessed firsthand
9 how Orange County diversity community -- this changed over
10 the 20 years. It is important that we are always
11 reflecting all the population we serve to make sure we meet
12 their needs. We continue to see how important refugees,
13 immigrants facing challenges in accessing government
14 services, and immigrants, and which why we need to make
15 sure to ensure our representation can emphasize on these
16 communities.

17 I am recommending that you please select Linda.
18 I had the pleasure of serving with Linda on a very diverse
19 consumer advisory panel with Southern California Edison and
20 I know she is fair, impartial, and she will be a voice for
21 not only just Orange County, but all the diverse
22 communities of California.

23 Thank you for your time, Commissioners, and I
24 will continue to be involved in this process, and I
25 encourage others to be engaged of your future meeting.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kayali.

3 Next in the queue, please.

4 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to the line
5 of Robert McDonald. Please spell your name, followed by
6 your comment.

7 MR. MCDONALD: Yes. Robert, R-O-B-E-R-T.
8 McDonald, M-C-D-O-N-A-L-D. Good morning, Commissioners of
9 the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission. I'm the
10 President and CEO of the Orange County Black Chamber of
11 Commerce and a U.S. Navy Vietnam War veteran. I'm also a
12 member of the Orange County Diverse Business Leaders
13 Coalition, along with several commissions and advisories on
14 business and on veterans' issues.

15 I was on the line yesterday waiting to make a
16 public comment, but I got kicked out of the queue somehow,
17 but anyway, I'm back today. I want to revisit yesterday's
18 discussion on Orange County in hopes it is lost -- it is
19 not lost among the Commission that you have Orange County
20 options. We need an Orange County representative. Linda
21 Akutagawa is on our two recommended slates, as I can see,
22 and I endorse these slates. The other slates are not far
23 off.

24 I live in Orange County. I've lived in Orange
25 County all my life and I have been fighting for business,

1 veterans, diversity, and equal representation.

2 I appreciate you allowing me this opportunity and
3 time to address your Commission and help participate in
4 your decision-making process today.

5 Thank you very kindly.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. McDonald.

7 Next in the queue.

8 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
9 line of Diqui Lapenta. Please spell your name, followed by
10 your comment.

11 MS. LAPENTA: Hi. It's Diqui Lapenta, D-I-Q-U-I.
12 Last name, L-A-P-E-N-T-A. And thanks to the Commission for
13 the work they're doing for the consideration of the diverse
14 slate that they have.

15 I'm calling on behalf of folks that live in
16 Humboldt County. Northern California has not really had
17 representation on this Commission in the past. It's really
18 common to hear San Francisco Bay Area and the wine country
19 referred to as northern California. That is both
20 geographically and culturally incorrect and inaccurate.
21 Petaluma is about the same latitude as the geographic
22 center of the state, but here in Humboldt County, the
23 county seat of Eureka is 235 miles or a four-hour drive
24 north of that. Crescent City at the far northwest edge is
25 a five-and-a-half-hour drive north of Petaluma. And our

1 area is becoming far more diverse. I've lived in Humboldt
2 County for about 23 years. I'm a college professor and
3 administrator and I've seen more and more Native American,
4 Latinx, [indiscernible], Black, and Asian Pacific Islanders
5 enter my classrooms. And it creates diversity that is
6 beautiful and I feel it tremendously not represented in
7 state politics.

8 So it would be really nice to see someone from
9 our area give voice to the citizens of our part of
10 California. And so I'm calling in support of Eddie Morgan.
11 I've known him for over 20 years. He has served in the
12 National Guard and he is deeply involved in the Humboldt
13 County community, belongs to many service organizations,
14 and is a local business owner. And I feel that with his
15 independence politically, and his fluency in Spanish that
16 he would be a great representative --

17 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

18 MS. LAPENTA: He'd be a great representative for
19 our area and the citizens of California.

20 I thank you for your time.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Lapenta.

22 Next in the queue, please.

23 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next, we'll go to the
24 line of Myron Quon. Please spell your name, followed by
25 your comment.

1 MR. QUON: Good morning, Commissioners. Myron
2 Quon, M-Y-R-O-N, Q-U-O-N. I'm calling to speak on behalf
3 of Linda Akutagawa, Applicant 22971.

4 I'm currently the Executive Director of National
5 Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse.
6 I'm a board member of the YMCA for South Pasadena San
7 Marino. In addition, I've also served in a similar
8 capacity for the Tobacco Education and Research Oversight
9 Committee, a statewide commission, and back in the 90's did
10 similar service for State Bar Commission. So I've been in
11 your position, trying to figure out how best to round out
12 and fill out composition of committee.

13 I've known Linda since 2006 and she, as you've
14 heard many other speakers, she's impartial, shows wisdom,
15 shows restraint, shows the best way to move things forward.
16 The only things I would like to add on that may not have
17 been highlighted by prior speakers that -- again, having
18 worked with her for all these years, I've seen her do
19 really well in community settings, in corporate settings,
20 small businesses, you sort of name any sort of setting, she
21 is very comfortable there. She definitely does and bring a
22 wealth of knowledge concerning Orange County and southern
23 California, but I would be very comfortable having her talk
24 about rural California and trying to figure out the needs
25 of all Californians, then comes to the work that you'll be

1 doing.

2 So, again, once again, I have completely
3 unreserved support for Linda Akutagawa's joining the
4 Commission. I support the two slates that include her.

5 Thank you so much.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Quon.

7 Next in the queue, please.

8 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
9 line of Michael Woo. Please spell your name, followed by
10 your comment.

11 MR. WOO: Thank you. My name is Michael Woo. My
12 last name is spelled W-O-O. I have a unique qualification
13 to be calling in because I have some personal experience
14 with redistricting. I was the first Asian-American elected
15 to the Los Angeles city council and my district was almost
16 eliminated when the city council redrew the district lines.
17 So I personally understand how important redistricting is
18 and I thank the Commissioners for their dedication to this
19 important task.

20 I'm calling to urge your serious consideration of
21 Linda Akutagawa for the remaining, one of the remaining
22 Commission positions. I'll give you three reasons. Number
23 one, Asian Pacific Americans needs representation because
24 they're one of the fastest growing groups in the state's
25 populations. Number two, Linda Akutagawa is a

1 well-respected leader of the Asian Pacific American
2 community. She's very active in her role as President of
3 LEAP, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics. And third,
4 I would point out she is one of -- she is officially
5 registered as a nonaffiliated or nonpartisan voter, which
6 makes her directly representative of a very large
7 percentage of Asian Pacific Americans who do not identify
8 with a specific political party.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Woo.

11 Next in the queue, please.

12 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
13 line of Laurie Dowling. Please spell your name, followed
14 by your comment.

15 MS. DOWLING: L-A-U-R-I-E, D-O-W-L-I-N-G.

16 I'm calling as a Los Angeles resident and in my
17 professional life, I am the Executive Director of the
18 National Utilities Diversity Council. I'm calling in
19 support of Commissioner Turner's and Sadhwani's slates,
20 specifically the inclusion of Linda Akutagawa, who I
21 believe would bring a very important perspective to the
22 Commission.

23 Linda is a nationally recognized leader in
24 diversity equity and inclusion and is at the forefront of a
25 field of scholarship and practice that's becoming ever more

1 important, both to the state of California and to our
2 nation. In this manner, she joins national leaders from
3 the Asian American, Latino, Native American Women, LGBTQ+,
4 and disability communities regularly in helping to change
5 the landscape to ensure equity in business, government,
6 education, and nonprofit. This is going to be very
7 important for the state of California in the coming
8 decades.

9 From a personal standpoint in the time that I've
10 known Linda, I have found that she acts with honesty,
11 foresight, and empathy in all of her doings, which I think
12 also is important in a Commissioner.

13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Dowling.

15 Next in the queue, please.

16 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
17 line of Ann Tran. Please spell your name, followed by your
18 comment.

19 MS. TRAM: Hello? Hi. It's actually Tammy Tran.
20 T-A-M-M-Y. And last name Tran, T-R-A-N. Good morning,
21 Commissioners. I wanted to share with you that I, first --
22 I followed the first 2010 Citizens Redistricting Commission
23 and witnessed the deliberation 10 years ago. This is the
24 first time about the challenges of communities of interest
25 and adhering to the American Voting Rights Act. I saw how

1 potential voices can be lost.

2 Commissioners, I know you have a lot of work
3 ahead of you. Here in Orange County, I saw how the prior
4 Commission worked to keep communities whole, where the
5 challenges were in drawing the lines across natural
6 boundaries, like cities and counties. This Commission may
7 very well have to cut up districts, as we are likely to
8 lose one or two congressional districts. The tough
9 decisions will be made in the densely populated areas, that
10 includes Orange County, Los Angeles, Santa Clara. You'll
11 have to weigh that with growth in Inland Empire, San
12 Joaquin Valley, and other areas.

13 I commend you for achieving diversity with the
14 slates that you have come up with. I urge you to select
15 Commissioner Turner or Sadhwani's slate, with Linda
16 Akutagawa and Pedro Toledo. They are the two affiliated
17 selections that I think will most represent Orange County
18 and bring more insight to your current Commission. This
19 addresses the Orange County representation. It also adds
20 two people that will be complimentary to all of your
21 backgrounds.

22 For Linda, especially, I think it's significant
23 to note that with the diverse political dynamics of Orange
24 County and the changes that have happened in just the last
25 two years, she would be very well received and bring

1 credibility to the Commission.

2 Thank you for committing to this public service.
3 I'm sure you were not expecting it to do it by Zoom when
4 you first applied. So thank you, thank you, thank you.

5 CHAIRANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tran.

6 Next in the queue please.

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
8 line of Mabel Huang. Please spell your name, followed by
9 your comment.

10 MS. HUANG: Hi there. Mabel Huang, M-A-B-E-L,
11 H-U-A-N-G. Hi, my name's Mabel. I'm a proud Californian
12 and I'm also Chair of our Asian employee research group at
13 a global company headquartered in San Francisco. Also very
14 involved in the community, as part of the community as
15 well, part of a group called Asian Leaders Alliance, to,
16 essentially an umbrella group representing Asian-Americans
17 across the Bay Area, and expanding.

18 I strongly recommend Linda Akutagawa for the 2020
19 Citizens Redistricting Commission. In my experience
20 working with Linda on diversity and inclusion initiatives,
21 I know that she is someone who's very passionate about
22 advancing the community with equity and inclusion, and very
23 well leads with compassion, integrity, and authenticity.
24 Linda would offer a wealth of her perspective to the
25 Redistricting Commission.

1 In addition, I'm also aware that she could be the
2 only voice representing Asians in the connection and that
3 is critical to recognize, because we know that Asian is not
4 a -- it's really an umbrella term and not monolithic. Not
5 only that, there isn't anyone else I can think of more
6 qualified as to the vote to advocate for the Asian Pacific
7 Island community, and the broader communities, than Linda.
8 With the OC having the third largest APAC population in the
9 nation, I can't emphasize how important it is to have a
10 representative who gets the community as well as Linda, be
11 a part of the Commission.

12 So, I thank you for considering her application
13 and hope that she makes it in the slate -- in the
14 Commission. Thank you.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Huang.

16 Next in the queue, please.

17 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
18 line of Yolanda Latham. Please spell your name, followed
19 by your comment.

20 MS. LATHAM: Good morning. Thank you,
21 Commissioners, for your time and your service. My name is
22 Yolanda Latham, Y-O-L-A-N-D-A. Latham, L-A-T-H-A-M. I am
23 a member of the Hooper Valley Tribe and live in Humboldt
24 County.

25 While I am disappointed there are no Native

1 American finalist for the Commission, I want to call to
2 give my enthusiastic support for Pedro Toledo from Sonoma.
3 Mr. Toledo is an excellent leader who has dedicated his
4 career to improving the health of rural and medically
5 underserved people, not just in North Bay, but also across
6 rural northern California, including across the north coast
7 from Sonoma County to the Oregon border.

8 I'm the former CEO of an Indian clinic, a Native
9 American clinic, and like many others, collaborated with
10 him on many projects to improve the health of our
11 communities. He has a deep respect and appreciation for
12 people from different backgrounds which will serve him well
13 on your Commission. It is for all those reasons that I
14 whole heartedly support Mr. Toledo to serve on the
15 Commission.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Latham.

18 Next in the queue, please.

19 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
20 line of Faith Bautista. Please spell your name, followed
21 by your comment.

22 MS. BAUTISTA: Hi, yes. Faith Bautista,
23 F-A-I-T-H, B-A-U-T-I-S-T-A. I'm calling in behalf of,
24 behalf of the Asian community and its representation on the
25 Citizens Redistricting Commission. I truly believe that

1 the current makeup of the Commission significantly ignores
2 the importance of countries like China, Japan, and Korea.
3 To say that the two current are so-called Asian
4 Commissioners should satisfy the desire of Asia to have
5 representation on the Commission is severely misguided.
6 Considering the facts that both selected Commissioners are
7 from India would be equivalent as having two Hispanic
8 Commissioners that were from Spain or Cuba. Although they
9 may share the Hispanic culture of those from Mexico or
10 South America, they don't share the understanding and
11 background for those neighbors from the south. Thus, the
12 Commission not only needs to fix its Hispanic problem, but
13 also needs to fix its more sublime Asian problem.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tatika --
16 Tautista [sic].

17 Next on the queue, please.

18 MS. BAUTISTA: Thank you.

19 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
20 line of Alejandria Ponce De Leon. Please go ahead.

21 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Good morning, Commissioners.
22 My name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon. I'm calling on part of
23 the Advancement Project California, but also on behalf of
24 the Redistricting Alliance to, you know, uplift our
25 appreciation for a lot of the thoughtfulness and taking

1 into account all of the community public comment that has
2 been coming in the last few days and this morning. And
3 really to see, you know, your thoughtfulness and how the
4 final slates, as of yesterday, do reflect a greater
5 representation of Latinx candidates and all other subpools.
6 And also, due to increasing the representation of East
7 Asians, as well.

8 We also appreciate thoughtfulness in regards to
9 geographical representation and understand the challenges
10 that you're grappling in having to choose, you know,
11 especially for the non-affiliate subpool between two
12 regions to represent. We want to affirm that, you know, we
13 hope to work with all of you on the Commission in the
14 future, you know, in order to address a lot of the
15 limitations that you are now facing in this decision. The
16 limitations that have come as a result of the selection
17 process, where we have so many different regions, but also
18 different ethnicities, race, groups that have not been
19 captured in the final pool. And those limitations need to
20 be addressed, including, you know, even the point that
21 Commissioner Le Mons raised, a limitation that the
22 independent, the non-affiliated subpool can only have four
23 members on it.

24 And so there's a lot of things that need to be
25 changed, that need to be improved, in order to ensure that

1 even with a fuller team member Commission, it could be much
2 more representative. We do want to encourage you to
3 continue to give greater weight, though, in this decision
4 to regions that are most populous.

5 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

6 MS. PONCE DE LEON: I also want to encourage you
7 to select candidates that not only exhibit community
8 engagement background, but also are very conscious and
9 committed to racial and economic equity, because those will
10 be individuals --

11 MS. PELLMAN: That is time.

12 MS. PONCE DE LEON: -- that will be very mindful
13 of the regions and people that are --

14 [Caller cut off]

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Ponce De Leon.
16 If -- sorry, we do have a time limit there. I, we didn't
17 mean to actually cut you off. That was a little bit of
18 our, at our discretion, AT&T Operator. But you can always
19 call back in. I know there's quite a few people. I'm not
20 sure where we are in the line.

21 Next in the queue, please.

22 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
23 line of Byrd Lochtie. Please spell your name, followed by
24 your comment.

25 MS. LOCHTIE: My name is Byrd, B-Y-R-D, Lochtie,

1 L-O-C-H-T-I-E. Thank you for your service on this
2 Commission and for your very thoughtful and careful
3 consideration of a very challenging situation. I know that
4 you're wrestling with a desire to appoint three people from
5 the no party preference, when you are required to limit
6 that selection to just two applicants from that pool. This
7 is exactly the situation that faced the Commission in 2010
8 and the north coast applicant was not chosen because of
9 population.

10 Eddie Morgan is the only approved applicant from
11 the northern quarter, or third of the state, in the total
12 pool this year. I've listened to much of your deliberation
13 on Tuesday and Wednesday, but not all of it. During the
14 time I have listened, I have not heard a mention of Native
15 American representation on this Commission. I know there
16 is no Native American applicant in the total pool of
17 qualified applicants. However, Eddie Morgan comes from the
18 north coast, the home of the largest Native American tribe
19 in California. And that's largest by numbers, not by land
20 area, as well as many smaller tribes in this area and
21 across the northern part of California.

22 Eddie Morgan has ongoing established
23 relationships with tribal leaders and members and would be
24 the best representation of Native American population that
25 you could find. I recommend you keep Eddie Morgan in your

1 approved slate as proposed by Commissioners Le Mons and
2 Andersen.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

5 One quick comment. AT&T Operator, it is our
6 prerogative to cut people off, and I will tell you if a --
7 I will say thank you very much, that's all your time.

8 But if we could please have the next person in
9 the queue.

10 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
11 line of Rob Quan. Please spell your name, followed by your
12 comment.

13 MR. QUAN: Hi. My name's Rob Quan, R-O-B,
14 Q-U-A-N with Unrig L.A. My comment is that I don't really
15 have a horse in this race as far as particular candidates,
16 but I do think Commissioner Sadhwani's slate has the most
17 representative makeup so far. I think simply selecting
18 three Latinos on this Commission would be a real shame.
19 I've been annoyed to see so many unfair shots taken at this
20 process by people over this issue, but with three out of 14
21 commissioners, that would actually leave us with a less
22 representative commission for Latinos than our state
23 legislature, or even L.A. city council. So how can you
24 really say we're doing a better job than the previous
25 process?

1 On that note, I think the integrity of the
2 process is really important and I've been happy to see
3 Commissioner Le Mons speak up about that. I think just
4 observing things, it's clear that teleconferencing puts
5 other Commissioners at a disadvantage. They're not in the
6 room with other key players. They're not in the room when
7 conversations are happening during recess. This places a
8 greater responsibility on the Chair to ensure a transparent
9 process for the other Commissioners, as well as the public.

10 Last note, I just want to say -- it's a really
11 small thing, but, you know, it'd be really great to have
12 your names next to your Zoom boxes, so that we can actually
13 put names to faces. If you go on the website, we can see
14 your bios, but no pictures. I found myself Googling
15 Commissioners yesterday to try to figure out who was who,
16 you know, whether it's a Commissioner, or somebody from
17 Counsel or the Auditor's office. I think those things
18 should be clearly identifiable for the public so they know
19 who's talking and how to follow along if they're not as
20 familiar with this process.

21 That's all I've got. Thank you for your time.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Quan. There --
23 we did get some comments on that sort of thing yesterday
24 and we will sort of bring up a couple of those points,
25 particularly for moving forward. Thank you very much.

1 Next in the queue for number -- next in the
2 queue, please.

3 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Just as a reminder,
4 if you do wish to make a comment, please press one and then
5 zero at this time. Next we'll go to the line of Grant
6 Sunoo. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

7 MR. SUNOO: Hi. My name's Grant Sunoo,
8 G-R-A-N-T, S-U-N-O-O. I am calling to support Linda
9 Akutagawa's selection to the Redistricting Committee, but
10 also wanted to just thank all the Commissioners for their
11 service. I know that this is a lot of work and it's a
12 really important job, so I appreciate you all.

13 I've known Linda for, gosh, more than 20 years.
14 We worked together, we have served on boards together, and
15 have served in a number of different community
16 organizations representing the Asian and Pacific Islander
17 communities of southern California, and you know, just have
18 always found her to be fair, balanced, reasonable, and
19 rational, and have really, really appreciated her and, you
20 know, feel like she would make a really great Commissioner.
21 I think that given the important work of the Commission,
22 it's important to find somebody that is relatively
23 objective and balanced.

24 And so, you know, wanted to voice my strong
25 support, you know, particularly as somebody who works in

1 community and works pretty closely with the Asian Pacific
2 American community in southern California. And I feel like
3 she would be a great representative, not just of our
4 community but of southern California at large. And would
5 urge you to consider her selection to this committee.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Sunoo.

8 Next in the queue, please.

9 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go back to the
10 line of Alejandra Ponce De Leon. Please spell your name,
11 followed by your comment.

12 MS. PONCE DE LEON: Hi. My name Alejandra,
13 A-L-E-J-A-N-D-R-A. Just wanted to finish the final thought
14 that I was putting out there, that given that you're going
15 to have to choose over regions and given that there's so
16 many demographics not represented currently on the
17 Commission, such as Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, I
18 do encourage you to select candidates that are committed
19 and mindful and understanding of economic and racial
20 equity, because then these individuals will be much more
21 mindful about representing and really seeking out those
22 communities, those regions that won't be represented.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Ponce De Leon,
25 for calling in and I apologize you got cut off there.

1 Is there anyone else in the queue?

2 AT&T OPERATOR: I have two more lines in queue.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Please let the next
4 person through.

5 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
6 line of Daniel Schnur. Please spell your name, followed by
7 your comment.

8 MR. SCHNUR: Thank you very much. My name is
9 Daniel Schnur, D-A-N-I-E-L. Surname is spelled S-C-H-N-U-R.
10 I teach Political Communications at the University of
11 California Berkeley, University of Southern California, and
12 at Pepperdine University. I'm the former Chair of the
13 California Fair Political Practices Commission and I am a
14 long-time Republican who about ten years ago switched my
15 party registration to no party preference. So I, too, have
16 a particularly vested interest in making sure that
17 independent voices are part of this critical redistricting
18 discussion.

19 I worked on four presidential campaigns during my
20 political career, and three for Governor of California,
21 including serving as Director of Communications to then
22 Senator, the late Senator John McCain when he ran for
23 President in 2000. But I learned about the importance of
24 redistricting. It's a critical portion of political
25 reform. Even earlier when I served as one of Governor

1 Wilson's representatives on the redistricting discussions
2 of 1991. What I learned that year is when the California
3 Supreme Court ultimately appointed Special Masters to draw
4 congressional and legislative lines, I learned how
5 important it was to have a group of smart, principled, and
6 nonbiased individuals in charge of this critical work. And
7 I commend all of you for the work you've already done and
8 that you'll do in the months ahead.

9 What I -- I'm calling today on very strong behalf
10 of Linda Akutagawa. And the reason, the main reason I'm
11 calling for Linda, you've heard a lot about her so far, is
12 in addition to her extraordinary leadership capabilities in
13 the Asian Pacific community here in California. I can
14 [indiscernible] --

15 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

16 MR. SCHNUR: This commission is a balance between
17 representing the interests of a particular community, but
18 also being aware of the needs of the entire state. And I
19 think Linda would do an exceptional job of representing the
20 state --

21 MS. PELLMAN: That is time.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank -- keep, yes --

23 MR. SCHNUR: -- representing the entire state.

24 Thank you. I think Linda would do a phenomenal job of
25 representing the entire state in its ideological,

1 demographic, and geographic diversity. She would represent
2 all communities effectively. She would represent
3 Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, and I urge you to
4 consider her for inclusion in your group.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Shure [sic].

6 Next in the queue, please.

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
8 line of Silvia Rodriguez. Please spell your name, followed
9 by your comment.

