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
APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

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
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
9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

MS. PELLMAN:  Yes.

Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD:  Here.

MS. PELLMAN:  Commissioner Andersen.

CHAIR ANDERSEN:  Here.

MS. PELLMAN:  Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  Here.

MS. PELLMAN:  Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY:  Here.

MS. PELLMAN:  Commissioner Le Mons.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: That’s correct. Thank you. There is now a quorum. So we will begin the meeting.

Thank you very much. And the first item of business is for public comment. So, at this particular time, I will ask AT&T Operator, actually I will ask Counsel to read the directions for public comment.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

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

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

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

When you decide that you want to make a comment
about an action item on the agenda, press one zero and
you'll be placed in the queue to make public comment about
that action item -- in this case, Agenda Item 5. After
joining the queue to make a public comment, you should hear
an automatic recording informing you you've been placed in
the queue. When it's your turn, the operator will
introduce you. At that time, please state and spell your
name for the transcriptionist, then state your comment clearly and concisely. Comments will be limited to two minutes. You will hear a time check when 15 seconds in your time remains.

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

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

These instructions can also be found on our website.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

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

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

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

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

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

And it'll be just one moment.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you very much.

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

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

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

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you.

We'll go to the first line of Nancy Yap. Please
spell you name, followed by your comment.

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

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

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

Thank you so much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Do we have the next person, please?

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next over to the line of Thomas Wong. Please spell your name, followed by your
MR. WONG: Hi, good morning. My name is Thomas Wong T-H-O-M-A-S W-O-N-G and just wanted to echo earlier sentiments in commending the Commissioners and the Commission in your work and in taking time out of your days in the next year or so in doing this critical work of redistricting and drawing the lines for the next decade.

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

With that said, I'd like to offer my support and urge the Commission to support Commissioner Turner and Sadhwani's slates. I know there are many differences and many, lots of legitimate conversation around who should be picked out of the many qualified candidates, but I want to just urge the Commission and Commissioners to make sure that the rest of the Commission continues to reflect the
vast diversity of the state. And also wanted to echo the earlier first commenter's suggestion for Linda Akutagawa, specifically who I've known for a number of years now in her work in the API community in Southern California, who is super familiar with our community issues and has been engaged in the community and the political process --

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

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

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Next person in the queue.

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

MR. TAKAYESU: Yes, good morning everyone. My name is Erik Takayesu, spelled E-R-I-K. Last name is spelled T-A-K-A-Y-E-S-U. I'm currently a resident of Cypress in Orange County, and I currently am an executive for Southern California Edison working on a transmission and distribution grid. And I do, also, as the previous speakers have, really want to thank you, not just for your public service, but for your time and effort in this really important endeavor to represent communities in a very
diverse and fair way. And I would also like to kindly request the Commission to also -- my suggestion is to encourage Linda Akutagawa's appointment.

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

Thank you very much for your consideration.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

The next person in the queue, please.

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

MR. ENRIQUEZ: Yes. My name is Eliot Enriquez, E-L-I-O-T, E-N-R-I-Q-U-E-Z. Good morning, everyone. I am a board member for the Graton Day Labor Center in Sonoma County and I'm writing to urge you to support Pedro Toledo's application. I was thrilled to see Mr. Toledo, a
nonpartisan Latino, on all the slates because he will be a
great candidate for one hundred percent of Californians,
not just the 40 percent of the state that is Latinx.
However, it is important for our Latinx community and
particularly, our young people to see themselves reflected
on the Commission.

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

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

    Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Next in the call, in the queue, please.

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

MS. HUTCHISON: Thank you. Good morning.

This is Helen Hutchison, H-E-L-E-N. Hutchison is H-U-T-C-H-I-S-O-N. I'm here today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of California. I'm speaking for the League. We've been involved in redistricting since the very beginning and we are one of the proponents of the reforms that led to this Commission.

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

    We recognize it's impossible to be fully representative of California's wonderful diversity in just
14 people, and we also recognize that the pool of applicants that you're looking at contains a wealth of gifts and that you'd like to have them all. So we thank you for doing the hard work of balancing and trying to find the best mix.

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

Thank you very much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

I currently serve on several board nonprofits in the Orange County and Los Angeles area, and, such as the
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance. Also on the Public Broadcasting System community council advisory board at New Way California that was established by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, as a board member.

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

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

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

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

So thank you so much for your time and appreciate
it. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

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

Linda was recruited to be on our consumer advisory panel based on her reputation. And for over three years, Linda provided keen inside, feedback. She was support to the outreach that we were doing, and she was also well-versed in the complex issues in the utility industry. So, she was a quick learner. Also, Linda earned
the respect of 13 to 15 other advisory members representing the Black, Latino, LGBTQ, veteran, small business, people with disabilities and special needs, and so forth. And I knew that she would earn -- I know that she will earn your respect. I've worked with Linda a lot and I know that she understands what the underrepresented communities need, and has worked a lot in not only the API community, but the Black community and others.

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

Thank you very much.

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

MR. ROBINSON: Thank you. Maybe next time.

Thank you. Goodbye.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Next in the line, please.

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we'll go to Chelene Lopez. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.
MS. LOPEZ: Good morning. My name is Chelene Lopez, C-H-E-L-E-N-E. Last name Lopez, L-O-P-E-Z.

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

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

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

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

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

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

I strongly urge you to support Commissioner Turner's and Commissioner Sadhwani's slate. It's a strong, it's a balanced slate, and especially with the addition of
Linda Akutagawa. I have one hundred percent confidence that Linda Akutagawa's ability to form the larger body's decision making, and you will find Linda Akutagawa a very collaborative member.

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

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

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

Thanks.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

Next in the queue, please.

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

MR. PICKERING: Hi. My name is Bruce Pickering. It's N, N. Bruce Pickering. N, B-R-U-C-E. Last name is Pickering, P-I-C-K-E-R-I-N-G. And I'm currently a visiting
scholar at UC Berkeley and a Policy Advisor to the city of San Francisco for its international work.

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

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

But for all of that, a very positive person to work with. And I was also impressed by the fact that she worked across all the communities in California, not just southern California. But I feel, even as a northern
Californian, that she would be a terrific addition and would look out for the interest of the entire state.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Pickering.

Next in line, please.

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

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

So I would urge you to consider the region past Sonoma County as an important part of the state that deserves some kind of representation on this Commission. We have some of the most diverse groups of Native American
tribal organizations up here and we are very often omitted from these kinds of considerations when the state committees deliberate about putting together commissions like this. And I think geography is very important in a commission, such as yours.

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

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. George.

Next in the queue, please.

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


The purpose of my call today is to recommend Linda Akutagawa. Access California Services is a community-based organization nonprofit in Anahiem, Orange County, where the mission is to provide wrap around service, health and human services to all underserved community, with a focus on Arab-American and the
Muslim-American communities, including immigrants and refugees. Access California Services is known to be a voice for this population in Orange County.

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

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kayali.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

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

I live in Orange County. I've lived in Orange County all my life and I have been fighting for business,
veterans, diversity, and equal representation.

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

Thank you very kindly.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. McDonald.

Next in the queue.

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

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

I'm calling on behalf of folks that live in
Humboldt County. Northern California has not really had
representation on this Commission in the past. It's really
commong to hear San Francisco Bay Area and the wine country
referred to as northern California. That is both
geographically and culturally incorrect and inaccurate.
Petaluma is about the same latitude as the geographic
center of the state, but here in Humboldt County, the
county seat of Eureka is 235 miles or a four-hour drive
north of that. Crescent City at the far northwest edge is
a five-and-a-half-hour drive north of Petaluma. And our
area is becoming far more diverse. I've lived in Humboldt County for about 23 years. I'm a college professor and administrator and I've seen more and more Native American, Latinx, [indiscernible], Black, and Asian Pacific Islanders enter my classrooms. And it creates diversity that is beautiful and I feel it tremendously not represented in state politics.

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

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

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

I thank you for your time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Lapenta.

Next in the queue, please.

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next, we'll go to the line of Myron Quon. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.
MR. QUON: Good morning, Commissioners. Myron Quon, M-Y-R-O-N, Q-U-O-N. I'm calling to speak on behalf of Linda Akutagawa, Applicant 22971.

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

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

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

Thank you so much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Quon.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

I'm calling to urge your serious consideration of Linda Akutagawa for the remaining, one of the remaining Commission positions. I'll give you three reasons. Number one, Asian Pacific Americans needs representation because they're one of the fastest growing groups in the state's populations. Number two, Linda Akutagawa is a
well-respected leader of the Asian Pacific American community. She's very active in her role as President of LEAP, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics. And third, I would point out she is one of -- she is officially registered as a nonaffiliated or nonpartisan voter, which makes her directly representative of a very large percentage of Asian Pacific Americans who do not identify with a specific political party.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Woo.

Next in the queue, please.

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


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

Linda is a nationally recognized leader in diversity equity and inclusion and is at the forefront of a field of scholarship and practice that's becoming ever more
important, both to the state of California and to our
nation. In this manner, she joins national leaders from
the Asian American, Latino, Native American Women, LGBTQ+, and disability communities regularly in helping to change
the landscape to ensure equity in business, government,
education, and nonprofit. This is going to be very
important for the state of California in the coming
decades.

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

Thank you very much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Dowling.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tran.

Next in the queue please.

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

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

I strongly recommend Linda Akutagawa for the 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission. In my experience working with Linda on diversity and inclusion initiatives, I know that she is someone who's very passionate about advancing the community with equity and inclusion, and very well leads with compassion, integrity, and authenticity. Linda would offer a wealth of her perspective to the Redistricting Commission.
In addition, I'm also aware that she could be the only voice representing Asians in the connection and that is critical to recognize, because we know that Asian is not a -- it's really an umbrella term and not monolithic. Not only that, there isn't anyone else I can think of more qualified as to the vote to advocate for the Asian Pacific Island community, and the broader communities, than Linda. With the OC having the third largest APAC population in the nation, I can't emphasize how important it is to have a representative who gets the community as well as Linda, be a part of the Commission.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Huang.

Next in the queue, please.

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


While I am disappointed there are no Native
American finalist for the Commission, I want to call to
give my enthusiastic support for Pedro Toledo from Sonoma.
Mr. Toledo is an excellent leader who has dedicated his
career to improving the health of rural and medically
underserved people, not just in North Bay, but also across
rural northern California, including across the north coast
from Sonoma County to the Oregon border.

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

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Latham.

Next in the queue, please.

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

MS. BAUTISTA: Hi, yes. Faith Bautista,
F-A-I-T-H, B-A-U-T-I-S-T-A. I'm calling in behalf of,
behalf of the Asian community and its representation on the
Citizens Redistricting Commission. I truly believe that
the current makeup of the Commission significantly ignores
the importance of countries like China, Japan, and Korea.
To say that the two current are so-called Asian
Commissioners should satisfy the desire of Asia to have
representation on the Commission is severely misguided.
Considering the facts that both selected Commissioners are
from India would be equivalent as having two Hispanic
Commissioners that were from Spain or Cuba. Although they
may share the Hispanic culture of those from Mexico or
South America, they don't share the understanding and
background for those neighbors from the south. Thus, the
Commission not only needs to fix its Hispanic problem, but
also needs to fix its more sublime Asian problem.

    Thank you for your time.

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

Next on the queue, please.

MS. BAUTISTA: Thank you.

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

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Good morning, Commissioners.
My name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon. I'm calling on part of
the Advancement Project California, but also on behalf of
the Redistricting Alliance to, you know, uplift our
appreciation for a lot of the thoughtfulness and taking
into account all of the community public comment that has been coming in the last few days and this morning. And really to see, you know, your thoughtfulness and how the final slates, as of yesterday, do reflect a greater representation of Latinx candidates and all other subpools. And also, due to increasing the representation of East Asians, as well.

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

And so there's a lot of things that need to be changed, that need to be improved, in order to ensure that
even with a fuller team member Commission, it could be much more representative. We do want to encourage you to continue to give greater weight, though, in this decision to regions that are most populous.

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

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

MS. PELLMAN: That is time.

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

[Caller cut off]

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

Next in the queue, please.

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

MS. LOCHTIE: My name is Byrd, B-Y-R-D, Lochtie,
L-O-C-H-T-I-E. Thank you for your service on this Commission and for your very thoughtful and careful consideration of a very challenging situation. I know that you're wrestling with a desire to appoint three people from the no party preference, when you are required to limit that selection to just two applicants from that pool. This is exactly the situation that faced the Commission in 2010 and the north coast applicant was not chosen because of population.

