STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021
A.M.

Reported by:
Jacqueline Denlinger
APPEARANCES

2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Commissioners
Alicia Fernandez, Chair
Linda Akutagawa, Vice Chair
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
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors
Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

Also Present

Public Comment
Peter Cannon
Jacqueline Coto, NALEO Educational Fund
**INDEX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Call to Order and Roll Call:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Public Comment</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 General Announcements</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Chair Report</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Executive Director Report</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Outreach Director Report</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Chief Counsel Report</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Communications Director Report</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airtable Presentation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 (continued) Communication Director Report</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A Government Affairs</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B Finance and Administration</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9C Gantt Chart</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9D VRA Compliance</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9E Outreach and Engagement</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9F Language Access</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9G Materials Development</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9H Website</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9I Data Management</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9J Grants</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9K COI Tool</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9L Cybersecurity</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9M Incarceration Population - state and local</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9N Incarceration Population - federal</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9O Lessons Learned</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9P Outreach Director Recruitment</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9Q Chief Counsel Recruitment</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9R IT Recruitment</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and Administration</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Legal Affairs</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Data Management</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Public Input Design</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9F Language Access Recommendations</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Comment</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thursday, May 13, 2021

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great, thank you, and welcome, everyone, to the May 13, 2021 meeting of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. I’m Alicia Fernandez. I will be chairing today and my Vice Chair will be Commissioner Akutagawa.

And the first thing I’d like to do is take roll call. Executive Director Hernandez, can you please take roll?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: I sure can. Thank you. Good morning. Commissioner Fornaciari.
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONT:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:  Present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER:  Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ:  Here.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad is not here. Commissioner Akutagawa.

VICE CHAIR AKUTAGAWA: Here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Here

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I am here. Thank you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: You have a quorum.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay. We’ll go straight to public comment. Katy, can you please read the instructions for general public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, I will. Good morning. 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 a meeting number provided on the livestream feed, it is 93330293366 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, again, for those who call in, please remember to press star nine to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. And we do have a couple callers. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MR. CANNON: Good morning. My name is Peter Cannon. I have made prior public comment on the importance of transparency in your process.

Reviewing the 2010 Commission’s website, they had a section devoted to publishing all public record acts requests. While not required, I want to encourage you to extend this important transparency policy of timely
publishing to all public record act requests and responses.

One of the fundamental tenants of Proposition 11 is that insiders do not have rights superior to those -- to all others that would enable them to be more informed and participate more fully than the rest of the public. Submitting a PRA can be a difficult and daunting process, but reading the information produced can be very straightforward.

It is fundamentally unfair to regular people if well-funded organizations can submit a request, get information, use that information to their advantage while it is not easily available to everyone else.

You can take away that unfair advantage. You, the California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners, can say we want to be transparent. We encourage the public to ask for documents that will help us be more transparent and we will ensure that everyone will be able to share in the benefits created by full and equal access to all documents that are provided to all participants. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Cannon.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And I would like to remind any callers to press star nine to raise their hand indicating they wish to comment.

And, Chair, they are not raising their hand at this time.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. We’re going to move on. Katy, can you monitor it in case they do raise their hand. We can go back.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We’ll move on to number three, which is General Announcements, Commissioner Updates, Items of Interest to the Commission. Do we have any announcements or updates from the Commissioners? Okay.

Moving right along, we’ll go on to the next one which is the Chair Report. I don’t necessarily have a chair report, but I did want to provide a road map for all of our viewers for the next two days.

Today at 10:00 o’clock we’ll have the demonstration of Airtable, which will be used for our data management needs. And after the demonstration we will be adjourning to closed session. We don’t anticipate it taking too long, so we plan to come back to open session after lunch which will be approximately 1:30. If that time changes, please go on our website and information will be posted.

Once we return from lunch, we will resume our regular business meeting. We will take public comment at the beginning of the day and before we adjourn for the day, and we will also take public comment prior to any vote on
an action item.

And then for tomorrow, Friday, May 14, we’ll start at 9:30 and continue with our agenda. At 1:30 we have a labor panel, and again, we will take public comment at the beginning of the day and before we adjourn, as well as prior to vote on an action item.

So, with that we will move to Agenda Item Number 5, which is Executive Director’s Report. Executive Director Hernandez.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Good morning, Commissioners. I wanted to let you know that our Director of Outreach will be updating you on the progress on the field lead staff and our outreach coordinator.

I also wanted to let you know that the data manager job announcement is out and available. It is on our website as well. So, if you know someone who qualifies and has that experience that we’ve listed, please let them know that we have this job announcement out there. We really want to get a robust candidate pool as we have been for some of the other positions that we posted. So, you can also take a look at that and forward the link as necessary.

Likewise, as was mentioned at the previous meeting, our chief counsel will be joining us on the 18th, so we’re looking forward to bringing him on board. Marian
and I will be doing some of the onboarding, general information for him to kind of get caught up to speed. He will be joining the meeting that afternoon, 4:00 to 8:00. I believe it’s a Legal Affairs Committee and also the Commission meeting. So, we’re looking forward to meeting with him and getting him on board.

We are in the midst of the planning for the Public Input Meetings. There was a meeting yesterday. I’m sure the Public Input Meeting team will be providing some additional information, but from the organizing and planning phase, we’re looking at making sure that we have all the necessary tools for the staff as well as for the commissioners as we roll the Public Input Meetings out. And the date that’s scheduled for the first one is June 10th, and like I said, there will be more information moving forward.

A couple things I just wanted to point out. We’re still waiting to hear any additional news on the June 15th California opening back up and what that means with regards to the executive orders. So, that may have an impact on our future Public Input Meetings, whether we go back in person or, you know, a modified version and so forth. Either way, we’ll have COVID protocols that will remain.

I understand that each county at this point is
very different, so as we are looking for those in persons
we will have to consider what protocols are in place for
those different counties. That’s all I have for that.

As far as the budget, I wanted to inform you that
we have received approval on the May revised letter that we
submitted, so, DOF provided that response the other day,
so, we’re very excited about that.

That’s all I have for today. Any questions?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Are there any questions for
Executive Director Hernandez?

Just one that you’re probably looking into, but
if you can please work with the staff to see how long it
would take to pivot from a virtual environment to an in
person because I’m pretty sure if they say on June 15th we
can meet in person it’s still not going to be -- we’re not
going to be able to do that because we won’t have
facilities or anything else in place, so, you know, if you
could get that information for us so that we know what the
live time may be that would be very helpful.

Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Would it be possible for
this meeting as one of our handouts to post what the May
revised budget -- what our budget looks like, what was
approved, please?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Correct me if I’m wrong,
Executive Director Hernandez, although it’s been approved
by -- the May revised has been approved, it won’t
officially be approved until the budget is released in
June, correct?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: That will be part
of the full budget, but the budget that we proposed is the
one that we posted on the website on March 29, April 1
meeting, so that’s the budget that we submitted, so that
information is updated and is current.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, and so that’s correct,
but also having worked in the State for many, many years, a
lot can happen in three to four weeks from the time that we
receive approval of it versus if there’s something else
that occurs, it could change. So, we received a nod and
approval, but it’s not official. I’m hoping that this is
coming out correctly. It’s not official until it actually
is approved by the Legislature and the Governor.

Any other questions? And we do have someone in
-- we do have a public comment, so I’m going to go to them
Before I go to the next agenda item. Katy.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, and I will open
that up. And for those in the queue also, star nine does
raise your hand. We do have a raised hand, but -- caller
6252. Caller 6252, please follow the prompt. I’m not sure
what to do. Caller 6252, please follow the digital prompt
you are hearing from Zoom to unmute yourself and make your
comment.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Katy, do you know what the
prompt is that they’re giving them?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: It is. It’s star six.
There’s another caller in the queue, so if they would both
do it they would both be open now. Star six would unmute
the caller 6252. I’m not sure. I guess we’ll come back
around.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yes, we’ll continue to
move on. If anyone is wishing to make a comment, we will
take comments before we -- oh, wait. No, still not right.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: No, that was -- no.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Again, we’ll take
comments before we adjourn for the day.

So, what time is it? 9:46. We still have a bit
of time before our presentation, so we’ll move on to the
Outreach Director’s Report, number six. Outreach Director
Kaplan.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you. Good
morning, Commissioners. I just want to thank you all for
the great work you’ve been doing to present to
organizations across the state. To date we’ve completed 97
presentations, and there is 61 upcoming scheduled, and we
have about 10 more that we’re processing to schedule.
As noted in the past, we’re scheduling into the summer now. As Alvaro noted, I am thrilled to share that we have submitted the names to the Finance and Administration Subcommittee for the two southern California field lead positions, one that will cover Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and the other San Diego, Imperial and San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, a candidate for the central California field lead and also for the outreach coordinator position. The Finance and Administrative Subcommittee will be discussing with the full Commission during their subcommittee report.

And these candidates bring a tremendous wealth of expertise, local experience working in the regions, and really a passion and interest in the work, and I thoroughly enjoyed, you know, interviewing and speaking with them.

I’m looking forward to working with the field team and our communications team as we further transition to activated Californians to utilize the COI tool and support with planning and promotion of the Public Input Meetings as Alvaro had noted.

I’ve also been working very closely with the Language Access Subcommittee, Outreach and Engagement and Grants Subcommittee and will defer to them with their subcommittee reports. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Do we have any
questions? Okay. We will move on to Agenda Item Number 7, Chief Counsel Report.

MS. JOHNSTON: Just two items. One, a Legislative update. AB399, I had put it up some time ago about requiring state -- local agencies and state agencies to provide translation during public meetings has now been amended to remove state agencies. So, if it’s enacted, it would only apply to local governments.

And the teaser is a press report from Governor Newsom speaking yesterday said that June 15th is not going to be lifting all the COVID restrictions, that some mask restrictions will remain and there will be other limitations. So, something may happen June 15th, but it probably won’t be opening everything up.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Any questions for chief counsel? Okay.

Kristian --

MS. JOHNSTON: Commissioner Kennedy.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Is there anything further on the Ohio litigation?

MS. JOHNSTON: There was a hearing in the Court of Appeal yesterday. I’ve not heard what happened in it. As soon as I have any information, I’ll pass it along.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Any other questions?  Go ahead, Kristian.

MR. MANOFF:  All right.  Stand by.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  There’s another public comment.

That’s what we’re waiting for.

MR. MANOFF:  Go ahead, caller.

MS. HUTCHISON:  Hi.  This is Helen Hutchison with the League of Women Voters of California, and I apologize for my keypad issues earlier on.

I want to say good morning to all of you and I’m calling in with a couple of questions about handout 9A. Given the public’s interest in the deadline that you’re facing, I wonder if you could have a time certain for that item, and even better, if you could schedule it for tomorrow so that people have time to review and digest the handout, because it was just posted yesterday.

And the second question is and I’m hoping that when you do discuss that handout you can just talk about and explain how you determined what legal risk is. Does a blank mean that you determined there is no legal risk, and can your analysis be made public about what that is?

Thank you again for your service and the thought you’re putting into these important decisions.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Thank you, Ms. Hutchison.

Commissioner Sadhwani.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. If Ms. Hutchison is still there, if I could just respond. I’m not sure in terms of the timeframe. I’ll leave that to you, Chair. But we’re not determining legal risk necessarily. This document was really prepared at the request of the Commission at our last meeting to have available really to lay out some possible options, and really have it be available for our new chief counsel as well as the litigation team that’s coming in. So, that assessment has not been made.

I’m also aware that from -- you know, Angela (indiscernible) had sent in some comments the timeframe was wrong in terms of the 2010 Commission, so, certainly recognizing that perhaps are some edits that we can make to that document.

As far as I’m concerned, I don’t see any action being taken on that document in this meeting.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Is that it, Kristian?

MR. MANOFF: That’s it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I will just propose this to Commissioners Sadhwani and Toledo in terms of 9A, would it be okay if we moved that to tomorrow? It would be the first item that we discuss. Okay. So, just for our viewers, we will discuss Agenda Item 9A tomorrow morning.
shortly after we start our meeting, around 9:40-ish or so.

Okay. So, we’ll move on to Agenda Item Number 8, Communications Director Report. Director Ceja, do you think that we’ll be able to get through it in seven minutes or should we hold off?

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yeah. I’ll do better than that. I’ll get you out in five minutes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Wow. Okay, name that tune.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yeah. Thank you so much. Wanted to bring to your attention that I’ve reposted the updated PowerPoint and a script on our website. And just a friendly reminder for not only the commissioners, but the public in general. If you go to our website under Outreach Materials you will always see the most up-to-date presentation and script.

