STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd 10th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

5:00 P.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty
2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission:

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

Staff
Alvaro E. Hernandez, Executive Director  
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel  
Fredy Ceja, Communications Director  
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant  
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors
Public Comment Moderator  
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

Also Present

Public Comment
Renee Westa-Lusk
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Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:16 p.m.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Welcome, everyone to the May 4, 2021 full Commission meeting of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

I am Alicia Fernandez. I’m the chair for this meeting, and Commissioner Isra Ahmad is the Vice Chair.

If we can go to roll call. Ravi, are you taking that for us?

MR. SINGH: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. SINGH: You’re welcome. Commissioner Ahmad.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa.

(No audible reply)

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy.

(No audible reply)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: He’s here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons. Yes, thank
you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: He’s here.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: You didn’t hear me?

MR. SINGH: No. Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Turner.

(No audible reply)

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Here.

MR. SINGH: Thank you. And Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

MR. SINGH: You have a quorum, Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ravi.

MR. SINGH: You’re welcome.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Before we go to public comment,
I just want to let everyone know that we are going to have -- it’s a condensed meeting schedule tonight. So, the only items we plan to discuss are Agenda Items 9N, as in Nancy, which is the Public Input Meeting Design, Agenda Item 10, which is the Legal Affairs Committee update, and Agenda Item 13, which is the discussion of future meetings.

Is there any other agenda item that the Commissioners need to discuss? Okay.

And then besides that, we are very happy to announce the hiring of Anthony Pane as our chief counsel. Mr. Pane is currently the assistant chief counsel with the Department of Consumer Affairs.

We look forward to Mr. Pane starting with the Commission on May 18. Looking forward to his start date.

And so with that, we are going to go to public comment. Katy, can you please read the instructions. And I just want to remind the public that public comment is limited to two minutes per individual.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair. In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted to enter a meeting number provided on the livestream feed, it is 97018421161 for this meeting. When
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during your call.

Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for
when it is your turn to speak, and again, please turn down
the livestream volume.

And we are taking general public comment at this
time, and we do not have anyone in the queue.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We’ll just wait one more
minute, Katy, see if anybody --

And then while we’re waiting, Commissioners Ahmad
and Fornaciari, is it okay we go straight to the Legal
Affair Committee update first and then we discuss the
Public Input Meeting Design?
VICE CHAIR AHMAD: That’s fine.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And the instructions are complete.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Katy. We will go ahead and move on, close these windows up. We will move on to number 10, which is the Legal Affairs Committee update with Commissioners Sadhwani, Toledo and me.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you, Chair Fernandez. The Legal Affairs Committee has been meeting, and we’ve been reviewing the VRA counsel contracts. We have a draft contract that was posted, and hopefully you had a chance to look at in the handouts.

We met previous to this meeting to go over the contract, and we are recommending approval of the contract with minor, mostly typographical, changes to the contract that we can make afterwards.

In terms of -- one thing to note is that the agreement was created with a procurement lens in mind, recognizing that there is still a lot uncertainty as to what our litigation calendar might look like because we don’t know if there will be any pre-map litigation.

So, we’ve attempted to leave this contract, give us a little bit of flexibility in case there is some litigation prior to the maps being finalized.
If you remember, there is -- our budget is set up so that it’s pre-map legal work that includes mostly VRA work and litigation prevent work. But then there is post-map legal work, and there’s about $4,000,000 to defend our maps, and then there’s the 1.2 million to help us with any legal considerations that we might have prior to the maps being finalized.

And, so, we’ve structured this contract in a way that it could potentially be used if, and hopefully if an unlikely event that we have litigation prior to the maps being finalized, and this would allow us to use this contract -- the budget amount in this contract to defend any type of litigation prior to the maps being drawn.

Otherwise we would need to request approval from a government agency, and I can’t remember which government agency, request, I believe, from the Department of Finance to be able to use the post-litigation funds prior to the maps being drawn, which would take some time.

So, this gives us a little bit of flexibility to keep our litigation work going and not have an interruptions, and just trying to anticipate those things that might arise over the next couple of months.