10 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Silvia Rodriguez,
11 S-I-L-V-I-A. Last name Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z.
12 First of all, I would like to thank you for your time and
13 to listening to my comment in regards to this very special
14 commission selection. I'm reaching out today respectfully
15 and urge the eight of you to please prioritize the
16 representation of the Latina community onto this
17 incredible, important Commission. As you know, Latinos
18 comprise 40 percent of California's population and the
19 lack of Latino representation on the Commission at a time
20 when our community continues to grow is deeply concerning,
21 but yet, hopeful.

22 It is for this reason that I would like to
23 support Mr. Pedro Toledo from Sonoma County, as he is a
24 diligent, excellent leader, who has dedicated his career to
25 ensuring all Californians have fair representation. The

1 Latinx community is very diverse in terms of politics,
2 geography, language, immigration status, and culture.

3 I urge you to please select at least four
4 Latinos, and at least one Latino from each of the three
5 political areas. I also urge you to pay particular
6 consideration to Mr. Toledo, the nonpartisan Latino from
7 Sonoma County. I have had the pleasure to meet him and see
8 his work and his action for this community is, it can't
9 compare. It's very important that we move forward in our
10 community, and he is the person for it.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez.

13 Is there anyone else in the queue?

14 AT&T OPERATOR: I have no further lines in queue
15 at this time.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, AT&T Operator. This
17 sort of was the call-in time. I think we've certainly
18 given people plenty of time to call in. Should -- would we
19 like to wait another minute or so, or call the, call.

20 Do I see any objection to continuing with our
21 meeting? See no objection. I'll say thank you very much
22 for the call-ins. We will continue with the business at
23 hand.

24 So the way we left it yesterday, we had all - we
25 put together some slates and went home to think about it,

1 so. And also to hear public comments, read public
2 comments. Just as a quick administrative thing before we
3 sort of dive into it, we did get comments about how we're
4 organizing the meetings, and there was questions about, you
5 know, what's fair, what isn't fair. That is something I
6 think we should definitely bring to the attention of the
7 whole committee and to discuss. There are administration
8 issues that do need to happen. It's helpful to have at
9 least one, possibly Chair, Vice Chair here. These are
10 things we can discuss at a later point. There are some
11 administrative things that do need to occur, which is in
12 the discussion. And if feelings of who should be, who to
13 be left out, to not left out, those are things that I think
14 this whole Commission should consider. I don't know if we
15 need to discuss that further. I think that would be
16 something we'll put on the agenda for the full Commission.
17 If there's any comment on that or just -- I'd like to add
18 that to the agenda for the full Commission. Any other
19 discussion on that?

20 Commissioner Le Mons.

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think I agree with you
22 that that's something that we can discuss with the full
23 Commission. I think that from the comments that I read,
24 one way might be that when we come back from break, if
25 there are notes, announcements, messages, that the

1 Commission be made aware of that. I'd say for my position,
2 the only concern I've had is that it seems like there'll be
3 some discussion or some note or something and then we get
4 the decision, or we get that we're going in a particular
5 direction, and unfortunately, I end up being the one to
6 say, well wait aa minute. So to prevent that, I'm willing
7 to do that. But to prevent that, I mean, I think just
8 giving us when we come back if there's any notes or
9 announcements that the full Commission needs to be made
10 aware of and we should be made aware I would imagine of any
11 of those notes. So just have that be a matter of practice
12 that I think that might help with some of it for now, and
13 then we can talk about it more deeply once the full
14 Commission is seated.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you for that, Commissioner
16 Le Mons. Yes, there is some confusion which does need to
17 be explained, but there's certain things that cannot be
18 explained. They're just personal details, which, again, we
19 can discuss that, you know, certain things can't be
20 explained, so that is also something. But I totally agree.
21 We don't want any confusion from any point, and so that's
22 something I'd like to address with the full Commission.
23 Sorry, Commissioner Le Mons.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I appreciate your
25 response. However, I don't feel like your response really

1 gets to my point. For example, yesterday, there had been
2 some discussion about scheduling. That was some
3 discussion. There was a recommendation made by Counsel to
4 you about scheduling. For example, when we came back,
5 there could have simply been an announcement to the rest of
6 the Commissioners that during the break, Counsel
7 recommended X. Would you like to have a discussion about
8 that. Let's consider the recommendation. There's nothing
9 personal about that. So your response about things being
10 personal, I'm not asking that anyone's personal information
11 be shared or anything personal being shared, but that's a
12 process point. So that's what I was referring to. Things
13 like that.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. That's exactly, process is
15 exactly what we should be discussing, so I appreciate that
16 comment. Thank you.

17 Any additional comments before we?

18 Commissioner Sadhwani.

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you Madam Chair.
20 I'll just jump in and say, you know, I agree, you know,
21 from a process standpoint. I think the greater the
22 transparency, the better. I appreciate Commissioner
23 Le Mons kind of jumping in and, you know, pushing for that
24 process. I appreciate you being that guy. You know,

1 wherever we can just uphold that level of transparency to
2 all of us would be extraordinarily beneficial, not only for
3 us on the Commission but for all of the interested
4 Californians who might be listening in.

5 And I just echo what both of you have said, is
6 that once the full Commission is put in place, you know,
7 we're fairly well along in this process now, but hopefully
8 once we have a full Commission, I think we need to have
9 some longer conversations, especially given COVID,
10 especially given kind of this set up that we're using.
11 Everyone probably does have different personal
12 circumstances under the constraints of COVID. So I think a
13 longer conversation about that moving forward would be
14 extraordinarily helpful. And I certainly also read the,
15 you know, the public comments that came in. A couple
16 people I think have written about this issue. One of the
17 callers this morning also mentioned that our names are not
18 present on the Zoom.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, on the screen.

20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: On the screen? I wasn't
21 aware of that, because what I see is everyone's names. I
22 don't know if there's a way of just improving that one
23 piece, but you know, again, we're pretty far along in this
24 process, but certainly I think there's plenty of room to

1 get this feedback and to improve upon it once we are at a
2 full Commission.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
4 Sadhwani. Yes, there are certainly issues like that which,
5 yes, these are all the issues which we really need to
6 discuss with the full Commission. So I appreciate all
7 those, and we should take, you know, jot those down so we
8 can remember them when we get into the full Commission.

9 So moving along here, we're back into -- for the
10 public, we're back into Item Number 5, and we've been
11 discussing, deliberating, coming up with our groups, and
12 we've actually sort of come up with some slates. We
13 actually let -- broke last night. As I'd said, we had made
14 some slates. We wanted to go home, think about them, read
15 up a bit more, read about public comments, and then bring
16 back to today and decide, you know, a little bit more
17 discussion, and then moving forward, how do we actually
18 move forward from here?

19 So with that in mind, I'll open the floor to
20 discussions on, you know, I think probably -- does anyone
21 actually want to discuss their particular slate or have
22 some comments, modifications? Should we just start there?

23 Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
25 did spend quite a bit of my evening. I watched four

1 videos, three of them I think in the whole and another in
2 part just to refresh my understanding of candidates and
3 their qualities and skillsets. One thing that really stood
4 out for me last night, it really hit me for the first time.
5 When we're looking at Eddie Morgan, we're not just looking
6 at someone from Humboldt County. I was struck watching his
7 video again that he really represents a crosscutting
8 community that I don't believe has been mentioned in any
9 of our discussions and that is military. California has
10 the largest population of military personnel in the
11 country. I pulled up the figures. It's 283,886 military
12 personnel. That's 162,000 clause active duty; 67,000
13 National Guard and Reserve. Almost 65,000 civilian DOD
14 employees. And so 283,000, almost 284,000, plus their
15 families. We're talking a million people, I think easily.
16 And, I mean, I have enough friends in the military, my
17 brother retired from the military, to understand that they
18 have some unique needs, circumstances, considerations. So
19 I've stopped viewing him as just a representative of the
20 far north and seeing him as potentially representing a
21 crosscutting population that spans the state from San Diego
22 and bases down there, 29 Palms near me, Edwards Air Force
23 Base. Lots and lots of military installations throughout
24 the state. So I put that out there as something that
25 hasn't come up that I think might merit consideration.

1 In reviewing Ms. Akutagawa's interview again, you
2 know, I listed some of her qualities and qualifications
3 yesterday. I would add after I reviewed it again her
4 integrity and strong ethical core focusing on shared
5 objectives. And actually, Peter Blando phrased it very
6 well in his interview, which I watched again last night,
7 which is we need to create our own tribe. The 14 of us, I
8 think, really need to be our own tribe. I've been in a
9 situation working across organizations, and if each of us
10 had maintained, you know, such strong commitment to our
11 home organizations and not built our own tribe, I don't
12 think we would have succeeded. So I think that that focus
13 on shared objectives that Linda Akutagawa highlighted
14 really will be critical to our success. And she clearly
15 understands from her long work at LEAP the importance of
16 team building, and I was very happy with her commitment to
17 transparency and communication. Those have been consistent
18 themes of our discussion.

19 On Vicki Tamoush, and again, I think important
20 considerations there are her residence in Orange County but
21 also the time that she regularly spends in San Luis Obispo
22 County, her early experience living experience in San
23 Bernardino County, lived in L.A. County as well, I believe.
24 Her long time and success in applying law as a hearing
25 officer. I just find that incredibly relevant to the work

1 that we're going to be doing. I have in my mind an open
2 question whether having someone from the Middle East
3 further enhances the diversity of the commission. And
4 finally, I would say, you know, if we went with Vicki, it
5 would limit what I see as what I'll call upward pressure on
6 the average income of the final 14. I know that we've
7 struggled a bit with the idea of evening out, that the
8 socioeconomic status or at least what income tells us about
9 socioeconomic status of the Commission, but I just wanted
10 to put those things out there about those three candidates.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.
13 Any other discussions sort of on kind of a similar nature?

14 Oh, Commissioner Taylor.

15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good morning, everyone.
16 Good morning, Madam Chair. As I said it earlier,
17 compromise is going to be a bit uncomfortable, so we're all
18 working through this. I would like to say that I'm
19 constantly reminded that this is the Citizens
20 Redistributing Commission. We're trying to be mindful of
21 the input, what the public has to say and add to this
22 conversation. I think what was the showing of support for
23 Linda definitely has to be paid attention to, to either
24 mobilize or whether these people have done on their own, I
25 think that it was quite impressive to listen to, to all the

1 sayings and it's well-deserved and well-earned.

2 Again, on the lines of Commissioner Kennedy, I
3 didn't look at applicant Morgan as just merely
4 representative of that community. I thought that he'd fit
5 a wide variety of functions for us. So I don't want anyone
6 to think that I thought of him just merely or, hopefully
7 the Commission didn't think of him merely as a one-category
8 offering. I thought that he was a well-deserved and would
9 have been an addition to our Commission.

10 I would like to say that it was comforting to
11 know that applicant Toledo has ties to the Native American
12 community. That was an issue when I first saw the
13 applicants we had to choose from. I also like to point out
14 that Russell Yee has a unique experience with the Native
15 American community. And I think we all realize that
16 whatever the selection is, that we have to become
17 subject-matter experts for that area and that we have to
18 advocate for the deficits in our selections. I view this,
19 and I think it's been said before, I view this as a
20 nonpartisan committee that was given to us in partisan
21 constraints, and I hope that as we work forward as a group
22 that those lines are blurred and that we function our own
23 tribe, as Commissioner Kennedy stated.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.

1 Yeah, I might actually speak up. I did a lot of thinking
2 last night myself as well, and particularly kind of struck
3 by, you know, that as someone -- one of the callers called
4 in, you know, the face of the Commission. We are trying to
5 reach people who are hard to reach, and I realize -- I was
6 thinking I sort of, I've been shifting around my slate
7 thinking what would, you know, well, this person has
8 obviously really reached the community, and this is. And I
9 was sort of struck by a minute, if a person has already
10 really reached the whole community and can basically say,
11 here, I can get all these people, all this community to
12 come and connect with us, don't we actually need to be
13 reaching out to those who they're not going to come out.
14 Isn't that kind of the, sort of the purpose of trying to
15 put a face here so someone who's afraid to come and won't
16 really necessarily come would actually feel, oh, they look
17 like me. It was sort of a different way of approaching
18 this. I was struck by that and I thought, you know, it's
19 almost like -- I really appreciate the community that the
20 people calling in and really supporting strong candidates.
21 I was kind of struck by they already know how to get in
22 touch with us. This is already wonderful. We have sort of
23 made those contacts. Do we need to have, I think it was
24 Commissioner Sadhwani might have said, you know, those
25 young children who wouldn't say anything but will see a

1 face and go, oh. With sort of that in mind, I kind of
2 looked at a few people who you hear little things about but
3 don't necessarily come to the table and, actually it was
4 brought up again this morning, again, this is sort of more
5 looking at, say, Eddie Morgan. He does represent Native
6 Americans who are notoriously underrepresented. They have
7 always been truly hard to reach, and he does reach an area
8 and has sort of given an area of contacts that we don't
9 actually reach very well at all. And I appreciate that,
10 you know, a few people that well do have some contact, they
11 do have some contact, but I'm concerned because we are
12 going to make some people unhappy in this. You know, this
13 is -- we're going to have make some hard choices here, and
14 we're having hard choices with this. What I'm concerned
15 about is the hard choices we make, will we shut those
16 people off by making it? Will those people not succumb and
17 when we sort of try to go to those areas, will they just
18 not show up. That was a consideration. So.

19 Commissioner Kennedy.

20 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
21 think that's where candidate Burdick had really a very
22 useful suggestion to us, which is that we make an effort to
23 reach out to candidates that we do not choose for the final
24 14 and seek to engage them as collaborators in that
25 community outreach. I mean, imagine having 35 of us

1 reaching out through networks all across the state rather
2 than just relying on 14 of us. So I thought that was a
3 very useful contribution from him.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Ahmad.

5 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: And, thank you, Madam Chair.
6 To add to that point, I would give everyone on the list the
7 benefit of the doubt that their interest in serving on the
8 Commission goes beyond actually being chosen for the
9 Commission. To me, it speaks that these people actually
10 care about redistricting. They care about representing
11 voices in California's maps. So I wouldn't, my initial
12 thought doesn't go to that if we don't select X, Y, Z
13 candidate that they're no longer going to be interested in
14 this work at all. And so I think I would just give
15 everyone the benefit of the doubt that they would hopefully
16 still want to remain engaged in this work moving forward.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I have to jump in on that.
18 I'm sorry. I didn't mean to imply the candidate. I mean
19 the group that feels they would represent me and now they
20 didn't make the Commission. Oh, therefore, the Commission
21 doesn't really want to hear, doesn't really want to
22 represent me. I'm not, I'm quite sure, and I love actually
23 Commissioner Burdick, I was thinking of putting him on
24 because of that marvelous idea. I certainly hope that, I
25 know if I didn't make it on, I was planning on volunteering

1 however possible, and I'm sure that all the applicants -- I
2 did not mean that about an applicant. I meant the people
3 who feel this applicant represents me, and that applicant
4 isn't there, yeah, well. See, it's almost like, you know,
5 yeah, well, it's another one of those Commissions, that,
6 you know, it's all talk. That's what I was concerned
7 about. Now, whether or not it's true, it was a thought
8 that ran through my head as we, you know, will that person
9 still be essentially respected in their community. That
10 was the thought there. It wasn't against any one of the
11 actual people who've applied. They have proven this is all
12 of us have, you know, we're absolutely dedicated. I'm
13 sorry for that miscommunication.

14 Commissioner Sadhwani.

15 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 You know, last night, I also spent a lot of time reflecting
17 on this process and on our conversation yesterday. And
18 also in myself. I'm actually not a native Californian, if
19 you've read my file or watched my interview. I did not
20 grow up in California. I grew up in another state that is
21 known for being a blue state, New York. But I actually
22 grew up in western New York, which is a rural area. And I
23 by no means can say that I know that north coastal region
24 very well, those rural areas of northern California very
25 well. But I did grow up in what was considered the

1 country. In my little town, it was actually two towns put
2 together that combined to make the public high school where
3 I went. We had about 60 students in my graduating class.
4 Our town was right next door to the Tonawanda Native
5 American Reservation.

6 This is a really difficult decision. I want to
7 so appreciate not only, you know, applicant Eddie Morgan's,
8 you know, putting himself forth. He's clearly a great
9 candidate. But in this decision, as we have discussed,
10 there are all of these constraints. There's, and
11 California's an extraordinarily decorous place. And so in
12 weighing all of those, I also thought about what it was
13 like being a person of color to be raised in a rural area
14 as well, and that brings with it its own sense of
15 isolation.

16 And so, I stand by the slate that I put forth
17 yesterday. But I'd also like to, you know, of my own
18 behalf, just commit to go in with spending time in the
19 north coastal region and hopefully getting to know, of
20 course, within the bounds of everything, but getting to
21 know those communities, getting to know the area. To any
22 of the folks who have, you know, called in or engaged, and
23 again, I don't even know where all the Commissioners land.
24 I don't know where we're going to land in this process, but
25 I'd like to just personally commit to going in and ensuring

1 that I spend time in that region before we get into the
2 process of drawing any of those maps. I understand that
3 given COVID, I can't ask that of all of my fellow
4 Commissioners, but, you know, this isn't an issue that I
5 take lightly. I do believe in representation of all sorts
6 of underrepresented people. I believe that very strongly.
7 But in weighing the various considerations that we have
8 spent the last two days thinking about, various
9 backgrounds, community relationships, professional
10 backgrounds, right?, geographic diversity. I continue to
11 support the slate and I would just welcome any other
12 Commissioners who would feel comfortable to travel at this
13 point in time to also commit to spending that time and
14 really doing that outreach work to ensure that we get it
15 right. Right?

16 And I also very much support the notion that
17 Commissioners Kennedy and Commissioners Taylor had
18 mentioned about forming our own tribe, of getting to a
19 place, you know, where we feel like we can support one
20 another and rely on one another's strengths and weaknesses
21 as we continue to move forward in this process.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Sadhwani.

24 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

1 COUNSEL SAXTON: Five minutes until the first
2 break.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. I think this has
4 been very productive talking about, you know, kind of, and
5 I invite -- I think we should use the next five minutes
6 before we go to break discussing basically ideas, things
7 we've thought of over the night, and then as we come back
8 from break sort of probably picking, well obviously,
9 picking up from there. But with that in mind, any
10 additional commissioners want to say something?

11 Oh, Commissioner Turner. Welcome.

12 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Good morning. I
13 just wanted also to remind the Commission I haven't spoke
14 much about my background. And in full appreciation for the
15 difficulty of the decision in ensuring that, I really like
16 Morgan as a candidate for all of what he represents, beyond
17 the geography and what have you. But I also wanted to
18 state that I'm executive director for a community
19 organization that spans the Central Valley from Kern County
20 through San Joaquin County, but as such, I'm also part of a
21 larger organization that encompasses the entire state. And
22 I have very close ties with the executive director of True
23 North that represents the tribes up in that area, and have
24 a strong relationship. And I believe we would for sure, to
25 Commissioner Sadhwani's point, have ample opportunity and

1 invitation to go and explore, and to spend time in that
2 region as well. So I just wanted to remind that and know
3 that I do have connections as well in that area and I
4 wanted to just make that comment.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner,
6 for that.

7 Any additional? Commissioner Fornaciari.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Well, it looks like
9 we're up against a break, so can I chime in when we get
10 back?

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, absolutely. Certainly.

12 With that, we really are, it is 11 o'clock.
13 We'll take our 15-minute break, so we'll go into recess at
14 this time and then meet back at 11:15. Thank you.

15 [Proceeding recessed at 11:00 a.m.]

16 [Proceeding resumed at 11:15 a.m.]

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. And I see is 11:15.
18 It does appear we have a quorum. I will bring this meeting
19 out of recess. And just a couple of administrative things
20 here. Over the break, you might have heard a little bit of
21 rustling around. The tech people were able to quickly,
22 your names are now all on the screen. They're a little
23 small, but they're all there. And the way it was
24 appearing, at least to me, and I think what I'm seeing is
25 indeed the screen that is being shown to the general

1 public, that basically when you leave, your name is
2 written. But it had been that there was just your, kind of
3 like basically most Zoom calls, it's only your face until
4 you're gone, but now we actually have, and hopefully then
5 you can see the same thing, there is the little, you know,
6 Commissioner Le Mons, Commissioner Taylor, at the bottom.
7 Oh, no, actually, they're not exactly the same, are they?
8 It's Commissioner Le Mons, but then it has full name.
9 Perfect, so it's your preference. Excellent. We should
10 probably decide on, we'll put that on the agenda for, you
11 know, should there be uniformity there.

12 Anyway, so we got a couple of those things.
13 Additionally, the public comment items, there was a set
14 that came in, this is for the public as well as all our
15 Commissioners. There are times when there's a cutoff for
16 public comment so the staff can collect all that and then
17 send it to Commissioners so we have a chance to review it
18 each day. There were some things that came in later than
19 that, and they were emailed to all of us Commissioners.
20 They were posted on our site. Earlier today, that actually
21 happened as I was driving up here, so I didn't actually
22 have a chance to look at those until over the break, and
23 most of them have been reflected in the comments we heard
24 this morning. There were just a few. Just to mention that
25 we did get on candidate Gallegos, we got three letters of

1 support, and I'm really mentioning the ones that we also
2 got additional things that we've already heard. I'm just
3 mentioning ones that we haven't actually heard this
4 morning. We also got a letter of support for Mr. Blando in
5 great detail. So I just want to mention that for the
6 record, and I believe that all the other Commissioners have
7 already had a chance to review these letters. As I said, I
8 did not, so I wanted to clarify that.

9 Okay. Now, moving on, I believe we were at
10 Commissioner Fornaciari was starting to say a few things.

11 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. Let's see, I
12 appreciate everyone's comments this morning in your
13 reflections and your thoughts. You know, I did spend a lot
14 of time last night and this morning reflecting, but I,
15 instead of zooming in on specific people, I kind of zoomed
16 out. Kind of looked at the big picture, what are we doing
17 here, project manager. And so, you know, what are
18 deliverables, what are we doing, how are we going to get to
19 the goal, what's our deliverable. Four maps, we have to
20 deliver four maps. That's our job. Right? Well how, you
21 know, what's the process for us to get there? We have
22 public hearings, we're hearing from communities of
23 interest, you know, that's going to be a heavy lift. Try
24 to find all the important communities in interest that we
25 want to hear from. I mean, not important, all the

1 communities of interest and hear from them, right? But
2 what are we going to hear from them, right? We're going to
3 hear information from them, and we have to convert that
4 information into some useable form of data, right? We have
5 to have information about the communities' interests, what
6 is it, you know, who's in it, what is it, what's the
7 community of interest all about? But then we have to have
8 some hard data that we can draw on a map, right? And we're
9 going to gather a ton of that data, and we have to gather
10 it, we have to put it in a format that we can manage it.
11 We're going to get the census data. We got to understand
12 the census data and the shortcomings of the census data and
13 how we're going to work with the census data and what we're
14 going to do with that. Then we have to take all that input
15 and begin to draw maps, right? And draw that while we're
16 getting more public input. And we have our seven
17 constraints here that, you know, we've seen, so we've got
18 to balance all that.

19 And so, I guess where I'm coming from is this,
20 that this is complexity personified. This is going to be
21 an enormous, complex balancing act that we have to
22 undertake. You know, I reflect on my time as the
23 foreperson of the civil grand jury. It's a very similar
24 process in the grand jury, and I'll make a long story
25 short. You know, there are only a small subset of us that

1 can deal with the complexity of putting together the final
2 report. There was four of us out of 19 who ended up
3 writing all five reports because it's just really difficult
4 to manage the complexity. And so, you know, over the past
5 couple of days, we've had conversations where we've
6 specifically left Gennaco and Van Meter off the list
7 because we felt like we could hire their capabilities. But
8 I just want to, I'm just sharing my thoughts, that I think
9 it would be awesome to have those two with their
10 capabilities at the table pushing the button, it's at 11:59
11 on December 15th, you know, because if they're at the table,
12 they've got skin in the game at stake. The consultant
13 would just share with us their thoughts, but they won't
14 have the ownership.