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

Eddie Morgan has ongoing established relationships with tribal leaders and members and would be the best representation of Native American population that you could find. I recommend you keep Eddie Morgan in your
approved slate as proposed by Commissioners Le Mons and Andersen.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

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

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

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

MR. QUAN: Hi. My name's Rob Quan, R-O-B, Q-U-A-N with Unrig L.A. My comment is that I don't really have a horse in this race as far as particular candidates, but I do think Commissioner Sadhwani's slate has the most representative makeup so far. I think simply selecting three Latinos on this Commission would be a real shame. I've been annoyed to see so many unfair shots taken at this process by people over this issue, but with three out of 14 commissioners, that would actually leave us with a less representative commission for Latinos than our state legislature, or even L.A. city council. So how can you really say we're doing a better job than the previous process?
On that note, I think the integrity of the process is really important and I've been happy to see Commissioner Le Mons speak up about that. I think just observing things, it's clear that teleconferencing puts other Commissioners at a disadvantage. They're not in the room with other key players. They're not in the room when conversations are happening during recess. This places a greater responsibility on the Chair to ensure a transparent process for the other Commissioners, as well as the public.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Quan. There -- we did get some comments on that sort of thing yesterday and we will sort of bring up a couple of those points, particularly for moving forward. Thank you very much.
Next in the queue for number -- next in the queue, please.

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

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

I've known Linda for, gosh, more than 20 years. We worked together, we have served on boards together, and have served in a number of different community organizations representing the Asian and Pacific Islander communities of southern California, and you know, just have always found her to be fair, balanced, reasonable, and rational, and have really, really appreciated her and, you know, feel like she would make a really great Commissioner.

I think that given the important work of the Commission, it's important to find somebody that is relatively objective and balanced.

And so, you know, wanted to voice my strong support, you know, particularly as somebody who works in
community and works pretty closely with the Asian Pacific American community in southern California. And I feel like she would be a great representative, not just of our community but of southern California at large. And would urge you to consider her selection to this committee.

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Sunoo.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Ponce De Leon, for calling in and I apologize you got cut off there.
Is there anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

I worked on four presidential campaigns during my political career, and three for Governor of California, including serving as Director of Communications to then Senator, the late Senator John McCain when he ran for President in 2000. But I learned about the importance of redistricting. It's a critical portion of political reform. Even earlier when I served as one of Governor
Wilson's representatives on the redistricting discussions of 1991. What I learned that year is when the California Supreme Court ultimately appointed Special Masters to draw congressional and legislative lines, I learned how important it was to have a group of smart, principled, and nonbiased individuals in charge of this critical work. And I commend all of you for the work you've already done and that you'll do in the months ahead.

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

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

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

MS. PELLMAN: That is time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank -- keep, yes --

MR. SCHNUR: -- representing the entire state.

Thank you. I think Linda would do a phenomenal job of representing the entire state in its ideological,
demographic, and geographic diversity. She would represent all communities effectively. She would represent Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, and I urge you to consider her for inclusion in your group.

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

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

It is for this reason that I would like to support Mr. Pedro Toledo from Sonoma County, as he is a diligent, excellent leader, who has dedicated his career to ensuring all Californians have fair representation. The
Latinx community is very diverse in terms of politics, geography, language, immigration status, and culture. I urge you to please select at least four Latinos, and at least one Latino from each of the three political areas. I also urge you to pay particular consideration to Mr. Toledo, the nonpartisan Latino from Sonoma County. I have had the pleasure to meet him and see his work and his action for this community is, it can't compare. It's very important that we move forward in our community, and he is the person for it.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez. Is there anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

So the way we left it yesterday, we had all - we put together some slates and went home to think about it,
so. And also to hear public comments, read public comments. Just as a quick administrative thing before we sort of dive into it, we did get comments about how we’re organizing the meetings, and there was questions about, you know, what’s fair, what isn’t fair. That is something I think we should definitely bring to the attention of the whole committee and to discuss. There are administration issues that do need to happen. It’s helpful to have at least one, possibly Chair, Vice Chair here. These are things we can discuss at a later point. There are some administrative things that do need to occur, which is in the discussion. And if feelings of who should be, who to be left out, to not left out, those are things that I think this whole Commission should consider. I don’t know if we need to discuss that further. I think that would be something we’ll put on the agenda for the full Commission. If there’s any comment on that or just -- I’d like to add that to the agenda for the full Commission. Any other discussion on that?

Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I think I agree with you that that’s something that we can discuss with the full Commission. I think that from the comments that I read, one way might be that when we come back from break, if there are notes, announcements, messages, that the
Commission be made aware of that. I’d say for my position, the only concern I’ve had is that it seems like there’ll be some discussion or some note or something and then we get the decision, or we get that we’re going in a particular direction, and unfortunately, I end up being the one to say, well wait a minute. So to prevent that, I’m willing to do that. But to prevent that, I mean, I think just giving us when we come back if there’s any notes or announcements that the full Commission needs to be made aware of and we should be made aware I would imagine of any of those notes. So just have that be a matter of practice that I think that might help with some of it for now, and then we can talk about it more deeply once the full Commission is seated.

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I appreciate your response. However, I don’t feel like your response really
gets to my point. For example, yesterday, there had been some discussion about scheduling. That was some discussion. There was a recommendation made by Counsel to you about scheduling. For example, when we came back, there could have simply been an announcement to the rest of the Commissioners that during the break, Counsel recommended X. Would you like to have a discussion about that. Let’s consider the recommendation. There’s nothing personal about that. So your response about things being personal, I’m not asking that anyone’s personal information be shared or anything personal being shared, but that’s a process point. So that’s what I was referring to. Things like that.

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

Any additional comments before we?

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you Madam Chair. I’ll just jump in and say, you know, I agree, you know, from a process standpoint. I think the greater the transparency, the better. I appreciate Commissioner Le Mons kind of jumping in and, you know, pushing for that process. I appreciate you being that guy. You know,
wherever we can just uphold that level of transparency to all of us would be extraordinarily beneficial, not only for us on the Commission but for all of the interested Californians who might be listening in.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, on the screen.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: On the screen? I wasn’t aware of that, because what I see is everyone’s names. I don’t know if there’s a way of just improving that one piece, but you know, again, we’re pretty far along in this process, but certainly I think there’s plenty of room to
get this feedback and to improve upon it once we are at a full Commission.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I did spend quite a bit of my evening. I watched four
videos, three of them I think in the whole and another in
part just to refresh my understanding of candidates and
their qualities and skillsets. One thing that really stood
out for me last night, it really hit me for the first time.
When we’re looking at Eddie Morgan, we’re not just looking
at someone from Humboldt County. I was struck watching his
video again that he really represents a crosscutting
community that I don’t believe has been mentioned in any
of our discussions and that is military. California has
the largest population of military personnel in the
country. I pulled up the figures. It’s 283,886 military
personnel. That’s 162,000 clause active duty; 67,000
National Guard and Reserve. Almost 65,000 civilian DOD
employees. And so 283,000, almost 284,000, plus their
families. We’re talking a million people, I think easily.
And, I mean, I have enough friends in the military, my
brother retired from the military, to understand that they
have some unique needs, circumstances, considerations. So
I’ve stopped viewing him as just a representative of the
far north and seeing him as potentially representing a
crosscutting population that spans the state from San Diego
and bases down there, 29 Palms near me, Edwards Air Force
Base. Lots and lots of military installations throughout
the state. So I put that out there as something that
hasn’t come up that I think might merit consideration.
In reviewing Ms. Akutagawa’s interview again, you know, I listed some of her qualities and qualifications yesterday. I would add after I reviewed it again her integrity and strong ethical core focusing on shared objectives. And actually, Peter Blando phrased it very well in his interview, which I watched again last night, which is we need to create our own tribe. The 14 of us, I think, really need to be our own tribe. I’ve been in a situation working across organizations, and if each of us had maintained, you know, such strong commitment to our home organizations and not built our own tribe, I don’t think we would have succeeded. So I think that that focus on shared objectives that Linda Akutagawa highlighted really will be critical to our success. And she clearly understands from her long work at LEAP the importance of team building, and I was very happy with her commitment to transparency and communication. Those have been consistent themes of our discussion.

On Vicki Tamoush, and again, I think important considerations there are her residence in Orange County but also the time that she regularly spends in San Luis Obispo County, her early experience living experience in San Bernardino County, lived in L.A. County as well, I believe. Her long time and success in applying law as a hearing officer. I just find that incredibly relevant to the work
that we’re going to be doing. I have in my mind an open
question whether having someone from the Middle East
further enhances the diversity of the commission. And
finally, I would say, you know, if we went with Vicki, it
would limit what I see as what I’ll call upward pressure on
the average income of the final 14. I know that we’ve
struggled a bit with the idea of evening out, that the
socioeconomic status or at least what income tells us about
socioeconomic status of the Commission, but I just wanted
to put those things out there about those three candidates.

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

Any other discussions sort of on kind of a similar nature?

Oh, Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Good morning, everyone.

Good morning, Madam Chair. As I said it earlier,
compromise is going to be a bit uncomfortable, so we’re all
working through this. I would like to say that I’m
constantly reminded that this is the Citizens
Redistributing Commission. We’re trying to be mindful of
the input, what the public has to say and add to this
corversation. I think what was the showing of support for
Linda definitely has to be paid attention to, to either
mobilize or whether these people have done on their own, I
think that it was quite impressive to listen to, to all the
sayings and it’s well-deserved and well-earned.

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

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

   Thank you.

   CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.
Yeah, I might actually speak up. I did a lot of thinking last night myself as well, and particularly kind of struck by, you know, that as someone -- one of the callers called in, you know, the face of the Commission. We are trying to reach people who are hard to reach, and I realize -- I was thinking I sort of, I’ve been shifting around my slate thinking what would, you know, well, this person has obviously really reached the community, and this is. And I was sort of struck by a minute, if a person has already really reached the whole community and can basically say, here, I can get all these people, all this community to come and connect with us, don’t we actually need to be reaching out to those who they’re not going to come out. Isn’t that kind of the, sort of the purpose of trying to put a face here so someone who’s afraid to come and won’t really necessarily come would actually feel, oh, they look like me. It was sort of a different way of approaching this. I was struck by that and I thought, you know, it’s almost like -- I really appreciate the community that the people calling in and really supporting strong candidates. I was kind of struck by they already know how to get in touch with us. This is already wonderful. We have sort of made those contacts. Do we need to have, I think it was Commissioner Sadhwani might have said, you know, those young children who wouldn’t say anything but will see a
face and go, oh. With sort of that in mind, I kind of
looked at a few people who you hear little things about but
don’t necessarily come to the table and, actually it was
brought up again this morning, again, this is sort of more
looking at, say, Eddie Morgan. He does represent Native
Americans who are notoriously underrepresented. They have
always been truly hard to reach, and he does reach an area
and has sort of given an area of contacts that we don’t
actually reach very well at all. And I appreciate that,
you know, a few people that well do have some contact, they
do have some contact, but I’m concerned because we are
going to make some people unhappy in this. You know, this
is -- we’re going to have make some hard choices here, and
we’re having hard choices with this. What I’m concerned
about is the hard choices we make, will we shut those
people off by making it? Will those people not succumb and
when we sort of try to go to those areas, will they just
not show up. That was a consideration. So.

Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
think that’s where candidate Burdick had really a very
useful suggestion to us, which is that we make an effort to
reach out to candidates that we do not choose for the final
and seek to engage them as collaborators in that
community outreach. I mean, imagine having 35 of us
reaching out through networks all across the state rather than just relying on 14 of us. So I thought that was a very useful contribution from him.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: And, thank you, Madam Chair.