The only thing that I changed was the actual number of congressional districts. Now that we’ve gotten the reapportionment data I made the correction, 252 instead of 253. So, I didn’t repost it because it’s a minor edit, and it’s not changing any of the content.

Wanted to also bring up the fact that commissioners have brought to my attention we need a mechanism to respond whenever there is incorrect print or coverage of the Commission by the media.

So, talking to our executive director I came up
with a few ideas, one being that I email out a fact check
eblast to our media list whenever we need to correct
something, in addition to, of course, writing directly to
the media source that needs to make an adjustment.

And then the other thing was getting ahead of the
curve whenever some of the issues spin out of control.

So, what I wanted to do is start an internal TV
channel, if you may, called Redistricting Matters where I
will be interviewing commissioners and subject matter
experts on certain issues like Bagley-Keene. I know that’s
been a very hot topic these few days. Timeline, the
process in general, and going really in depth into some of
these issues so that we have yourselves, the experts,
talking about some of these issues and introducing you to
the media and to other audiences, and really pushing out
our content instead of waiting for someone to pick up our
content. I think that’s something that’s very important.

It was very successful at the city. I started, like I
said, the Council District 1 YouTube station where I would
go out and interview members of the community and then take
on public policy issues.

So, I imagine doing that here, so, like I said,
we can get ahead of the curve and educate the masses on
some of our issues that require additional information.

Did want to also update you that we’re looking at
putting together a plan for media buys and PSAs. We do have a healthy budget for doing that so wanted to take two or possibly three -- Marian let me know if this is okay for Bagley-Keene -- volunteers to help us put together messaging for PSAs. Two people? Okay.

So, if two commissioners are really, really interested in doing that. I see Commissioner Sinay, Turner and Kennedy and Yee. So, I don’t know, Chair how you want to do this, but I’ll take two. We can do a lottery like we did for the first eight members. So, I’ll leave that up to you, Chair, to decide what I -- I would love to have a brainstorming session with at least two commissioners and the staff on messaging so we can get some PSAs out, and, of course, we’ll pitch those to our media partners, especially radio. I know that a few members on the Commission were recruited on radio, so we want to reciprocate that.

We also have been in contact with -- talking about that issue with the Auditor’s Office about getting their media buy list so that we can go back and do some PSAs with those radio stations that did recruit you successfully for those that were recruited by the radio. So, make sure that we’re touching those and concentrating our efforts on those communities that are hard to reach and depend on radio.

Lastly, I did post a documentary proposal on
line. There’s an individual that’s interested in following
the Commission’s work. He plans on doing a 45-minute
documentary at the end of the process, but has asked for
permission by the Commission. He would like to interview
each commissioner individually and then follow along on our
website as we post our meetings. So, he will not be part
of like the Zoom, so it will not be invasive. But the
proposal is there and if you have any other questions,
please feel free to send them my way. We will continue in
conversations.

I’ll have the Chair reach out so that we can meet
with him. But his ideas of what he wants to get out of
this, it’s just following the process, letting people know
what the process is, and highlight the Project California
as leading the way with an independent Commission. So, I
think it’s a very valuable tool that we can use for the
next Commission and just educating the masses in general
about our work and what we’re doing, but we do want to
cross our T’s and dot our I’s, so we’ll follow up with him.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Director Ceja. In
terms of the documentary, I think I missed it, but this
individual would be viewing our meetings the way everybody
else does in terms of through Zoom, correct?

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And how soon does he
want a response?

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: He is open. The bulk of his work, if you look at the proposal, would be the actual line drawing sessions.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Not so much from now to then. So, we have time to decide.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, at this point we don’t even necessarily need to make a decision, but I would encourage all commissioners to please review the proposal, and hopefully within the next month we can revisit this conversation.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yeah.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: While I think the documentary film could be great, particularly as, you know, talk of independent commissions is happening nationwide, I would want some due diligence done on this individual in particular, what kind of association they have, if they’re affiliated with one of the two political parties, because that -- you know, the independent commission’s conversations that’s interesting as flip flopped over time in terms of the parties that are supporting it or not.

I think it could be a powerful tool, but I just want to know more about who this person is, what their body
of work is, who’s funding this work, also, and some of this other kind of background information before I would ever want to make a decision on it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Yes, I believe in the document he doesn’t have the funding yet. It’s something that he’s going to attempt to obtain, but yes, if Director Ceja can do some vetting for us.

DIRECTOR CEJA: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That would be great. Thank you so much. And we’re right at 10:00 o’clock. I know that Director Ceja did mention the -- now I missed it -- what was it -- oh, yes, sorry. And in terms of who showed interest. It was Commissioners Yee, Turner, Sinay. Anyone else? Kennedy, also. Are you interested or are you going to make a comment, Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Both.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I’ll put your name down.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Commissioner Turner.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Pardon?

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Commissioner Turner had her hand up, too.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I did have Kennedy, Turner, Sinay and Kennedy. Okay, so, Commissioner Kennedy, you had a comment?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I just had a question for Director Ceja. Just wanted to get an update on how we’re doing as far as getting all of the content from the Shape California’s Future website and getting that up on our website so that people have access to it again.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Thank you. So, the pieces of information that have been uploaded to my drive have been the applications for these 14 commissioners, your interview videos and a few other documents. So, I plan to upload the interview videos and your applications and attach them to the website. I just haven’t had time because the file is so large it takes about -- I tried the other day. It takes about four hours to upload each video. But I will get it done over the weekend when the internet traffic is lower here at the house.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. I will set up a subcommittee after our presentation when we come back to open session.

Right now I am going to turn it over to Commissioner Turner for the Airtable live demonstration.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Wonderful. Thank you, Chair and good morning to all of my fellow commissioners. And I’d like -- I’m so excited. From the Data Management Subcommittee we have a guest today with us, Mr. Phil
Zigoris, who’s from the U.S. Digital Response Team, and I know many of us have been waiting on this product that we’re going to use the system that will be able to hold our data. And we determined that we are going to use Airtable, and we have Phil that’s going to do a presentation for us today, and also a demonstration that will be able to answer a lot of our questions and I’m sure provide just an increased level of confidence in how this process will work.

I want to say that I’m really, really disappointed that our commissioner, my fellow subcommittee member, Commissioner Isra Ahmad is not with us today. But I also would like to say to all of those that are celebrating the end of Ramadan, Eid Mubarak to you and for just everyone that’s watching.