15 So, you know, that was kind of my thinking
16 yesterday, is we ought to kind of consider that. You know,
17 I appreciate that, you know, we can't have everyone on the
18 team, and diversity is an important consideration all the
19 way around, but I just want to consider, throw out there
20 and consider, you know, those skillsets as part of the
21 diversity discussion. So thanks.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Fornaciari. You know those are, we've all brought up very
24 good points, and these are issues that we need to grapple
25 with. There are different phases of the task that will

1 call for different aspects of all of our education and
2 experiences. And we will group, as I'm sort of envisioning
3 how this will go through, and we will sort of gravitate
4 toward certain tasks, and I sort of share that concern.
5 Will we have the proper staffing for all tasks concerned?
6 These are issues that I was also thinking about. You say
7 these items much more eloquently than I do, thank you very
8 much. I appreciate that. I think there are some solutions
9 out here. There will be a little rejiggering here, but I
10 believe there is a way forward that includes everything.
11 These are tough, these are tough decisions. Do we want
12 to -- Commissioner Le Mons.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Good morning, everyone. I
14 did my own reflecting for this as well, and I respect all
15 of the comments that we've received from the public as well
16 as my fellow commissioners, and I've listened very
17 carefully to all of them and really considered all of the
18 information that has been shared with us. I believe that
19 as far as the task at hand, I believe that the 14, whomever
20 they are, will be able to execute the task. That doesn't
21 concern me at all.

22 I think that we're a public Commission to
23 represent the people of the state of California, and public
24 confidence is really, really important. And any group of
25 people that is put together to try to get a task done on

1 behalf of large numbers, and in this case millions of
2 people, done, if the confidence of the community is not
3 there, I think that is germane, because we could have all
4 the experts in the world on this Commission, but if we
5 didn't have the public confidence, it won't mean much. So
6 I think that that really is informing or the frame in which
7 and the lens in which I try to approach this, which we've
8 all agreed is a very difficult task.

9 One of the things that stands out to me, excuse
10 me, which it wasn't a lot of voices, and I think we're sort
11 of back to common numbers again in this idea of democracy
12 and the large number wins. Excuse me. And so, while we
13 heard from the northern area of the state of their concern,
14 what still sticks out for me is that they were left out ten
15 years ago, and that's just really stuck with me. And I
16 don't know the full implications. I wish I had a better
17 grasp on what was the implications of being left out, but
18 in the context of public confidence, I know how people who
19 are consistently left out of something ultimately feel, and
20 I think that this harkens a little bit back to what I
21 believe Commissioner Andersen was saying earlier about when
22 you don't feel like you're cared about, because I don't
23 even know if it's so much about represent it. I think the
24 people think, are my interests really being served or is
25 this just lip service?

1 So while I appreciate the opportunity and plan,
2 no matter what part of the state, to be inclusive of the
3 entire state and to visit the state and all of that, what
4 is it like when you look at the table and say, our area
5 isn't included. What message does it send? And I guess it
6 could send any number of messages.

7 I think with all the challenges that we have, one
8 of the things that we do have within our power is to make
9 sure that every one of these regions is at least
10 represented. That we can do. And so, I really want to
11 encourage my fellow commissioners to think about that,
12 because while we're locked on some of the other issues in
13 terms of there's limits to what we can do based upon the
14 categories et cetera, representing all the regions isn't
15 one of them. So at the end of the day, we may not, but it
16 won't be because we couldn't. That's all.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
18 Le Mons. That was well said. Yeah, I think I was struck
19 by that also in terms of our state is full with, actually
20 it's one of its greatest strengths, is that our state is
21 full of minorities. And minorities are of all different
22 types. It's not necessarily, you know, we tend to think
23 of, oh, you know, racial. And that's only the tip of the
24 iceberg. I mean, there are different groups of thought
25 that feel totally isolated. There are different groups of

1 minorities all over. We want to get all voices to the
2 table, and what I'd like us to really consider is making
3 sure that by something we do or don't do, that we don't
4 make some voices feel really excluded. You know, like we
5 said, we want to enfranchise, but we by goodness gracious
6 don't want to disenfranchise anyone, however it's
7 perceived. And I think we're all trying to do our best to
8 figure out, well, who would we be affecting negatively and
9 avoid that. Sometimes we have to make sure we're doing
10 that as well as actively seeking people to make sure we
11 bring them along, and we have look both directions. And we
12 also need to do a good job. You're absolutely right.
13 There's the whole public perception. What are they
14 thinking, how are we doing, are we trying to do our best?
15 But at the end, we have to deliver really good quality maps
16 that aren't just, you know, ooh, that one's a, thanks, but
17 the legislature, of course, is just going to take that out
18 of our hand. We do have to produce maps and then defend
19 them.

20 So there are these considerations. And I think
21 that's what we've all been grappling with. And at this
22 point, I think we can't kind of kick of the can down the
23 road anymore. I think it's time to actually talk about
24 particular slates. And, do we want to modify any
25 particular slates or should we consider a little bit and

1 propose some?

2 Commissioner Le Mons and then Commissioner
3 Sadhwani.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I certainly am open to
5 modifying my slate to include Linda Akutagawa as a
6 replacement to Pedro Toledo. That is a tough one, for all
7 the reasons that I won't even repeat. I think we all know
8 why. He's awesome. So I kind of opening that for a
9 discussion. I'm happy with my slate that I put forward. I
10 think it's in line with the narratives that I provided and
11 why I, after break yesterday, came back and amended it. I
12 do take public comment very, very seriously and hear all of
13 the advocacy from the Orange County community and
14 surrounding communities in support of applicant Akutagawa.
15 So I was looking very carefully at this and saying, how
16 would I preserve certain integrities in what is in form of
17 the Le Mons Slate? Is there a switch opportunity in this
18 nonparty affiliate category in particular that would be the
19 one that I could make that doesn't, I feel, fundamentally
20 alter the principles of which the slate was built.

21 So I guess I'm wanting to hear from my fellow
22 Commissioners, their thoughts about that thought of making
23 that particular change. I know we forgo the legal lens
24 which has been one from the, you know, how we saw certain
25 skills being important at the table. So that's probably my

1 biggest hesitation on that one is that does create somewhat
2 of a deficit in that very specific legal piece that I felt
3 like most of the Commissioners thought was very important.
4 So I'm mindful of that. So I guess I'm more opening it up,
5 the thought of that as a discussion to really kind of hear
6 where fellow Commissioners are before officially saying I
7 want to amend my slate.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.
9 Commissioner Sadhwani, did you want to go next,
10 or? Okay, yes. Commissioner Sadhwani.

11 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I don't have a problem
12 discussing the slates, but before going into that, I did
13 want to go back to this conversation about ensuring
14 minority inclusion. You're all very right. Minorities
15 come in so many different forms, right? James Madison
16 wrote about the minority of opinion, right, in the
17 formation of our Constitution. But the task at hand will
18 require us to include consideration of the Voting Rights
19 Act.

20 Now as I've mentioned, I am not a legal scholar.
21 I was not trained as an attorney. But I do teach on the
22 Voting Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act was enacted in
23 1965 due to historic discrimination, institutionalized
24 discrimination, specifically against racial minorities.
25 And in 1965, that was specifically dealing with

1 African-Americans. But since that time, through extensions
2 under the VRA as well as to case law, that has been
3 extended to include language minorities, including Latinos,
4 and Asian-Americans, and Native Americans, right? I want
5 to stress that point, because absolutely, we want to ensure
6 that all minorities are heard from in the broad, broad
7 realm that we like to think of about minorities and
8 including diversity of opinion, diversity of geography,
9 diversity of economic status, all of those things are
10 extraordinarily important. But the VRA, including in the
11 training that we had received last time, right? The VRA is
12 very specific that we're talking about minorities who have
13 been discriminated against in the past, who have been
14 oppressed by very specific institutionalized forms of this
15 discrimination. I just want to raise that because that's
16 one of the things that we're going to have to be thinking
17 about as we're thinking about communities of interest. The
18 communities of interest, in my understanding, are that
19 language, that legal language, as it is broad. But
20 certainly, the discrimination piece is there. I just
21 wanted to offer that in that conversation around the
22 various kinds of minorities that we want to be thinking
23 about.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Sadhwani.

1 Would any other Commissioners want to speak up
2 or? I might jump in, because my platform was very similar
3 to Commissioner Le Mons' platform, and I was also thinking,
4 you know, with the idea, again, of Linda Akutagawa for
5 Pedro Toledo. But I am very aware of, where it's not just
6 the legal side that Pedro Toledo brings that we might lose,
7 but it's also the legal technical interface, which is why I
8 like Peter Blando on and kept him. And one of the letters
9 that came in this morning really emphasized he's a
10 consensus builder. He's not a tech guy, but he, through
11 all of their material, he's not just a tech guy. There's
12 several different things about him. But he's also
13 represents, of course, the Filipino group, but he has
14 strong connections across a wide range of ideas, but he's
15 used to, as you go through the process in all they do
16 because he works with the entire UC system across the
17 state. And as you go through the process, to be mindful of
18 how to put it all together. You know, he sort of has the
19 technical ability. Not actually, not so much the legal,
20 although he does actually work with the legal side of it as
21 well. And I feel he would be an addition, and if we sort
22 of switched, if we have Ms. Akutagawa and we had Peter
23 Blando, possibly we could, instead of Ms. Fernández, we
24 could go with Mr. Gallegos. And so, we still with the mix
25 of our gender balance would still be there because Peter

1 Blando and Alicia Fernández are from the same area, and we
2 want to sort of spread our geographic area. And
3 Commissioner Gallegos is from, you know, from Fresno, so,
4 you know, sort of right in the middle, which we don't
5 actually have. So that was sort of an idea. Even sort of
6 looking at my take, it was the only difference sort of
7 between it and, well, at that point, and Mr. -- and Ms.
8 Sadhwani's would be switching in the Republican group to
9 get Mr. Blando on. Well, no, I'm sorry, I take that back,
10 because I have Eddie Morgan. So yeah, I guess that's a
11 little different. So there were a few considerations
12 there. So I guess, yeah, I guess mine felt a little
13 different, so I'm sorry. I thought this was an easier seal
14 going from talking about this person and then if we make
15 that switch it all works for almost everyone, and I realize
16 I got a little ahead of myself there, so. But that's
17 another consideration, because we are trying to consider
18 different groups across the state and considering different
19 ethnicities, different geographic, different skillsets.
20 Again, this is more for discussion purposes.

21 So, back to Commissioner Le Mons. Commissioner
22 Le Mons.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Maybe I can ask a
24 different question, because I know there's a certain bias
25 to this regional thing that I've been talking about,

1 clearly. So maybe rather than approaching it from that
2 perspective, I can ask fellow Commissioners sort of the
3 thought of if we leave the north coastal out, how do we
4 feel about that? Because I think that of the other slates,
5 or some of the other slates kind of go into that direction,
6 and I guess based on the slate submission that there is --
7 maybe my question is, is that a reconciliation that I even
8 need to be grappling with at this point? Maybe there's
9 some information that I'm missing and I'm grappling with
10 something that I don't need to be grappling with at this
11 point, as it relates to the north coastal area.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Madam Chair.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, sorry. Commissioner Taylor
14 and then Commissioner Turner.

15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Commissioner Le Mons, I
16 think it is a viable issue. And, again, I wrestle with the
17 fact that they did not have representation on the prior
18 Commission. So we're talking about, although there's only
19 two cycles, you're talking about a span of 20 years where
20 it seems as if they didn't have a seat at the table.

21 I question in one of the things I was seeking
22 when I was looking at the other applicant, is if a tie is
23 not there, what is our ability to reach that specific
24 community? Because like you were saying before, we all
25 have vast experiences that's beyond what our profile says.

1 So I was glad when Commissioner Turner stated that although
2 it doesn't look like it on paper, she has ties to the
3 community up north. So where we have the deficits, I want
4 to see if there's a way to connect with that community as
5 well.

6 I like the thought of because a Commissioner --
7 because the advocate wasn't selected, they still should be
8 viewed as an asset to us. So where we fall short, we as a
9 Commission have to be charged with the magnitude of those
10 outreach efforts. We have to ensure that those processes
11 are in place to where we fall short, it doesn't mean that
12 their voice is not heard. So although I understand, I do
13 at times bristle when someone says that I cannot work in
14 the best interest of something that I don't, that they feel
15 I'm not attached to. But I understand that you want
16 representation at the table. So I personally feel that if
17 an applicant from the north is not selected, it means that
18 I now have to be king of the north. And that I have to
19 champion those efforts to make sure that their voice is
20 heard.

21 So I think it's a legitimate argument to think
22 that these people, this group, this region is not
23 represented over 20 years. I don't know if it's going to
24 be possible. I don't know what's going -- the outcome is
25 going to be. But I do think that's a viable concern.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you for that. I
2 appreciate it.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Turner.

4 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, thank you, and I
5 appreciate the comments from Commissioner Taylor. I want
6 just to echo what was stated. And to be able to say to
7 Commissioner Le Mons, I think the challenge that you
8 present is one that I think has been particularly difficult
9 to try and wrap my mind around and not going back and forth
10 for all of the same reasons that we've stated.

11 Again, I am and was encouraged by one of the
12 commenters, public commenters that called in earlier that
13 actually gave voice and support to Toledo, again for that
14 area. So I just wanted to just state that again to say
15 that at this point I feel almost as if I'm looking at small
16 things to bring resolution in my heart and mind with the
17 struggle that we're having.

18 And then wanted to also comment, Madam Chair, in
19 regards to a candidate named that was brought up, Gallegos.
20 I know we do have a very strong public comment that came
21 from a number of organizations in that area that actually
22 was requesting or representing opposition to Gallegos. And
23 so I wanted to just bring the comment that several pages of
24 comment from several organizations lift that up as well in
25 our considerations. Thank you.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
2 There was a rebuttal to that with Commissioner, for
3 candidate Gallegos and several letters of support for him
4 in response to that which -- that's why I wanted to make
5 sure that we were all aware of that. And there are issues
6 and we are trying to meet different groups. I do, I'm
7 probably the one who is most vocal about this. I do
8 understand that they're -- it's not just, oh, how do I, I
9 need just for a minute to try to actually say this. I feel
10 it really is a valid point to be discussing the entire
11 north of the state. Because these are people -- people who
12 live in the north of the state are of all different racial
13 mixes and they're in small pockets. So they are hard to
14 reach. I mean, just physically they're hard to reach. Any
15 meetings that, you know, you have in Sacramento, people
16 will say, well, do I have days to drive there. It's very
17 difficult to, you know, even if -- I have relatives who
18 live up in the gold country and they, yeah, it's a whole
19 another world. You know, do they even think of, you know,
20 and they do say, yeah, it's all run by the big cities, you
21 know, we don't count. And they all feel that way. And
22 it's and they are, they're mixed races. It's not, you
23 know, well, there's a small white group up there. Or, you
24 know, just whatever, you know, particular group. And we
25 are a little concerned, you know, when we talk urban and

1 rural, that's who we usually these lines come down, urban
2 and rural. And we really have to make sure we consider
3 both urban and rural. And the entire north part of the
4 state is basically rural. And so to not be represented for
5 20 years? Even if we say we are going to do the best and
6 we have some contacts and we do have people who have
7 contacts who will legitimately work. I mean, I certainly
8 would, I'd be one of those as well. But just on the face
9 of it, again, like, in terms of our credibility, would we
10 lose credibility.

11 So I think this is a, you know, I would really
12 like to see the actual representative from the north up
13 there just because they, one, because I think he's really
14 qualified. I mean, he has amazing, you know, the whole
15 military connection. He has amazing connections. He's
16 actually a really qualified candidate and, which actually
17 is number one. But number two is, it's a whole group that
18 we want to include and I'm afraid that even if we do our
19 best than just not have, we don't have a representative
20 again for 20 years we don't have a representative. Yeah,
21 they try, but do they really have my interest at heart?
22 No, not really, it's run by big cities. You know, these
23 are the things that people would say but would never come
24 to the Commission to say these things. I'm concerned our
25 outreach there would be much, much harder if there is no

1 face on the Commission.

2 So I'm glad that Commissioner Le Mons actually
3 brought this up. You know, I have a hard time, would have
4 a hard time not including a representative on a slate. So
5 I think I will go ahead and say that. And I understand, I
6 really like, and I totally know why we have, we're working
7 with these three. Boy, I wish we could have, you know, if
8 we just had three Commissioners here in that group, this
9 would be smooth sailing. So for -- in the change, I like
10 the way that Commissioner Le Mons had talked about possibly
11 adding Ms. Akutagawa as opposed to Pedro Toledo, even
12 though I love him. So how do we do other arrangements if
13 we do that? That's sort of where I was coming from. So I
14 do think it's an issue that I would have a bit of trouble
15 with.

16 Commissioner Ahmad.

17 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm
18 just trying to think out loud and reflect out loud based on
19 the conversations that we've been having. And two
20 reminders for myself, first and foremost. First, that I am
21 going to be uncomfortable with whichever slate we decide on
22 knowing that there are limitations within the pool. And so
23 I'm really struggling and fighting with myself to be
24 comfortable with being uncomfortable and recognizing that
25 that's something that is just going to be the case based

1 off of a variety of combinations of different slates that
2 have been presented or groups that folks have been thinking
3 about.

4 Two, the second thing that I've been thinking
5 about is that balance aspect that we have to take into
6 consideration regarding diversity. And what that balance
7 means and where we are emphasizing certain aspects that the
8 Commission, as it stands, is missing. And looking at the
9 list, I am reflecting on being the only candidate who is
10 from the central coastal area and just trying to think
11 about if I had not been selected during the random draw,
12 what kind of eyebrows would be raised to given no
13 representation from the central coastal region and if that
14 would be weighed in a similar scale as having no
15 representation from the north coastal region. I don't have
16 the answer to that, but that's just something that I am
17 reflecting on to try to help alleviate some of the back and
18 forth that's going in my mind.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.
20 That's, I think that is, that's a very accurate comparison.
21 Without going into the particulars of, you know, well, a
22 lot of it is, many people will say, well, but she's from
23 San Jose, she doesn't represent the coast anyway. And
24 there essentially is no commissioner there. And that's
25 why, you know, they say the north valley is represented by

1 people from Sacramento. And I think people in the entire
2 north part of the state said a person in Sacramento doesn't
3 really represent us. So there are those considerations.
4 And those are the things that I think we will certainly
5 hear and understand and that's just, we can't do anything
6 about that. But it's a very valid consideration and I'm
7 also grappling with the fact that basically we're going to
8 come to a conclusion. And, yeah, they'll be things that
9 I'll be unhappy about. But I think as a group we'll still
10 come together and do a fantastic job and do our absolute
11 best to do the work absolutely the best of our ability in
12 all the impartiality that why we applied in the first
13 place. So.

14 I really appreciate everyone being, trying to
15 be as open as honest and bring these concerns up. Because
16 I think that might be what Commissioner Le Mons was saying,
17 we want to address as many issues as we possibly can and
18 not have them be a concern later. So I really appreciate
19 everyone kind of coming up and speaking.

20 Do we have any other, you know, any other items
21 that we sort of want to talk about or --

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Madam Chair.

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Taylor.

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: So in one of the questions
25 that I continue to ask myself too and would like some help

1 with that from the Commission as well. If the north was
2 left off our selection, what would their level of
3 participation be going forward? If Orange County was left
4 off, what do we think their level of participation would be
5 going forward? And I say that because we get, and as we
6 see, we get so much public comment and we know that we heed
7 that public comment, is would their impact still be, would
8 the impact of Orange County still be present without a
9 representative at the table? Would the impact of the north
10 be as representative without someone at the table? So
11 that's one of the things that I'd ask myself. Orange
12 County is going to show out. They're going to participate.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Uh-huh.

14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Be that. So is that a
15 tradeoff that although they don't have a person here, we
16 know that they're going to participate in the process. We
17 know that they have an influence and an impact on the
18 Commission. Would that be the same for the north?

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I think it's a very valid
20 question. Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.

21 Commissioner Le Mons?

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Excuse me. I just wanted
23 to thank Commissioner Taylor for that. Like I think that
24 frame, I like that.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I mean, I think to look at
2 it from that point of view, I think Derric articulated it
3 very succinctly what I was also feeling. So I just wanted
4 to acknowledge that. That's all.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I totally second that. Exactly.
6 Thank you. That is indeed my deep concern.

7 Commissioner Sadhwani.

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I really appreciate that
9 as well. And I do also wonder before we had had the
10 discussion about Orange County representation yesterday and
11 your call, I think, there was some back and forth. I know
12 Commissioner Kennedy perhaps had a preference for is to
13 move -- I had mentioned, several of us had mentioned Linda
14 Akutagawa. I think it was only after that that we actually
15 begin hearing from public comment from Orange County. Most
16 of that seems to have been specifically in support of Ms.
17 Akutagawa. So I actually think it's a very valid question,
18 but I also wonder if, you know, if it's these candidates in
19 particular who are pushing for people to call in and
20 whether or not that would actually continue to be the case
21 moving forward. Like if -- everybody who called in and for
22 the most part seemed to have known Ms. Akutagawa for 20
23 years, will their level of involvement in the redistricting
24 process, when it comes to actually thinking about
25 communities and engagement. Clearly, she's got a big, long

1 Rolodex which is kind of similar to what we've mentioned
2 with Patricia Sinay in the San Diego region. I don't know.
3 I don't know if I could answer that question actually. I
4 don't know, to me, if the level of public comment, the
5 number, the raw count of public comment that we received
6 this morning is necessarily indicative of Orange County
7 being generally engaged in this process or if they are more
8 specifically engaged in ensuring that they have this
9 representative.

10 Did that make -- I hope that makes sense.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: No. Thank you. That was a very
12 valid point. And I -- thinking back, I believe you are
13 indeed correct in terms of timing. That's a very
14 interesting point.

15 I see Commissioner Fornaciari's hand up.

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I want to thank
17 Commissioner Taylor for his comment too. It kind of jelled
18 for me and it also made me reflect back to, I believe,
19 Commissioner Kennedy's comment about David Burdick's
20 thought, you know, that, you know, we have our auxiliary
21 army here, so to speak, of folks that didn't get selected.
22 So I would, in that context, I would think Ms. Akutagawa
23 will be very engaged. If she was not, whether she gets
24 picked or not, and if we, you know, -- so, if we didn't
25 pick her, I think she'd be engaged. I don't know about the

1 north state.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner. I
3 might say, now I'm thinking more about what Commissioner
4 Sadhwani said and there were a few people who called in, in
5 support of the north and in support of, well, I don't know
6 who called in, but we got a couple of comments for Eddie
7 Morgan in the north. Just thinking, they were, so
8 individuals, just a few individuals where for Ms.
9 Akutagawa, they were people that represented agencies.

10 So I am thinking, again, is there one name we can
11 call who can get people to come out and help us get
12 community input. And I feel we do have that ability with
13 Ms. Akutagawa with Orange. And I don't feel we have that
14 ability with the north. Just actually thinking just
15 geographically, it's harder to do that in the north. So,
16 yeah, I -- thinking on it, that's probably where I really
17 appreciate the way Commissioner Taylor was able to
18 succinctly say that. I think that is indeed probably what
19 I have been feeling when I say I don't want to take Eddie
20 Morgan's name off the slate. And I really appreciate the
21 way you sort of succinctly said that and those
22 observations. I think that sort of helps me a little bit
23 more in looking at the three non-parties affiliated group.