For the most part this is VRA -- this contract really focuses on the VRA work and prevention of any VRA-type claims.
With that, I’ll open it up for questions. And I did receive some typographical edits from the commissioners, and we’re going to be making those changes to the contract.

And, also, if there’s any feedback from my fellow commissioners on the Legal Affairs Committee, please chime in.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Are there any questions regarding the contract language?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: The other thing I would point out prior to moving on is that we are also requesting that two members of the -- or we also approve that two members -- we approved recommending and moving forward with two additional members of the team that were not in the original application. There’s two associates that are being added to this scope of work, and we have reviewed their background as well as their conflict of interest, and we’re comfortable with them being part of the litigation team, and we’re also recommending those two individuals, and they’re noted in the contracts. Their names are Caroline Chiappetti and Julia Michel.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, and those were attachments to last week’s meeting as well. We had a letter from them.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Any questions from the Commission? Commissioner Andersen.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. I did have one question. You were mentioning that you were talking about doing work or approving work in a 10-hour segment. I didn’t see that getting translated anywhere into the contract.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: That’s a great question. We did talk about that during the Commission meeting. We decided against creating -- being so specific around a timeframe for approval. So what will need to happen, and it’s in the billing guidelines, is that any -- before the firm initiates any work, they’ll need approval from our chief counsel on the amount of time to be spent on work, on who is going to be doing the work, and then, of course, any additional projects to be undertaken.

So, we had discussed the potential of having a provision that would require every 10 hours of work to be approved, but we thought it might be onerous as we get -- as we enter the line drawing phase and where we might need a little bit more flexibility.

We do anticipate that our chief counsel would manage the vendor and would set up an agreement on what level of increment he, in this case, is comfortable with approving. So, while there’s no specific requirement, there’s not a 10-hour, or 20-hour, or 15-hour, it’s anticipated that the chief counsel would set that and come
to an agreement with the firm on that, on the level of
hours to be approved.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I did see that you were,
indeed, saying that the chief counsel supervises and has to
approve. So, I just know that you were talking of that at
one point.

One other question, and it might be something
that’s -- your outside counsel may be asked to provide
justification to the State’s contract manager. What does
that mean?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: That really should be the
Commission’s contract manager. So, anywhere where State is
referenced, it’s really referencing us, and so that’s --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: -- one of those changes
that we’ll be making, is replacing State, because
technically we are a State agency, and so replacing State
with the more specific Commission, so Commission’s contract
manager. So any time you see the word “State,” we’ll be
replacing that with “Commission.”

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Where appropriate, right.

There are some places where it makes sense to leave the
word “State” in.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay, you had a
question?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah. So, this person will be reporting to the Chief Counsel predominantly, if I’m understanding correctly.

But then, and this is just minor, but where it says, “Progress report and schedule. Contractor shall provide as determined by Commission or executive director.” Should that not be the chief counsel as well?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: On page -- I’m sorry, on page two?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, no, on Exhibit A, Bullet 2 -- I’m sorry, there’s two bullets. Under general provisions, progress report and schedules. It just seems like we consistently need to, you know, be consistent on who this person -- let me put it a different way. I think the general counsel needs to be given the -- the clear guidelines that they’re in charge in this. And it seems to go back and forth between Executive Director, General Counsel and the Commission.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: So, the Chief Counsel is -- oversees and manages this contract, and that is the intention. I think here in line two, “Contractor shall provide progress reports on a needed basis as determined by the commissioners, the executive director.” So, in terms of policy, how often, you know, our expectations that
generally would be the chief counsel’s supervisor, and it
would be -- it actually comes from the Commission. We
determine when we want progress reports. We let the
executive director know and he works with the staff,
including the chief counsel, on that. But the chief
counsel would be the liaison that the law firm would be
working through.

We can -- I can clarify that a little bit more if
that would be better, but that’s how we totally envision
it, right. So, the Commission makes the determination.
Our staff member watching this -- we have more than one
staff member, but then our executive director is
responsible for ensuring that that happens and working
through the chief counsel. We can go through and make sure
that that’s clear.