So, at this point, Phil, I’m going to turn it over into your hands. We’re going to see today an example of COI data from various sources input. I think you’ll be -- we’re so pleased, and appreciative and grateful for Phil and his team and the amount of work that’s gone into this product, and now the rest of you will get a chance to see the tool we’ve been working on.

So, Phil, we’re in your hands.

MR. ZIGORIS:  Great. Can everyone hear me?

COMMISSIONER TURNER:  Yes.
MR. ZIGORIS: Great. Yeah. Thank you for the introduction, Commissioner Turner.

    Yeah, so I’m Phil. I’m from USDR. We’re a pro bono tech group that likes to help out where we can, and, yeah, I’ll walk through the Airtable.

    I’m going to first do kind of a background, kind of an overview of the system and sort of the larger building blocks of the system before I jump into the demo. I’ll keep it pretty high level. Please feel free to ask questions if you want me to jump in on some details or something is not clear.

    So, I’m going to go ahead and share my screen, and I believe that will work. Give me one second. Great. Can you all see the window?

    COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, we can. Thank you.

    MR. ZIGORIS: Great. So, first, I just wanted to kind of, just so we’re all on the same page, you know, summarize where all the inputs are coming into the Commission are coming from.

    So, we have two buckets of community inputs. The first is coming through the DrawmyCaliforniaCommunity.org website. This is a tool that’s publicly accessible describing -- a tool for describing COI both with text and also drawing the associated map. It’s built and then came by the Statewide Database, so it is outside of our control,
but we have a dialogue with them which has been super helpful.

The inputs here are nice because they’re very structured, they’re very focused on describing the community, getting geographic data that’s really helpful for both, you know, visualizing the inputs and also for our line drawers to work off of.

And then the other bucket, I lumped a bunch together, you know, including the public hearings. You know, I know a lot of folks will be receiving input via email, on the phone, whatever form might come in, and this is a much more freeform and nondigital, often nondigital format. It’s a little more, you know, kind of structured in the same way because sometimes it’s not specifically about -- it’s more about the process than it is about, say, a specific geography. And, so, this also necessitates some kind of intake process. We’re going to have to have, you know, translate, transcribe, you know, a phone conversation or a public comment digitizing, summarizing, so that we can pull all of the data in the same place.

And I guess I should have started by saying our goal here has really been to come up with a system that lets us get all the data into one tool so that it’s easily accessible both by, you know, the commissioners and for all your analytical needs. It’s accessible for our line
drawers so they could work off that data and see all of the data in one place alongside each other, regardless of where it’s coming from. And then, you know, also have a means to give -- display the data to the public so that they can verify that, you know, their commentary is being fairly represented.

There are two major building blocks in terms of like the technology reasoning. The first is Airtable, and I think this is really primarily what you guys will be interested in and working inside of. And, again, I’ll go into demo so I’ll just really quickly touch on it.

Some people call it a spreadsheet on steroids. Some people call it, you know, kind of a user-friendly database. But it’s a very user-friendly tool, a lot of convenient add-on features. It looks like a spreadsheet but it actually has a lot of really nice features that make it good for storage well-structured data and to build processes around and do analysis on. You know, it’s all the data stored in the Cloud. There’s minimal maintenance. I think it’s really a good tool for this group, moving forward especially as, you know, you start to open up to public hearings and you may want to adjust, say, the structure of the data or kind of the intake process. So, we really like that flexibility and it has to be a reason why we’re using Airtable versus spitting up something on
our own.

And then the other service we’ll be using is Amazon S3. So, this is Cloud-based storage, highly scalable, super reliable, really cheap for storing lots of data. We’ll use this to store a lot of the, you know, the map data that’s coming in. We ultimately may use it to store some of the other artifacts and the submissions that people are submitting, you know, large images, large PDFs, things of that sort. So, this is good for storing, you know, files and large kind of blocks of data.

Airtable is really good for actually having comments, having a lot of the metadata about where the comments are coming from, when they’re submitted, things of that sort.

So, this is a really high-level sketch of how everything fits together. So, like I said, Draw My Community, this website -- whoops -- this is maintained by Statewide Database. There’s a website. They’re storing it in their own storage. We will have a regular transfer of data from their system into Amazon S3.

And, so, we’ve already tested some of this, but it’s not fully automated yet. We’re sorting out some of the technical details of that, but the data I’ll be showing you today is real data from -- that came in through that website.
So, there’s a separate process that after they push all the data into S3, we have our own script that can then take that data using Airtable API and push the relevant information into Airtable so that has been accessible to all of you.

Now, the other bucket of input I mentioned was, you know, these more kind of freeform channels. And, so, I put this smiley face to represent all of you because you’re all smiley people. And, so, this basically means that there has to be some person in that path of information to process it, to normalize it to put it into Airtable. I think it’s just a little too freeform for us to do anything super automated there.

So, you know, whether that’s a staffer or an intern, whoever it is, will have an intake process. They can summarize comments. They can translate, transcribe, put them into Airtable, also upload any artifacts, PDF images, so all that data can be in Airtable.

The one thing that we decided to do that this extra line here about digitizing the geographic input. So, we know that there’s going to be a lot of comments and even map data that will be submitted. We decided that what we’ll do is even though it’s an extra step, we’re going to have this person go to the Statewide Database COI tool and actually digitize the geographic input there. So they will
kind of draw the map there.

And what this means is that now all of our maps are kind of standardized according to the representation used by Statewide Database. And, so, that just means that we can look at all of that data side by side and how they’re represented.

So, it’s a little roundabout, but we figured that would be better than trying to either replicate the work that they did or kind of building a separate system. We want to, you know, kind of work off of the great work they’ve already done.

So, that’s that. I’ll jump into the demo in a second. You know, as far as the demo goes, first, I’ll just give a kind of overview of Airtable so you can see what kind of the conceptual model of it is. It should be fairly straightforward if you’ve worked in a spreadsheet before.

I’ll talk about kind of the -- I’ll show you some of the data that’s come over from the COI tool. I’ll give an example of the intake process for other forms of data, and then I can show you how the data can then be displayed publicly or even vetted in your website.

So, let me really quickly pause so I can take a breath and see if there’s any questions before I jump into this.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Phil, can you go back quickly to the -- yeah. So, if I understood you correctly, if it’s mail, the telephone, or to verbal input, one would input into the Statewide Data Base, right?

MR. ZIGORIS: Uh-huh.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: But then also would it go to the Airtable, or would it just go to the Statewide Database and then we would eventually get that information via the Statewide Database, Amazon and then Airtable, because it has like two arrows right now?