To add to that point, I would give everyone on the list the benefit of the doubt that their interest in serving on the Commission goes beyond actually being chosen for the Commission. To me, it speaks that these people actually care about redistricting. They care about representing voices in California’s maps. So I wouldn’t, my initial thought doesn’t go to that if we don’t select X, Y, Z candidate that they’re no longer going to be interested in this work at all. And so I think I would just give everyone the benefit of the doubt that they would hopefully still want to remain engaged in this work moving forward.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I have to jump in on that. I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to imply the candidate. I mean the group that feels they would represent me and now they didn’t make the Commission. Oh, therefore, the Commission doesn’t really want to hear, doesn’t really want to represent me. I’m not, I’m quite sure, and I love actually Commissioner Burdick, I was thinking of putting him on because of that marvelous idea. I certainly hope that, I know if I didn’t make it on, I was planning on volunteering
however possible, and I’m sure that all the applicants -- I did not mean that about an applicant. I meant the people who feel this applicant represents me, and that applicant isn’t there, yeah, well. See, it’s almost like, you know, yeah, well, it’s another one of those Commissions, that, you know, it’s all talk. That’s what I was concerned about. Now, whether or not it’s true, it was a thought that ran through my head as we, you know, will that person still be essentially respected in their community. That was the thought there. It wasn’t against any one of the actual people who’ve applied. They have proven this is all of us have, you know, we’re absolutely dedicated. I’m sorry for that miscommunication.

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Madam Chair. You know, last night, I also spent a lot of time reflecting on this process and on our conversation yesterday. And also in myself. I’m actually not a native Californian, if you’ve read my file or watched my interview. I did not grow up in California. I grew up in another state that is known for being a blue state, New York. But I actually grew up in western New York, which is a rural area. And I by no means can say that I know that north coastal region very well, those rural areas of northern California very well. But I did grow up in what was considered the
country. In my little town, it was actually two towns put together that combined to make the public high school where I went. We had about 60 students in my graduating class. Our town was right next door to the Tonawanda Native American Reservation.

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

And so, I stand by the slate that I put forth yesterday. But I’d also like to, you know, of my own behalf, just commit to go in with spending time in the north coastal region and hopefully getting to know, of course, within the bounds of everything, but getting to know those communities, getting to know the area. To any of the folks who have, you know, called in or engaged, and again, I don’t even know where all the Commissioners land. I don’t know where we’re going to land in this process, but I’d like to just personally commit to going in and ensuring
that I spend time in that region before we get into the process of drawing any of those maps. I understand that given COVID, I can’t ask that of all of my fellow Commissioners, but, you know, this isn’t an issue that I take lightly. I do believe in representation of all sorts of underrepresented people. I believe that very strongly. But in weighing the various considerations that we have spent the last two days thinking about, various backgrounds, community relationships, professional backgrounds, right?, geographic diversity. I continue to support the slate and I would just welcome any other Commissioners who would feel comfortable to travel at this point in time to also commit to spending that time and really doing that outreach work to ensure that we get it right. Right?

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.
COUNSEL SAXTON: Five minutes until the first break.

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

Oh, Commissioner Turner. Welcome.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Good morning. I just wanted also to remind the Commission I haven’t spoke much about my background. And in full appreciation for the difficulty of the decision in ensuring that, I really like Morgan as a candidate for all of what he represents, beyond the geography and what have you. But I also wanted to state that I’m executive director for a community organization that spans the Central Valley from Kern County through San Joaquin County, but as such, I’m also part of a larger organization that encompasses the entire state. And I have very close ties with the executive director of True North that represents the tribes up in that area, and have a strong relationship. And I believe we would for sure, to Commissioner Sadhwani’s point, have ample opportunity and
invitation to go and explore, and to spend time in that
region as well. So I just wanted to remind that and know
that I do have connections as well in that area and I
wanted to just make that comment.

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

Any additional? Commissioner Fornaciari.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, absolutely. Certainly.

With that, we really are, it is 11 o’clock.

We’ll take our 15-minute break, so we’ll go into recess at
this time and then meet back at 11:15. Thank you.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. And I see is 11:15.

It does appear we have a quorum. I will bring this meeting
out of recess. And just a couple of administrative things
here. Over the break, you might have heard a little bit of
rustling around. The tech people were able to quickly,
your names are now all on the screen. They’re a little
small, but they’re all there. And the way it was
appearing, at least to me, and I think what I’m seeing is
indeed the screen that is being shown to the general
public, that basically when you leave, your name is written. But it had been that there was just your, kind of like basically most Zoom calls, it's only your face until you’re gone, but now we actually have, and hopefully then you can see the same thing, there is the little, you know, Commissioner Le Mons, Commissioner Taylor, at the bottom. Oh, no, actually, they’re not exactly the same, are they? It’s Commissioner Le Mons, but then it has full name. Perfect, so it’s your preference. Excellent. We should probably decide on, we’ll put that on the agenda for, you know, should there be uniformity there.

Anyway, so we got a couple of those things. Additionally, the public comment items, there was a set that came in, this is for the public as well as all our Commissioners. There are times when there’s a cutoff for public comment so the staff can collect all that and then send it to Commissioners so we have a chance to review it each day. There were some things that came in later than that, and they were emailed to all of us Commissioners. They were posted on our site. Earlier today, that actually happened as I was driving up here, so I didn’t actually have a chance to look at those until over the break, and most of them have been reflected in the comments we heard this morning. There were just a few. Just to mention that we did get on candidate Gallegos, we got three letters of
support, and I’m really mentioning the ones that we also
got additional things that we’ve already heard. I’m just
mentioning ones that we haven’t actually heard this
morning. We also got a letter of support for Mr. Blando in
great detail. So I just want to mention that for the
record, and I believe that all the other Commissioners have
already had a chance to review these letters. As I said, I
did not, so I wanted to clarify that.

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

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. Let’s see, I
appreciate everyone’s comments this morning in your
reflections and your thoughts. You know, I did spend a lot
of time last night and this morning reflecting, but I,
instead of zooming in on specific people, I kind of zoomed
out. Kind of looked at the big picture, what are we doing
here, project manager. And so, you know, what are
deliverables, what are we doing, how are we going to get to
the goal, what’s our deliverable. Four maps, we have to
deliver four maps. That’s our job. Right? Well how, you
know, what’s the process for us to get there? We have
public hearings, we’re hearing from communities of
interest, you know, that’s going to be a heavy lift. Try
to find all the important communities in interest that we
want to hear from. I mean, not important, all the
communities of interest and hear from them, right? But what are we going to hear from them, right? We’re going to hear information from them, and we have to convert that information into some useable form of data, right? We have to have information about the communities’ interests, what is it, you know, who’s in it, what is it, what’s the community of interest all about? But then we have to have some hard data that we can draw on a map, right? And we’re going to gather a ton of that data, and we have to gather it, we have to put it in a format that we can manage it. We’re going to get the census data. We got to understand the census data and the shortcoming of the census data and how we’re going to work with the census data and what we’re going to do with that. Then we have to take all that input and begin to draw maps, right? And draw that while we’re getting more public input. And we have our seven constraints here that, you know, we’ve seen, so we’ve got to balance all that.

And so, I guess where I’m coming from is this, that this is complexity personified. This is going to be an enormous, complex balancing act that we have to undertake. You know, I reflect on my time as the foreperson of the civil grand jury. It’s a very similar process in the grand jury, and I’ll make a long story short. You know, there are only a small subset of us that
can deal with the complexity of putting together the final report. There was four of us out of 19 who ended up writing all five reports because it’s just really difficult to manage the complexity. And so, you know, over the past couple of days, we’ve had conversations where we’ve specifically left Gennaco and Van Meter off the list because we felt like we could hire their capabilities. But I just want to, I’m just sharing my thoughts, that I think it would be awesome to have those two with their capabilities at the table pushing the button, it’s at 11:59 on December 15th, you know, because if they’re at the table, they’ve got skin in the game at stake. The consultant would just share with us their thoughts, but they won’t have the ownership.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari. You know those are, we’ve all brought up very good points, and these are issues that we need to grapple with. There are different phases of the task that will
call for different aspects of all of our education and
experiences. And we will group, as I’m sort of envisioning
how this will go through, and we will sort of gravitate
toward certain tasks, and I sort of share that concern.
Will we have the proper staffing for all tasks concerned?
These are issues that I was also thinking about. You say
these items much more eloquently than I do, thank you very
much. I appreciate that. I think there are some solutions
out here. There will be a little rejiggering here, but I
believe there is a way forward that includes everything.
These are tough, these are tough decisions. Do we want
to -- Commissioner Le Mons.

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

I think that we’re a public Commission to
represent the people of the state of California, and public
confidence is really, really important. And any group of
people that is put together to try to get a task done on
behalf of large numbers, and in this case millions of people, done, if the confidence of the community is not there, I think that is germane, because we could have all the experts in the world on this Commission, but if we didn’t have the public confidence, it won’t mean much. So I think that that really is informing or the frame in which and the lens in which I try to approach this, which we’ve all agreed is a very difficult task.

One of the things that stands out to me, excuse me, which it wasn’t a lot of voices, and I think we’re sort of back to common numbers again in this idea of democracy and the large number wins. Excuse me. And so, while we heard from the northern area of the state of their concern, what still sticks out for me is that they were left out ten years ago, and that’s just really stuck with me. And I don’t know the full implications. I wish I had a better grasp on what was the implications of being left out, but in the context of public confidence, I know how people who are consistently left out of something ultimately feel, and I think that this harkens a little bit back to what I believe Commissioner Andersen was saying earlier about when you don’t feel like you’re cared about, because I don’t even know if it’s so much about represent it. I think the people think, are my interests really being served or is this just lip service?
So while I appreciate the opportunity and plan, no matter what part of the state, to be inclusive of the entire state and to visit the state and all of that, what is it like when you look at the table and say, our area isn’t included. What message does it send? And I guess it could send any number of messages.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. That was well said. Yeah, I think I was struck by that also in terms of our state is full with, actually it’s one of its greatest strengths, is that our state is full of minorities. And minorities are of all different types. It’s not necessarily, you know, we tend to think of, oh, you know, racial. And that’s only the tip of the iceberg. I mean, there are different groups of thought that feel totally isolated. There are different groups of
minorities all over. We want to get all voices to the
table, and what I’d like us to really consider is making
sure that by something we do or don’t do, that we don’t
make some voices feel really excluded. You know, like we
said, we want to enfranchise, but we by goodness gracious
don’t want to disenfranchise anyone, however it’s
perceived. And I think we’re all trying to do our best to
figure out, well, who would we be affecting negatively and
avoid that. Sometimes we have to make sure we’re doing
that as well as actively seeking people to make sure we
bring them along, and we have look both directions. And we
also need to do a good job. You’re absolutely right.
There’s the whole public perception. What are they
thinking, how are we doing, are we trying to do our best?
But at the end, we have to deliver really good quality maps
that aren’t just, you know, ooh, that one’s a, thanks, but
the legislature, of course, is just going to take that out
of our hand. We do have to produce maps and then defend
them.

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

        Commissioner Le Mons and then Commissioner Sadhwani.

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

        So I guess I’m wanting to hear from my fellow Commissioners, their thoughts about that thought of making that particular change. I know we forgo the legal lens which has been one from the, you know, how we saw certain skills being important at the table. So that’s probably my
biggest hesitation on that one is that does create somewhat of a deficit in that very specific legal piece that I felt like most of the Commissioners thought was very important. So I’m mindful of that. So I guess I’m more opening it up, the thought of that as a discussion to really kind of hear where fellow Commissioners are before officially saying I want to amend my slate.