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Chairwoman.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, yes, Commissioner Taylor.

1 Commissioner Taylor -- Commissioner --

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Le Mons.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- Le Mons, thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, this -- thank you
5 all for this discussion, by the way. I'm really
6 appreciating it.

7 I think to your point earlier, Commissioner
8 Sadhwani, which was our commitment to the north and I think
9 it also aligned with Commissioner Taylor's commitment to be
10 in the king of the north. I like that. That whole Game of
11 Thrones reference. We have that, like I believe that. All
12 of us, and I believe we'll all be very committed to the
13 entire state, end to end.

14 What Commissioner Kennedy has, I'm sorry,
15 Commissioner Andersen has raised is this difficulty factor.
16 That's sticking out to me. So when I weighed difficulty of
17 accessing Orange County in the south coastal area versus
18 accessing the north, to me, is no argument. That'll be far
19 more difficult for us to get the level of engagement,
20 process, just how to get there. Like all of it will be way
21 more difficult. And I'm not saying the difficulty back
22 there changes because there's someone on the commission or
23 not. So I want to make the distinction. But I think that
24 coupled with the historical context of being left out,
25 coupled with how one feels a part of something motivating

1 their desire to be engaged. When I think of all of those
2 things combined, it pushes me more solidly that this is an
3 important move for many, many reasons, nuanced and obvious,
4 in terms of this particular selection.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Thank you,
6 Commissioner Le Mons.

7 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, I just note that
8 it's five after noon.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh.

10 COUNSEL SAXTON: And, of course, you're not
11 obligated to take a break at this time, but I just wanted
12 to pipe that out.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I think this is may be perfect
14 time to actually take our lunch break. Do -- we have
15 arranged, we sort of set up a pattern we take public
16 comment as soon as we come back from lunch. Do we all feel
17 that is still the way to go? I see some nodding of heads.
18 Great. Okay.

19 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, if I may.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

21 COUNSEL SAXTON: Just, I'd like to, a couple of
22 reminders.

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you, please, Counsel.

24 COUNSEL SAXTON: And, I know everyone knows this.
25 Prior to any vote being taken today, you will need to take

1 public comment, irrespective of whether you take public
2 comment after lunch. I understand that's completely up to
3 you. I just want to bring that up as another opportunity
4 that will bring public comment and will be required public
5 comment.

6 Additionally, I wanted to let the Commissioners
7 know that if the first date should vote to approve as late
8 today, that Raul Villanueva, who we've mentioned before,
9 who will serve as the Commission's temporary administrator,
10 he is on standby on Zoom so that if you should take a vote
11 today and approve a slate, he's there to speak to you about
12 issues that I believe would include scheduling your next
13 meeting, et cetera. So just to let you know that that is
14 in place if you should decide that today after a vote, if
15 it should happen, that he is available.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Is he available, you
17 know, up until say 5:00? Do we know? Just in terms, if
18 you know, is there a time limit on that? And then he would
19 no longer be available or?

20 COUNSEL SAXTON: I have not been told anything
21 more at this point, than that of course he's excited to
22 talk to the Commissioners and excited to make
23 introductions. My understanding is that he would be
24 available for the rest of the meeting. I will find out
25 whether that is indeed true.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

2 COUNSEL SAXTON: But at this point, I think we
3 can assume that if a vote happened today and a slate were
4 approved, he is available for the rest of today to speak to
5 you. And then, I believe again also tomorrow. But he is
6 actually standing by ready to Zoom in at any --

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Great.

8 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- time today.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

10 Oh, Commissioner Le Mons.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, before we break, I
12 just wanted to say that in lieu of what Counsel just said
13 about public comment before a vote, and our public comment
14 that we have planned after lunch, I do plan to make a
15 motion after lunch for a vote, at least of my own slate.
16 So if that affects in any way how we approach public
17 comment, I just want that to be considered.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you. My -- well,
19 should we discuss this right now? Do we want to work this
20 out? Do we want to -- yes, I'm getting a couple of nods.

21 Commissioner Sadhwani, are you -- do you want to?
22 Go ahead.

23 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think just in interest
24 of time, if there has to be public comment before a vote
25 and we're planning to hold public comment. And we also are

1 planning to have it open, that it makes sense whatever
2 procedurally we would need to do at this moment to have
3 that public comment after lunch, would be towards the vote
4 for Commissioner Le Mons' slate. I think that that would
5 just make sense from a timing procedural standpoint.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, I totally agree.

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I agree.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you.

9 On that, Counsel, do we -- if, do we have to once
10 a slate is proposed, then take public comment? Is that the
11 way it actually works?

12 COUNSEL SAXTON: What would happen would be, and
13 just as a practical matter, --

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Exactly.

15 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- you'd come back from lunch. A
16 motion would be made by, it sounds to me like Commissioner
17 Le Mons, to take a vote to approve whichever slate it is he
18 would like to make that motion about. There would be a
19 second. Prior to the actual vote, public comment would be
20 taken. After that period was closed, there would then be a
21 vote if that was still the desired action.

22 So back from lunch, make the motion. Second the
23 motion, assuming there's a second. Open public comment.
24 Go to a vote. Does that make sense?

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. And if, say Commissioner

1 Le Mons says something, then in during public comment he
2 would like to -- you can always withdraw a motion. Or can
3 you withdraw second as well? Or how does that fit
4 procedurally.

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: You --

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: You know, just based on say
7 public comment. I'm just -- this is a hypothetical, but.

8 COUNSEL SAXTON: Well, there may be a situation
9 where you -- people can, Commissioners can withdraw
10 whatever they've put forward.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

12 COUNSEL SAXTON: Okay? At any time.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Just for everyone to know. Yes.

14 COUNSEL SAXTON: And a slate can be modified by a
15 member at any time. That would be pulled back. But as you
16 go along, additionally I may advise or I may let you know,
17 I suppose, that after that second, then it goes to public
18 comment --

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Right.

20 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- sometimes there's a desire
21 among Commissioners perhaps to have more discussion before
22 the actual vote is taken. That can be done too. You have
23 an incredible amount of flexibility --

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Good.

25 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- within the proper procedure

1 for adopting the slate. The motion, the second --

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: And the vote, and the --

3 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- and the required public
4 comment. Okay?

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay, thank you.

6 COUNSEL SAXTON: I hope that answers the
7 questions.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: We have a couple of hands.
9 Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner Ahmad.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 Counsel, last night I was reviewing in the larger
12 version of Robert's Rules for around voting. My
13 understanding from that, that this would be that a member
14 could change their vote before the results are announced
15 and how that would happen.

16 COUNSEL SAXTON: That's true. You could change
17 your vote before the results are announced. And I think
18 that would just require on the corps of staff to be mindful
19 to have a pause to see if anyone would like to change their
20 vote prior to announcing the results. And we can do that.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner.
23 Commissioner Ahmad.

24 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Just a quick question about
25 the slates. I just want to confirm that no slates have

1 been amended since the slates have been posted online,
2 correct?

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That -- I'm seeing nods from --

4 COUNSEL SAXTON: That is correct.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That is, Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Okay, thank you.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That is indeed correct.

8 Okay, thank you for those procedural questions
9 because those are exactly -- since we did the informal
10 rules, it was a little vague about how that effected
11 regular voting which is why I brought some of those up.
12 And I appreciate all those distinctions.

13 With that, do I hear any other objections before
14 we break for lunch?

15 Oh, it is ten after, and I believe we need to
16 take a full hour for lunch? That's correct. Yes, --

17 COUNSEL SAXTON: Correct.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- I'm getting the nod from
19 Counsel on that. So it is, I have ten after. So we shall
20 break for lunch, recess for lunch and meet back here at
21 1:10.

22 [Proceeding recessed at 12:10 p.m.]

23 [Proceeding resumed at 1:11 p.m.]

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: The time being 1:11 and it
25 appears we have a quorum. I'll bring the meeting out of

1 recess and shall we continue with business.

2 Just as a quick summary, for public turning in,
3 queuing in, we will be taking public comments. There are
4 just a couple of items, but we did get a few more public
5 comment letters in, which have been sent out to all the
6 Commissioners. Thank you very much for those.

7 And jumping into business, we are continuing with
8 Item Number 5. We were at the point discussing our slates
9 of six at this point. And we're proceeding with or I
10 believe probably moving into actually formulating those
11 slates and moving forward with that. So with that in mind,
12 I'm going to open it up for our Commissioners. Any
13 comments, items at this point? And knowing that, should we
14 create a motion or actually propose a slate that before we
15 actually do any voting that we do have to take public
16 comment. So with that, I open up the floor to
17 Commissioners. And I see Commissioner Le Mons' hand.

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Hi. I'd like to make a
19 motion to call for public comment and a vote on the Le Mons
20 Slate.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: So we have a motion on the
22 floor. That is, the motion is to --

23 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, forgive me. I may
24 not have heard correctly.

25 Pardon me, Commissioner Le Mons, was that a

1 motion to ask for public comment? Or that we should --

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No. No, I'm sorry. The
3 motion is to call for a vote on the Le Mons Slate. Then I
4 know we'll go to public comment post that before the vote
5 itself.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: But the motion is for us
8 to move to a vote.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: So the motion on the table is to
10 vote on the Le Mons Slate and that is the second amended
11 slate. Is that correct?

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm getting a positive nod from
14 Commissioner --

15 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- Le Mons. So before we move
17 for that, could we have the -- oh, I'm sorry. We have a
18 motion on the floor. Do we have a second?

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: This is Commissioner
20 Taylor. I second that motion.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: We have a second on the floor
22 from Commissioner Taylor.

23 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

25 COUNSEL SAXTON: Now that we have a second, I

1 think it behooves us to read the slate one more time, --

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That's --

3 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- if that pleases the
4 Commission.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, thank you very much.

6 COUNSEL SAXTON: The Le Mons second amended slate
7 includes: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Angela Vasquez,
8 Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell Yee,
9 Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; Pedro Toledo,
10 neither party.

11 Is that correct, Commissioner Le Mons?

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: That is correct.

13 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Before we call for a vote, I
15 would like at this time to get Counsel to review the voting
16 procedures for, obviously the benefit of the Commissioners,
17 but particularly for the benefit of the public. As they
18 may know, there are certain things, but there are certain
19 restrictions and rules which apply to the Commission which
20 are not your typical and common requirements.

21 So with that, if the Counsel would please lead
22 with the instructions.

23 COUNSEL SAXTON: Yes, Madam Chair.

24 The special vote requirements for the slate are
25 that the vote must be accepted by a vote tally that

1 includes at least two Democratic Commissioners, two
2 Republican Commissioners, and one Commissioner who is
3 neither a Democratic nor Republican.

4 In addition, this was asked about prior to the
5 lunch hour, the rule against, excuse me, whether a
6 Commissioner may change one's vote. And that rule says
7 that a member has a right to change his, I'm adding in or
8 her, vote up to the time the result is announced. After
9 that, the change can be made only by the unanimous consent
10 of the first eight. So each member has a right to change
11 his or her vote up to the time that the result of the vote
12 is announced.

13 Additionally, the Chair has asked me to also
14 provide the rule against explanation by members during
15 voting which reads that a member has no right to quote,
16 explain his or her vote, quote -- unquote, during voting,
17 which would be the same as debate at such time.

18 Are there any questions?

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I do have a clarification or, I
20 guess, in terms of our vote and procedurally, it's my
21 understanding, we're doing -- we vote, obviously it's a
22 roll call vote. Does typically in votes, the Chair votes
23 last? As I am actually a voting member, sometimes that's
24 only when the presiding person is not a voting member. Is
25 the group comfortable with just a straight roll call

1 alphabetical? Or would they like Chair to last? Is one
2 item.

3 And the second item is, for the procedure, this
4 is more as my understanding the clarification again for
5 everyone particularly of changing votes. That's not
6 something that most people are used to. Once we've gone
7 through the roll call, also if you do not want to vote at
8 the time, you may say, if you vote present -- I mean, if
9 you vote present, that means you're abstaining. If you
10 vote pass, that means you're requesting to go at the last.
11 Then once the secretary has called the roll and then if
12 someone has passed, they will go through those people for
13 the final. Then there will be a pause. At that time, if
14 anyone wants to change their vote, that is when they may
15 change the vote. And if that's so, they must say, you
16 know, Madam Chair, we need to change, I'd like to change
17 the vote. And that will be done. Once those have -- once
18 that has happened, then it will tallied and the vote will
19 be final.

20 So that's just all the clarifications. Any
21 questions on any of that?

22 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, yes, you are to
23 vote. And additionally, just to remind that when we have
24 taken the roll call vote, it has been in the same order
25 each time we've done it. Obviously, if it pleases the

1 Commission, we can switch the order that we call vote, but
2 just to remind it has been consistent the whole time.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. That's my question
4 to the Commission. Shall we continue that way or is there
5 a desire for the Chair to go last. If I can get a one way
6 or the other to, on all that.

7 Commissioner Ahmad.

8 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair, I think we
9 should keep it consistent.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm sorry, what was that?
11 Consistent?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes, the same format that we
13 call roll.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: That is what my
16 recommendation is.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: And I'm getting thumbs up and
18 nods from the entire group. Great, okay. Thank you.

19 Then with, I believe, that's -- any other
20 questions before we proceed? Seeing no objections, we do
21 have a motion on the table. It has been seconded. Before
22 we vote, it is time for public comment.

23 So with that, could Counsel read the instructions
24 for public comment, please.

25 COUNSEL SAXTON: Yes, Madam Chair.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: And we'll have AT&T operator
2 standing by.

3 COUNSEL SAXTON: If you'd like to make public
4 comment regarding the action item of a vote on the slate of
5 six, the Le Mons second amended slate, please call in now
6 by dialing 844-291-5495. In the next few moments, we'll
7 begin taking public comment. And that number again is
8 844-291-5495. After dialing the number, you'll speak to an
9 operator. You'll be asked to provide either the access
10 code for the meeting which is 8121803 or the name of the
11 meeting which is CRC Selection Meeting.

12 After providing this information, the operator
13 will ask you to provide your name. Please note, you're not
14 required to provide your actual name. When the operator
15 asks for your name, you may provide a name other than your
16 own. When it is your turn to make public comment, the
17 operator will introduce you by the name you provided.
18 Please be assured our office is not maintaining any list of
19 callers by name. We ask for you to provide some name to
20 enable the operator to manage multiple calls simultaneously
21 and let you know when it's your turn to speak.

22 After speaking with the operator, you'll be
23 placed in the listening room. In this room, you'll be able
24 to listen to live audio of the meeting. Please mute your
25 computer audio because the online video and audio will be

1 delayed by approximately 60 seconds and feedback issues may
2 occur making it difficult for anyone to hear your comment.
3 Also please do not use a speaker phone and speak directly
4 into your phone. When you decide that you want to make a
5 comment on this item, this action item, press one zero, and
6 you'll be placed in the queue to make public comment.

7 After joining the queue to make a public comment,
8 you should hear an automatic recording informing you that
9 you've been placed in the queue. When it's your turn, the
10 operator will introduce you. At that time, please state
11 and spell your name for the transcriptionist. Then state
12 your comment clearly and concisely. Comments will be
13 limited to two minutes. You'll hear a time check when 15
14 seconds in your time remains.

15 After you finish making your comment, we'll move
16 on to the next caller. At that point, please hang up your
17 phone. If you'd like to comment on another agenda item at
18 a later time, please call back when we open up for public
19 comment on that item and repeat this process.

20 If you are disconnected for any reason, please
21 call back and explain the issue to the operator. Then
22 repeat the process and rejoin the public comment queue by
23 pressing one zero.

24 These instructions can also be found on our
25 website.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

2 AT&T Operator, do we have anyone on the line at
3 this time?

4 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If you wish to make a
5 comment, please press one and then zero at this time.

6 And I do have a couple in queue.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Please go ahead.

8 AT&T OPERATOR: We'll go to line of Miguel
9 Gonzales. Please spell your name, followed by your
10 comment.

11 MR. GONZALES: Hi. Miguel Canales. Can you hear
12 me?

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. Please go ahead.

14 MR. GONZALES: Okay, thank you. I called, this
15 is my third time calling. I called the first time when the
16 interview was selected through a lottery. I called
17 yesterday and this is my third time and every one of those
18 calls has reflected on the task that you have and the
19 responsibility. And I have been watching and listening to
20 how thorough you're being. I was very content yesterday
21 with the five slates that advocated for the Latino
22 representation and every one of them had Latino
23 representation, including Mr. Toledo.

24 Obviously there's been some advocacy for other
25 individuals today, but what I noticed in the first call, I

1 noticed in the second call, is that the consistency is that
2 the Latino community feels that they are lacking
3 representation and by taking out Mr. Toledo, you continue
4 to go ahead and not listen to the calls that have been made
5 the first two times. And I would encourage you to go with
6 your initial gut which was to include Mr. Toledo and you
7 have in 5 different slates. Taking him out would be losing
8 representation in that northern part of California.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Gonzales. Any
11 other additional comments? Anyone in the queue?

12 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
13 line of Kimberly Fuentes. Please spell your name followed
14 your comment.

15 MS. FUENTES: My name is Kimberly Fuentes. F as
16 in Frank, U as in union, E as in Edward, N as in Nora, T as
17 in Tom, E as in Edward, and S as is Sam. Kimberly,
18 K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y.

19 I'm calling on behalf of California League of
20 United Latin American Citizens, the oldest Latino civil
21 rights organization. LULAC advances the economic
22 condition, educational attainment, political influence,
23 housing, health, and civil rights of all Latinos.
24 California is one of the most ethnically and racially
25 diverse and we are urging that the Commission remain

1 reflected of our growing Latino population. We need to
2 ensure that Latinos are in all slates including
3 representation in the NPP category, including the Le Mons
4 Slate.

5 We need to include Pedro Toledo in the
6 Commission. Anything less falls short on equal
7 representations for Latinos.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Fuentes.

10 Next in the queue, please.

11 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Just as a reminder,
12 if you do wish to make a comment, please press one and then
13 zero at this time. We'll go to the line of Brian Zweir.
14 Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

15 MR. ZWEIR: Hi. B-R-I-A-N, Z-W-E-I-R. I live in
16 northern California. I don't really represent an
17 organization or a group, but I am pretty political and I
18 watch this process on -- for the past few days and a little
19 bit beforehand because I'm so interested in it.

20 And I just wanted to say from my perspective the
21 Le Mons Slate seems pretty fair. And I just wanted to call
22 in like I do in PR and say that I think this is a good
23 match and I think that you all did a great job in trying to
24 fit everything in. And there's nothing wrong with
25 including one geographic area and excluding the other.

1 Like last time Humboldt was not included and this time
2 Orange County's not included. And with only the number of
3 Commissioners you have, I think this is a good middle
4 ground and I think it's a great slate for us to move
5 forward.

6 Thank you so much.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Zweir.

8 Next in the queue, please.

9 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
10 line of Katrina. Please spell your name, followed by your
11 comment.

12 MS. TAYLOR: Yes, my name is Katrina,
13 K-A-T-R-I-N-A. Last name Taylor, T-A-Y-L-O-R. I am an
14 awareness director for an organization in northern
15 California, to be exact, Humboldt County. And I am in the
16 understanding that we have been grossly underrepresented
17 and I just want to say that I really recommend Eddie Morgan
18 for representation in northern California. I have worked
19 closely with him on numerous occasions with the Human
20 Rights Commission which he stands on. And he has supported
21 me and walked me through and I have to tell you that
22 demographically I represent several different categories of
23 underrepresented nationalities and other things. And I'd
24 like to say that he has, with no judgment and anything,
25 worked closely with me and not only closely but supported

1 me. And I think that we need representation from northern
2 California and I think that he would make a wonderful
3 representative.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Taylor.

6 Next in the queue, please.

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Once again, if you
8 wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at
9 this time.

10 We'll go to the line of Jenny Le. Please spell
11 your name, followed by your comment.

12 Jenny Le, your line is open. Please spell your
13 name, followed by your comment.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Is Ms. Le there?

15 MS. LE: Hello.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

17 MS. LE: Hello.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Could you please -- please turn
19 off your, --

20 MS. LE: Yes. Hello, can --

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- if your watching streamline,
22 please turn that off.

23 MS. LE: -- you hear me?

24 Oh, sorry. Okay.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, we can hear you.

1 MS. LE: Yes, sorry, can you hear me? Okay.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

3 MS. LE: So I'm calling just to support the
4 Le Mons Slate. I also want to speak to some of the
5 comments about Orange County and the number of people that
6 called in, that participated these public comments. Just
7 because there was so many participation and this is the
8 first time I'm participating too, that we are not going to
9 be penalized from having a seat on the Commission. That's
10 the very reason why I'm participating because I'd like to
11 see someone from Orange County on the Commission. I hope
12 that we're not going to be penalized for being engaged
13 because I think it would send the wrong message. Because
14 that's what people are asking for.

15 I appreciate, you know, this process. It's been
16 very fascinating. Thank you very much.

17 COURT REPORTER: Hi Jenny, this is the Court
18 Reporter. Before you disconnect, can you please spell your
19 name for me.

20 MS. LE: Oh, yes. It's J-E-N-N-Y. Last name,
21 L-E.

22 COURT REPORTER: Thank you very much.

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Le.

24 Is there --

25 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Madam Chair. If -- I

1 know we're in public comment. It seems from the callers
2 that maybe there's some confusion about who is on the
3 Le Mons Slate. Like I've heard people both -- I understood
4 the last caller to be suggesting that Linda Akutagawa
5 potentially was on that slate while other callers perhaps
6 were under the impression that Pedro Toledo was not. That
7 is not my understanding. Am I missing something? Or
8 should we read that slate one more time for the people in
9 the queue? Maybe that's just -- maybe I'm just
10 misunderstanding the callers.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner. If you
12 do have a misunderstanding, then we should read the slate
13 again. So without -- let's just clarify exactly right now.
14 There's no reason not to.

15 If Counsel could please read the Le Mons Slate,
16 excuse me, as it runs right now. As it stands right now.

17 COUNSEL SAXTON: The Le Mons second amended
18 slate, there's a motion for approval of this slate at this
19 time. The Le Mons second amended slate includes the
20 following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Angela
21 Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell
22 Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; Pedro Toledo,
23 neither party.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Thank you. So that,
25 in case anyone in the queue, in case there was any kind of

1 misinterpretation. At this point, the Le Mons Slate which
2 we are -- which there is a motion on the floor, and it's
3 second. I have a feeling the one we're actually talking
4 about, it's Eddie Morgan and Pedro Toledo are the two
5 non-party, non-affiliated parties.

6 So we do have anyone else in the queue, AT&T
7 Operator.

8 AT&T OPERATOR: I do have a few more in queue.
9 We'll go to the line of Byrd Lochtie. Please spell your
10 name, followed by your comment.

11 MS. LOCHTIE: My name is Byrd, B-Y-R-D. Lochtie,
12 L-O-C-H-T-I-E. Thank you very much for putting this slate
13 forward. This is the one that I approve and I thank you
14 all for your very thoughtful comments about adding the
15 north coast this time because we were ignored last time.
16 And I agree with the comments that have been made that you
17 will get much better participation here if you have Eddie
18 Morgan on your Commission.