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah, it’s a good question, and when I go through the example I think it might make it a little clearer how we can link those two because you’re right, that some of the data is going to be -- we’re going to be kind of sending some of the data through one path. But the idea is that anytime you’re making this kind of other submission to the Draw My Community you’re also entering into Airtable some kind of -- some entry for that that we can link together.

You know, from the examples of the inputs I’ve seen, you know, there are going to be some things that are coming in through these other channels that actually don’t have any map data. I’ll have one example that I’ll show you from the (indiscernible) that -- you know, there is
really a step to go to draw the map, but we still want to
save that so that it’s all in one place.

And the idea being that like if -- you know, when
there’s a say a public hearing, that hopefully we can keep
some artifact of the original. We want to be able to like
always kind of walk back from the data in Airtable to
whatever like that original input is, whether it’s a
recording of the public hearing, whether it’s, you know,
like the file box that the letter is in, you know, whatever
that is. But we want that kind of audit trail to be set up
for us, so --

Cool. Any other questions before I go into demo?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Looks like we’re good,
Phil, ready to go.

MR. ZIGORIS: Let’s do it. Okay. So, this is
Airtable, and what we’re looking at here is what Airtable
calls a base. So, a base is a spreadsheet, it’s a
database, however you want to note it, but it’s a table, or
it’s a collection of tables, I’m sorry.

So, the base is COI data up here, and within this
we have these different tabs that represent different
tables. Each table has columns that can be different types
of data. So, you can create a number of different types of
columns, you know, that are check boxes, dates, phone
numbers, emails, you know, you name it.
So, this is really nice because it keeps the data clean. You can’t put an address into a phone number. You can’t put a phone number into an email. And it also lets you link records between different tables just like in a database. So, you know, if I have submissions I can actually, you know, link to the staff member and make sure that there’s like a clean sort of organization of the data that way.

So, we have the base, which is the collection of tables. We have the tables that are tables that contain columns. Within each table you can, you know, hide different fields. You can filter all of the records based on some criteria. You can do grouping, sorting. You can search, you know. If I’m looking here I can search for everything that mentions agriculture. You know, I can search for anyone who is talking about being a Raider fan, which someone submitted some input on.

So, that’s really nice. You can definitely like organize the data and really dig into it however with a lot of flexibility.

The other nice thing is that when you -- if you want to you can also, you know, if you do a search and you sort of have a view of the data that is somehow relevant to your interests, let’s say a commissioner wants to filter down to their outreach zone area and you want to look at
everything kind of within that’s sort of relevant to that. You can do that search. You can create what they call a view, and a view lets you save that search. So, you can very quickly kind of jump to whatever, you know, that relevant view of the data.

So, that’s really handy and it makes working in Airtable really much easier, especially when you start to get a lot of data.

So, each of these records I’ll just really quickly show. You can open it up, you can see a lot of the data that’s been attached to it. You can see all the fields. It also has a revision history, which is really nice. So, if someone goes in in exchange you have a history of that. You can actually have discussions about the record, itself. So, let’s say, you know, you see a record and you’re like, hey, it’s not really clear. There’s something wrong with it. You can actually like start a discussion with other people that are collaborators on that Airtable base.

So, pretty powerful, really great for being able to kind of collaborate on these kinds of data sets.

The other thing I’ll mention and I’ll jump into more later is that in addition to these list views we can also create forms. We can create calendar views. You can make a lot of different, you know, represent the data in
other ways besides just the table. So, I’ll give an example of the form later.

And then the other feature I’ll mention is that you can share a view. So, I can -- here I’ve created, this is a public view of all the COI data. I can create a publicly available list. So, this is now a link that, you know, would be available publicly and anyone can access if they want to go and see their submission here.

And in addition to that, you can also embed it on your site. So, I’ve talked to Fredy about getting an I-frame that we can actually put into the website. And, so, it’s nice because as the data comes in, there is no like manual step of having like send the spreadsheet that then like gets entered somewhere else. It just updates automatically.

Cool. So, that is the Airtable overview in general. I’ll just quickly jump into the actual data that we have in here right now.

So, what you’re seeing here is all the data that the submissions that have come in through the COI tool, the Statewide Database COI tool. So, we’ve migrated it all and pushed it into Airtable. We’ve, you know, largely kept the column names all the same, so there’s common mutual kept are basically -- if we go into here it basically maps to the deals you see here.
And we have -- I’ve also uploaded a PDF of that associated with each submission, so it’s nice in here you can very quickly just kind of jump in and say, you know, okay, here is West County Sonoma, and you have the map and quickly look at. You can see the comments. You can read them there. I know the text is small, but --

And then we also here have a link to download the shape file. This is mostly relevant to the line drawers, but it actually contains all their map data that they can import into their tools to work with more efficiently.

So, I have -- this is one I submitted. I’ve hidden some fields because I know this is like a public meeting and I wanted to keep some of the PII hidden, but so I’ve hidden in this public view, you know, the name of the submitter, email, phone number, their IP address, all that’s hidden.

What I’ll mention here is that as we start to work on this data more and like actively working on it and analyzing it we may find that there’s extra fields that we want to add to each, you know, to say add some tags or some extra information to each row. So, you know, we have the flexibility to always add new columns and however you see fit there.

So, one of the reasons, again, we like Airtable is that you don’t need a software engineer to make a change
like that. Anyone can go in and make that change. There is a downside to that, too, in that anyone can go in and make a change and potentially break something, but, you know, we can control for that as well.

So that’s the data from the COI tool, and I think, you know, I don’t know when we grabbed all this part, looks like some time at the end of April, so we already have 171 records.

So then the other table we have here is just general submissions, and what this was meant to be is all the information coming in, like I was saying, through the other channels, whether it’s a public hearing, email. And, so, I put a couple of examples here, and I’ll show you how the form works as well, but, you know, you can see that these are not real. These are fake ones. But I can -- you know, you can basically just in Airtable have a new record and enter new text. You know, you can select from the drop down because we’ll have all the staffers listed in the table, you can add a staffer and put data as you see fit.

Let me show the intake form now. So, that’s -- where did it go? Give me one sec.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: While he’s doing that, because we tried to identify acronyms, Phil talked about redacting PII, which is just personal identifiable information. And so we are ensuring that in each of the
documents when it be as a public view that that information
is removed from viewing. And one of the pieces is that we
know -- we learned from counsel that even the shape files
have to be made public. And I think coming from the COI
tool that also has some PII information on it, so for the
COI Tool Subcommittee, if we’ve not already looked at that
we may want to take a look and make sure that we have
ability to redact information from the shape files as well.