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

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

Now as I’ve mentioned, I am not a legal scholar. I was not trained as an attorney. But I do teach on the Voting Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act was enacted in 1965 due to historic discrimination, institutionalized discrimination, specifically against racial minorities. And in 1965, that was specifically dealing with
But since that time, through extensions under the VRA as well as to case law, that has been extended to include language minorities, including Latinos, and Asian-Americans, and Native Americans, right? I want to stress that point, because absolutely, we want to ensure that all minorities are heard from in the broad, broad realm that we like to think of about minorities and including diversity of opinion, diversity of geography, diversity of economic status, all of those things are extraordinarily important. But the VRA, including in the training that we had received last time, right? The VRA is very specific that we’re talking about minorities who have been discriminated against in the past, who have been oppressed by very specific institutionalized forms of this discrimination. I just want to raise that because that’s one of the things that we’re going to have to be thinking about as we’re thinking about communities of interest. The communities of interest, in my understanding, are that language, that legal language, as it is broad. But certainly, the discrimination piece is there. I just wanted to offer that in that conversation around the various kinds of minorities that we want to be thinking about.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.
Would any other Commissioners want to speak up or? I might jump in, because my platform was very similar to Commissioner Le Mons’ platform, and I was also thinking, you know, with the idea, again, of Linda Akutagawa for Pedro Toledo. But I am very aware of, where it’s not just the legal side that Pedro Toledo brings that we might lose, but it’s also the legal technical interface, which is why I like Peter Blando on and kept him. And one of the letters that came in this morning really emphasized he’s a consensus builder. He’s not a tech guy, but he, through all of their material, he's not just a tech guy. There’s several different things about him. But he’s also represents, of course, the Filipino group, but he has strong connections across a wide range of ideas, but he’s used to, as you go through the process in all they do because he works with the entire UC system across the state. And as you go through the process, to be mindful of how to put it all together. You know, he sort of has the technical ability. Not actually, not so much the legal, although he does actually work with the legal side of it as well. And I feel he would be an addition, and if we sort of switched, if we have Ms. Akutagawa and we had Peter Blando, possibly we could, instead of Ms. Fernández, we could go with Mr. Gallegos. And so, we still with the mix of our gender balance would still be there because Peter
Blando and Alicia Fernández are from the same area, and we want to sort of spread our geographic area. And Commissioner Gallegos is from, you know, from Fresno, so, you know, sort of right in the middle, which we don’t actually have. So that was sort of an idea. Even sort of looking at my take, it was the only difference sort of between it and, well, at that point, and Mr. -- and Ms. Sadhwani’s would be switching in the Republican group to get Mr. Blando on. Well, no, I’m sorry, I take that back, because I have Eddie Morgan. So yeah, I guess that’s a little different. So there were a few considerations there. So I guess, yeah, I guess mine felt a little different, so I’m sorry. I thought this was an easier seal going from talking about this person and then if we make that switch it all works for almost everyone, and I realize I got a little ahead of myself there, so. But that’s another consideration, because we are trying to consider different groups across the state and considering different ethnicities, different geographic, different skillsets. Again, this is more for discussion purposes.

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Maybe I can ask a different question, because I know there’s a certain bias to this regional thing that I’ve been talking about,
clearly. So maybe rather than approaching it from that
topic, I can ask fellow Commissioners sort of the
thought of if we leave the north coastal out, how do we
feel about that? Because I think that of the other slates,
or some of the other slates kind of go into that direction,
and I guess based on the slate submission that there is --
maybe my question is, is that a reconciliation that I even
need to be grappling with at this point? Maybe there’s
some information that I’m missing and I’m grappling with
something that I don’t need to be grappling with at this
point, as it relates to the north coastal area.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Madam Chair.

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

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

I question in one of the things I was seeking
when I was looking at the other applicant, is if a tie is
not there, what is our ability to reach that specific
community? Because like you were saying before, we all
have vast experiences that’s beyond what our profile says.
So I was glad when Commissioner Turner stated that although it doesn’t look like it on paper, she has ties to the community up north. So where we have the deficits, I want to see if there’s a way to connect with that community as well.

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

So I think it’s a legitimate argument to think that these people, this group, this region is not represented over 20 years. I don’t know if it’s going to be possible. I don’t know what’s going -- the outcome is going to be. But I do think that’s a viable concern.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you for that. I appreciate it.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Turner.

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

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

And then wanted to also comment, Madam Chair, in regards to a candidate named that was brought up, Gallegos. I know we do have a very strong public comment that came from a number of organizations in that area that actually was requesting or representing opposition to Gallegos. And so I wanted to just bring the comment that several pages of comment from several organizations lift that up as well in our considerations. Thank you.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. There was a rebuttal to that with Commissioner, for candidate Gallegos and several letters of support for him in response to that which -- that’s why I wanted to make sure that we were all aware of that. And there are issues and we are trying to meet different groups. I do, I’m probably the one who is most vocal about this. I do understand that they’re -- it’s not just, oh, how do I, I need just for a minute to try to actually say this. I feel it really is a valid point to be discussing the entire north of the state. Because these are people -- people who live in the north of the state are of all different racial mixes and they’re in small pockets. So they are hard to reach. I mean, just physically they’re hard to reach. Any meetings that, you know, you have in Sacramento, people will say, well, do I have days to drive there. It’s very difficult to, you know, even if -- I have relatives who live up in the gold country and they, yeah, it’s a whole another world. You know, do they even think of, you know, and they do say, yeah, it’s all run by the big cities, you know, we don’t count. And they all feel that way. And it’s and they are, they’re mixed races. It’s not, you know, well, there’s a small white group up there. Or, you know, just whatever, you know, particular group. And we are a little concerned, you know, when we talk urban and
rural, that’s who we usually these lines come down, urban and rural. And we really have to make sure we consider both urban and rural. And the entire north part of the state is basically rural. And so to not be represented for 20 years? Even if we say we are going to do the best and we have some contacts and we do have people who have contacts who will legitimately work. I mean, I certainly would, I’d be one of those as well. But just on the face of it, again, like, in terms of our credibility, would we lose credibility.

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

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

Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I’m just trying to think out loud and reflect out loud based on the conversations that we’ve been having. And two reminders for myself, first and foremost. First, that I am going to be uncomfortable with whichever slate we decide on knowing that there are limitations within the pool. And so I’m really struggling and fighting with myself to be comfortable with being uncomfortable and recognizing that that’s something that is just going to be the case based
off of a variety of combinations of different slates that
have been presented or groups that folks have been thinking
about.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.
That’s, I think that is, that’s a very accurate comparison.
Without going into the particulars of, you know, well, a
lot of it is, many people will say, well, but she’s from
San Jose, she doesn’t represent the coast anyway. And
there essentially is no commissioner there. And that’s
why, you know, they say the north valley is represented by
people from Sacramento. And I think people in the entire north part of the state said a person in Sacramento doesn’t really represent us. So there are those considerations. And those are the things that I think we will certainly hear and understand and that’s just, we can’t do anything about that. But it’s a very valid consideration and I’m also grappling with the fact that basically we’re going to come to a conclusion. And, yeah, they’ll be things that I’ll be unhappy about. But I think as a group we’ll still come together and do a fantastic job and do our absolute best to do the work absolutely the best of our ability in all the impartiality that why we applied in the first place. So.

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

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

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Madam Chair.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Taylor.
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: So in one of the questions that I continue to ask myself too and would like some help
with that from the Commission as well. If the north was left off our selection, what would their level of participation be going forward? If Orange County was left off, what do we think their level of participation would be going forward? And I say that because we get, and as we see, we get so much public comment and we know that we heed that public comment, is would their impact still be, would the impact of Orange County still be present without a representative at the table? Would the impact of the north be as representative without someone at the table? So that’s one of the things that I’d ask myself. Orange County is going to show out. They’re going to participate.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Uh-huh.

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

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

Commissioner Le Mons?

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I mean, I think to look at it from that point of view, I think Derric articulated it very succinctly what I was also feeling. So I just wanted to acknowledge that. That’s all.

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

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I really appreciate that as well. And I do also wonder before we had had the discussion about Orange County representation yesterday and your call, I think, there was some back and forth. I know Commissioner Kennedy perhaps had a preference for is to move -- I had mentioned, several of us had mentioned Linda Akutagawa. I think it was only after that that we actually begin hearing from public comment from Orange County. Most of that seems to have been specifically in support of Ms. Akutagawa. So I actually think it’s a very valid question, but I also wonder if, you know, if it’s these candidates in particular who are pushing for people to call in and whether or not that would actually continue to be the case moving forward. Like if -- everybody who called in and for the most part seemed to have known Ms. Akutagawa for 20 years, will their level of involvement in the redistricting process, when it comes to actually thinking about communities and engagement. Clearly, she’s got a big, long
Rolodex which is kind of similar to what we’ve mentioned with Patricia Sinay in the San Diego region. I don’t know. I don’t know if I could answer that question actually. I don’t know, to me, if the level of public comment, the number, the raw count of public comment that we received this morning is necessarily indicative of Orange County being generally engaged in this process or if they are more specifically engaged in ensuring that they have this representative.

Did that make -- I hope that makes sense.

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

I see Commissioner Fornaciari’s hand up.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Chairwoman.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, yes, Commissioner Taylor.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Le Mons.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- Le Mons, thank you.

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

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

What Commissioner Kennedy has, I’m sorry, Commissioner Andersen has raised is this difficulty factor. That’s sticking out to me. So when I weighed difficulty of accessing Orange County in the south coastal area versus accessing the north, to me, is no argument. That’ll be far more difficult for us to get the level of engagement, process, just how to get there. Like all of it will be way more difficult. And I’m not saying the difficulty back there changes because there’s someone on the commission or not. So I want to make the distinction. But I think that coupled with the historical context of being left out, coupled with how one feels a part of something motivating
their desire to be engaged. When I think of all of those things combined, it pushes me more solidly that this is an important move for many, many reasons, nuanced and obvious, in terms of this particular selection.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh.

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, if I may.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Just, I’d like to, a couple of reminders.

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: And, I know everyone knows this. Prior to any vote being taken today, you will need to take
public comment, irrespective of whether you take public comment after lunch. I understand that’s completely up to you. I just want to bring that up as another opportunity that will bring public comment and will be required public comment.

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

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Great.

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- time today.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

Oh, Commissioner Le Mons.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think just in interest of time, if there has to be public comment before a vote and we’re planning to hold public comment. And we also are
planning to have it open, that it makes sense whatever
procedurally we would need to do at this moment to have
that public comment after lunch, would be towards the vote
for Commissioner Le Mons’ slate. I think that that would
just make sense from a timing procedural standpoint.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, I totally agree.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I agree.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Exactly.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. And if, say Commissioner
Le Mons says something, then in during public comment he would like to -- you can always withdraw a motion. Or can you withdraw second as well? Or how does that fit procedurally.

COUNSEL SAXTON: You --

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Okay? At any time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Just for everyone to know. Yes.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Right.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Good.

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- within the proper procedure
for adopting the slate. The motion, the second --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: And the vote, and the --

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay, thank you.

COUNSEL SAXTON: I hope that answers the questions.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: We have a couple of hands.

Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

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

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner.

Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Just a quick question about the slates. I just want to confirm that no slates have
been amended since the slates have been posted online, correct?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: That -- I’m seeing nods from --
COUNSEL SAXTON: That is correct.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: That is, Yeah.
COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Okay, thank you.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: That is indeed correct.

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

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Correct.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- I’m getting the nod from Counsel on that. So it is, I have ten after. So we shall break for lunch, recess for lunch and meet back here at 1:10.

[Proceeding recessed at 12:10 p.m.]
[Proceeding resumed at 1:11 p.m.]
CHAIR ANDERSEN: The time being 1:11 and it appears we have a quorum. I’ll bring the meeting out of
recess and shall we continue with business.

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

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

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

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

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

Pardon me, Commissioner Le Mons, was that a
motion to ask for public comment? Or that we should --

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I’m getting a positive nod from Commissioner --

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

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

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Now that we have a second, I
think it behooves us to read the slate one more time, --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: That’s --

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- if that pleases the Commission.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, thank you very much.

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

Is that correct, Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: That is correct.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Yes, Madam Chair.

The special vote requirements for the slate are that the vote must be accepted by a vote tally that
includes at least two Democratic Commissioners, two Republican Commissioners, and one Commissioner who is neither a Democratic nor Republican.

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

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

Are there any questions?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I do have a clarification or, I guess, in terms of our vote and procedurally, it’s my understanding, we’re doing -- we vote, obviously it’s a roll call vote. Does typically in votes, the Chair votes last? As I am actually a voting member, sometimes that’s only when the presiding person is not a voting member. Is the group comfortable with just a straight roll call
alphabetical? Or would they like Chair to last? Is one
item.

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

So that’s just all the clarifications. Any
questions on any of that?

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, yes, you are to
vote. And additionally, just to remind that when we have
taken the roll call vote, it has been in the same order
each time we’ve done it. Obviously, if it pleases the
Commission, we can switch the order that we call vote, but just to remind it has been consistent the whole time.

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

Commissioner Ahmad.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I’m sorry, what was that? Consistent?

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: That is what my recommendation is.

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

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Yes, Madam Chair.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: And we’ll have AT&T operator standing by.

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

After providing this information, the operator will ask you to provide your name. Please note, you’re not required to provide your actual name. When the operator asks for your name, you may provide a name other than your own. When it is your turn to make public comment, the operator will introduce you by the name you provided.

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

After speaking with the operator, you’ll be placed in the listening room. In this room, you’ll be able to listen to live audio of the meeting. Please mute your computer audio because the online video and audio will be
delayed by approximately 60 seconds and feedback issues may occur making it difficult for anyone to hear your comment. Also please do not use a speaker phone and speak directly into your phone. When you decide that you want to make a comment on this item, this action item, press one zero, and you’ll be placed in the queue to make public comment.