And then as part of this, one of the things we
were talking about as the Legal Affairs Committee is having
an orientation for the chief counsel so that he has an
understanding of the contract and our expectations of him,
and being our liaison with the firm and helps us, also, in
setting up the litigation contract or the post-maps
contract so that we can sufficiently demarcate the two and
ensure that there’s no double dipping. And I think will.
I think if we consider the pre-map litigation and legal
work and then post-map litigation and legal work, there’s a
natural -- it becomes a timing situation, right. Up to a
certain point you’ll be able to bill under this contract.
After that, you’ll be billing under the litigation
contract, the post-map contract.

Any other questions or concerns, comments,
feedback?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, sorry. I have one
more. The date, the June 30, 2022, in the first reference
of the date it’s approximately June -- and then the second
time in scope of work, number three, it is through June
30th. I know we had an automatic extension built into the
line drawers, and I don’t know if that made it in here.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: We could change that to
approximately so that it reflects -- it’s the same on the
top and the bottom because we actually don’t know when the
end of the contract period will be or when we expend all
the money within this contract, so we can -- if it makes
sense we can probably -- we can definitely change that to
read through approximately June 30, 2022.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I can forward -- I
did not actually look up what we put in the line drawer’s
contract, but if that would fit, I’ll forward that to you.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: And I think the other
provision -- yes, so that would be great if you could
forward that information.

So, if everyone is comfortable with just making it approximately June 30, 2022, because right now our time frame is a little bit uncertain, but we anticipate the pre-litigation work should all be done by June 30, 2022, if not well before that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, I don’t see any other hands, so Commissioner Toledo, are you looking for two action items, then? One is to approve moving forward with the VRA contract with modifications, the minor modifications, and then the second one is to accept the addition of the two associates to the Strumwasser & Woocher team.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: That is correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: That was perfectly stated, Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, so I will move. Those are two separate motions. Executive Director Hernandez, did you get those?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Just one second.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And is it okay, Commissioner Toledo, with those minor edits everyone just agrees to get those to you tonight? Is that sufficient time?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah, that will be
sufficient. I can work with Raul.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Is that enough time for the commissioners, hopefully, and that way we can move forward? Thank you.

And I want to thank the team, the committee, Commissioners Toledo, Sadhwani and Yee for all the work that you’ve done that has gone into this. Thank you so much, but we’re not done yet. Do I have a second? Is there a second to the motions? Commissioner Andersen, are you seconding? Okay, thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: So, these are going to be two separate motions; is that correct?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay. That kind of threw me off so give me one second here.

MR. MANOFF: Shall I invite public comment, chair?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think that’s a great idea, Kristian. Thank you so much.

MR. MANOFF: My pleasure. In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the livestream feed, it
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The Commission is taking public comment on the motions on the floor at this time. And we do not have any callers in the queue, Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Let’s just wait another minute.

MR. MANOFF: And the instructions are clear on the screen, Chair.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Executive Director Hernandez, are you ready for us?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: I am ready.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. And there’s a p.m. instead of a.m.?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay, maybe I’m not ready yet. Feels like a.m. for me. All right.

So, the first motion is the move to adopt the most recent version of the VRA contract with modifications to recommend to the -- let me take this out. Is that correct?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: With minor modifications.

How’s that?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: With minor modifications.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Does that sound okay, Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: And a motion was made by you, Chair Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: And seconded by Commissioner Andersen.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: All right. So, we
will go through the vote here. We will start with Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. I don’t know if I should say yes or one. Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: It’s all about the one’s and zero’s here. Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: The motion passes. P.m., got it.

The second motion is a move to approve two new staff to the Strumwasser team; is that correct?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Okay, all right.

And that is p.m.

All right. We will begin the roll call, here.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. Thank you, everyone. Is there anything else from the Legal Affairs Committee?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: No, just thank you to Sara and the rest of the Commission.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you again for your hard work on this.

So, we will go to 9N, which is Public Input Meeting Design, Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner Fornaciari.