MR. ZIGORIS: So, I’m going to show you an
example of how we might like input something here.

So, here’s an example of the letter we received
from the ACLU and the commissioners received from the ACLU.
The comments here is really more about timeline in general,
the fairness of the timeline. And, so, someone, you know
let’s say I’m the person who received this. I want to
record it. I’m going to write, you know, the ACLU. And
then say, you know, just really quickly concerns about
fairness of timeline, see attached doc. for more detail.

Then if I want to attach this I can come in here
and I can drop a PDF in that is a letter. Here, you know,
we have a spot for just general tags, like let’s say I
wanted to just mark this as general, you know, I might have
a tag that says like nongeographic or like, you know,
procedural comment or something like that. That might help
other people like filter that out later, say they’re just
looking at mapping data.

And this question comes back to what we saw in this here, this line of, okay, are we actually going to make a separate submission in the Draw My Community site. And, so, if you’re going to do that, we can mark that here and then if it’s already entered, it’s already in their table, you can link it here or you can go and link it later.

So, I’m just going to submit that. So, now that’s done, and if I come in here I see that, so, pretty straightforward.

Here’s something that’s a little more interesting. You know, it’s some commentary from this farming company. There was a handful of submissions that I saw having examples of people talking about keeping kind of Lake County, Napa County, Sonoma County altogether because they represent sort of a wine growing region.

So, you know, I can do the same thing where I come into this, you know, to this form. So, again, here submitter, submission. So, keep Lake, Sonoma, Napa together. We have that. I’m going to go ahead and load that up to PDF. Here I might say, okay, this is -- has geographic data. It represents agricultural concerns. And in this case we’re going to want to go ahead into the other tool to make that submission. I haven’t done that
yet, so, but I’ll be glad to make this. And, so, coming
back to here, I need to go into the nonpublic view. So,
here I have attachments, and so, you know, if you want you
can actually click right in so you can see the letter
that’s been attached, which is nice.

Actually I should mention some of these other
fields. So, one thing we’ve talked about is being able to
have some review process. So, this is a column that just
supports that. You know, that process for reviewing would
have to be defined outside of Airtable, but, you know,
there’s a chance that we’ll get some comments that are not
relevant or they might just be jokes or, you know, a string
of curse words, whatever that might be. So, we can go and
review. You can mark something as a removed. It doesn’t
actually remove it from the table, but the nice thing is,
is that when you want to go and like search over the data
you can just kind of remove all of the junk submissions.
So, you know, there’s an allowance for that. And then this
would -- all of this data here is the links to the COI
submission.

So, I’ll show an example here because it’s not
going to be the right COI submission, but basically I can
come in here and let’s say I want to find like, you know, I
can find my whatever that might be and I’m just going to
pretend it’s this one.
And, so, what this does is it now has a link to a record in the other table that has all of this map data associated with it and it pulls it in.

So, the idea is that eventually this table is like a submission would represent, really, like everything that’s come in.

And then, finally, the staffer would come into this tool, this is the Statewide Database tool, fill it out as they saw fit and then they could submit it. And I’m not going to go through all this here, but hopefully that’s clear.

And it will take -- the expectation is that on a sort of daily basis we would be updating all of the COI data. So, cool.

So, the last thing I’ll show is a view of the public data. So, I think I already showed it, but I’ll just come back to it because I know this was of particular interest to folks.

So, this is the public view that we can make available. You know, note that all the PII has been removed. We today have a link to the shape files, but we may choose to change that, depending on some of the PII concerns.

And, yeah, anyone that’s using this can come in. They can search. They can be like, hey, I want to find my
like -- I want to find my entry, make sure it’s there, make sure it’s all been recorded properly and everyone can be confident that their voice is being heard.

So, that’s pretty much it, I think. Any questions that people have?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, and, Chair, do you want me to respond to the question?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That would be great, unless you want me to help. Whatever you want.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Linda, I see Linda, Commissioner Akutagawa, and then Commissioner Sinay and Kennedy and Andersen.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. Thank you for walking us through this Airtable and you answered some of my earlier questions along the way. I have two remaining questions.

One of the questions that we’ve been having in discussion about public input when we have public input meetings is if someone were to have already submitted their input via either the communities of interest tool, you know the DrawMyCACommunity.org tool, or perhaps one of these other channels that you mentioned, I noticed that there’s the COI I.D., and I know that when people submit through the communities of interest tool they’ll get the COI I.D. assigned to them.
So, two questions. One is when we have the public input meeting because everybody could choose to be anonymous, if they retained that COI I.D., and maybe this is maybe more a question for the line drawers I guess, would that be useable to pull up their maps?

And, secondly, if somebody, you know, submits something through another channel, will they be assigned some kind of COI I.D. and then, therefore, then if they go to a public input meeting they could say I emailed, I don’t know, yeah, I mailed it in and could you pull up my testimony.

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah. The first question about being able to look up based on COI I.D., you can do that search. Even in the public view you could search by that COI I.D. So, this COI I.D. is generated by Statewide Database, so you can see it sort of incorporates the date, things like that. So, that’s the case.

Now, in this other table we’re kind of just generating these I.D.s. Sure, we can come up with a more sophisticated way to generate like an anonymous identifier that can then be used to reference them.

One thing I actually forgot to point out when I was going through here was that we will have to have some schemes so that when you are submitting through the COI tool a, you know, something that’s associated with an
existing submission in Airtable, we’ll actually have some, you know, code in here that can let people note the mapping so that we can then later on find that and create the association. Because we don’t have any ability to make any changes to the COI tool, we’re sort of forced to kind of work within the constraints of what you just heard today.

So, did I answer all -- I know there were a few parts to the question. I just want to make sure I answered all the parts.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA:  Yeah, yeah, you did.

So, just on that last part, it sounds like you’re just giving a simple run through whatever numerical order. But did I hear correctly that you also mentioned that you’re going to try to find some better way to come up with some kind of anonymous identifiers so that then if somebody wants to go back and check they know how to check for that submission?