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

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

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

These instructions can also be found on our website.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

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

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If you wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at this time. And I do have a couple in queue.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Please go ahead.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. Please go ahead.

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

Obviously there’s been some advocacy for other individuals today, but what I noticed in the first call, I
noticed in the second call, is that the consistency is that the Latino community feels that they are lacking representation and by taking out Mr. Toledo, you continue to go ahead and not listen to the calls that have been made the first two times. And I would encourage you to go with your initial gut which was to include Mr. Toledo and you have in 5 different slates. Taking him out would be losing representation in that northern part of California.

Thank you.

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

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

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

I’m calling on behalf of California League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest Latino civil rights organization. LULAC advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of all Latinos. California is one of the most ethnically and racially diverse and we are urging that the Commission remain
reflected of our growing Latino population. We need to ensure that Latinos are in all slates including representation in the NPP category, including the Le Mons Slate.

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

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Fuentes.

Next in the queue, please.

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Just as a reminder, if you do wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at this time. We’ll go to the line of Brian Zweir.

Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

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

And I just wanted to say from my perspective the Le Mons Slate seems pretty fair. And I just wanted to call in like I do in PR and say that I think this is a good match and I think that you all did a great job in trying to fit everything in. And there’s nothing wrong with including one geographic area and excluding the other.
Like last time Humboldt was not included and this time Orange County’s not included. And with only the number of Commissioners you have, I think this is a good middle ground and I think it’s a great slate for us to move forward.

Thank you so much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Zweir.

Next in the queue, please.

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

MS. TAYLOR: Yes, my name is Katrina, K-A-T-R-I-N-A. Last name Taylor, T-A-Y-L-O-R. I am an awareness director for an organization in northern California, to be exact, Humboldt County. And I am in the understanding that we have been grossly underrepresented and I just want to say that I really recommend Eddie Morgan for representation in northern California. I have worked closely with him on numerous occasions with the Human Rights Commission which he stands on. And he has supported me and walked me through and I have to tell you that demographically I represent several different categories of underrepresented nationalities and other things. And I’d like to say that he has, with no judgment and anything, worked closely with me and not only closely but supported
me. And I think that we need representation from northern California and I think that he would make a wonderful representative.

    Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Taylor.

Next in the queue, please.

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Is Ms. Le there?

MS. LE: Hello.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

MS. LE: Hello.

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

MS. LE: Yes. Hello, can --

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

MS. LE: -- you hear me?

Oh, sorry. Okay.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, we can hear you.
MS. LE: Yes, sorry, can you hear me? Okay.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

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

I appreciate, you know, this process. It’s been very fascinating. Thank you very much.

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

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

COURT REPORTER: Thank you very much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Le.

Is there --

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Madam Chair. If -- I
know we’re in public comment. It seems from the callers that maybe there’s some confusion about who is on the Le Mons Slate. Like I’ve heard people both -- I understood the last caller to be suggesting that Linda Akutagawa potentially was on that slate while other callers perhaps were under the impression that Pedro Toledo was not. That is not my understanding. Am I missing something? Or should we read that slate one more time for the people in the queue? Maybe that’s just -- maybe I’m just misunderstanding the callers.

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Thank you. So that, in case anyone in the queue, in case there was any kind of
misinterpretation. At this point, the Le Mons Slate which
we are -- which there is a motion on the floor, and it’s
second. I have a feeling the one we’re actually talking
about, it’s Eddie Morgan and Pedro Toledo are the two
non-party, non-affiliated parties.

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

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

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

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

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

The next in the queue, please.

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

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

Additionally, Latino communities are diverse and they should be represented across all three political categories. I understand that there’s some tension between geographic diversity and racial ethnic diversity in crafting the slate. Gaps in geographic diversity, however,
can be handled through holding additional meetings, and traveling to those areas of the state. In contrast, it is very difficult to address gaps in racial and ethnic backgrounds through meetings and travel. It’s so important that Californians see themselves in the Commission. We encourage you to give that goal adequate weight.

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

Thank you very much.

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

Next in the queue, please.

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

MS. LE: Yes. Jenny, J-E-N-N-Y, L-E. I called in earlier but I was a little bit confused so you have to excuse me because I’m trying to listen and also deal with kids at the same time. But respectfully, I don’t understand the logic of leaving out Orange County because Orange County residents, including myself, have taken the
So I thought at times we were making ground, that the Commissioners understood the importance of Orange County and now it sounds like that’s no longer the case.

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

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

So I hope you’ll respond to the public comment that you’ve all heard. They said an engagement by Orange County and it’s from people I know this is not easy for.
So please, give Orange County a seat at the table. And it’s your table. So I know it’s in your power to make those decisions.

That’s all I have to say.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Le.

Is there anyone else in the queue?

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

MS. JIMENEZ: Hello. My name is Eva Jimenez. E-V-A, J-I-M-E-N-E-Z. And I’m calling on behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, a community-themed
organization founded in 1986 to advance and protect the civil rights of immigrants and refugees. We are a statewide organization and we have a lot of members who are part of Sonoma County, who are part of Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay, Sacramento, Davis. And so we’re calling to really advocate and hope that Pedro Toledo is included. We are recommending Pedro Toledo again because we believe he demonstrates a strong ability and experience to be impartial, have that relevant analytical skills and an appreciation for California’s diversity and a commitment towards advancing racial and socioeconomic equity. He is a son of immigrants. His father was a bracero in the agricultural field in Sonoma County in pursuit of the American dream. And we believe that Latinos should be very much included in this. So we hope that Pedro Toledo will be considered again.

Thank you.

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

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

MR. WU: Hello, Commissioners. My name is George Wu. G-E-O-R-G-E, W-U. I’m calling in support of Linda
Akutagawa’s candidacy to the Commission. You know, I really am appreciative of your leadership on the Commission so far. I don’t envy the task before you. And I know that however you end up selecting your fellow Commissioners, all of you would do an amazing job on behalf of California.

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

I would also ask that folks consider the lack of representation of the Pacific Islander community on the Commission. It appears to me that regardless of who you select, there won’t be any direct representation from the community and I do know that Linda has extensive work connections and relationships within the Pacific Islander community. I would probably think that Commissioner Sadhwani has some as well, but I would say that I know for a fact that Linda has many and I think that would be important to this entire process as well.
And so, again, I trust that you will do the best for California in your constituencies, but I join the many, many voices in asking that Orange County be represented and to consider the ramifications --

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

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

Thank you very much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Wu.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

MS. GUEVARA: Hi, this is Esperanza, E-S-P-E-R-A-N-Z-A. I’m calling again on behalf of CHIRLA, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights. I’ve called previously and I wanted to again uplift the candidate Pedro Toledo. I did want to also highlight that he has been committed during his career to ensure that all people regardless of who they are, what they look like, where they come from, or their ability to pay, that they have access to important services including healthcare. But he’s worked specifically for the Redwood Community Health Coalition which serves Sonoma, Marin, Napa, and Yolo counties. And that in his – as he has discussed in his
application he’s also traveled extensively and visited underrepresented population in urban and rural settings in northern California.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Guevara.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

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

Is there anyone else in the queue?

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

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

MR. BAO: Hi, my name is Khang Bao, spelled K-H-A-N-G. Last name Bao, B-A-O. I am a high school teacher living in the Westminster area. I’m also a new father. I’m very busy with the little one and also handling with the school opening and stuff. I’m a little worried, just like everyone else, about COVID and the future.
When I heard about today’s meeting as a -- when I heard about today’s meeting is really important. I was really happy to call in. As a teacher and a father, I know that you are going to do the next year -- what you are going to do in the next year is very important. But many people do know or understand that you have a lot of power. These public meetings are not accessible for people like me. It’s very intimidating calling in like this. However, because of people like -- I like to call to get my endorsement for Linda Akutagawa. I understand I have a voice for my family, my students, and my community. I am confident someone like Linda would know that English is not my first language. She knows that students’ parents need communication in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Mandarin. She knows that our community have our own radio, newspaper, and television. She’s also from Orange County and I agree with other speakers that we can’t leave Orange County out.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Bao.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

And we do have Luis Aleman. Please spell your
name, followed by your comment.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Aleman.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

And so I ask the Commission to please add Linda based on her experience, based on her commitment to API issues, both in L.A., as well as Orange County. And I know
that she will serve the Commission and our communities with
her heart and with her mind.

            Thank you so much.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Bustos-Choy.

Is there anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

            Thank you so much.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Pavia.
Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

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


CHAIR ANDERSEN: Please go ahead.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Araujo. Do we have anyone else --

MS. ARAUJO: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

So I urge you to fulfill your responsibility today by increasing the representation of AANHPI so that it better reflects all of the state’s diversity. Thank you
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kulkarni.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

And we’ll go to the line Jacqueline Rodriguez.

Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

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

And, Commissioners, it would be -- it could deserves to leave out Orange County when you have the option. Also for your thoughtful consideration, thank you, Orange County has been historically known for being a
Republican stronghold, but more Democrats have been elected to office. For these reasons, my recommendation is to select the slate with an Orange County resident and unaffiliated independent, Linda.

    Thank you, Commissioners.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Rodriguez.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

    I have no lines in queue at this time.

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

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

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

    First of all, whoever, again, and I’ve said this before and I’ll say it again. We have a number of applicants in front of us, all of whom can get the job done. Right? All of whom bring incredible skills, gifts,
ties to communities and I just want to really acknowledge that.

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

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

Not seeing any -- oh, I’m sorry. Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah, just want to just acknowledge that the depth of the public response is noted.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Taylor.
Yes, I think we have discussed this at great length and so
I think it’s time to actually call for the, to call for the
vote.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

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

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

MS. PELLMAN: Yes. Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Andersen.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Pass.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.
MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: No.
MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Taylor.
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yea.
MS. PELLMAN: Yes?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.
MS. PELLMAN: Thank you.
Commissioner Turner.
VICE CHAIR TURNER: No.
MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.
COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair. Staff requires a few minutes to tabulate the vote.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.
COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: At this time, it is -- if anyone would like to change their vote, they may do so at this time. Once the Counsel says it’s time to announce the vote, that will be final. So just to.
COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: So the vote will -- as I call the Counsel, then the vote will stand.
So, please, Counsel, go ahead and announce the vote.
COUNSEL SAXTON: The vote was five yes for the Le Mons second amended slate. Three no. That was three Republicans yes, one Democrat yes, and one neither party yes. The vote fails as there’s only one Democratic vote and it’s required to have at least two Democratic votes.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: One moment, Chair, please.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

COUNSEL SAXTON: And we don’t have a second.

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

So, thank you, Counsel has given us a bit of
instruction there. At this time, we have a motion on the
table to, slightly modified motion, to vote on the Sadhwani
Slate. And with that, could Counsel please read that vote?
I’m sorry, read that slate.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Do we have a clear motion --
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I’m sorry.
COUNSEL SAXTON: -- from Commissioner Sadhwani?
CHAIR ANDERSEN: No, we do not. I’m sorry, I
misspoke there.

Commissioner Sadhwani, did you want to modify
your proposal?

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: You --
VICE CHAIR TURNER: And, Chair, I’ll second the
motion.

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

Now it is time for public -- could you please,
before we go to public comment, could Counsel please read
the Sadhwani Slate.
COUNSEL SAXTON: The Sadhwani Slate includes the following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democratic; Angela Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell Yee, Republican; Linda Atukagawa, neither party; and Pedro Toledo, neither party.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: And Commissioner Sadhwani, is that correct?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, it’s correct.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

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

Should, since we, do we --

COUNSEL SAXTON: I think, --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: You should read it.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please --

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- for the public.

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

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

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

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

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

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

When you decide that you want to make a comment, please press one zero, and you’ll be placed in the queue to make public comment about the current action item. After joining the queue to make public comment you should hear an
automatic recording informing you that you have been placed in the queue. When it’s your turn, the operator will introduce you. At that time, please state and spell your name for the transcriptionist. Then state your comment clearly and concisely. Comments will be limited to two minutes. You will hear a time check when 15 seconds in your time remain.

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

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

These instructions can also be found on our website.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

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

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

We’ll go to the line of Rebecca Lee. Please
spell your name, followed by your comment.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please go ahead.