I wasn’t sure how we wanted to do it, if we wanted to present the schedule together, do we need to go
back to discuss some of the other items that were being
discussed in terms of generic meetings versus zone-specific
meetings, so I will hand it off to you now.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I’m open
and flexible to how you think, Chair, we should approach
this, but just wanted to draw everyone’s attention to the
document that is posted for today’s meeting. We have made
some edits and updates to the schedule, and I am
appreciative of my colleagues who are not shy to share
their availability. It was good to have for the purposes
of -- this is where the line gets kind of blurry -- for the
purposes of planning for the full Commission meetings, as
at those meetings we potentially will be taking actions,
and that’s where we would need a quorum. We would need,
you know, super majority, et cetera. So, that was helpful
to have.

We included folks’ availability on this schedule.
When I say “we,” I mean Commissioner Fernandez and I --
Chair Fernandez and I, so that we can take a look at how
difficult it would be to meet everyone’s needs, and I don’t
even think this is everyone’s schedule on the calendar as
of yet. So, just throwing that out there for discussion.

I think what would be helpful is if we can
continue that conversation we had last week, prioritizing
the schedule and then addressing some of those topics that
we didn’t come to a conclusion on last week. I recall we were talking about, you know, whether we would have generalized input meetings or zone-specific, the number of zone meetings, et cetera. So, I would bounce the ball to Commissioner Fornaciari to see if I’m missing anything.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, thank you. I think you got it pretty well. I mean, you know, it seems to me at this point, I mean a couple of things. We’ve got to get meetings on the schedule. And trying to schedule around people’s schedule, as you can see based on the column on the right, yes the right in that case, yeah, it’s just not going to be feasible. So, you know, I think we all just have to do the best we can to make the meetings we can because, you know, it’s busy.

The other thing is we left the zone-specific meetings in there. Based on the feedback we got at the end of the public comments, and, you know, the public comments were pretty uniform that they felt that zone-specific meetings would give zones ownership, people in those zones dates to look at. You know some of the callers acknowledge and recognize there wouldn’t be -- you know, that anyone could call in and that was -- you know, there’s nothing we can do about that. Everyone is welcome to call into any meeting. But at least it would give, you know, folks in a given area some ownership of a date or dates, multiple
dates that they could prepare to provide input to the Commission.

So, just my additional thoughts.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: And, Chair Fernandez, I don’t know if you want to also -- tied into that schedule is that conversation of the full CRC meetings. I appreciate your work on that. I don’t know which additional meetings I’m chairing and what days to block off on my calendar yet, and I’m sure Commissioner Yee also has that on his radar. So, it would be helpful to have that conversation in conjunction.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. So, thank you all who did forward their information to us. Just so that everyone is aware in terms of how many meetings or how many of the public input, I’m just going to call out how many per zone.

So, it’s two for A, two for B, four for C, two for D, two for E, three F, two for G, four for H, three I, three J, and three K. So, that’s a total of 30, and it doesn’t include the statewide or the group meetings.

Also on this schedule -- and what I tried to do is when I was kind of moving zone meetings around I tried to do it so that you wouldn’t like, for example, Zone H, you wouldn’t have back-to-back meetings. I tried to spread it out so that at least there might be one in the somewhat beginning, one in the middle, you know try to spread it out
a little bit more.

Also tried to be cognizant of the commissioners that are the leads for those zones. There was just one conflict, so I apologize, Commissioner Akutagawa, it was hard to work out your schedule on one of them, but I think we’re going to be able to make it. I think it will work out fine.

And then also in this schedule we have our business meetings. That’s what we’re having today. And, so, what I was anticipating, and imagining, and hoping as we move forward and transition into the public input meetings, we’ll go down from two-day business meetings to one-day business meetings because at that point we probably won’t have panels anymore, we hopefully will have our training done, and if there is training that we need, we might schedule -- we could schedule a separate day for that. But because, as you can tell, the schedule is three to four days a week, and if we try to schedule a business meeting also, that would be like five days in one week, and that just seemed to be too much. And, plus, I honestly do feel that we can get our business meetings down to one day.