MR. ZIGORIS:  Yeah. I think -- yeah, and this is something we can discuss with the commissioners, but like as an engineer having these sequential I.D.s is like a public identifier. It’s easy for someone to just guess one randomly. So, it’s nice if you can kind of generate something that’s a little bit more obscure. The answer be like, hey, I submitted like eight but I want to like change it to something else. You know, not that we know that
people are going to try to do that, but it’s nice to create a little bit of obfuscation so that we don’t have a risk of that.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: There are, also, Commissioner Akutagawa, if someone is trying to find a submission that they’ve done, the tag that’s there will help search as well, in addition to the number, for whatever reason, they lost the identifier or it’s no longer available.

Commissioner -- let’s see. I got rusty on writing my order down after I said I would do the call on different ones. But I do have Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Andersen and Commissioner Sinay does not have her hand up. So, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Andersen and who else did I leave out. Okay, and then Marcy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. A couple of questions.

Are the text field links unlimited or is there some sort of limit on them?

MR. ZIGORIS: Actually, a good question that I don’t know the exact answer. I’m assuming there is some limit, but I don’t know what that limit is. So, I can find that out, but I assume it’s pretty large. I actually
haven’t looked into that.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. Second of all, you mentioned that having an audit trail, which I think is a fantastic idea on this, I’m thinking that for public input sessions or anything really that ends up being video recorded, you know, time stamping is going to be useful for that audit trail. So, just to keep that in mind.

Being one of the older members, if not the oldest member of this body, you know, I’m not big on relying on the Cloud. I mean I know certain things happen through the Cloud and for that I’m happy, but I also believe in local backups. So, what’s our plan for local backups?

MR. ZIGORIS: Sure. So, I think one nice thing is that we can certainly have some redundancy with respect to the Cloud in terms of having both Airtable and S3 storage data. And I’d say Amazon is super reliable, if the concern is about the data, the Cloud evaporating, I have a lot of confidence there. But that said, you can also -- let me see if I can find it. Here, you can download this SCSV on every table. So we can -- it’s easy to just do a periodic backup via download of the data and make sure that it’s -- you know, there’s actually like a file stored on someone’s computer.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, I mean, we’re just coming off of this ransomware attack on the Colonial
Pipeline from foreign actors, and we’ve discussed in our meetings before that, you know, this process, as important as it is, could itself be the target of a similar attack. So, I just want to make sure that we’re all, you know, on the same wavelength as far as a business recovery plan in place for, you know, making sure that we’re able to continue with our work no matter, and that needs to include a local backup.

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah. I think we can even -- it wouldn’t be hard to add a separate process that automatically would say, you know, using the API pull all the data down, do a backup to S3 so it’s in a separate system, and then also even like create a file that gets emailed somewhere, or something like that. I mean that is not that difficult to automate. So, given that concern I think we can put some even better protections in there.

Just in the general kind of area of security I think, like I was mentioning, a lot of thought around how, you know, what data and links are made publicly available, how people can kind of search the data and sort of, you know, guess. Sometimes if you want people to -- certain data to be hidden, you need to make sure that they can’t like guess identifiers and things like that, which is kind of all fairly standard best practices in the tech world. So, I think there’s a whole other set of security concerns
aside from just the data being lost. But I’d say Amazon is
definitely like prebattle hardened. A lot of big companies
are relying on them. They have good security measures in
place. And, so, the bigger risk is that someone goes in
and clicks the wrong button and then opens something up.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. And, finally, are
there analytical tools? I mean a lot of this manipulation
and reporting seems to be fairly manual in nature, and you
kind of have to know what you want the system to do, and
yeah, it’s easy enough to get it to do it, but if there are
any automated analytical tools, or what has your thinking
been as far as developing any analytical tools that we
might need?

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah, so our focus so far has been
on just really like housing the data and making sure it’s
accessible to all of the parties that are interested.

You know, Airtable is not I would say a great
tool for doing heavy data analysis. One thing we noted
earlier on when we were thinking about this is that, you
know, the data, itself, is not very numerical in nature, so
it doesn’t lend itself to a lot of deep statistical
analysis, so we felt like a lot of that kind of -- the
analysis would be, okay, we want to count how many things,
you know, say -- how many comments came in in this
tasked geography, or how many comments are about this particular
topic, which I think Airtable, you know, you can create those reviews in Airtable.

There’s also within Airtable you can create automations for sending kind of fast forward updates, so you can send a weekly digest of, you know, here are all the submissions and various counts of how many things you’ve received.

But I think if there’s more sophisticated analysis, especially when it comes to map data, I think the expectation is that that would be happening in a different tool, and I know the line drawers have a lot more experience.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes, and some of that what we’re looking to is between the data manager and the line drawers that will be doing more of the analysis. The Airtable, as Phil indicated, truly is housing and ensuring the access, ensuring the consistency, ensuring that we’re not losing any piece of the data, but the analysis will come from one of the other sources, and so we’ll keep talking about that, too.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you very much. I do also have several questions.

Leading off just on the idea of security and
this. The public -- we’re making all of this available to
the public and they can search. Is there a way that also
then that they can’t change it? You mentioned --

COMMISSIONER TURNER: The public won’t be able to
make changes. So, they will have a restricted view.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: They’ll be able to look and
see what’s there, but anything that they try to move won’t
be allowed and they won’t have access to make any permanent
changes whatsoever.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. And if we need to
add like a new tag, could you sort of walk us through that
process, i.e. do we have to go back to enter a tag on each
different file, or can we -- is there a way to
automatically search and just put it through? Could you
walk us through how one would do that?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And, Phil, before you
answer that, and then I want you to answer. You definitely
will be the one answering that. But awhile -- I guess so
many weeks to months back we had requested from
commissioners suggestions about tags, and we received some,
which is great, but there’s still now an opportunity. So,
we can look at the tags and if there’s something that we
think is missing, we can add those tags now, which would be
wonderful, and then Phil is going to respond to your actual
question about it where once we’re into the process and we
determine a new tag, what would that look like to go back
and add them in?

MR. ZIGORIS: I’ll just go ahead and add a tag
here that, you know, ABC. So, this is like say we decided
we wanted to notate some things to that, so now when I go
and add tags I should -- let me just double check that -- I
didn’t save it. Okay. So now if I go here I can certainly
on an individual record I should be able to add ABC. Now I
actually -- I’m kind of winging it here, but I’m pretty
sure that if I go ahead and add, if I check a bunch of
these I’m wondering if it lets me --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: So, do you have to look
at each one to go, yeah, that needs a tag, yes, that needs
a tag?