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

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

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

COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Lee.
Is there any -- are there other people in the queue?

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Pham.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Potamianos.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

It would just be one moment for our next comment.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

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

MS. TRAM: Yes, sure. My first name is Tammy, T-A-M-M-Y. Last name, Tran, T-R-A-N. I’m calling, I’ve been participating the last three days and I find this very interesting. And I just want to call in to support this slate. I believe this is the slate that solves the Orange County representation, that also has, I’m sorry, maybe I missed it because you’ve been reading through the names.
Peter Toledo is also on it as well as Linda Akutagawa. So I think it’s a balanced slate. I know these are difficult decisions, there’s tradeoffs. You know, as an Orange County resident and somebody that has worked both in Sacramento and L.A., I think there’s a good representation here.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tran.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

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

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

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

All right. I’d like to go ahead and say something. For all the people who’ve been calling in, I
really do appreciate, I don’t want them to think, it
certainly makes sense, if you called in, you think, wait
and they’re not doing what I want so they don’t value me.
And I don’t want anyone to think that. And, of course,
what we’re faced with is some people will. And I sort of
my, in terms of how I’m looking, viewing this is we’re
commissioned, but we are not drawing the lines. I mean, we
are drawing the lines, but we can’t do that without
community involvement. And this is all about community
involvement.

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

Again, believing that all our applicants will
indeed be essentially like an independent army to help us
with the community. And we’ll be able to access areas.
And what is our accessibility, particularly given this
COVID and Zoom. This will be harder to access people and
we need to make sure we include as many people as possible.
That’s where I’m coming from on this.

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

Seeing --

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: -- no hands. Yes.
COUNSEL SAXTON: Should we restate the motion?
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Please.
COUNSEL SAXTON: I mean the slate. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Chair, before you do,
Commissioner Sadhwani wants to speak.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I’m sorry. Thank you.
Commissioner Sadhwani.

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

One of the previous callers, I’m sure I’ll say
his name wrong, Dr. Potamianos, had specifically called for
sensitivity to the region. And I think that the
conversation that we’ve had, this struggle that we have had
is representative of all of our sensitivity to the region
and sensitivity to the needs of so many different
communities that are being left out. As some of the
callers identified, we don’t have anyone in the candidate
pool who is native American. We don’t have anyone in the
candidate pool who’s Pacific Islander. And so I just
encourage my fellow Commissioners to join me in supporting
this slate. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

Commissioner Kennedy.

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

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

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

MS. PELLMAN: Yes.
COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, do we want to restate the motion first?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, let’s go ahead and restate the motion.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: You actually just, --

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- if I already did that.

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

MS. PELLMAN: Okay.

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

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Andersen.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: No.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Pass.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Present.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No.
MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Turner.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: No.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Want to, the poll has been called. Do we want any change of votes while the --

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: A point of clarification. I did not hear what Commissioner Kennedy’s vote was.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh. Present.

COUNSEL SAXTON: If we could have just a moment to tabulate, please.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, thank you. At this time, if anyone wants to change --

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: For clarification, is present abstained?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

If anyone wants to change -- oh, sorry, Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Can I ask for a couple
of minutes stand down. I have to step out for --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Certainly.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- be okay?

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

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you.

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

[Pause in proceeding]

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

Oh, thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari is back.

I guess the point of discussion here, we do need to break
in about ten minutes for Court Reporter and also the
American sign language. So at this point, we’ll hear
the --

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair, are you ready for
me to announce the vote?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

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

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

Commissioner Ahmad.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Please speak up.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, I think so. Please.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: So I, during my lunch, I went back and reviewed the guiding documents for the Commission, which is the Voter’s First Act and the Voting Rights Act. And it was interesting -- interestingly enough, today is the 55-year anniversary of the adoption of VRA. So that information is so readily available on most of
my social media channels. So, albeit, this source is, you know, are different sources. But I think what I got from my review was the emphasis that the Voting Rights Acts puts on certain demographic characteristics that we must take into consideration. Not saying that others are not important. I would argue that the list that we have from the legislature outlining certain boxes for us are not representative of any one of us in any way, shape or form, as a poll person.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.

Would any other Commissioner want to say anything at this time?

Well, I’ll go ahead. I certainly do appreciate the, and I appreciate that you’re mentioning the Voters Rights Act because that is absolutely paramount. That’s one phase of how we must analyze this. But I, and I don’t want to misinterpret stuff, but I think, you know, we’re
comparing areas and different groups. And I think there is, there could be misconstrue about the north part of the state. It has a lot of racial minorities. It’s not, I think sometimes it’s sort of viewed as sort of maybe much more white area. And while that certainly is, the changing population in the north part of our state is minority. Dramatically so. And they’re very isolated pockets. And that’s why they’re extremely hard to reach. And the Voting Rights Act definitely applies to all. It is racial. It is certainly certain groups, racial groups who have been disenfranchised. And that is also going on in the northern part of the state, very much so.

And they’re -- I understand, you know, when it’s easier to see with large groups of people together, it becomes more obvious. It’s actually more insidious, shall I say, in smaller, more remote areas because it can kind of be, oh, it was for other reasons. And I feel a couple of the callers, people that have called in, that is what they’re mentioning. You know, the people who have called in, with a few exceptions, are talking about, you know, the issues that -- and these are sort of a rural issue. We’re just a bit more, I think we’re a bit more aware of it through the central valley than we are in the north area. And so it’s, you know, I think that the Voters Rights Acts applies to both those areas, is what I’m trying to say.
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I just wanted to add that I feel the sense of responsibility that we’re drawing lines for the entire state of California. And the state looks different in different pockets across the state of California. I just feel like as a Commission which we’re representing a subset of California, but at the very minimal as in I didn’t design the regions, nor did we. Based upon the regions that we were given us, I just thought it would be a missed opportunity not to accomplish at least that feat. With the feedback that we had already heard about what happened with the most northern part of the state, in the first cycle. Looking at it through this particular lens does by no means negate any of the VRA portion. Nor do I think it follows in conflict of the VRA in any way. So, for me, that’s my thinking there and why that particular -- and despite the fact, by the way, it was named Le Mons Slate, it was the Le Mons Slate built on the feedback of the Commissioners, public comment, what we’ve been charged with, training, et cetera. It was not my personal slate, meaning I tried to really compromise, I didn’t write the slate like this is what Antonio thinks it ought to be. But all things considered and while I greatly respect our neighbors in Orange County and I don’t want any
of my comments to suggest that Orange County is not
important, the population of Orange County is not
important, because it absolutely is. And I know Orange
County is not L.A., and it’s not San Diego, et cetera.
However, we have potentially proposed four to five people
in the southern region that is not going to let Orange
County be left out, has relationships with the
constituencies in Orange County, and Orange County is not
going to let Orange County be left out. Those
3 million people are not going to be a part of this
process. And to think that because no one potentially from
Orange County is on the Commission that 3 million people in
the southern, coastal area of L.A., excuse me, of
California is not going to be included, is ludicrous, at
best.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: We’ve -- I think with
Commissioner Sadhwani and then Commissioner Ahmad. Does
that seem right. Oh, --

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I’m sorry.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Ninety minute break, please.

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

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: It appears we have a quorum. So, got to find the gavel here. It appears we have a quorum so I will call the meeting out of recess and back into our discussion where we were. I believe it was, we
left, we were just about to do Commissioner Sadhwani and
followed by Commissioner Ahmad.

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

One of the callers who called in had mentioned
some of the partisan changes. I think that that’s true.
You know I -- just to add, I had spent some time down
there, just on a weekend for an afternoon and I was
surprised to see both, you know, and again this is not
meant to bring in partisanship at all, but, you know, I saw
Black Lives Matters protesters while at the same time
seeing Trump protesters kind of counter protesting. There
is a lot happening in Orange Country right now and when
we’re thinking about communities of interest, the VRA in
1965 was established particularly for the issue of disenfranchisement, the disenfranchisement of African-Americans at that time particularly under the Jim Crow South. And then in a handful of other places across the United States. That notion has changed, right? in the last several decades as we have seen tremendous diversity occur particularly in places like California. So when we’re at the stage of creating districts, we’re -- we have to think about these communities that are living right next to one another who don’t always agree. Right? They’re all minority communities, right? But they’re not all necessarily, you know, in support of the same candidate, which is ultimately kind of what you look at to identify racially polarized voting and vote dilution.

So I think the challenge of developing these coalition districts is kind of the academic term for them because we’re putting various communities together, various minority communities all together into a district. The challenge is really going to be understanding those communities. I think that we have a real opportunity. Of course I, you know supported Linda Akutagawa in my candidate. There’s also Vicki Tamoush. Both of them are independents from Orange County which I think actually, given the kinds of challenges that we’re going to have in drawing those lines, I think they could actually be
extraordinarily helpful. They both have these strong ties to, you know, to various portions of the community, very diverse communities. You know, if you follow any of the politics of Orange County what you might know is that there has been, yes, you know, the blue wave of 2018 hit the county but traditionally it was very much Republican based. And that Asian-Americans in particular are, predominantly identify as independents in that region.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you Commissioner Sadhwani.
Commissioner Ahmad and then I think Commissioner Fornaciari.

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh.

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

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

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I’m sorry, Madam Chair. Sorry to interrupt, I was talking particularly about the no
party preference group.

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

Go ahead Ms. -- I’m sorry, --

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: We do also have Mr. -- Commissioner Fornaciari is also sort of raising his hand. Is that -- and then Commissioner Le Mons. You know, I don’t want to -- I don’t want to like stop flow here.
Is that -- so same kind of idea, Commissioner Fornaciari?

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Akutagawa. A-K.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Akutagawa. I’m sorry.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you Commissioner Fornaciari.

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Oh, I’m sorry.

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

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

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes. Yes.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes you are. Okay.

Counsel, --

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

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

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: That is correct.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Commissioner Le Mons.

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

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

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I was just looking at no party preference bringing --
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, that’s what I mean in the no party preference category. Which two did you hold up, I’m sorry --

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I brought for discussion Morgan and Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, that’s what I thought.

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, please, please.

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

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

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I thought that was Richard Gallegos.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: That’s what I thought. That’s the --

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.


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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: That was not in your
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Correct. So, so would you just like to sort of restate that I think you were coming to a --

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So it’s neither here nor there.

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: My apologies.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. So we’ll pause for just a
minute to get Counsel to write that down and then -- and read it back.

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Le Mons.

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

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: [inaudible]

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You’re on mute.

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Well, just Taylor, Taylor 1.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Taylor, is that correct?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, it is.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

On the -- I had a question and it was -- I missed in Victoria Tamoush. I understand, and please, I might
actually ask Commissioner Kennedy who had more information on her. I sort of missed the legal -- I think she was reviewing legal matters but not, you know, so she had sort of worked with law, but not actually the law background. Is that -- is that correct or Commissioner Kennedy, do you have more information handling on that?

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. So that’s within her field. So that’s similar to -- yeah. Okay. So that -- thank you.

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

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I thought you did -- I thought you did both. You did Eddie Morgan, I thought you did
Pedro Toledo, and Ms. Tamoush. Was I incorrect about that?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I don’t have notes here on Pedro Toledo.


COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes?

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

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you, Commissioner.

That’s Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Michael Gennaco, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; Linda Akutagawa, neither party.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you.

COUNSEL SAXTON: I apologize if that was read too quickly. Let me --
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, no. I just was
distracted. I was too busy thinking I heard a name that I
didn’t hear so, so no. With that, I’d like to make a
motion that we vote on Commissioner Fornaciari’s Slate.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: There’s a --

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: There is no Fornaciari
Slate. It’s --

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: There’s a -- thank you

Commissioner Ahmad. I was trying to figure out how do I
say that.

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

Seeing no second at this time --

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: I can second that.

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

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Although I just wanted to
recognize that Commissioner Sadhwani has her hand raised.
I don’t know when it’s the appropriate time.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I’m sorry. Commissioner Sadhwani had --

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

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: The rule is during or before --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay.