And, so, what Commissioner Ahmad was referring to is right now our schedule for being Chair and Vice Chair, you know, basically two sets of meetings. But since we’re going to be going down to basically one-day meetings, my
recommendation would be that you would share for two full meetings, I guess the two days that are full meetings. Even though they’re not back-to-back they’ll probably be like two weeks apart.

And then if you look at the schedule, as to move into the end of -- if you go into September, I started back up with two full meetings because at that point we might need to regroup. That will be the time when the census data, hopefully, will be coming in. We might need some more training. So, maybe just -- if it’s on the schedule, we don’t need it, you know, we can always cancel.

But again, so this is just a schedule from June through September, of course. It’s fluid, it can change, it will change, depending on when we receive the census data and when we decide what our timelines are, and, you know, when we have to move backwards from when our maps are due. But for now, at least it gives us a road map and it gives our staff something to plan and to work towards.

As Commissioner Ahmad mentioned last time, they need about six weeks lead time, and, of course, this does not take into consideration, or it does. It can either way. Right now we’re assuming virtual. At some point we may be able to do in person or a hybrid, but for now it’s virtual.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: And just to add to that, Chair
Fernandez, for context the reason why we took a collaborative approach on this schedule item, as you know, we have Public Input Design meetings and we also have business meetings. We didn’t want them to overlap or conflict, or make a day that’s going to be 12, 13 hours, so we intentionally decided to throw everything onto one calendar so we can actually look at it.

So, when Commissioner Fernandez -- Chair Fernandez talks about moving around zone meetings, there might have been conflicts that would have prevented us from taking action because commissioners were able to, you know, share their availability, depending on which day.

So, things changed from version two to version three, but this is our attempt at this moment to put everything on the same calendar.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And then at some point we do pivot to in person, the schedule can change again. We might want to be more efficient. Maybe we’ll have back-to-back where zones are close together. We can just go from one meeting to the next, like one is on Monday, one is on Tuesday. So, for now we wanted to make sure we got something on the schedule so that we can at least move forward.

And, again, as you can tell, it’s difficult to try to find days where all of us are available, and that’s
okay. With Public Input meeting it’s my understanding that we don’t have to have a majority, and again, the nice thing is that everything will be videotaped, so if you happen to miss a meeting, or if you miss part of a meeting, you can always go back to get that information, which would be very helpful for all of us.

So, with that, is there anything else, Commissioner Ahmad or Commissioner Fornaciari? So, we’re kind of combining both agenda items. We’re being efficient tonight. We just felt it was easier to present one schedule, and then whatever is approved, I’m going to have a big ask for Ravi. If you can send out our meeting notices so that we all get it calendared. You did such a wonderful job with that the last time, Ravi, so that would be great.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Chair Fernandez, just to add to that. The calendar right now says time TBD for the days of the input meetings because we had not landed on how long we want to be taking public input. Our previous Input Design meeting, Commissioner Fornaciari and I had put together some recommendations based off of public comment and the discussions that we had, so I don’t know if we want to get that deep into that topic in this conversation, or if we want to leave that up to staff. There was definitely a desire to increase the number of minutes each individual
has to share their public input. I believe three minutes was being tossed around, but definitely want to make sure that we come to a consensus or shared understanding on that before moving forward.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so maybe with this, Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner Fornaciari, is that something that we want to take back to the Public Input Design and then bring to the next meeting, so that maybe as the committee we can agree on maybe some of the specifics. But at least now if we can get the dates calendared, does that sound that might be a better use of our time right now? Okay.

It’s very hot over here, 90 degrees. I’m just letting you all know.

Any questions. I’m sure there’s plenty of comments regarding the schedule. We’re hoping there aren’t any major glaring oopses. Of course, we’re human, so there’s a lot of oopses in my life.

Okay. I don’t see any -- oh, Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And I know I made it difficult for you. I do have an oops I just sent to you I forgot. I forgot to put my vacation. I’m going to -- I’m going to be away for a wedding, so, I just need to send you those dates. Big oops on that. Sorry.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That’s okay. That’s perfect.
And as things occur, what I’m hoping to do, Commissioner Ahmad and Fornaciari and I, we can just continue to update the schedule and continue to note people’s -- other commissioner’s conflicts. And that way, as we move forward, as we move past September and on we’ll have that information readily available for everyone.