19 I also liked your suggestion that you contact all
20 of the qualified candidates who were not selected for the
21 final Commission and ask for their help. When I was not
22 selected, no one ever spoke to me again and I would have
23 appreciated some contact so that I could have helped you in
24 my area.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you for that comment,
2 Ms. Lochtie.

3 The next in the queue, please.

4 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
5 line of Julia Marks. Please spell your name, followed by
6 your comment.

7 MS. MARKS: Hi, thank you. My name is Julia
8 Marks. J-U-L-I-A, M-A-R-K-S. I'm a staff attorney from
9 Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus. I
10 appreciate all of the thoughtfulness and the discussion
11 this far and I recognize how hard it is to find the ideal
12 slate. But I am calling in to reemphasize the importance
13 of both Latino and Asian-American representation on the
14 Commission. It's important to acknowledge that
15 Asian-Americans are not a monolithic group but have a very
16 rich diversity of backgrounds. And that all of these
17 groups and ethnicities that are clumped together as
18 Asian-Americans bring important perceptives to the
19 Commission. We value having diversity within
20 Asian-American representation.

21 Additionally, Latino communities are diverse and
22 they should be represented across all three political
23 categories. I understand that there's some tension between
24 geographic diversity and racial ethnic diversity in
25 crafting the slate. Gaps in geographic diversity, however,

1 can be handled through holding additional meetings, and
2 traveling to those areas of the state. In contrast, it is
3 very difficult to address gaps in racial and ethnic
4 backgrounds through meetings and travel. It's so important
5 that Californians see themselves in the Commission. We
6 encourage you to give that goal adequate weight.

7 I'd also like to respond to an earlier
8 suggestion. The communities who are actively calling in to
9 participate in this process do not need representation on
10 the Commission. This framing is concerning and sets a
11 precedent that speaking up to ask for representation could
12 actually harm your chance of having representation.

13 Thank you very much.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you for that comment, Ms.
15 Marks.

16 Next in the queue, please.

17 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. We'll go to the line
18 of Jenny Le. Please spell your name, followed by your
19 comment.

20 MS. LE: Yes. Jenny, J-E-N-N-Y, L-E. I called in
21 earlier but I was a little bit confused so you have to
22 excuse me because I'm trying to listen and also deal with
23 kids at the same time. But respectfully, I don't
24 understand the logic of leaving out Orange County because
25 Orange County residents, including myself, have taken the

1 time to follow over the last three days and to participate.
2 So I thought at times we were making ground, that the
3 Commissioners understood the importance of Orange County
4 and now it sounds like that's no longer the case.

5 Frankly, it's been a roller coaster and I, you
6 know, it's not easy to participate in these processes.
7 It's very confusing and it could be intimidating. You said
8 public comment is important and weighs on your decision
9 making, but it doesn't sound like it because all these
10 people talk about Orange County and now Orange County is
11 being excluded.

12 So I'm just pleading with you, please do not
13 penalize Orange County for showing up. You know, this is
14 my first time being involved and I'm not quite sure what I
15 should say that would help you decide, but please, you
16 know, we're trying to be engaged here. Please do not
17 penalize us by not allowing us to have a seat at the table.
18 How are we going to come back and continue to be engaged,
19 if we aren't represented? I don't see the logic of that
20 to, you know, to replace Orange County for someone from a
21 county that has less people, less population, less
22 participation the last three days.

23 So I hope you'll respond to the public comment
24 that you've all heard. They said an engagement by Orange
25 County and it's from people I know this is not easy for.

1 So please, give Orange County a seat at the table. And
2 it's your table. So I know it's in your power to make
3 those decisions.

4 That's all I have to say.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you very much, Ms. Le.
6 That was -- I'm glad we got you back and got the things
7 that confused. And we really do appreciate and please
8 don't let any decision come across as though we -- you're
9 not, you're being penalized for speaking up. That is never
10 the intent. There are many considerations and it's a very
11 hard decision. This is something we're actually grappling
12 with. So I appreciate that.

13 MS. LE: [indiscernible, unstable Internet
14 connection] what I would understand. I feel like there's
15 been so many people that have been called in so I thought
16 we were making momentum. But it doesn't seem like that's
17 the case.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Le.

19 Is there anyone else in the queue?

20 AT&T OPERATOR: Yes, we do have a few more in
21 queue. We'll go to the line of Eva Jimenez. Please spell
22 your name followed by your comment.

23 MS. JIMENEZ: Hello. My name is Eva Jimenez.
24 E-V-A, J-I-M-E-N-E-Z. And I'm calling on behalf of the
25 Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, a community-themed

1 organization founded in 1986 to advance and protect the
2 civil rights of immigrants and refugees. We are a
3 statewide organization and we have a lot of members who are
4 part of Sonoma County, who are part of Santa Cruz,
5 Monterrey Bay, Sacramento, Davis. And so we're calling to
6 really advocate and hope that Pedro Toledo is included. We
7 are recommending Pedro Toledo again because we believe he
8 demonstrates a strong ability and experience to be
9 impartial, have that relevant analytical skills and an
10 appreciation for California's diversity and a commitment
11 towards advancing racial and socioeconomic equity. He is a
12 son of immigrants. His father was a bracero in the
13 agricultural field in Sonoma County in pursuit of the
14 American dream. And we believe that Latinos should be very
15 much included in this. So we hope that Pedro Toledo will
16 be considered again.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thanks very much for the
19 comment. Number 10, I'm sorry, do we have anyone else on
20 the line?

21 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
22 line of George Wu. Please spell your name, followed by your
23 comment.

24 MR. WU: Hello, Commissioners. My name is George
25 Wu. G-E-O-R-G-E, W-U. I'm calling in support of Linda

1 Akutagawa's candidacy to the Commission. You know, I
2 really am appreciative of your leadership on the Commission
3 so far. I don't envy the task before you. And I know that
4 however you end up selecting your fellow Commissioners, all
5 of you would do an amazing job on behalf of California.

6 But I do want to sort of raise a concern, others
7 have mentioned it, but I will raise it perhaps in a
8 different perspective. You know, there was a lot of
9 comments regarding the lack of representation in the north
10 and I think that is unfortunate. But imagine the lack of
11 Orange County representation when the redistricting process
12 ends. Imagine the type of criticism this Commission would
13 have because there's nobody representing Orange County.
14 And I think that's a very important perspective to
15 consider.

16 I would also ask that folks consider the lack of
17 representation of the Pacific Islander community on the
18 Commission. It appears to me that regardless of who you
19 select, there won't be any direct representation from the
20 community and I do know that Linda has extensive work
21 connections and relationships within the Pacific Islander
22 community. I would probably think that Commissioner
23 Sadhwani has some as well, but I would say that I know for
24 a fact that Linda has many and I think that would be
25 important to this entire process as well.

1 And so, again, I trust that you will do the best
2 for California in your constituencies, but I join the many,
3 many voices in asking that Orange County be represented and
4 to consider the ramifications --

5 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

6 MR. WU: -- if Orange County was in fact not
7 represented in the Commission.

8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Wu.

10 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

11 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
12 line of Esperanza Guevara. Please spell your name,
13 followed by your comment.

14 MS. GUEVARA: Hi, this is Esperanza,
15 E-S-P-E-R-A-N-Z-A. I'm calling again on behalf of CHIRLA,
16 the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights. I've called
17 previously and I wanted to again uplift the candidate Pedro
18 Toledo. I did want to also highlight that he has been
19 committed during his career to ensure that all people
20 regardless of who they are, what they look like, where they
21 come from, or their ability to pay, that they have access
22 to important services including healthcare. But he's
23 worked specifically for the Redwood Community Health
24 Coalition which serves Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Yolo
25 counties. And that in his - as he has discussed in his

1 application he's also traveled extensively and visited
2 underrepresented population in urban and rural settings in
3 northern California.

4 So, again, we just want to uplift Pedro Toledo
5 for the NPP seat.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Guevara.

7 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

8 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
9 line of Elizabeth Alcantar. Please spell your name,
10 followed by your comment.

11 MS. ALCANTAR: My name is Elizabeth Alcantar. My
12 last name is spelled A-L-C-A-N-T-A-R. And I'm calling on a
13 personal capacity of Mayor for the City of Cudahy to lend
14 my support for the applicant Pedro Toledo. He is the son
15 of immigrants and his father was a bracero in the
16 agricultural field of Sonoma County. And he is a Latino
17 that is no party preference. He would represent accurately
18 Latinos making up a quarter of registered voters in the no
19 party preference category with over 6 million registered
20 Latino NPP voters in the state. He's very familiar with
21 the state and he's worked with folks, you know, from
22 Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Yolo counties. He's very familiar
23 with northern California and working with diverse
24 populations ensuring that all people regardless of where
25 they come from, who they are, what they look like, or

1 access to resources historically. He's ensured that they
2 are at the table and that their voices are heard.

3 So once again I am recommending Pedro Toledo
4 because we believe he demonstrates a strong ability and
5 experience to be impartial, have relevant analytical skills
6 and the appreciation for California's diversity. And he
7 has a commitment towards advancing racial and socioeconomic
8 equity.

9 So thank you. I hope the Board considers and
10 continues considering Pedro Toledo. Thank you.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Alexandra --
12 Alejandra.

13 Is there anyone else in the queue?

14 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Just as a reminder,
15 if you do wish to make a comment, please press one and then
16 zero at this time.

17 We do have the line of Khang Bao. Please spell
18 your name, followed by your comment.

19 MR. BAO: Hi, my name is Khang Bao, spelled
20 K-H-A-N-G. Last name Bao, B-A-O. I am a high school
21 teacher living in the Westminster area. I'm also a new
22 father. I'm very busy with the little one and also
23 handling with the school opening and stuff. I'm a little
24 worried, just like everyone else, about COVID and the
25 future.

1 When I heard about today's meeting as a -- when I
2 heard about today's meeting is really important. I was
3 really happy to call in. As a teacher and a father, I know
4 that you are going to do the next year -- what you are
5 going to do in the next year is very important. But many
6 people do know or understand that you have a lot of power.
7 These public meetings are not accessible for people like
8 me. It's very intimidating calling in like this. However,
9 because of people like -- I like to call to get my
10 endorsement for Linda Akutagawa. I understand I have a
11 voice for my family, my students, and my community. I am
12 confident someone like Linda would know that English is not
13 my first language. She knows that students' parents need
14 communication in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Mandarin.
15 She knows that our community have our own radio, newspaper,
16 and television. She's also from Orange County and I agree
17 with other speakers that we can't leave Orange County out.

18 Again, thank you for listening to me and allowing
19 me to be heard today. All right. Thank you.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Bao.

21 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

22 AT&T OPERATOR: Once again, if you would like to
23 make a comment, please press one and then zero at this
24 time.

25 And we do have Luis Aleman. Please spell your

1 name, followed by your comment.

2 MR. ALEMAN: Hi, my name is Luis Aleman. It's
3 spelled L-U-I-S. My last name is A-L-E-M-A-N. I live in
4 Santa Ana. I'm a resident of Orange County. I'm calling
5 asking that the Commission consider leaving Linda up on the
6 Commission for Redistricting. It's important that Orange
7 County families have a voice in the Commission process when
8 it comes to drawing maps. Orange County is one of the most
9 impacted areas of low-income communities and undercounted
10 communities and hard-to-count communities. And we feel
11 that it's appropriate to have somebody from Orange County
12 to help us count those communities. Not people from L.A.
13 or from another county, but somebody from Orange County
14 given that we have 3 million people in the county and it
15 would be in the service to all those people. Nobody from
16 Orange County is representing them.

17 So once again, I'm just calling to urge you to
18 leave Linda on the Citizens Redistricting Commission so
19 that she can represent the communities that I live in and
20 make sure that our communities, particularly Latino, and
21 that communities have a voice at the table.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Aleman.

23 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

24 AT&T OPERATOR: Next we'll go to the line of Dr.
25 Fatima Bustos-Choy. Please spell your name, followed by

1 your comment.

2 MS. BUSTOS-CHOY: Yes, thank you, Commission. My
3 name is Dr. Fatima Bustos-Choy and it's spelled B, last
4 name is B-U-S-T-O-S, hyphen, C-H-O-Y. I am a leadership
5 and development consultant and founder of Whole Mind Power
6 Consulting in Los Angeles. Thank you for this opportunity
7 to share my voice. I am -- and I thank the Commission for
8 that.

9 I am asking the Commission to add an additional
10 API Commissioner. In this case, Ms. Linda Akutagawa. I
11 have known Linda for over 20 years and she has very strong
12 community ties and long relationships in Los Angeles, as
13 well as in Orange County. She is very informed on the
14 demographic trend, as well as the unique needs that we have
15 here as API in both L.A. and Orange counties.

16 One of the things that I thought is most
17 noteworthy about Linda Akutagawa is that while she lives in
18 Orange County, she was born and raised and lived in the San
19 Gabriel Valley. Both regions are projected to see
20 potential population changes that will impact
21 redistricting. And on a personal note, also I happen to
22 know that her husband is Filipino-American, just like me.

23 And so I ask the Commission to please add Linda
24 based on her experience, based on her commitment to API
25 issues, both in L.A., as well as Orange County. And I know

1 that she will serve the Commission and our communities with
2 her heart and with her mind.

3 Thank you so much.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Bustos-Choy.

5 Is there anyone else in the queue?

6 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, if you
7 wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at
8 this time.

9 We'll go to the line of Otniel Pavia. Please
10 spell your name, followed by your comment.

11 MR. PAVIA: Hi, hello. My name is Otniel Pavia.
12 O-T-N-I-E-L. Last name, P-A-V-I-A. And I'm here to
13 comment in support of the Commission to add Linda Akutagawa
14 to the Redistricting Commission. It's very important that
15 we have someone that knows Orange County. We understand
16 that, you know, Los Angeles is a very diverse county in and
17 of itself, but Orange County also has its different pockets
18 and has its different flavor to it as well.

19 So it's very important that we know someone that
20 knows Orange County be representing Orange County
21 residents, especially in such a critical year where the
22 census is going to be cut short, we definitely need someone
23 that could represent the people here in Orange County.

24 Thank you so much.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Pavia.

1 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

2 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Once again, it is one
3 and then zero to make a comment.

4 We'll go to the line of Jennifer Araujo. Please
5 spell your name, followed by your comment.

6 MS. ARAUJO: Yes, my name is Jennifer Araujo.
7 And it's J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R. Araujo, A-R-A-U-J-O.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Please go ahead.

9 MS. ARAUJO: Okay. Oh, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I
10 thought you guys were -- I'm just calling, I want to make
11 sure that Linda Akutagawa is actually representing us for
12 the redistricting here in Orange County. I am currently a
13 resident of Orange County and I live in Garden Grove. And
14 I feel that's it very important that someone that actually
15 lives here and knows the city is representing us.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Araujo.

17 Do we have anyone else --

18 MS. ARAUJO: Thank you.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

20 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

21 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next, we'll go to the
22 line of Manju Kulkarni. Please spell your name, followed
23 by your comment.

24 MS. KULKARNI: Hi, my name is Manju Kulkarni.
25 It's spelled M-A-N-J-U. Last name is K-U-L-K-A-R-N-I. I'm

1 Executive Director of APPCON, the Asian-Pacific Policy and
2 Planning Council, which is a coalition of over 40
3 community-based organizations that together serve and
4 represent the 1.5 million AANHPIs in southern California.

5 I want to say that despite the engagement of
6 members of the Asian-American community who've called to
7 make public comments, our community continues to remain
8 highly diverse and in many instances are difficult to reach
9 and are not fully represented on the Commission.

10 I also want to make sure that we include those
11 who have connections to the Native Hawaiian and
12 Pacific Islander community who have not been mentioned in
13 the deliberation thus far. They are the second fastest
14 growing population in California after Asian-American. And
15 for this reason, their perspective -- our perspective are
16 represented, are needing to be represented by someone with
17 these ties in both the Asian-American as well as in the
18 Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander communities. And Linda
19 Akutagawa does that. Her past experience over 20 years
20 working in these communities, being impartial, showing
21 strong analytical skills and really having commitment to
22 ensuring racial and economic equity.

23 So I urge you to fulfill your responsibility
24 today by increasing the representation of AANHPI so that it
25 better reflects all of the state's diversity. Thank you

1 very much.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kulkarni.

3 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

4 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, if you
5 wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at
6 this time.

7 And we'll go to the line Jacqueline Rodriguez.
8 Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, it is J-A-C-Q-U-L-I-N-E.
10 Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-G-U-E-Z. And my comment is that I'm a
11 long-life resident of city of Orange. It is one city among
12 34 district cities in Orange County. Redistricting is not
13 a new to Orange County. Many of our cities have
14 transitioned from citywide to district elections. I'm
15 grateful to learn that this California Citizen
16 Redistricting Commission took the time to discuss the
17 importance of Orange County. We, after all, are the third
18 largest county of California by population. This
19 Commission will be using the census and population data to
20 complete your mission. Thus, Orange County needs to be
21 represented.

22 And, Commissioners, it would be -- it could
23 deserves to leave out Orange County when you have the
24 option. Also for your thoughtful consideration, thank you,
25 Orange County has been historically known for being a

1 Republican stronghold, but more Democrats have been elected
2 to office. For these reasons, my recommendation is to
3 select the slate with an Orange County resident and
4 unaffiliated independent, Linda.

5 Thank you, Commissioners.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez.

7 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

8 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, if you
9 wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at
10 this time.

11 I have no lines in queue at this time.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, AT&T Operator. Thank
13 you very much for all those comments. Before we continue
14 on to our vote, did anyone more eloquent than me want to
15 say anything?

16 I see no hands -- oh, Ms., Commissioner, sorry
17 I'm used to saying Ms. Commissioner Sadhwani.

18 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Thank you so
19 much. And before we move into the vote, I know that we
20 can't make any comments once we move into the actual vote.
21 So I'd like to say a few words now.

22 First of all, whoever, again, and I've said this
23 before and I'll say it again. We have a number of
24 applicants in front of us, all of whom can get the job
25 done. Right? All of whom bring incredible skills, gifts,

1 ties to communities and I just want to really acknowledge
2 that.

3 In addition, I'd like to acknowledge that
4 whomever ends up on this Commission, I'm going to work
5 with, you know, with an open heart and open mind and all of
6 those kinds of things in that spirit of collaboration and
7 forming a true team here on this Commission. However, as
8 I've mentioned before, I have gone back and forth on this
9 issue. And in my heart of hearts, I cannot support the
10 Le Mons Slate at this time. I feel like given the vast
11 array of public comment we have received, I know that we've
12 all been weighing back and forth these various components,
13 particularly around diversity that we are charged with
14 contemplating. And I, you know, I look forward to
15 additional discussion in the future.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner. In
17 terms of the -- there's the public comment and now there's
18 actually is discussion. The vote is on, the vote has been
19 seconded. Now is the time for discussion before we
20 actually vote. So are there any discussion on the slate or
21 on the motion on the floor.

22 Not seeing any -- oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner
23 Taylor.

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah, just want to just
25 acknowledge that the depth of the public response is noted.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.
2 Yes, I think we have discussed this at great length and so
3 I think it's time to actually call for the, to call for the
4 vote.

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

7 COUNSEL SAXTON: Before roll call vote is taken,
8 if I may, the motion on the floor is adopt the Le Mons
9 second amended slate which includes the following
10 applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Angela Vasquez,
11 Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell Yee,
12 Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; and Pedro Toledo,
13 neither party.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, that is my understanding.
15 So at this time, would the secretary call the
16 vote?

17 MS. PELLMAN: Yes. Commissioner Ahmad.

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No.

19 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Andersen.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

21 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

22 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

23 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

24 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Pass.

25 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

2 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: No.

4 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Taylor.

5 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yea.

6 MS. PELLMAN: Yes?

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

8 MS. PELLMAN: Thank you.

9 Commissioner Turner.

10 VICE CHAIR TURNER: No.

11 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

13 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair. Staff requires a
14 few minutes to tabulate the vote.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

16 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: At this time, it is -- if anyone
18 would like to change their vote, they may do so at this
19 time. Once the Counsel says it's time to announce the
20 vote, that will be final. So just to.

21 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: So the vote will -- as I call
23 the Counsel, then the vote will stand.

24 So, please, Counsel, go ahead and announce the
25 vote.

1 COUNSEL SAXTON: The vote was five yes for the
2 Le Mons second amended slate. Three no. That was three
3 Republicans yes, one Democrat yes, and one neither party
4 yes. The vote fails as there's only one Democratic vote
5 and it's required to have at least two Democratic votes.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

7 So at this point, should we -- Commissioner
8 Sadhwani.

9 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I'd like to
10 make a motion to vote on the Sadhwani and Turner's Slates,
11 which are identical.

12 COUNSEL SAXTON: One moment, Chair, please.

13 Thank you, Madam Chair. First, although
14 Commissioner Sadhwani's Slate and Commissioner Turner's
15 Slate are, for all intents and purposes, the same
16 applicants, technically Commissioner Sadhwani can only move
17 one slate at a time.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

19 COUNSEL SAXTON: Secondly, we will need to take
20 additional public comment prior to voting on any slate.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

22 COUNSEL SAXTON: And we don't have a second.

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, because I hadn't repeated
24 it yet so you, yeah, thank you very much.

25 So, thank you, Counsel has given us a bit of

1 instruction there. At this time, we have a motion on the
2 table to, slightly modified motion, to vote on the Sadhwani
3 Slate. And with that, could Counsel please read that vote?
4 I'm sorry, read that slate.

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: Do we have a clear motion --

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I'm sorry.

7 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- from Commissioner Sadhwani?

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: No, we do not. I'm sorry, I
9 misspoke there.

10 Commissioner Sadhwani, did you want to modify
11 your proposal?

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. I move to have a
13 vote from the Sadhwani Slate.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: You --

15 VICE CHAIR TURNER: And, Chair, I'll second the
16 motion.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: And second. So the motion that
18 has been proposed and seconded is, actually I should repeat
19 it just for clarification and then I'll ask for a second.
20 So the Sadhwani Slate, Commissioner Sadhwani is proposing a
21 vote on the Sadhwani Slate. And it has been seconded by
22 Commissioner Turner.

23 Now it is time for public -- could you please,
24 before we go to public comment, could Counsel please read
25 the Sadhwani Slate.

1 COUNSEL SAXTON: The Sadhwani Slate includes the
2 following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democratic; Angela
3 Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell
4 Yee, Republican; Linda Atukagawa, neither party; and Pedro
5 Toledo, neither party.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: And Commissioner Sadhwani, is
7 that correct?

8 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, it's correct.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

10 So with that, with this time, we'll take public
11 comment on the vote for the Sadhwani Slate.

12 Should, since we, do we --

13 COUNSEL SAXTON: I think, --

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: You should read it.

15 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- I would recommend we read the
16 instructions --

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please --

18 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- for the public.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- please do that. Thank you.

20 COUNSEL SAXTON: If you'd like to make public comment
21 regarding this action item, a vote on the Commissioner
22 Sadhwani Slate, please call in now by dialing 844-291-5495.
23 In the next few moments, we'll begin taking public comment.
24 And that number again is 844-291-5495.

25 After dialing the number, you'll speak to an

1 operator. You'll be asked to provide either the access
2 code for the meeting which is 8121803 or the name of the
3 meeting which is CRC Selection Meeting.

4 After providing this information, the operator
5 will ask you to provide your name. Please note, you're not
6 required to provide your actual name. When the operator
7 asks for your name, you may provide a name other than your
8 own. When it's your turn to make public comment, the
9 operator will introduce you by the name you provided.