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- the public comment.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh. There we go. Thank you.
So we have it. It is we can indeed discuss, either before
or during public comments, so go ahead forward with
discussion.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Is that going back to me?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes. I’m sorry. Go, yes,
Commissioner Sadhwani.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner
Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Can I ask? I’m sorry,
Commissioner.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: No, no. Go ahead. You’re -- I
was just --

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Commissioner Turner, out
of curiosity, I’m just thinking back to the vote on the
Le Mons Slate. And so I’m wondering, based upon our
discussion so far is, do you feel like you could be
comfortable in that direction? And I guess I’d ask the
same question of Commissioner Ahmad as well. And if so, I
would withdraw my motion for the vote on the Compromise
Slate and I guess we’d have to check with Counsel to see if
that slate can be reintroduced, or renamed and
repositioned, then maybe we can try another vote. But I
don’t want to go through that whole process and open up to
public comment --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: -- if there’s no real
support.

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

Now having said that, through the discussions
that we’re having as well, I do recognize that Russell Yee
is also partly on that slate, so it’s not -- it’s not a
group that would be totally, I guess lack representation
plus the strong public support and comment for Linda.
Which is also, which is curious for me because I’ve been very appreciative of Commissioner Kennedy’s lifting of Victoria Tamoush, which happens to be Orange County as well. And I’m, I guess curious, about the support. I think I recall her having a lot of written public comment ahead of time, but the showing up over the last couple of days hasn’t been there, and maybe that’s okay. And I’m trying to internally determine how I feel about the lack of showing over the public comment over the last three days. And again, it’s our process that we’re in with the Zoom, so that’s kind of where my thoughts are.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy.

Thank you Commissioner, Turner, for--.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
Just first to respond to Commissioner Turner’s question, my notes show that candidate Tamoush had, I believe it was 18
written comments on her application file, while Linda
Akutagawa had five.

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I’m sorry

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: From Counsel?

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes. I realize.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Ahmad.

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

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, yes. Yes.

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

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

And so, Counsel, on that, you know we have the
Le Mons second amended slate that was voted on and voted down. So procedurally say if want to revive that slate, is it easier to bring that back or could I --

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

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

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

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

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

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

COUNSEL SAXTON: No.

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: The second. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

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

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I’ll second it.

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

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

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Now, before we move
into the next -- the next phase would be discussion and
public comment. Just for discussion purposes, so we kind
of put several things out -- the difference we are -- we
were sort of discussing the difference between Peter
Blando, Russell Yee. You know I, of course, had, you know,
ideas, I really like Peter Blando. Did we want to pursue
that further? Commissioner Fornaciari.

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

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

So at this point, I’m going to have Counsel read
the instructions, please, for comment.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

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

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

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

When it is your turn, the operator will introduce
you. At that time, please state and spell your name for
the transcriptionist then state your comment clearly and
concisely. Comments will be limited to two minutes. You
will hear a time check when 15 seconds in your time
remains.

After you finish making your comment, we’ll move
on to the next caller. At that point, please hang up your
phone. If you would like to comment on another agenda item
at a later time, please call back when we open up public
comment for that item and repeat the process. If you are
disconnected for any reason, please call back and explain
the issue to the operator, then repeat the process and
rejoin the public comment queue by pressing one zero. These instructions can also be found on our website.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel. AT&T Operator, do we happen to have anyone in the queue at this time?

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. If you wish to make a comment, please press one and then zero at this time. And we do have a few in queue. We’ll first go to the line of Chandara Phanachone. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.


CHAIR ANDERSEN: Go ahead. You are on the line. MS. PHANACHONE: Great. My name is Chandara Phanachone and I am the managing partner for a woman and LGBT-owned publication called Geraldine Magazine. I’m calling to really extend my full support and a hundred percent confidence in Ms. Linda Akutagawa.

You know, I’m listening in on this call and this entire time I’m thinking that, you know, I’ve heard conversations in regard to having someone else be on the Commission to represent the views of the people in the population, especially the API population in the OC. And,
you know, this is problematic because I am a refugee from Laos and for the longest time, I’ve learned that if you are not at the table, you are going to be on the menu. The issues that the communities face are not going to be brought up to the Commission because the people who are living in the communities are not being represented. And I wanted to let you know that, that this is really important.

You know, Linda Akutagawa grew up in the OC. She grew up in the heart of San Diego Valley. She understands the needs and the disparities that exist within the Asian-American community. You know, a lot of times we are called the minority, the modern minority, and that is completely false. And I just wanted to bring that up to your attention because within the Asian-American community there is diverse populations of Asian-American, and with regard to language, ethnicity, cultures, and that’s something that needs to be told. Because oftentimes we are lumped into one category. And because of that, our views, our interests are not represented.

I believe that Linda is a great leader. This is not just a vision, and a commitment to really affect change on this Commission, but also to be represented of the race that has often kind of been unheard --

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds, 15 seconds.

MS. PHANACHONE: -- and marginalized. Her work
with the Chair -- as the Chair of the Alliance for Board Diversity, has really elevated the issues and the disproportion, the underrepresentation of the Asian-American community --

MS. PELLMAN: That’s time.

MS. PHANACHONE: -- on this --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Go ahead AT&T Operator.

MS. PHANACHONE: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Go ahead. Oh. Okay. Thank you very much Ms. Phanachone.

Would anyone like to address that at this time or just continue as -- thank you very much and is there anyone else in the queue.

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we’ll go over to the line of Vanessa Hernandez. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

MS. HERNANDEZ: Hello. My name’s Vanessa Hernandez. V-A-N-E-S-S-A. Hernandez, H-E-R-N-A-N-D-E-Z. I’m calling to show our full support for Le Mons Amended Slate. I am representing both myself and HOPE, which stands for Hispanics Organized for Political Equality. At your last meeting, we both submitted a letter and public comment urging you all to consider the selection of at least three Latinas as part of the Commission. I feel that Le Mons Second Amended Slate uplifts both Patricia Sinay,
and Angela Vasquez. Both who I have experienced as incredible leaders, impartial, and incredibly reputable leaders who should be part of this Commission. And urge your consideration of this slate further. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we’ll go to the line of Brian Zweir. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

MR. ZWEIR: Hello. B-R-I-A-N, Z-W-E-I-R. I wanted to say that I think only three Latinos hail from the Latino community, and I reiterate my support for the first slate, which was close and it’s the best one by far. I implore all the Commissioners to support the Latino community, vote the Le Mons Slate. The first slate is supported by the public and was by the vast majority of Commissioners. Further, Pedro Toledo and the Latinos received the majority of total public comments in support of. Please.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my comments. Have a great day.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Zweir.

Do we have any other -- any in the queue.

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we’ll go the line of Mariko Kahn. Please spell your name, followed by
MS. KAHN: Hello. My name is Mariko Kahn, M-A-R-I-K-O. Last name Kahn, K-A-H-N. And I’m calling in support of the Compromise one rather than the one that’s on the table. In particular because I feel it’s important that Linda Akutagawa is considered for the Commission. I am the -- I’m an Executive Director of Pacific Asian Mental Health Agency. And I’m also on the Board of Cambodia Town. I know Linda, that she will represent my community, the Cambodian community, and the API community in general. And it’s really also important to understand that Orange County has a very large Asian population, very diverse. And not to have anybody on the Commission that can represent that constituency is not right.

So I hope that you will reconsider and certainly consider Ms. Akutagawa for this Commission. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kahn.

Do we have anyone else on the line?

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

MS. TRAN: Yes. My name is Tammy Tran, T-A-M-M-Y. Last name Tran, T-R-A-N. I appreciate the opportunity to continue to be part of this discussion. I respectfully oppose the latest -- the latest slate.
Here’s the bottom line for me. Orange County voices showed up today to be heard. It has been demonstrated Linda Akutagawa selection will give voice and energy to a cross section of people from across the state, not just Asian Pacific Islanders. She has people call in from Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley, Long Beach, Little Saigon, Fountain Valley, Santa Ana, Anaheim. She has not even been selected yet by this Commission, but has inspired so many people to engage, including myself.

I’ve taken time from my work to follow this for the last couple days. I appreciate the consistency of Commissioner Turner and Sadhwani, in recognition of her value to the Commission. Their -- your consistency in recognizing the API community is not monolithic. We’re not all Republicans. We’re not all Democrats. But Linda is unaffiliated. She’s, you know she’s non-partisan. She also understands that the Asian-American community include voices from the Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Chinese, Taiwanese, Laotian, Cambodian. I’m passionate about Linda because I have seen her fight. I have seen her be impartial. She’s a professional.

And I hope that this moves -- that the Commissioners who are resistant to her candidacy, you all have heard from countless people today. I know
Commissioner Kennedy referenced the 18 letters that the 
other person from Orange County, who I’m not familiar with, 
to the five letters that Linda received. I hope you’re 
counting how many people have submitted public comment. 
How many people have taken their time from their families, 
from their health, and everything to make time to be a part 
of this process and to have their voice heard.

Commissioner Kennedy, you sound very intelligent. 
I hope you take that and I’m asking you a question, 
hopefully, you’re counting how many people --

MS. PELLMAN: Fifteen seconds.

MS. KAHN: -- have called in for Linda Akutagawa 
because it sounds like it’s important that you reference 18 
letters versus the five. I didn’t know how to put in a 
letter, I know a lot of people have, until much later. And 
so I think that’s -- that for me is one of the reasons --

MS. PELLMAN: Time.

MS. KAHN: -- I’m just learning how to have my 
voice heard. Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Tran.

Are there any other comments in the queue? We 
will have time for that.

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we’ll go over to 
the line of Enancio Gaona. Please spell your name, 
followed by your comment.
MR. GOANA: The name is Enacio Gaona, ex-educator of 37 years. I’m from Fresno, California. I thank you for the opportunity to present my views. It is unfortunate that it has taken some time to get some Latinos on this Compromise. I would urge them, and all of you, to duly hear the interests of the community at large, and to present your talent and experiences on this Commission. It is important to hear the needs in terms of redistricting of the entire state, not just Southern California or the Bay Area, but in particular, the Central, San Joaquin Valley. The -- it is important that all talents be considered, issues be considered, areas be represented.

It is interesting to me to hear you, how you are actually extending yourself to consider other ethnic groups. It is commendable on your part. I wish you success and once again I encourage, especially those Latinos on this Commission, to reach out to the community, and hear what they have to say in terms of redistricting.

Thank you.

COURT REPORTER: Sir, this is the Court Reporter. Can you please spell your name for me?


COURT REPORTER: Thank you so much.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

Do we have any other additional people in the
queue?

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

And we’ll go to the line of Tammy Kim. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

MS. KIM: Yes. Tammy, T-A-M-M-Y. Kim, K-I-M. I am calling on behalf of the 130,000 Korean-Americans here in Orange County. I represent Korean-American Center and Korean Community Services. We are the largest Korean-American serving nonprofit organization here in Orange County.

We didn’t understand the process or else we would’ve submitted a letter, so I’m calling today in support of Linda Akutagawa. We hope that you will consider putting her on this Commission. We are giving her our fullest support possible and really would appreciate the consideration. The Korean-American community here in Orange County is the second largest in the entire country and we want to ensure that we have representation within, not just the Korean community, but the overall API community. That we have someone here in Orange County to help give voice. Someone with a reputation of fairness.

And that is what I’d like to say, so thank you very much.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Kim.

Is there anyone else in the queue?

AT&T OPERATOR: Thank you. Next we’ll go to the line of Inez Gonzalez. Please spell your name, followed by your comment.

MS. GONZALEZ: Inez Gonzalez, I-N-E-Z, G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I’m the Executive Director for Mana De San Diego, representing over 400 women and allies in San Diego County. I echo HOPE’s support for the current proposed slate. We’re pleased to see San Diego and Latina representation.

Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Ms. Gonzalez.

Do we have anyone else in the queue?

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

I have no further lines in queue at this time.

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

Anyone want a little discussion before we, next would be to call the vote.

Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Commissioner Turner and I just --
CHAIR ANDERSEN: I’m sorry, Commissioner Turner.

Sorry.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Oh no, Commissioner Taylor,

I was directing –

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Taylor, Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. Commissioner Turner, just a brief moment of conversation. So my understanding is that one of your strongest points for Linda was her representation of the API community. Correct?

VICE CHAIR TURNER: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. Any additional comments or, at this time?

VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, Commissioner Turner.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: To just continue with that thought, it is for Ms. Linda Akutagawa. It’s the representation of the broad spectrum of that community that has overwhelmingly called in, written in, to have that representation throughout the regions. And I feel just as strongly about the representation for the Latino community for Pedro. And it’s the -- it’s the concern that we have in this one category here. I am not confused over the north with Eddie Morgan and the value that that would bring to the Commission and what does that mean for the years of
nonrepresentation, the representative there as well.