Any -- Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I have just one check because I’m so -- going through all of the dates. In the June 8, and 9, and 10, last time they were both 9:30 to 4:30, and now it looks like they’re both 1:00 to 8:00. Was that intentional? June, Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. I intentionally made it a later meeting because --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Both of them?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: -- Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Akutagawa, they were available later in the day, so I tried to accommodate that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, if you look on the schedule and it says, it’s their initials.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, if it says someone before
2:00, they’re not available before 2:00 o’clock.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I just tried to make it as accommodating to try to get as many commissioners available.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I don’t see any other questions. Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Do you want specific feedback on shifting this meeting or that meeting, or that’s for later?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: In terms of for your zone specific?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: If your -- let me think. If we’re okay with the dates that we set we can always switch the zones. Is that what you’re asking?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: No.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No? Okay, so I don’t know what you’re asking, so go ahead and ask it.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. So, rather than having the last of the zone input meetings on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, I’m thinking either the Thursday just before that, the second of September, or Saturday, the 14th of August.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Zone I, Commissioner Kennedy, that’s yours, correct?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yours and Le Mons, okay. And so you suggested either the second --

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Correct, Thursday, September 2nd --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Or?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Or Saturday, August 14th.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And just so that you also have another one on July 29th.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, maybe if we do it September 2nd, that gives you, you know, a little bit longer in between.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Right.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Does that sound -- okay. All right. So let’s go ahead and move --

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Chair Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: I think the intention behind that was if we had to shift to in person, I and J would be next to each other, so it would be more like us, a group just hopping from Zone I to Zone J.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So, if we change it to the
second, it’s just the order of I and J that changes. They’re still adjacent.

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: Right. Totally understand that. But C is before, so not just recommending a change to that, just bringing it to your attention that it would be going from C to I. I love traveling, so I’m ready for it, but just wanted to make sure folks are aware of that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes, I see where you’re going with that.

Let’s go ahead and make the change now. Wait. Commissioner Fornaciari, you had a question.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I greatly appreciate all the hard work you’ve done on this, and I mean it’s -- thank you.

I think -- I mean just for me, and I think we got this feedback last time, the Friday, Saturday, both, of Labor Day weekend are going to be tough, you know, so maybe if there’s a way we can stay away from that Friday and that Saturday, we might get better participation. But thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: How about -- we could potentially move Zone C to the 30th, August 30th, and then move Zone J and I, move them to that Wednesday, Thursday. So, it would be four days in a row, but we would have that Friday open. Does that make sense?
So, if we move what we have on September 1st to August 30th and then shifted what we have on September 3rd and 4th to September 1st and 2nd. And then that way we have that Friday open.

I’ll send it out again after we decide on this.

Okay. Any other questions? Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Are you asking for -- are you looking for a motion or for approval?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, that’s what we’re looking for.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I kind of --

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: My perspective on this, if I may, if we were to motion on this any change on that document would also require an additional motion, and I can only speak for myself. I’m not well versed enough into all that it takes to plan these meetings, and I don’t know all the details that Alvaro and team will need to embark on to make these happen. So, in the case that one date changes, I wouldn’t want to hold him back from putting together a meeting for another date that might, you know, work for the Commission for the purposes of planning. That’s my only hesitancy on that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian, can we -- oh, yes, Marian, thank you.

MS. JOHNSTON: My suggestion would be to say that
a Chair could change it subject to later approval by the Commission, so that you give the Chair the flexibility to make whatever changes are needed with confirmation later by the Commission.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian, could we also -- I’m trying to think in the past when we scheduled our meetings. Did we actually do a motion or did we just like agree, okay, this is good, let’s move forward?

VICE CHAIR AHMAD: I don’t think we had a motion.

MS. JOHNSTON: That’s correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did we have a motion or not?