10 Please be assured our office is not maintaining any list of
11 callers by name. We ask for you to provide some name to
12 enable the operator to manage multiple calls simultaneously
13 and let you know when it's your turn to speak.

14 After speaking with the operator, you'll be
15 placed in a listening room. In this room, you'll be able
16 to listen to live audio of the meeting. Please mute your
17 computer. Audio will be delayed by approximately 60
18 seconds and feedback issues may occur if you don't mute
19 your computer, making it difficult for anyone to hear your
20 comment. Also please do not use a speaker phone and speak
21 directly into your phone.

22 When you decide that you want to make a comment,
23 please press one zero, and you'll be placed in the queue to
24 make public comment about the current action item. After
25 joining the queue to make public comment you should hear an

1 automatic recording informing you that you have been placed
2 in the queue. When it's your turn, the operator will
3 introduce you. At that time, please state and spell your
4 name for the transcriptionist. Then state your comment
5 clearly and concisely. Comments will be limited to two
6 minutes. You will hear a time check when 15 seconds in
7 your time remain.

8 After you finish making your comment, we'll move
9 on to the next caller. At that point, please hang up your
10 phone. If you'd like to comment on another agenda item at
11 a later time, please call back when we open up comment for
12 that item and repeat the process.

13 If you are disconnected for any reason, please
14 call back and explain the issue to the operator. Then
15 repeat the process and rejoin the public comment queue by
16 pressing one zero.

17 These instructions can also be found on our
18 website.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

20 AT&T Operator, do we happen to have anyone on the
21 line?

22 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If you would like to
23 make a comment, please press one and then zero at this
24 time.

25 We'll go to the line of Rebecca Lee. Please

1 spell your name, followed by your comment.

2 MS. LEE: Hi there, Commissioners. My name is
3 Rebecca Lee. Can you hear me?

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please go ahead.

5 MS. LEE: I am very happy. Thank you for taking
6 my testimony today. I am here to support Commissioner
7 Sadhwani's endorsed slate and I hope that you will be able
8 to find consensus around candidate Linda Akutagawa. I am,
9 I grew up in the San Gabriel valley. I went to school in
10 Orange County at UC Irvine and I've lived in Orange County
11 for a number of years. I'm currently based in northern
12 California in Sacramento.

13 Candidate Akutagawa is a very widely respected
14 nonprofit executive and there are many subgroups to API
15 communities that she understands and has a history of
16 working with.

17 And thank you so much for your time and attention
18 today.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

20 COURT REPORTER: Rebecca, this is the Court
21 Reporter. Could you please spell your name for me?

22 MS. LEE: My name is spelled R-E-B-E-C-C-A. Last
23 name, Lee, L-E-E.

24 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Lee.

1 Is there any -- are there other people in the
2 queue?

3 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
4 line of Chau Pham. Please spell your name, followed by
5 your comment.

6 MS. PHAM: Hi, my name is Chau Pham. C-H-A-U.
7 Last name P-H-A-M, as in Mary. I was calling to let you
8 know, I've lived in San Diego and Orange Counties. I'm
9 hopeful that your listening and will respect on what you've
10 heard from public comment including the facts, experiences,
11 implications, community connections, and validation for a
12 candidate. How can all that result in nothing? I must
13 believe your intention is to not send a message that there
14 is no value or impact in showing up. Linda Akutagawa is
15 someone who will be a voice, not just for API, but also for
16 all communities. She's very well respected and sought
17 after as a trainer and a consultant. This Commission in
18 the State of California would benefit from her ability to
19 be fair, collaborative, and inclusive.

20 As a millennial, I just want to also say that I
21 appreciate Linda for the time she takes to promote youth
22 leadership and civic engagement. She's a key player to
23 developing summer programs that places young people with
24 nonprofits throughout southern California. I'm confident
25 that her role in the Commission would also inspire so many

1 students and young professionals to stay engaged.

2 I will close by saying I'm following these
3 procedures precisely because we do not feel that Orange
4 County is being represented in this Commission.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Pham.

7 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

8 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, if you
9 wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at
10 this time.

11 We'll go to the line of George Potamianos. Please
12 spell your name, followed by your comment.

13 MR. POTAMIANOS: Yeah, my name is Dr. George,
14 G-E-O-R-G-E. Potamianos, P-O-T-A-M-I-A-N-O-S. I've been
15 following these proceedings fairly closely today. I live
16 in Arcata, not Arcadia, California, which is a very common
17 mistake that people make. And I have a sort of a déjà vu
18 feeling watching this because in my top third of the state
19 geographically, there's a general sense that when state
20 Commissions are put together, they're put together in such
21 a way that we are acted upon rather than participants in
22 the action. And when we consider the boundary of northern
23 California to be Sacramento or Santa Rosa, we are omitting
24 a giant geographic portion of the state that contains the
25 most voluminous and diverse native American populations in

1 the state. And to continue to feel acted upon, rather than
2 participants in acting, is historically infuriating
3 feeling.

4 So I would ask you to please consider a slate
5 that might include someone who would be sensitive to this
6 very large region to bring something to the table so that
7 we don't continually feel as though things are happening to
8 us and we don't have agency to make things happen. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Potamianos.

11 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

12 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
13 line of Tammy Tran. Please spell your name, followed by
14 your comment.

15 It would just be one moment for our next comment.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

17 AT&T OPERATOR: Tammy Tran, please spell your
18 name, followed by your comment.

19 MS. TRAM: Yes, sure. My first name is Tammy,
20 T-A-M-M-Y. Last name, Tran, T-R-A-N. I'm calling, I've
21 been participating the last three days and I find this very
22 interesting. And I just want to call in to support this
23 slate. I believe this is the slate that solves the Orange
24 County representation, that also has, I'm sorry, maybe I
25 missed it because you've been reading through the names.

1 Peter Toledo is also on it as well as Linda Akutagawa. So
2 I think it's a balanced slate. I know these are difficult
3 decisions, there's tradeoffs. You know, as an Orange
4 County resident and somebody that has worked both in
5 Sacramento and L.A., I think there's a good representation
6 here.

7 So I really appreciate the work and the
8 deliberations that you have put into this. And I urge the
9 other Commissioners to support this slate. I'm sure all of
10 you would like to end your day early so a speedy vote would
11 be great. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tran.

13 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

14 AT&T OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you wish to
15 make a comment, please press one and then zero at this
16 time.

17 And I have no further lines in queue at this
18 time.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you very much, AT&T
20 Operator.

21 As we're done with the public comment, it's time
22 for a discussion on this slate before the vote. Would
23 anyone like to discuss?

24 All right. I'd like to go ahead and say
25 something. For all the people who've been calling in, I

1 really do appreciate, I don't want them to think, it
2 certainly makes sense, if you called in, you think, wait
3 and they're not doing what I want so they don't value me.
4 And I don't want anyone to think that. And, of course,
5 what we're faced with is some people will. And I sort of
6 my, in terms of how I'm looking, viewing this is we're
7 commissioned, but we are not drawing the lines. I mean, we
8 are drawing the lines, but we can't do that without
9 community involvement. And this is all about community
10 involvement.

11 Basically, most of the counties do not have
12 representatives and we still want the community to come out
13 and help us draw these lines because we can't do that
14 without you. And I come down to actually access and who
15 will be able to come out and help us. When we go and ask
16 you, who will we be able to access? And who will we not be
17 able to access? And I don't want to disenfranchise anyone
18 who already feels marginalized. And that's where, it's not
19 that I am not feeling and understanding. I do appreciate
20 that, but I'm wondering how easy it is to access people and
21 who do we have contacts for.

22 Again, believing that all our applicants will
23 indeed be essentially like an independent army to help us
24 with the community. And we'll be able to access areas.
25 And what is our accessibility, particularly given this

1 COVID and Zoom. This will be harder to access people and
2 we need to make sure we include as many people as possible.
3 That's where I'm coming from on this.

4 Do we have any other, any other discussion or
5 anything that we should we -- before I call for the vote?
6 Seeing --

7 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- no hands. Yes.

9 COUNSEL SAXTON: Should we restate the motion?

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Please.

11 COUNSEL SAXTON: I mean the slate. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Chair, before you do,
13 Commissioner Sadhwani wants to speak.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you.
15 Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. Before we
17 move into a vote, you know, I wanted to appreciate, I don't
18 know how the vote's going to go, but I do want to
19 appreciate the level of discussion and concern that we have
20 all exhibited truly for the inclusion of as many voices as
21 possible.

22 One of the previous callers, I'm sure I'll say
23 his name wrong, Dr. Potamianos, had specifically called for
24 sensitivity to the region. And I think that the
25 conversation that we've had, this struggle that we have had

1 is representative of all of our sensitivity to the region
2 and sensitivity to the needs of so many different
3 communities that are being left out. As some of the
4 callers identified, we don't have anyone in the candidate
5 pool who is native American. We don't have anyone in the
6 candidate pool who's Pacific Islander. And so I just
7 encourage my fellow Commissioners to join me in supporting
8 this slate. Thank you.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Sadhwani.

11 Commissioner Kennedy.

12 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
13 Just one last word from me on this. The slate that I have
14 proposed has a representative from Orange County, I don't
15 get the sense that everyone is focusing on that. It does,
16 I made the case earlier this morning that there are other
17 reasons both economic category and origin that I believe
18 make my slate give it to some advantages over this one. I
19 will not oppose this one, but I just want to make sure that
20 everyone is clear on what I've proposed as well.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.
22 Any additional? I see no other hands.

23 And so at this time, could the secretary call the
24 vote.

25 MS. PELLMAN: Yes.

1 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, do we want to
2 restate the motion first?

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, let's go ahead and restate
4 the motion.

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: Or did I already do that? You
6 can tell me --

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: You actually just, --

8 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- if I already did that.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- yeah, we did and then there
10 was another clarification. Do we feel we need to restate?
11 I see no hands so I think we did restate that. It is the
12 Sadhwani Slate and I think we'll call for the vote.

13 MS. PELLMAN: Okay.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Ms. Secretary, could you please
15 call the vote?

16 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Ahmad.

17 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

18 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Andersen.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: No.

20 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

21 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Pass.

22 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Present.

24 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No.

1 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.
2 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.
3 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Taylor.
4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No.
5 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Turner.
6 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes.
7 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.
8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: No.
9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Want to, the poll has been
10 called. Do we want any change of votes while the --
11 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.
12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.
13 COUNSEL SAXTON: A point of clarification. I did
14 not hear what Commissioner Kennedy's vote was.
15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh. Present.
16 COUNSEL SAXTON: If we could have just a moment
17 to tabulate, please.
18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, thank you. At this time,
19 if anyone wants to change --
20 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: For clarification, is
21 present abstained?
22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.
23 If anyone wants to change -- oh, sorry,
24 Commissioner Fornaciari.
25 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can I ask for a couple

1 of minutes stand down. I have to step out for --

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh.

3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- just a couple of
4 minutes. Would that ---

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Certainly.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- be okay?

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. While they're tabulating
8 the vote, we will stand down for a few minutes.

9 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm actually going to step aside
11 for just a minute too.

12 [Pause in proceeding]

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Just point of clarification, I
14 was asked about how long we're standing down. Obviously,
15 Commissioner Fornaciari had to quickly attend to something.
16 We do have to have a break at 2:40 for our, you know, sign
17 language and Court Reporter. So at this point, what I
18 would propose and what I would suggest the group, if we can
19 discuss, continue to do maybe a little discussion.

20 Oh, thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari is back.
21 I guess the point of discussion here, we do need to break
22 in about ten minutes for Court Reporter and also the
23 American sign language. So at this point, we'll hear
24 the --

25 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, are you ready for

1 me to announce the vote?

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

3 COUNSEL SAXTON: Three ayes, four nays. Three
4 yes, four no, one abstained. The motion fails.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel. Now, again,
6 administration here, before we move forward, we do need to
7 break in ten minutes. At this point, would we want to
8 discuss the issues here.

9 Commissioner Ahmad.

10 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I would like to take the
11 time to continue the discussion.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Please speak up.

13 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I would like to take the ten
14 minutes to continue the discussion before we are mandated
15 to take a break. It feels as though we are definitely at a
16 stalemate based off of the votes for both slates. And I
17 think I, from my perspective, can share why I lean one way
18 versus the other, if that's helpful for the group to hear.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, I think so. Please.

20 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: So I, during my lunch, I
21 went back and reviewed the guiding documents for the
22 Commission, which is the Voter's First Act and the Voting
23 Rights Act. And it was interesting -- interestingly
24 enough, today is the 55-year anniversary of the adoption of
25 VRA. So that information is so readily available on most of

1 my social media channels. So, albeit, this source is, you
2 know, are different sources. But I think what I got from
3 my review was the emphasis that the Voting Rights Acts puts
4 on certain demographic characteristics that we must take
5 into consideration. Not saying that others are not
6 important. I would argue that the list that we have from
7 the legislature outlining certain boxes for us are not
8 representative of any one of us in any way, shape or form,
9 as a poll person.

10 That being said, my leaning towards the Sadhwani
11 Slate was based off of guidance from the VRA. And I was
12 fine with the other slate as well, just wanted to make that
13 clear. That combination was great as well. I'm confident
14 in the abilities of both slates in completing the work as
15 well as all of the candidates. I think one was just
16 slightly, ever so slightly stronger in aspects related to
17 the VRA. And that was my thinking.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.
19 Would any other Commissioner want to say anything
20 at this time?

21 Well, I'll go ahead. I certainly do appreciate
22 the, and I appreciate that you're mentioning the Voters
23 Rights Act because that is absolutely paramount. That's
24 one phase of how we must analyze this. But I, and I don't
25 want to misinterpret stuff, but I think, you know, we're

1 comparing areas and different groups. And I think there
2 is, there could be misconstrue about the north part of the
3 state. It has a lot of racial minorities. It's not, I
4 think sometimes it's sort of viewed as sort of maybe much
5 more white area. And while that certainly is, the changing
6 population in the north part of our state is minority.
7 Dramatically so. And they're very isolated pockets. And
8 that's why they're extremely hard to reach. And the Voting
9 Rights Act definitely applies to all. It is racial. It is
10 certainly certain groups, racial groups who have been
11 disenfranchised. And that is also going on in the northern
12 part of the state, very much so.

13 And they're -- I understand, you know, when it's
14 easier to see with large groups of people together, it
15 becomes more obvious. It's actually more insidious, shall
16 I say, in smaller, more remote areas because it can kind of
17 be, oh, it was for other reasons. And I feel a couple of
18 the callers, people that have called in, that is what
19 they're mentioning. You know, the people who have called
20 in, with a few exceptions, are talking about, you know, the
21 issues that -- and these are sort of a rural issue. We're
22 just a bit more, I think we're a bit more aware of it
23 through the central valley than we are in the north area.
24 And so it's, you know, I think that the Voters Rights Acts
25 applies to both those areas, is what I'm trying to say.

1 Commissioner Le Mons.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I just wanted to add that
3 I feel the sense of responsibility that we're drawing lines
4 for the entire state of California. And the state looks
5 different in different pockets across the state of
6 California. I just feel like as a Commission which we're
7 representing a subset of California, but at the very
8 minimal as in I didn't design the regions, nor did we.

9 Based upon the regions that we were given us, I
10 just thought it would be a missed opportunity not to
11 accomplish at least that feat. With the feedback that we
12 had already heard about what happened with the most
13 northern part of the state, in the first cycle. Looking at
14 it through this particular lens does by no means negate any
15 of the VRA portion. Nor do I think it follows in conflict
16 of the VRA in any way.

17 So, for me, that's my thinking there and why that
18 particular -- and despite the fact, by the way, it was
19 named Le Mons Slate, it was the Le Mons Slate built on the
20 feedback of the Commissioners, public comment, what we've
21 been charged with, training, et cetera. It was not my
22 personal slate, meaning I tried to really compromise, I
23 didn't write the slate like this is what Antonio thinks it
24 ought to be. But all things considered and while I greatly
25 respect our neighbors in Orange County and I don't want any

1 of my comments to suggest that Orange County is not
2 important, the population of Orange County is not
3 important, because it absolutely is. And I know Orange
4 County is not L.A., and it's not San Diego, et cetera.
5 However, we have potentially proposed four to five people
6 in the southern region that is not going to let Orange
7 County be left out, has relationships with the
8 constituencies in Orange County, and Orange County is not
9 going to let Orange County be left out. Those
10 3 million people are not going to be a part of this
11 process. And to think that because no one potentially from
12 Orange County is on the Commission that 3 million people in
13 the southern, coastal area of L.A., excuse me, of
14 California is not going to be included, is ludicrous, at
15 best.

16 So when I think about it from that perspective,
17 and what Commissioner Taylor said earlier is that the risk,
18 I think the risk is greater in having to make that tough
19 choice. It's unfortunate that it's come down to, at least
20 in the slates that we have put forward so far, it's come
21 down to Orange County or pump the north versus Orange
22 County. And I lean for making sure that our neighbors in
23 the north have a seat at the table.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: We've -- I think with
25 Commissioner Sadhwani and then Commissioner Ahmad. Does

1 that seem right. Oh, --

2 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I'm sorry.

4 COUNSEL SAXTON: Ninety minute break, please.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm right in the
6 middle of this, but it is mandatory break time. I
7 apologize. So as soon as we come back, it will be
8 Commissioner Sadhwani, Commissioner Ahmad. And that -- I
9 apologize for that, but we do have to take our mandatory
10 break. This in unfortunate timing. So don't lose your
11 thoughts there. These are all very, very good. So. Thank
12 you very much.

13 Oh, sorry, we will, so we'll go on a recess
14 until, what time is it? It is now 2:41. So it'll actually
15 be, oh, I'm sorry, this is our 15-minute break. That's
16 correct? So it'll be just a little bit before 4:00. I'm
17 sorry, 3:00. Yeah, it'll be 2:45, 3:57 -- 2:57, 2:57, I'm
18 sorry. A little rattled there. Recess until 2:57. Thank
19 you.

20 [Proceeding recessed at 2:41 p.m.]

21 [Proceeding resumed at 2:57 p.m.]

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: It appears we have a quorum.
23 So, got to find the gavel here. It appears we have a
24 quorum so I will call the meeting out of recess and back
25 into our discussion where we were. I believe it was, we

1 left, we were just about to do Commissioner Sadhwani and
2 followed by Commissioner Ahmad.

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
4 I definitely heard a lot of passion from Commissioner
5 Le Mons. I would also, especially, particularly on this
6 notion of the VRA and I keep hearing that being thrown
7 around. And that's good, it's such an important part of
8 our conversation. And to that end, I just wanted to add
9 that California is uniquely situated demographically. The
10 issues that we will have, that the challenges that we have
11 in front of us in terms of making districts in compliance
12 with the VRA in communities of interest, may exist in other
13 parts of the country, but not in the same way as they do in
14 California. And ground zero for that change is Orange
15 County. Right?

16 One of the callers who called in had mentioned
17 some of the partisan changes. I think that that's true.
18 You know I -- just to add, I had spent some time down
19 there, just on a weekend for an afternoon and I was
20 surprised to see both, you know, and again this is not
21 meant to bring in partisanship at all, but, you know, I saw
22 Black Lives Matters protesters while at the same time
23 seeing Trump protesters kind of counter protesting. There
24 is a lot happening in Orange Country right now and when
25 we're thinking about communities of interest, the VRA in

1 1965 was established particularly for the issue of
2 disenfranchisement, the disenfranchisement of
3 African-Americans at that time particularly under the Jim
4 Crow South. And then in a handful of other places across
5 the United States. That notion has changed, right? in the
6 last several decades as we have seen tremendous diversity
7 occur particularly in places like California. So when
8 we're at the stage of creating districts, we're -- we have
9 to think about these communities that are living right next
10 to one another who don't always agree. Right? They're all
11 minority communities, right? But they're not all
12 necessarily, you know, in support of the same candidate,
13 which is ultimately kind of what you look at to identify
14 racially polarized voting and vote dilution.

15 So I think the challenge of developing these
16 coalition districts is kind of the academic term for them
17 because we're putting various communities together, various
18 minority communities all together into a district. The
19 challenge is really going to be understanding those
20 communities. I think that we have a real opportunity. Of
21 course I, you know supported Linda Akutagawa in my
22 candidate. There's also Vicki Tamoush. Both of them are
23 independents from Orange County which I think actually,
24 given the kinds of challenges that we're going to have in
25 drawing those lines, I think they could actually be

1 extraordinarily helpful. They both have these strong ties
2 to, you know, to various portions of the community, very
3 diverse communities. You know, if you follow any of the
4 politics of Orange County what you might know is that there
5 has been, yes, you know, the blue wave of 2018 hit the
6 county but traditionally it was very much Republican based.
7 And that Asian-Americans in particular are, predominantly
8 identify as independents in that region.

9 So I still would hope that we can contemplate
10 that fact. I hear you though. Like I don't want to brush
11 under the rug this issue of lack of representation for the
12 north. I just think our job is going to be so much more
13 difficult in Orange County. And I get it, like yeah, we've
14 got all this representation from L.A. and now we'll add one
15 person from San Diego. I, you know, I've lived in Orange
16 County. That doesn't mean I have ties to it. I don't, I
17 couldn't reach out to communities in that same way
18 especially when it comes to actually thinking about how
19 these various communities are going to fit together into a
20 district. I think that's going to be an extraordinarily
21 difficult challenge that we will all have to face. And
22 having someone with that knowledge and with those community
23 contacts will be extraordinarily helpful, and who's also an
24 independent. I think that'll be really helpful.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you Commissioner Sadhwani.

1 Commissioner Ahmad and then I think Commissioner
2 Fornaciari.

3 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
4 just wanted to bring back actually for discussion your,
5 Madam Chair, your original slate proposal for the no party
6 preference group, which my notes reflect was Morgan and
7 Akutagawa and see where folks feel about that homage.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm not sure, I mean, I'm
9 looking at -- looking at my slate. It's actually Morgan
10 and Toledo. Now I did --

11 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes, this was way back. Not
12 your formal proposed slate on the desk, or on the table
13 right now, but your original, first slate presented, not
14 the second amended.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh.

16 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Nonetheless, it's not
17 necessarily tied to your slate, it was just an idea that
18 had been presented previously that maybe we should
19 reconsider or revisit.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, that was, I do see that,
21 you know, I pulled up. And that did have again, Peter
22 Blando, Karla Van Meter, Michael Gennaco, and Patricia
23 Sinay. They were --

24 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I'm sorry, Madam Chair.
25 Sorry to interrupt, I was talking particularly about the no

1 party preference group.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, yes I mean it -- it's hard,
3 you're absolutely right. I did, it was in consideration of
4 other, because I actually have my notes on here of who I
5 was switching and why. And I was looking at the law part
6 of that to put Ms. Akutagawa in. I would lose Toledo which
7 said I needed Gennaco. So it was, remember we were talking
8 about, it's a whole team and I was looking at, you know,
9 like pitcher catcher combination sort of thing, as I'd
10 mentioned before sort of a sports metaphor. But I did have
11 Eddie Morgan and Linda Akutagawa but, again, it was part of
12 the -- that whole different slate. And I think, again,
13 it's sort of the same discussion but, yes, it is a valid
14 point.

15 Go ahead Ms. -- I'm sorry, --

16 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- I did interrupt, go ahead.

18 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Oh no, I apologize, I feel
19 like I keep jumping in. Is it okay if we hear from the
20 group their thoughts on that combination in particular? I
21 just want to hear some reflections.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: We do also have Mr. --
23 Commissioner Fornaciari is also sort of raising his hand.
24 Is that -- and then Commissioner Le Mons. You know, I
25 don't want to -- I don't want to like stop flow here.