But the struggle that I continue in is to not have Pedro as a representation for the Latino community in the non-identified category, as well as Ms. Linda Akutagawa. And I think for me the struggle still continues to be trying to prioritize Morgan over those two and I’m still not finding the bandwidth to feel totally comfortable and confident in making that selection, or choice, of Morgan over Akutagawa or Toledo.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you Commissioner Turner.

Would anyone -- any other, I might sort of maybe, you know, I completely understand that and particularly the people who are calling in who feel, or are actually saying if --

Oh. I’m sorry. Was there someone else who --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, no. My apologies.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Who are saying, you know, if Ms. Akutagawa isn’t there we won’t be represented. I -- given what Commissioner Kennedy actually brought up earlier, there’s an applicant, David Burdick, who said, and I believe he was actually maybe applied 10 years ago. And there is the whole group of applicants who have not made it through the process but who are ready, willing, and able, excuse me, to jump in and say hey, these are the people I can get and I will activate to help you come to this group.
And I’d like to say to -- I feel that’s very, very true and it’s a little, almost easier, given Ms. Akutagawa and her connections to reach out to her, even though she would not be on the Commission, for access. And, you know, I don’t -- I do not want these people to think, oh, it’s the Commission. You’re either on the Commission or you’re not represented period. I -- that’s where I think it’s kind of, again, access. I understand that Orange County is, it is tricky. It is dense and populated. I actually sort of think it might be one of the areas we actually try to look at and address first because it is sort of complicated, might actually help us with access there. I don’t know if that helps anybody in considering other sorts of things.

I did see quickly three hands then. It’ll be Commissioner Sadhwani and then there’s Commissioner Turner and then Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you, Madam Chair. While [unstable Internet connection] idea that people in the pool are going to be able, willing, and ready to participate in this process, if they’re not on the Commission. I want to push back on that. Right? As a working mom with three kids, yeah, I would love to do everything, right, but I don’t think that we can expect that people are going to have the time or ability to continue to be involved at the same level, if they’re not
on the Commission. I think that is a wild assumption. Right? Not everyone is in the same position, whether that’s in terms of their time or economic situation, particularly during COVID. So while I certainly welcome everybody’s participation, I don’t think that it’s fair to make that assumption of anyone.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: We already have, and we’ll add Commissioner Le Mons.

So Commissioner Turner.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to, for the record, say that for me personally, it’s been shared through some of the public comment that’s come, but for me personally I’m in agreement that I also would have a sense that it almost feels like we are penalizing people for calling in and for their participation. And for the record, I want to say that that is how it’s landing for me as well. And I know that everyone will have their own different intent about what they’re saying with that. But each time it comes up, I want to say that it almost is since you have people that are calling in, we don’t necessarily need to have you as a representation just continue to call in without the representation. And almost as a demonstrated, this is what will happen and so it almost gives -- negates the challenge or the weightiness of still needing to struggle with
having. So I just wanted to state that for me, at least, it is how it’s landing for me.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.
Commissioner Ahmad, is that -- Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Madam Chair. My thoughts have already been shared.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, thank you. And then Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No additional comment.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. If that’s certainly, I can certainly see how what I’d said came across that way. And it certainly did not intend to come across that way. It’s just more, I feel -- I empathize with the people who were calling in and I really felt, because we have been hearing, well, you get all these public comments and no one says anything. And so that’s where I was really trying to say we’re hearing you. And these are hard choices. And it’s, again, I felt no one was responding to that, which is why I was reaching out, can anyone respond to these people who are calling in. And they came across as though, well, if you call in, you know, well, you’re already there, we don’t, we don’t need her. That’s certainly wasn’t my intent. And, again, all the people who are contacting and everything, whether it be by letter or public comment,
these are all the same. That was a little miscontrue there in terms of, you know, their application letters that were before a different time, then there’s public comment after that time. They’re all the same level. So, but yes, certainly there are advantages and timeframes on this.

Absolutely. And I totally understand that. I just feel empathy with the people who are calling in, all of them who, the people who are not, who are going to be unhappy regardless how we decide. So, you always hate to make someone upset, but we’re going to.

So Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair. Thank you, Madam Chair. I would just like to make a point for process clarification. And, please, Counsel, correct if I am misunderstanding this. But for my understanding, it’s customary for sitting members of a body representing the larger group to not necessarily respond to comments while they are coming in. And this is, from what I understand, the logic and reasoning behind that is for fairness and equity. Because if we respond to one comment, we must respond to all the comments. And right now, it might seem relatively manageable, but when we get a thousand comments from a certain area, that becomes a little bit more complicated.

So I can speak for myself, I statement. If I
was not responding to comments, that was my intent, to make sure that I’m fair and equitable to all the comments coming in. But, rest assured, every single comment is being digested and I am definitely considering and heavily weighing every single public comment that comes through whether it be through a phone call or written testimony.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Actually, thank you, Commissioner Ahmad because that sort of is a -- we don’t actually officially say that and I believe this entire issue would be well handled with an official even adding that to the public comment. You know, we will accept your comments, but we cannot actually say anything at this time, would clarify that. And I think people calling in would feel better. And that would sort of minimize the comments that we’re getting of, you know, we’re saying things and no one’s replying. You know, because at public meetings, there are ones that get replied to and there are others that do not. And I think actually adding that to our procedure going forward is a very, very good idea.

Counsel, I don’t if there is a hard rule about that, if that’s our discretion. Could you please give us some guidance on that?

COUNSEL SAXTON: Certainly. Commissioners are constrained in that they cannot speak about things that are not on the agenda. But in general, how Commissioners may
want to respond to public comment is there is no legal
restraint on responding or not responding. At the same
time, it is customary in many forums for public comment to
be met with thank you for your comment for the reasons that
Commissioner Ahmad brought up.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you. So is that -- I
think that is another detail item for the full Commission,
that just make that official for, again, many people who
are calling in are not at all familiar with how Boards and
Commissions proceed. And to make it more opaque –I mean
not opaque, open and clear, we should officially say
something on that.

So at this time, we do have a motion on the floor
and see no other -- oh, I’m sorry, we do have another hand.
Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Just before we move into
a vote, I think I’d like to just say for the record, from
my examination of census data. The north coastal region
that is of discussion today, comprises less than one
percent of California, of its population. Orange County
comprises merely 10 percent of California and maybe 22
percent of Orange County of Asian-American and as we -- and
Pacific Islander. And as we have heard from the numerous
callers today, just as a reminder, that the Asian-American
Pacific Islander community is extraordinarily diverse. It
includes Indian-Americans, Chinese-Americans, Korean-Americans, Cambodian-Americans, and many, many others. And these are all communities that are going to be left out.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

Seeing no further comments, I’m going to ask the secretary to call for the roll.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Madam Chair -- oh.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Should --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please.

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- I like to read -- okay.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, please.

COUNSEL SAXTON: The motion for consideration is adoption of the Le Mons Second Amended Slate which includes the following applicants: Patricia Sinay, Democrat; Angela Vasquez, Democrat; Alicia Fernandez, Republican; Russell Yee, Republican; Eddie Morgan, neither party; and Pedro Toledo, neither party.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Counsel.

Would the secretary like to call the vote?

MS. PELLMAN: Yes. Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No.

MS. PELLMAN: Sorry, was that no?
COMMISSIONER AHMAD: That is correct.

MS. PELLMAN: Thank you.

Commissioner Andersen.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Abstain.

MS. PELLMAN: Could you repeat that, please.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Abstain.

MS. PELLMAN: Abstain, thank you.

Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: [inaudible]

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: You’re on mute, Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

MS. PELLMAN: Commissioner Turner. Commissioner Turner, I couldn’t hear you.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: I didn’t say anything. No.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: That is the vote. Would anyone, this is the time where, while Counsel tallies the vote,
this is the time should anybody would want to change their vote.

COUNSEL SAXTON: Madam Chair.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: The motion received four yes votes. The motion fails.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you.

At this time, --

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Can I move that we recess for the day?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah, we do have, on the line, I mean the --

COUNSEL SAXTON: Oh, are you, Madam Chair, are you speaking about the --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes.

COUNSEL SAXTON: -- Mr. Villanueva?

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, that’s correct.

COUNSEL SAXTON: He’s available to discuss the full Commission matters at a time when a slate has been approved, after that time.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Okay. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Madam Chair. I also agree. I think I [ garbled].

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yes, I’m sorry, you -- break up.

It was a motion to adjourn and --
COMMISSIONER AHMAD: No, not to adjourn, to recess.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, to recess. I’m sorry, to a recess. Okay.
I’m sorry, Commissioner Sudhwani, did you also say recess or? You did.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, I said recess for the day.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, recess for the day. Correct. And that’s a recess for the day by Commissioner Ahmad. Is that you were saying?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes, given the time being 4:11 and our agenda going to 4:30, I think it would be appropriate to recess for the day. Up for discussion with the other Commissioners, of course.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Yeah. I also agree. That’s, I was going to make that proposal. I think at this time it would be wise for us to recess until tomorrow morning, and, you know, think about -- grapple with this.

Is there any other additional comments or additional matters that we need to discuss, mostly parliamentary for tomorrow or anything?

Seeing no objection, I will --

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I do want to, I have something I want to say.
CHAIR ANDERSEN: Oh, I’m sorry. Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah, I’m a little disappointed, to be honest, and not because the slate didn’t pass. But I, you know, I’ve tried to be really, really intentional about each Commissioner and really hearing you and talking to you and bringing you in for discussion. I would not have, in my opinion, wasted the hour and a half that we wasted reintroducing the slate that you said you could support to only turn around and not support. So I would wish you just had said I don’t know if I can support it, I’m not sure. And I’ve tried to do that through this entire process, is really check in with you. Because I’m trying -- again, this isn’t my personal thing. I’m trying to do something that is really considerate of all of us and all of the comments and all of that.

So just from a process point of view, I did find this to be quite disappointing and I know that maybe your heart changed, I guess, when you heard public comment and whatnot. I just hope in the morning that those of you who want something very specific that you come with that in the morning so we can get down to the business of getting our Commission seated.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.

Commissioner Sadhwani.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I’m assuming that that’s directed at me? When you said you.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: No, I said when we come in the morning, for those who want something specific, I said it generally, but if you’re -- the part that is for you is I did check in with you directly. I checked in with Commissioner Ahmad directly. And I checked in with Commissioner Turner directly. And, again, it was in service of if you guys support this, I’ll move forward. And that’s not that you can’t change your support. So I respect that you have the right to change your mind anytime. I respect that we have built into the process the opportunity to change our vote, like all of that. So you’re within your absolute right to do exactly what you did. So I’m not challenging that. I’m just sharing my feeling that it felt like a big waste of time considering. That’s all.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Commissioner Turner.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: Yes, thank you, Madam --

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I’m sorry, Commissioner Turner, we’re losing you. We can’t hear you.

VICE CHAIR TURNER: Thank you. Thank you, I forgot to take off my mute. I wanted to say just in response to Commissioner Le Mons. I have thoroughly appreciated your stance and your way of moving us along for
this entire process. And the last thing I would want you
to feel is that any of it has been wasted or not
appreciated. I think that the call was a good one to have
the discussion again. It’s not a thing struggle that I’m
having. I really am listening and on the fence. And
understand about Morgan and all of the things that says, to
me, was very important. The public comment and still
having to get down to can I do it, and in after hearing all
of the public comment, lead me to, as I said was closer,
wasn’t sure.

So I don’t want you, hopefully, to change your
positioning, your approach, all the Commissioners, I’m
finding value and starting to learn from each and every one
of you that’s presenting. So it is taking a little bit
longer. We are wanting all to lift up and write our names
and do the due diligence that we committed to. And I
think, I hope you feel from that perspective, there is a
strong belief that I have that I’ll bring in the morning,
but, to me, it was worthy discussion and certainly not
wasted at all.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I can receive that and I
do thank you.

CHAIR ANDERSEN: I think that was, actually I’m,
thank you, I appreciate all of those comments. I think
that will be very helpful, certainly for me, going forward. And I will be, you know, thinking of all of this again through tonight.

So any other comments before we recess until tomorrow? Seeing no hands.

The time being, what, 4:15, we will recess until tomorrow morning at 9:30. Thank you.

[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.

[Signature]

PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public
TRANSCRIPTOR'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 transcribed by me, a certified transcriber.

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 10th day of September, 2020.

Barbara Little
Certified Transcriber
AAERT No. CET**D-520