MS. JOHNSTON: No, you did not.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Just an agreement. So it might be better if we just have an agreement. Is that what we’re hoping for right now amongst all of us?

And, Marcy, I did -- Director of Outreach -- I have to get used to that -- Director of Outreach Kaplan.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: I just wanted to flag September 7th as Rosh Hashana. I know it’s not a Public Input meeting, but I’m not sure accommodating to other holidays. It’s the Public Input Design, so depending on participation, but just flagging that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, September 7th, that’s a full CRC, only if we need it.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Oh, it was a full CRC,
okay. Yeah.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: But it’s only if we need it, so similar to tonight, only if we need it, like for action items or to move forward on something, but that is very good information to have. I appreciate that.

Any other -- Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I just wanted to just flag and whether or not what we decide it could move. I want to just flag that Saturday, June 19, I believe is Juneteenth, which I believe is an increasingly important day for particularly for the African-American Black community. So, do you want to just flag that in? Whether we decide to keep it, but I thought it would be important to acknowledge that date.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. I will note that on the calendar.

And I think I saw -- I saw somebody else’s hand. Who had their hand raised? Okay.

So, can we just have an agreement that we are moving forward with this schedule, and the Public Input Design Committee will come back, hopefully, at our next meeting, to come forward with more specifics in terms of maybe public comment time, the hours of each meeting. So, is everybody okay with that? Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I’m definitely okay with
that. I just have a question. Are we asking those who are missing meetings to commit to actually listening to them after the fact? I’m just trying to figure out what our collective commitment to the Commission’s work this summer is.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I do not believe we can make anyone listen to the meetings. It’s up to each commissioner. I would hope -- I mean me, personally, if I do miss a meeting, I will go back, but it’s up to each commissioner to decide. That’s my belief.

Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I just want to clarify. So, are we moving those September dates for sure, and would you repeat them?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, on August 30th, and I will send a revised one. On September 30th we will have the Zone C.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: September 30th or August 30th?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: August 30th, sorry. August 30th, my bad. September 1st we will have Zone J, and September 2nd will be Zone I, and so we’ll have that Friday, Saturday, Sunday will be open.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So are there any other
questions? Can we do a quick little thumbs up and we’re good. We’re going to move forward with this schedule.
Okay. Great.

And I believe that’s all we have. Before we go to public comment, is there anything else that we need to discuss tonight? Okay. Kristian or Katy, can we go to public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sure thing. In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking public comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number provided on the livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting number provided on the livestream feed, it is 97018421161 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the pound key.

Once you have dialed in you’ll be placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press star nine. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

When it is your turn to speak, you’ll hear a message that says, “The host would like you to talk, and to press star six to speak.”

If you would like to give your name, please state and spell it for the record. You are not required to provide your name to give public comment.

Please make sure to mute your computer or
livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call.

Once you are waiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak, and again, please turn down the livestream volume.

And we do not have anyone in the queue at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, Katy. We’ll just wait for it to catch up, please.

I don’t want to forget to say Happy Cinco de Mayo tomorrow. It’s one of those that I rarely ever celebrate, which is kind of interesting, right. I should be celebrating it all the time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And I do want to remind those that call in to press star nine to raise their hand indicating they wish to comment.

Thank you, and we do have a caller, and I will open the line.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Good evening, Commissioners. This is Renee Westa-Lusk. I have a question. It’s mainly logistics for the COI Input Meetings. Will you be designating which part of, say, a region where you’re
having three or maybe four COI meetings, like which part of that region, like some regions have way more than one county in them. So, are you going to give us advanced notice as to which sections of the zone that you’re going to be hearing from on a designated COI meeting day?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Westa-Lusk. At this point we’ve identified it as the entire zone. We will work that out potentially at our Public Input Design Meetings. Thank you.

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Okay. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that is all our callers at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, if there isn’t anything else, I think we will adjourn. I want to thank everyone for being here today. Very efficient. Thank you all for your being here and your support, and we will see you next week at our full meeting. Thank you so much.

(Meeting adjourned 6:11 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.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of July, 2021.

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Barbara Little
Certified Transcriber
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