1 Is that -- so same kind of idea, Commissioner
2 Fornaciari?

3 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes, so I was just
4 going to observe that we've been stuck in this conversation
5 where we feel like we have to trade either Morgan or
6 Akutagawa. And there, you know there is another option,
7 right, where we can keep both of them in but that leaves us
8 without an attorney on the committee. And so I haven't
9 proposed a slate so I'm going to propose a slate right now.
10 My slate, I'm going to propose is Sinay and Gennaco,
11 Fernandez, and Yee, and Morgan and Atuagawa. I'm sorry I
12 said that incorrectly.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Akutagawa. A-K.

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Akutagawa. I'm sorry.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: So that certainly did dovetail
16 exactly into Commissioner Ahmad.

17 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So I'm sorry, my
18 thinking here is, you know, we seem to be stuck at this
19 point on trying to trade these two off which is difficult.
20 Personally, I feel it's important to have an attorney. You
21 know we're losing some component, you know, in that -- in
22 that some, you know, components that we would like in
23 that proposal. It balances out the gender options that we
24 have at this point. And I just wanted to float that out
25 there to see if that might be an acceptable compromise and

1 I want to call it the Compromise Slate.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you Commissioner
3 Fornaciari.

4 Commissioner Le Mons did you, I'm sorry, are you
5 actually proposing a slate that we should be --

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, I'm not proposing a
7 slate. I was -- I wanted to respond to Commissioner Ahmad.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, okay. But I'm sorry,
9 Commissioner Le Mons, that was actually the Commissioner
10 Fornaciari --

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh, I'm sorry.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- trying to create a -- I
13 apologize for that one. That was a little vague.

14 Commissioner Fornaciari, are you actually
15 proposing a slate which we need to document?

16 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes. Yes.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes you are. Okay.
18 Counsel, --

19 COUNSEL SAXTON: If we might have a moment,
20 please.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Just need a minute, Counsel
22 needs a minute to document that properly and then we'll
23 verify and then we'll call on Commissioner Le Mons. Thank
24 you.

25 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

2 COUNSEL SAXTON: Commissioner Fornaciari has
3 proposed the Compromise Slate which would include the
4 following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Michael
5 Gennaco, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell
6 Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; Linda
7 Akutagawa, neither party. Is that correct, Commissioner?

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: That is correct.

9 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

11 Commissioner Le Mons.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: First, I'd just say that
13 the Compromise Slate is my old slate 1, so I have some
14 affinity to it. So I do want to make a comment about that,
15 but I'll come back.

16 To Commissioner Ahmad's question, and I think
17 earlier this afternoon actually that was what I was
18 offering up in changing my slate would have been exactly
19 that. It was -- I opened up a discussion with the group
20 about replacing -- oh no, I'm wrong. I think you said
21 something different because I had suggested that we replace
22 Toledo with Linda Akutagawa. Is that what you were saying
23 Commissioner Ahmad?

24 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I was just looking at no
25 party preference bringing --

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, that's what I mean
2 in the no party preference category. Which two did
3 you hold up, I'm sorry --

4 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I brought for discussion
5 Morgan and Akutagawa.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, that's what I
7 thought.

8 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: And I do see -- I do see
9 that you did open a discussion about that exact
10 combination.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, that's what that
12 took me back to and, you know, at that time of course
13 didn't get any traction in terms of a possibility because I
14 kind of anticipated we may be end up where we are. So I am
15 also in support of that discussion as well.

16 I do want to say that out of all of the public
17 comment, and Commissioner Turner kind of scratched that
18 just a little bit earlier, my preference wasn't to really
19 hopefully go down a rabbit hole on this. But out of all
20 the public comment that we received, there's only been one
21 candidate who was proposed in this Compromise Slate where
22 we've gotten opposition feedback in pretty, I mean with
23 some pretty strong opposition. And I know that there's
24 been some rebuttal feedback, but that really gives me a
25 little bit of pause with the one particular candidate in

1 the new proposed slate.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm not quite sure in the,
3 Commissioner Le Mons, just to clarify here, I see several
4 different hands going up. You're discussing in, are you
5 talking about in the compromise, the new Compromise Slate
6 there is a candidate that has opposition?

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, let me double -- let
8 me double check.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, please, please.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I believe, yeah, I
11 think I'm right but let me double check. That's why I
12 haven't named names for it.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, could, could -- yeah,
14 please --

15 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I thought that was
16 Richard Gallegos.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That's what I thought. That's
18 the --

19 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: It was Richard Gallegos
20 who got the negative feedback.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Ah. My apologies. You're
23 correct. You're correct.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay, so that was not part of --

25 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: That was not in your

1 slate.

2 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Correct. So, so would you just
3 like to sort of restate that I think you were coming to
4 a --

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, I want to withdraw
6 that comment because I had the wrong person. I thought
7 someone was in the Compromise Slate that is not.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I see. Got it. Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So it's neither here nor
10 there.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Great. Okay. Thank you,
12 Commissioner.

13 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: My apologies.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. We had another, I thought
15 I saw another hand, another person that wants to make a
16 discussion. Yes, Commissioner Taylor.

17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, in listening to our
18 arguments, I also see that part of it is what we don't want
19 to relinquish with amongst our own 14. And as Commissioner
20 Kennedy had brought up, representation of Orange County
21 can -- and also with the legal mind, is Tamoush. So I
22 would like to propose a slate as well. And that slate
23 would consist of Patricia Sinay, Angela Vasquez, Alicia
24 Fernandez, Yee, Morgan, and Tamoush.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. So we'll pause for just a

1 minute to get Counsel to write that down and then -- and
2 read it back.

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And I do feel like one of
4 the things we're addressing is what do we want to
5 relinquish with amongst our 14, to where we're going to
6 have to get a expert, or rely on outside counsel, or
7 outside expertise, and how that's reflected on our -- on
8 our Commission, on our Board.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Le Mons.

11 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Taylor, are
12 you saying that with the slate that you are proposing,
13 that's in -- that's understanding that we're forgoing the
14 legal aspect as an expertise for the Commission?

15 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: [inaudible]

16 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You're on mute.

17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you. Thank you. To
18 a degree, but Tamoush has some experience in the legal
19 field, as brought to the -- to our attention by Kennedy.
20 So that legal mind, that legal framework, which you also
21 hold, Commissioner Le Mons, which I would say as an
22 investigator myself, although not to the depths, there's a
23 certain amount of legal framework that's bouncing around in
24 here too, that we could venture this way to challenge what
25 we would get from the outside source to hold them to

1 standards.

2 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I might just -- are you prepared
4 to read that back?

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: I am, but if you'd like to make
6 a comment.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Well, we'll have you read
8 it back and then I actually want to ask a question along
9 those same lines. So go ahead and read that, please.

10 COUNSEL SAXTON: First, Commissioner Taylor,
11 what would you like to name your slate, sir?

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Well, just Taylor,
13 Taylor 1.

14 COUNSEL SAXTON: The Taylor Slate consists of
15 the following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Angela
16 Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell
17 Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; Victoria
18 Tamoush, neither party. Is that correct?

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Taylor, is that
20 correct?

21 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, it is.

22 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

24 On the -- I had a question and it was -- I missed
25 in Victoria Tamoush. I understand, and please, I might

1 actually ask Commissioner Kennedy who had more information
2 on her. I sort of missed the legal -- I think she was
3 reviewing legal matters but not, you know, so she had sort
4 of worked with law, but not actually the law background.
5 Is that -- is that correct or Commissioner Kennedy, do you
6 have more information handling on that?

7 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: My reading of her
8 application materials is that as a hearing officer she was
9 able to issue legally binding judgments based on law.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. So that's within her
11 field. So that's similar to -- yeah. Okay. So
12 that -- thank you.

13 And this is for sort of also for the -- along the
14 same line. You also had information on Pedro Toledo.
15 Could you kind of go through that, please, since you kind
16 of did a nice really summary as we first started. Not to
17 put you on the spot but could you, Commissioner Kennedy.
18 On the -- you have to make him go back to, he was, had that
19 information early in the morning which I thought was very,
20 very helpful and very sort of succinct.

21 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Madam Chair, if I recall
22 correctly, I was speaking about Eddie Morgan, not Pedro
23 Toledo.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I thought you did -- I thought
25 you did both. You did Eddie Morgan, I thought you did

1 Pedro Toledo, and Ms. Tamoush. Was I incorrect about that?

2 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I don't have notes here on
3 Pedro Toledo.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: You do not. Okay, - someone
5 did.

6 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes?

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Could we -- could we hear
9 Commissioner Fornaciari's slate again, please? I
10 apologize, I didn't write it down, so I'd like to get a
11 real capture of it. I think I know, but I want to make
12 sure.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Certainly. We'll have
14 Counsel -- Commissioner Fornaciari, is it okay if we just
15 have Counsel read that? Getting nod.

16 Yes, Counsel could you please read, I guess it's
17 technically called the Compromise Slate.

18 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you, Commissioner.
19 That's Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Michael Gennaco, Democrat;
20 Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell Yee, Republican;
21 Eddie Morgan, neither party; Linda Akutagawa, neither
22 party.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you.

24 COUNSEL SAXTON: I apologize if that was read
25 too quickly. Let me --

1 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, no. I just was
2 distracted. I was too busy thinking I heard a name that I
3 didn't hear so, so no. With that, I'd like to make a
4 motion that we vote on Commissioner Fornaciari's Slate.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: There's a --

6 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair?

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Ahmad.

8 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: There is no Fornaciari
9 Slate. It's --

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh, I'm sorry. Thank you.
11 Thank you. Good catch. I'd like to make a motion that we
12 vote on the Compromise Slate. Aptly named, by the way,
13 Commissioner Fornaciari.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: There's a -- thank you
15 Commissioner Ahmad. I was trying to figure out how do I
16 say that.

17 There's a proposal on the table to vote on the
18 Compromise Slate. Do I have a second?

19 Seeing no second at this time --

20 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I can second that.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh. Okay, we have a second by
22 Commissioner Ahmad.

23 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Although I just wanted to
24 recognize that Commissioner Sadhwani has her hand raised.
25 I don't know when it's the appropriate time.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner
2 Sadhwani had --

3 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, you know, it was
4 actually kind of in the middle of all of this. I'm just
5 trying to think through all of these components, and we've
6 had plenty of discussion over the last three days. I would
7 feel very uncomfortable by the next two slates that have
8 been proposed, given that it would reduce the Latino
9 representation. We have heard, since the beginning of this
10 process, from so many individuals and organizations. Given
11 the various options, we have in front of us, I would --

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Actually, I'm going to have to
13 put you on -- since we do have a motion that has been
14 proposed and seconded, and before we sort of jump in, just
15 procedurally, before we can jump into discussion about it,
16 do we need to have -- to read that, or is it okay to
17 discuss before we actually take public comment?
18 Actually --

19 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Do we have to take public
20 comment before the Commissioners discuss, I guess also
21 which would be fine.

22 COUNSEL SAXTON: The rule is during or before --

23 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

24 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- the public comment.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh. There we go. Thank you.

1 So we have it. It is we can indeed discuss, either before
2 or during public comments, so go ahead forward with
3 discussion.

4 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Is that going back to me?

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. I'm sorry. Go, yes,
6 Commissioner Sadhwani.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I'm just trying to
8 wrap my head around all of the various combinations that we
9 have. I would feel more comfortable with the original
10 slate that Commissioner Le Mons had proposed, and we had
11 voted on, which included four Latinos even though it
12 had -- although I feel passionately about Orange County
13 representation, I would feel more comfortable there than
14 with this reduction.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Sadhwani.

17 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Can I ask? I'm sorry,
18 Commissioner.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: No, no. Go ahead. You're -- I
20 was just --

21 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Turner, out
22 of curiosity, I'm just thinking back to the vote on the
23 Le Mons Slate. And so I'm wondering, based upon our
24 discussion so far is, do you feel like you could be
25 comfortable in that direction? And I guess I'd ask the

1 same question of Commissioner Ahmad as well. And if so, I
2 would withdraw my motion for the vote on the Compromise
3 Slate and I guess we'd have to check with Counsel to see if
4 that slate can be reintroduced, or renamed and
5 repositioned, then maybe we can try another vote. But I
6 don't want to go through that whole process and open up to
7 public comment --

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- if there's no real
10 support.

11 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Thank you, Commissioner Le
12 Mons. The struggle that I had with the original Le Mons
13 Slate was not a struggle where I was totally against it. I
14 just do strongly feel the necessity of the API engagement
15 that Linda Akutagawa brings to the table and hearing all of
16 the public comment and her background, really was where my
17 struggle was. And for me, even greater than just Orange
18 County, I believe she brings a certain element of
19 representation that we will lack without her being at the
20 table and it's where I strongly have belief that she would
21 be the representative that would be able to do that.

22 Now having said that, through the discussions
23 that we're having as well, I do recognize that Russell Yee
24 is also partly on that slate, so it's not -- it's not a
25 group that would be totally, I guess lack representation

1 plus the strong public support and comment for Linda.
2 Which is also, which is curious for me because I've been
3 very appreciative of Commissioner Kennedy's lifting of
4 Victoria Tamoush, which happens to be Orange County as
5 well. And I'm, I guess curious, about the support. I
6 think I recall her having a lot of written public comment
7 ahead of time, but the showing up over the last couple of
8 days hasn't been there, and maybe that's okay. And I'm
9 trying to internally determine how I feel about the lack of
10 showing over the public comment over the last three days.
11 And again, it's our process that we're in with the Zoom, so
12 that's kind of where my thoughts are.

13 And very much, I apologize, my health is not
14 where it needs to be, but I'm very much engaged in
15 conversations and following it. But my -- I want to say I
16 probably am definitely closer to the Le Mons Slate that,
17 because I'm also hesitant to lose Pedro. And I feel pretty
18 strongly about having him as part of the slate as well.
19 Yes. Thank you.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Commissioner
21 Kennedy.

22 Thank you Commissioner, Turner, for--.

23 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Just first to respond to Commissioner Turner's question, my
25 notes show that candidate Tamoush had, I believe it was 18

1 written comments on her application file, while Linda
2 Akutagawa had five.

3 I wanted to point out that the only difference
4 that I'm seeing between your slate, the Chair's slate, the
5 Andersen Slate, and Commissioner Le Mons Slate is
6 difference between Peter Blando and Russell Yee. And I
7 have to admit that I have been equally compelled by both of
8 them so I could -- I could certainly see myself supporting
9 the Andersen Slate which has only that distinction with the
10 Le Mons Slate. And otherwise continue to hold out hope
11 that we can -- that we can find something that works.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.
13 I, and I see where you're saying here, because the issue
14 that, you know, so we're talking about where do we go from
15 here, proceed -- I do see the Le Mons Slate was voted on,
16 second amended was voted on, and voted no. How do we
17 reintroduce my -- the Andersen Slate, first amended, is the
18 same as the Le Mons Slate, with the exception of Peter
19 Blando for Russell Yee. And, without going into their
20 particular qualifications, everything that -- the only,
21 just to make sure everyone would know what the difference
22 is, other than just the people, his, this is just straight
23 categorically. Geographically, Russell Yee is in Alameda
24 County, Oakland. Peter Blando is in Yolo County, West
25 Sacramento. And where Alicia Fernandez is also in Yolo

1 County, Clarksburg. So that was sort of the difference in
2 those two. I'm --

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm sorry

5 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Can we
6 get -- can we get clarification on that procedural question
7 that I have?

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. Yes, and we will --

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: From Counsel?

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, but I'm sorry, Commissioner
11 Ahmad also had her hand raised about the same time so.

12 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes. I realize.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Ahmad.

14 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: It's okay. I was just going
15 to point out that there's actually a number of differences
16 between Blando and Yee, including Yee's ethnicity, economic
17 status, and region for us to consider.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, yes. Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: So I just wanted to make
20 sure that was highlighted.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. No in terms of those, we'd
22 actually have to further the discussion there. I was
23 actually going more at I believe what Commissioner Le Mons
24 said is, procedurally where do we go.

25 And so, Counsel, on that, you know we have the

1 Le Mons second amended slate that was voted on and voted
2 down. So procedurally say if want to revive that slate, is
3 it easier to bring that back or could I --

4 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Can you ask her what our
5 options are?

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. Yes. Exactly, what you
7 know --

8 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Just in the broadest sense
9 of the question.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Right. There's another slate
11 that exists already, which could be modified and suggested
12 or how -- what are our -- what are our options here?

13 COUNSEL SAXTON: Yes, Madam Chair. First, if I
14 may, I just want to remind for clarity that currently the
15 motion on the floor is the Compromise Slate. As for
16 options, a slate that has not been approved through the
17 vote can be re-proposed. A motion can be made to bring it
18 back up again. A Commissioner may amend their own slate.
19 Those are options. A new slate can be built. In terms of
20 what's most efficient, if there is a slate that has not
21 been approved, I believe would simply be to motion to
22 reconsider that slate for approval.

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So Madam Chair, I'd like
24 to withdraw my motion to vote on the Compromise Slate
25 and -- do I have to get a second on that before we move

1 forward?

2 COUNSEL SAXTON: No.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No. Okay. And so my new
4 motion is to revive the Le Mons amended slate for vote.

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: If I may, Madam Chair. Just to
6 clarify, the Le Mons Second Amended Slate?

7 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

8 COUNSEL SAXTON: The second. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Now, thanks. So the -- the
11 motion that is on the -- the motion that is on the table is
12 to revise and the, essentially bring back to vote on the
13 Le Mons Second Amended Slate. Do I have a second?

14 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I'll second it.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Seconded by Commissioner
16 Fornaciari. And at this point, could Counsel please read
17 the Le Mons Second Amended Slate.

18 COUNSEL SAXTON: Yes, Madam Chair. The Le Mons
19 Second Amended Slate includes applicants: Patricia Sinay,
20 Democrat; Angela Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez,
21 Republican; Russell Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither
22 party; and Pedro Toledo, neither party. Is that correct?

23 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

24 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

25 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Now, before we move

1 into the next -- the next phase would be discussion and
2 public comment. Just for discussion purposes, so we kind
3 of put several things out -- the difference we are -- we
4 were sort of discussing the difference between Peter
5 Blando, Russell Yee. You know I, of course, had, you know,
6 ideas, I really like Peter Blando. Did we want to pursue
7 that further? Commissioner Fornaciari.

8 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I, Madam Chair, I think
9 it would be appropriate to focus the conversation on the
10 motion on the table at this point. And you know, follow
11 that through to the vote and if it doesn't pass, then we
12 can come back and revisit other candidates. But we have a
13 specific motion on the table for a specific slate and I
14 think our discussion should be focused on that. Just
15 offering that up.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. I -- this was just a
17 little kind of understanding, I think this is, as
18 Commissioner Le Mons stated before, in terms of is that
19 even worth mentioning ever. And that's where I'm, just
20 kind of question and I don't see any other comment about
21 that. So at this point it's -- it would be time to take
22 public comment. And we can also continue discussion on
23 this matter, but we do need to take public comment before
24 the vote.

25 So at this point, I'm going to have Counsel read

1 the instructions, please, for comment.

2 COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 If you would like to make public comment
4 regarding a vote on the revived Second Amended Slate of
5 Le Mons, the Le Mons revised Second Amended Slate, please
6 call in now by dialing 844-291-5495. In the next few
7 moments we'll begin taking public comment, and that number
8 again is 844-291-5495. After dialing the number, you'll
9 speak to an operator. You'll be asked to provide either
10 the access code for the meeting, which is 8121803 or the
11 name of the meeting, which is CRC Selection Meeting.

12 After providing this information, the operator
13 will ask you to provide your name. Please note that you're
14 not required to provide your actual name. When the
15 operator asks for your name, you may provide a name other
16 than your own. When it's your turn to make a public
17 comment, the operator will introduce you by the name you
18 provided. Please be assured our office is not maintaining
19 any list of callers by name. We ask for you to provide
20 some name to enable the operator to manage multiple calls
21 simultaneously and let you know when it's your turn to
22 speak.

23 After speaking with the operator, you will be
24 placed in a listening room. In this room you will be able
25 to listen to live audio of the meeting. Please mute your

1 computer audio because the online video and audio will be
2 delayed by approximately 60 seconds and feedback issues may
3 occur making it difficult for anyone to hear your comment.
4 Also, please do not use a speaker phone and speak directly
5 into your phone.

6 When you decide that you want to make a comment
7 about an action item, in this case, a vote on the Le Mons
8 Second Amended Slate, press one zero and you'll be placed
9 in the queue to make public comment about that action item.
10 After joining the queue to make a public comment, you
11 should hear an automatic recording informing you that
12 you've been placed in the queue.

13 When it is your turn, the operator will introduce
14 you. At that time, please state and spell your name for
15 the transcriptionist then state your comment clearly and
16 concisely. Comments will be limited to two minutes. You
17 will hear a time check when 15 seconds in your time
18 remains.

19 After you finish making your comment, we'll move
20 on to the next caller. At that point, please hang up your
21 phone. If you would like to comment on another agenda item
22 at a later time, please call back when we open up public
23 comment for that item and repeat the process. If you are
24 disconnected for any reason, please call back and explain
25 the issue to the operator, then repeat the process and

1 rejoin the public comment queue by pressing one zero.

2 These instructions can also be found on our
3 website.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

5 AT&T Operator, do we happen to have anyone in the
6 queue at this time?

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If you wish to make a
8 comment, please press one and then zero at this time. And
9 we do have a few in queue. We'll first go to the line of
10 Chandara Phanachone. Please spell your name, followed by
11 your comment.

12 MS. PHANACHONE: Chandara Phanachone.
13 C-H-A-N-D-A-R-A. Last name, P as in Peter, H-A-N-A-C-H-O-
14 N-E.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Go ahead. You are on the line.

16 MS. PHANACHONE: Great. My name is Chandara
17 Phanachone and I am the managing partner for a woman and
18 LGBT-owned publication called *Geraldine Magazine*. I'm
19 calling to really extend my full support and a hundred
20 percent confidence in Ms. Linda Akutagawa.

21 You know, I'm listening in on this call and this
22 entire time I'm thinking that, you know, I've heard
23 conversations in regard to having someone else be on the
24 Commission to represent the views of the people in the
25 population, especially the API population in the OC. And,

1 you know, this is problematic because I am a refugee from
2 Laos and for the longest time, I've learned that if you are
3 not at the table, you are going to be on the menu. The
4 issues that the communities face are not going to be
5 brought up to the Commission because the people who are
6 living in the communities are not being represented. And I
7 wanted to let you know that, that this is really important.

8 You know, Linda Akutagawa grew up in the OC. She
9 grew up in the heart of San Diego Valley. She understands
10 the needs and the disparities that exist within the
11 Asian-American community. You know, a lot of times we are
12 called the minority, the modern minority, and that is
13 completely false. And I just wanted to bring that up to
14 your attention because within the Asian-American community
15 there is diverse populations of Asian-American, and with
16 regard to language, ethnicity, cultures, and that's
17 something that needs to be told. Because oftentimes we are
18 lumped into one category. And because of that, our views,
19 our interests are not represented.

20 I believe that Linda is a great leader. This is
21 not just a vision, and a commitment to really affect change
22 on this Commission, but also to be represented of the race
23 that has often kind of been unheard --

24 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

25 MS. PHANACHONE: -- and marginalized. Her work

1 with the Chair -- as the Chair of the Alliance for Board
2 Diversity, has really elevated the issues and the
3 disproportion, the underrepresentation of the
4 Asian-American community --

5 MS. PELLMAN: That's time.

6 MS. PHANACHONE: -- on this --

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Go ahead AT&T Operator.

8 MS. PHENACHONE: Thank you.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Go ahead. Oh. Okay. Thank you
10 very much Ms. Phanachone.

11 Would anyone like to address that at this time or
12 just continue as -- thank you very much and is there anyone
13 else in the queue.

14 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go over to
15 the line of Vanessa Hernandez. Please spell your name,
16 followed by your comment.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hello. My name's Vanessa
18 Hernandez. V-A-N-E-S-S-A. Hernandez, H-E-R-N-A-N-D-E-Z.
19 I'm calling to show our full support for Le Mons Amended
20 Slate. I am representing both myself and HOPE, which
21 stands for Hispanas Organized for Political Equality. At
22 your last meeting, we both submitted a letter and public
23 comment urging you all to consider the selection of at
24 least three Latinas as part of the Commission. I feel that
25 Le Mons Second Amended Slate uplifts both Patricia Sinay,

1 and Angela Vasquez. Both who I have experienced as
2 incredible leaders, impartial, and incredibly reputable
3 leaders who should be part of this Commission. And urge
4 your consideration of this slate further. Thank you.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

6 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

7 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
8 line of Brian Zweir. Please spell your name, followed by
9 your comment.

10 MR. ZWEIR: Hello. B-R-I-A-N, Z-W-E-I-R. I
11 wanted to say that I think only three Latinos hail from the
12 Latino community, and I reiterate my support for the first
13 slate, which was close and it's the best one by far. I
14 implore all the Commissioners to support the Latino
15 community, vote the Le Mons Slate. The first slate is
16 supported by the public and was by the vast majority of
17 Commissioners. Further, Pedro Toledo and the Latinos
18 received the majority of total public comments in support
19 of. Please.

20 Thank you for taking the time to listen to my
21 comments. Have a great day.

22 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Zweir.

23 Do we have any other -- any in the queue.

24 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go the
25 line of Mariko Kahn. Please spell your name, followed by

1 your comment.

2 MS. KAHN: Hello. My name is Mariko Kahn,
3 M-A-R-I-K-O. Last name Kahn, K-A-H-N. And I'm calling in
4 support of the Compromise one rather than the one that's on
5 the table. In particular because I feel it's important
6 that Linda Akutagawa is considered for the Commission. I
7 am the -- I'm an Executive Director of Pacific Asian Mental
8 Health Agency. And I'm also on the Board of Cambodia Town.
9 I know Linda, that she will represent my community, the
10 Cambodian community, and the API community in general. And
11 it's really also important to understand that Orange County
12 has a very large Asian population, very diverse. And not
13 to have anybody on the Commission that can represent that
14 constituency is not right.

15 So I hope that you will reconsider and certainly
16 consider Ms. Akutagawa for this Commission. Thank you.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kahn.

18 Do we have anyone else on the line?

19 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
20 line of Tammy Tran. Please spell your name, followed by
21 your comment.

22 MS. TRAN: Yes. My name is Tammy Tran,
23 T-A-M-M-Y. Last name Tran, T-R-A-N. I appreciate the
24 opportunity to continue to be part of this discussion. I
25 respectfully oppose the latest -- the latest slate.

1 Here's the bottom line for me. Orange County
2 voices showed up today to be heard. It has been
3 demonstrated Linda Akutagawa selection will give voice and
4 energy to a cross section of people from across the state,
5 not just Asian Pacific Islanders. She has people call in
6 from Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Gabriel
7 Valley, Long Beach, Little Saigon, Fountain Valley, Santa
8 Ana, Anaheim. She has not even been selected yet by this
9 Commission, but has inspired so many people to engage,
10 including myself.

11 I've taken time from my work to follow this for
12 the last couple days. I appreciate the consistency of
13 Commissioner Turner and Sadhwani, in recognition of her
14 value to the Commission. Their -- your consistency in
15 recognizing the API community is not monolithic. We're not
16 all Republicans. We're not all Democrats. But Linda is
17 unaffiliated. She's, you know she's non-partisan. She
18 also understands that the Asian-American community include
19 voices from the Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Chinese,
20 Taiwanese, Laotian, Cambodian. I'm passionate about Linda
21 because I have seen her fight. I have seen her be
22 impartial. She's a professional.

23 And I hope that this moves -- that the
24 Commissioners who are resistant to her candidacy, you all
25 have heard from countless people today. I know

1 Commissioner Kennedy referenced the 18 letters that the
2 other person from Orange County, who I'm not familiar with,
3 to the five letters that Linda received. I hope you're
4 counting how many people have submitted public comment.
5 How many people have taken their time from their families,
6 from their health, and everything to make time to be a part
7 of this process and to have their voice heard.

8 Commissioner Kennedy, you sound very intelligent.
9 I hope you take that and I'm asking you a question,
10 hopefully, you're counting how many people --

11 MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

12 MS. KAHN: -- have called in for Linda Akutagawa
13 because it sounds like it's important that you reference 18
14 letters versus the five. I didn't know how to put in a
15 letter, I know a lot of people have, until much later. And
16 so I think that's -- that for me is one of the reasons --

17 MS. PELLMAN: Time.

18 MS. KAHN: -- I'm just learning how to have my
19 voice heard. Thank you.

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tran.

21 Are there any other comments in the queue? We
22 will have time for that.

23 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go over to
24 the line of Enancio Gaona. Please spell your name,
25 followed by your comment.

1 MR. GOANA: The name is Enacio Gaona, ex-educator
2 of 37 years. I'm from Fresno, California. I thank you for
3 the opportunity to present my views. It is unfortunate
4 that it has taken some time to get some Latinos on this
5 Compromise. I would urge them, and all of you, to duly
6 hear the interests of the community at large, and to
7 present your talent and experiences on this Commission. It
8 is important to hear the needs in terms of redistricting of
9 the entire state, not just Southern California or the Bay
10 Area, but in particular, the Central, San Joaquin Valley.
11 The -- it is important that all talents be considered,
12 issues be considered, areas be represented.

13 It is interesting to me to hear you, how you are
14 actually extending yourself to consider other ethnic
15 groups. It is commendable on your part. I wish you
16 success and once again I encourage, especially those
17 Latinos on this Commission, to reach out to the community,
18 and hear what they have to say in terms of redistricting.

19 Thank you.

20 COURT REPORTER: Sir, this is the Court Reporter.
21 Can you please spell your name for me?

22 MR. GOANA: E-N-A-N-C-I-O. Gaona, G-A-O-N-A.

23 COURT REPORTER: Thank you so much.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

25 Do we have any other additional people in the

1 queue?

2 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, if you
3 wish to comment, please press one and then zero at this
4 time.

5 And we'll go to the line of Tammy Kim. Please
6 spell your name, followed by your comment.

7 MS. KIM: Yes. Tammy, T-A-M-M-Y. Kim, K-I-M. I
8 am calling on behalf of the 130,000 Korean-Americans here
9 in Orange County. I represent Korean-American Center and
10 Korean Community Services. We are the largest Korean-
11 American serving nonprofit organization here in Orange
12 County.

13 We didn't understand the process or else we
14 would've submitted a letter, so I'm calling today in
15 support of Linda Akutagawa. We hope that you will consider
16 putting her on this Commission. We are giving her our
17 fullest support possible and really would appreciate the
18 consideration. The Korean-American community here in
19 Orange County is the second largest in the entire country
20 and we want to ensure that we have representation within,
21 not just the Korean community, but the overall API
22 community. That we have someone here in Orange County to
23 help give voice. Someone with a reputation of fairness.

24 And that is what I'd like to say, so thank you
25 very much.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kim.

2 Is there anyone else in the queue?

3 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to the
4 line of Inez Gonzalez. Please spell your name, followed by
5 your comment.

6 MS. GONZALEZ: Inez Gonzalez, I-N-E-Z,
7 G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
8 I'm the Executive Director for Mana De San Diego,
9 representing over 400 women and allies in San Diego County.
10 I echo HOPE's support for the current proposed slate.
11 We're pleased to see San Diego and Latina representation.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Gonzalez.

14 Do we have anyone else in the queue?

15 AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. As a reminder, if you
16 wish to make a comment please press one and then zero at
17 this time.

18 I have no further lines in queue at this time.

19 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you very much, AT&T
20 Operator.

21 Anyone want a little discussion before we, next
22 would be to call the vote.

23 Commissioner Taylor.

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Commissioner Turner and I
25 just --

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm sorry, Commissioner Turner.
2 Sorry.

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Oh no, Commissioner Taylor,
4 I was directing -

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Taylor, Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. Commissioner Turner,
7 just a brief moment of conversation. So my understanding
8 is that one of your strongest points for Linda was her
9 representation of the API community. Correct?

10 VICE CHAIR TURNER: That is correct.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you.

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Any additional
13 comments or, at this time?

14 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, Madam Chair.

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Turner.

16 VICE CHAIR TURNER: To just continue with that
17 thought, it is for Ms. Linda Akutagawa. It's the
18 representation of the broad spectrum of that community that
19 has overwhelmingly called in, written in, to have that
20 representation throughout the regions. And I feel just as
21 strongly about the representation for the Latino community
22 for Pedro. And it's the -- it's the concern that we have
23 in this one category here. I am not confused over the
24 north with Eddie Morgan and the value that that would bring
25 to the Commission and what does that mean for the years of

1 nonrepresentation, the representative there as well.

2 But the struggle that I continue in is to not
3 have Pedro as a representation for the Latino community in
4 the non-identified category, as well as Ms. Linda
5 Akutagawa. And I think for me the struggle still continues
6 to be trying to prioritize Morgan over those two and I'm
7 still not finding the bandwidth to feel totally comfortable
8 and confident in making that selection, or choice, of
9 Morgan over Akutagawa or Toledo.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you Commissioner Turner.

11 Would anyone -- any other, I might sort of maybe,
12 you know, I completely understand that and particularly the
13 people who are calling in who feel, or are actually saying
14 if --

15 Oh. I'm sorry. Was there someone else who --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, no. My apologies.

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Who are saying, you know,
18 if Ms. Akutagawa isn't there we won't be represented.
19 I -- given what Commissioner Kennedy actually brought up
20 earlier, there's an applicant, David Burdick, who said, and
21 I believe he was actually maybe applied 10 years ago. And
22 there is the whole group of applicants who have not made it
23 through the process but who are ready, willing, and able,
24 excuse me, to jump in and say hey, these are the people I
25 can get and I will activate to help you come to this group.

1 And I'd like to say to -- I feel that's very, very true and
2 it's a little, almost easier, given Ms. Akutagawa and her
3 connections to reach out to her, even though she would not
4 be on the Commission, for access. And, you know, I
5 don't -- I do not want these people to think, oh, it's the
6 Commission. You're either on the Commission or you're not
7 represented period. I -- that's where I think it's kind
8 of, again, access. I understand that Orange County is, it
9 is tricky. It is dense and populated. I actually sort of
10 think it might be one of the areas we actually try to look
11 at and address first because it is sort of complicated,
12 might actually help us with access there. I don't know if
13 that helps anybody in considering other sorts of things.

14 I did see quickly three hands then. It'll be
15 Commissioner Sadhwani and then there's Commissioner Turner
16 and then Commissioner Ahmad.

17 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Madam Chair.
18 While [unstable Internet connection] idea that people in
19 the pool are going to be able, willing, and ready to
20 participate in this process, if they're not on the
21 Commission. I want to push back on that. Right? As a
22 working mom with three kids, yeah, I would love to do
23 everything, right, but I don't think that we can expect
24 that people are going to have the time or ability to
25 continue to be involved at the same level, if they're not

1 on the Commission. I think that is a wild assumption.
2 Right? Not everyone is in the same position, whether
3 that's in terms of their time or economic situation,
4 particularly during COVID. So while I certainly welcome
5 everybody's participation, I don't think that it's fair to
6 make that assumption of anyone.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: We already have, and we'll add
8 Commissioner Le Mons.

9 So Commissioner Turner.

10 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair.
11 I just wanted to, for the record, say that for me
12 personally, it's been shared through some of the public
13 comment that's come, but for me personally I'm in agreement
14 that I also would have a sense that it almost feels like we
15 are penalizing people for calling in and for their
16 participation. And for the record, I want to say that that
17 is how it's landing for me as well. And I know that
18 everyone will have their own different intent about what
19 they're saying with that. But each time it comes up, I
20 want to say that it almost is since you have people that
21 are calling in, we don't necessarily need to have you as a
22 representation just continue to call in without the
23 representation. And almost as a demonstrated, this is what
24 will happen and so it almost gives -- negates the challenge
25 or the weightiness of still needing to struggle with

1 having. So I just wanted to state that for me, at least,
2 it is how it's landing for me.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
4 Commissioner Ahmad, is that -- Commissioner
5 Ahmad.

6 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
7 thoughts have already been shared.

8 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you. And then
9 Commissioner Le Mons.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No additional comment.

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. If that's certainly, I
12 can certainly see how what I'd said came across that way.
13 And it certainly did not intend to come across that way.
14 It's just more, I feel -- I empathize with the people who
15 were calling in and I really felt, because we have been
16 hearing, well, you get all these public comments and no one
17 says anything. And so that's where I was really trying to
18 say we're hearing you. And these are hard choices. And
19 it's, again, I felt no one was responding to that, which is
20 why I was reaching out, can anyone respond to these people
21 who are calling in. And they came across as though, well,
22 if you call in, you know, well, you're already there, we
23 don't, we don't need her. That's certainly wasn't my
24 intent. And, again, all the people who are contacting and
25 everything, whether it be by letter or public comment,

1 these are all the same. That was a little miscontrue there
2 in terms of, you know, their application letters that were
3 before a different time, then there's public comment after
4 that time. They're all the same level. So, but yes,
5 certainly there are advantages and timeframes on this.
6 Absolutely. And I totally understand that. I just feel
7 empathy with the people who are calling in, all of them
8 who, the people who are not, who are going to be unhappy
9 regardless how we decide. So, you always hate to make
10 someone upset, but we're going to.

11 So Commissioner Ahmad.

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair. Thank you,
13 Madam Chair. I would just like to make a point for process
14 clarification. And, please, Counsel, correct if I am
15 misunderstanding this. But for my understanding, it's
16 customary for sitting members of a body representing the
17 larger group to not necessarily respond to comments while
18 they are coming in. And this is, from what I understand,
19 the logic and reasoning behind that is for fairness and
20 equity. Because if we respond to one comment, we must
21 respond to all the comments. And right now, it might seem
22 relatively manageable, but when we get a thousand comments
23 from a certain area, that becomes a little bit more
24 complicated.

25 So I can speak for myself, I statements. If I

1 was not responding to comments, that was my intent, to make
2 sure that I'm fair and equitable to all the comments coming
3 in. But, rest assured, every single comment is being
4 digested and I am definitely considering and heavily
5 weighing every single public comment that comes through
6 whether it be through a phone call or written testimony.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Actually, thank you,
8 Commissioner Ahmad because that sort of is a -- we don't
9 actually officially say that and I believe this entire
10 issue would be well handled with an official even adding
11 that to the public comment. You know, we will accept your
12 comments, but we cannot actually say anything at this time,
13 would clarify that. And I think people calling in would
14 feel better. And that would sort of minimize the comments
15 that we're getting of, you know, we're saying things and no
16 one's replying. You know, because at public meetings,
17 there are ones that get replied to and there are others
18 that do not. And I think actually adding that to our
19 procedure going forward is a very, very good idea.

20 Counsel, I don't if there is a hard rule about
21 that, if that's our discretion. Could you please give us
22 some guidance on that?

23 COUNSEL SAXTON: Certainly. Commissioners are
24 constrained in that they cannot speak about things that are
25 not on the agenda. But in general, how Commissioners may

1 want to respond to public comment is there is no legal
2 restraint on responding or not responding. At the same
3 time, it is customary in many forums for public comment to
4 be met with thank you for your comment for the reasons that
5 Commissioner Ahmad brought up.

6 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. So is that -- I
7 think that is another detail item for the full Commission,
8 that just make that official for, again, many people who
9 are calling in are not at all familiar with how Boards and
10 Commissions proceed. And to make it more opaque -I mean
11 not opaque, open and clear, we should officially say
12 something on that.

13 So at this time, we do have a motion on the floor
14 and see no other -- oh, I'm sorry, we do have another hand.
15 Commissioner Sadhwani.

16 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just before we move into
17 a vote, I think I'd like to just say for the record, from
18 my examination of census data. The north coastal region
19 that is of discussion today, comprises less than one
20 percent of California, of its population. Orange County
21 comprises merely 10 percent of California and maybe 22
22 percent of Orange County of Asian-American and as we -- and
23 Pacific Islander. And as we have heard from the numerous
24 callers today, just as a reminder, that the Asian-American
25 Pacific Islander community is extraordinarily diverse. It

1 includes Indian-Americans, Chinese-Americans,
2 Korean-Americans, Cambodian-Americans, and many, many
3 others. And these are all communities that are going to be
4 left out.

5 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
6 Sadhwani.

7 Seeing no further comments, I'm going to ask the
8 secretary to call for the roll.

9 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

10 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Madam Chair -- oh.

11 COUNSEL SAXTON: Should --

12 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please.

13 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- I like to read -- okay.

14 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please.

15 COUNSEL SAXTON: The motion for consideration is
16 adoption of the Le Mons Second Amended Slate which includes
17 the following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Angela
18 Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell
19 Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; and Pedro
20 Toledo, neither party.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

22 Would the secretary like to call the vote?

23 MS. PELLMAN: Yes. Commissioner Ahmad.

24 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No.

25 MS. PELLMAN: Sorry, was that no?

1 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: That is correct.

2 MS. PELLMAN: Thank you.

3 Commissioner Andersen.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

5 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

6 COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

7 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No.

9 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.

10 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

11 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.

12 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Abstain.

13 MS. PELLMAN: Could you repeat that, please.

14 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Abstain.

15 MS. PELLMAN: Abstain, thank you.

16 Commissioner Taylor.

17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: [inaudible]

18 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You're on mute,

19 Commissioner Taylor.

20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

21 MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Turner. Commissioner

22 Turner, I couldn't hear you.

23 VICE CHAIR TURNER: I didn't say anything. No.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: That is the vote. Would anyone,

25 this is the time where, while Counsel tallies the vote,

1 this is the time should anybody would want to change their
2 vote.

3 COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

4 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

5 COUNSEL SAXTON: The motion received four yes
6 votes. The motion fails.

7 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

8 At this time, --

9 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Can I move that we recess
10 for the day?

11 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, we do have, on the line, I
12 mean the --

13 COUNSEL SAXTON: Oh, are you, Madam Chair, are
14 you speaking about the --

15 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

16 COUNSEL SAXTON: -- Mr. Villanueva?

17 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, that's correct.

18 COUNSEL SAXTON: He's available to discuss the
19 full Commission matters at a time when a slate has been
20 approved, after that time.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you very much.

22 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair. I also agree.
23 I think I [garbled].

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, I'm sorry, you -- break up.
25 It was a motion to adjourn and --

1 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No, not to adjourn, to
2 recess.

3 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, to recess. I'm sorry, to a
4 recess. Okay.

5 I'm sorry, Commissioner Sudhwani, did you also
6 say recess or? You did.

7 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, I said recess for
8 the day.

9 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, recess for the day.
10 Correct. And that's a recess for the day by Commissioner
11 Ahmad. Is that you were saying?

12 COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes, given the time being
13 4:11 and our agenda going to 4:30, I think it would be
14 appropriate to recess for the day. Up for discussion with
15 the other Commissioners, of course.

16 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah. I also agree. That's, I
17 was going to make that proposal. I think at this time it
18 would be wise for us to recess until tomorrow morning, and,
19 you know, think about -- grapple with this.

20 Is there any other additional comments or
21 additional matters that we need to discuss, mostly
22 parliamentary for tomorrow or anything?

23 Seeing no objection, I will --

24 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I do want to, I have
25 something I want to say.

1 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner
2 Le Mons.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I'm a little
4 disappointed, to be honest, and not because the slate
5 didn't pass. But I, you know, I've tried to be really,
6 really intentional about each Commissioner and really
7 hearing you and talking to you and bringing you in for
8 discussion. I would not have, in my opinion, wasted the
9 hour and a half that we wasted reintroducing the slate that
10 you said you could support to only turn around and not
11 support. So I would wish you just had said I don't know if
12 I can support it, I'm not sure. And I've tried to do that
13 through this entire process, is really check in with you.
14 Because I'm trying -- again, this isn't my personal thing.
15 I'm trying to do something that is really considerate of
16 all of us and all of the comments and all of that.

17 So just from a process point of view, I did find
18 this to be quite disappointing and I know that maybe your
19 heart changed, I guess, when you heard public comment and
20 whatnot. I just hope in the morning that those of you who
21 want something very specific that you come with that in the
22 morning so we can get down to the business of getting our
23 Commission seated.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.
25 Commissioner Sadhwani.

1 COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm assuming that that's
2 directed at me? When you said you.

3 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, I said when we come in
4 the morning, for those who want something specific, I said
5 it generally, but if you're -- the part that is for you is
6 I did check in with you directly. I checked in with
7 Commissioner Ahmad directly. And I checked in with
8 Commissioner Turner directly. And, again, it was in
9 service of if you guys support this, I'll move forward.
10 And that's not that you can't change your support. So I
11 respect that you have the right to change your mind
12 anytime. I respect that we have built into the process the
13 opportunity to change our vote, like all of that. So
14 you're within your absolute right to do exactly what you
15 did. So I'm not challenging that. I'm just sharing my
16 feeling that it felt like a big waste of time considering.
17 That's all.

18 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Turner.

19 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, thank you, Madam --

20 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I'm sorry, Commissioner Turner,
21 we're losing you. We can't hear you.

22 VICE CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Thank you, I
23 forgot to take off my mute. I wanted to say just in
24 response to Commissioner Le Mons. I have thoroughly
25 appreciated your stance and your way of moving us along for

1 this entire process. And the last thing I would want you
2 to feel is that any of it has been wasted or not
3 appreciated. I think that the call was a good one to have
4 the discussion again. It's not a thing struggle that I'm
5 having. I really am listening and on the fence. And
6 understand about Morgan and all of the things that says, to
7 me, was very important. The public comment and still
8 having to get down to can I do it, and in after hearing all
9 of the public comment, lead me to, as I said was closer,
10 wasn't sure.

11 So I don't want you, hopefully, to change your
12 positioning, your approach, all the Commissioners, I'm
13 finding value and starting to learn from each and every one
14 of you that's presenting. So it is taking a little bit
15 longer. We are wanting all to lift up and write our names
16 and do the due diligence that we committed to. And I
17 think, I hope you feel from that perspective, there is a
18 strong belief that I have that I'll bring in the morning,
19 but, to me, it was worthy discussion and certainly not
20 wasted at all.

21 CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

22 COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I can receive that and I
23 do thank you.

24 CHAIR ANDERSEN: I think that was, actually I'm,
25 thank you, I appreciate all of those comments. I think

1 that will be very helpful, certainly for me, going forward.
2 And I will be, you know, thinking of all of this again
3 through tonight.

4 So any other comments before we recess until
5 tomorrow? Seeing no hands.

6 The time being, what, 4:15, we will recess until
7 tomorrow morning at 9:30. Thank you.

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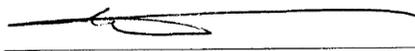
[Proceeding Adjourned at 4:17 p.m.]

REPORTER' S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of September, 2020.



PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public

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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of September, 2020.



Barbara Little
Certified Transcriber
AAERT No. CET**D-520