MR. ZIGORIS: I’m looking for a bulk update, and
so let me do one on that. I’m sure there’s a way to do
that, but I will -- let me -- I don’t know offhand how to
do that. If you said like, yeah, you wanted to select like
search down and find like a thousand records and then do a
wholesale application to the new tag --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Right. You don’t
necessarily know, oh man, we forgot -- we also need to know
these all need for legal reference, say. And, so, you know
that what words. Would you do a search on the words, grab
them that way and then mark them or get to a --

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah. In a search you’d find that you update and then -- I’m wondering if there’s like a way to do batch update which I’m going to have to look and see. I don’t know how to do it offhand.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: So, I took a note about that and we can follow up and get back. But whatever I understand your question to even be sure, we get that before we go to your others, Commissioner Andersen, is it’s almost, for example, if we forgot for whatever reason to put agricultural and we’ve gone down the path for quite a while, and then all of a sudden we’re like, ah, we need that as a tag. Then we could add it as a tag but then also do a search for agricultural, of all data that’s been entered, and then bulk upload that tag to those entries, because that word would already be there.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Except you might have to field or something like that because you wouldn’t necessarily put agriculture in, like particularly for certain terms --

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Okay, great. Okay, then I’ll go on. The next question is when you have on like the PDF view, for say like you’ve drawn a map and you have the PDF view, it’s very clear on the COI when it’s
already been entered in the COI to what the PDF is. But say I’m thinking of -- say someone has submitted a napkin or someone has also submitted also a map but it’s through -- it’s not through the COI tool, but it’s through another GIS system --

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Where would that be and how would you show that?

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah. So I think for the GIS data I think today it would -- I imagine you would upload that to this attachments column here. And for potentially like if there was a link -- if you have it stored say in S3 you could store a link to that, but basically any -- we want all the things that are coming in not through the COI tool to be -- say these attachments we’ll create a separate column for references to, you know, if it’s a physical reference. And so that process -- like say for the napkin case, like, you know you can take a photo of a napkin, upload the photo here and then I don’t know if you throw away the napkin or what you do with it, but if you like actually save the napkin you might actually put it in a box somewhere and then you’ve got a call in that says like here’s the file box that it’s in.

So, as that intake process gets flushed down, as you encounter, you know, various forms of input you get in
whatever medium you get, we can update this to accommodate that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: All right.

MR. ZIGORIS: But that’s different -- so I have some PDFs uploaded here as attachments that’s different than this PDF that’s coming in through the COI tool, which is a very specific file that’s generated by that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay.

MR. ZIGORIS: And I’ll mention, and maybe it’s a little too technical, but, you know, there are -- Airtable does have limits in terms of like the size of the attachments, and so there’s a likelihood, depending on the kinds of data that are coming in, that at some point we will have some process that will actually take these attachments and move them into S3 where we have just more unlimited storage, and that way we’re not hitting the limits here that may force us to, you know, have to move up in terms of licensing structure.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And then you just do a reference to the other --

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah. So, as an example, I’ll just quickly mention like, you know, these shape files are all -- they’re not stored there. They’re actually links to an S3 file that you can then download. Because those files are like, you know, between 500K, a megabyte each,
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And then the last question is and then the identifiers, they’ll have an identifier, say at the CRC where it’s coming in, it could also have an identifier in the COI and then you’d have a joint connection with those on each.

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah, yeah. And that’s what this -- that step in the intake process like here where I have this COI submission, so this is basically, it sort of shows you, the record we’re looking at here is actually a COI submission and it kind of shows you by a line. It’s like, hey, this is linking to an entry, this other table. And, so that forms the link there.

And if we go into -- we may not see it because we’re in the public view, but --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, yeah.

MR. ZIGORIS: But it links both directions.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Great. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. Marcy.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Hi. Thank you so much. I don’t know if this is just something that’s still in the works or in future meetings, but just figuring out to the language access component and tagging for the form side for the submissions that don’t come through the COI tool, if there’s a way to tag like needs translation, if
guys thought that through, and then also on the Airtable side I don’t know if it comes through with the COI data that it’s tagged, which language or just that the exporting and then how it could then get reimported to match up with the -- with the submission with the English translation.

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah, that’s a very good question, and I think when the data manager comes on I think they’ll have to -- I don’t know enough about how the translation process would work to be able to define that, but hopefully the data manager, when they have a vision for that process, I can certainly help implement it here.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay.

MR. ZIGORIS: What I would just point to you as, you know, an example is you can certainly add status here, you know, needs translation, and then you can even create a view that, you know, says -- just filters down to everything that needs translation, and then whoever is responsible for driving that process can actually have to be their kind of task list essentially.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay.

MR. ZIGORIS: And, you know, we can create multiple columns. One might be for original language and one might be for, you know, English.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Thank you.

MR. ZIGORIS: I think my assumption is that
whoever is inputting the data into the form would be entering it in English all the time. The original, they might have a PDF or an email that’s in another language that can then be attached to it. But whichever person on staff is inputting it would be inputting it in English. But maybe that’s not true, so --

COMMISSIONER TURNER: They would be inputting in English.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yeah.

MR. ZIGORIS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess on that point, it, for me, does raise the question of then, and perhaps this is something that staff is, you know, in this case I don’t know, Marcy, if it’s you or it’s going to be somebody else. I think there’s going to be a language access coordinator that’s going to be hired. It seems like there’s going to be the additional step of when we get input from other means other than the COI tool, then that language access coordinator, whoever the staff person is going to be, is going to have to then immediately send that out for translation, because if we’re talking about multiple languages, seeing what, Phil, you were showing, you know, the summary of what the input is supposed to be, I mean unless you could leave that language I mean they’re
probably not going to be able to input anything in until we get the English translation back and that person is going to be able to do that.

I guess do we need to perhaps identify what that process is. Is that now getting into like micromanaging, is that going to be then, you know, something that -- and I’m only asking that because before it goes to translation does it get like an identifier, those kind of things, so that there’s a way to -- it’s kind of like block chain, right, you can always follow the track along the way, where it got attached, where it went to and all that kind of stuff. So, wanted to just at least --

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I think the identifier is one of the first pieces, so there will be an identifier just on the fact that a submission came in; is that correct, Phil?

MR. ZIGORIS: Yes. Today, you know, there’s an identifier is automatically generated. I can really quickly kind of show you what this could look like.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And just for a time check, we’ll need to go to break in about three minutes.

MR. ZIGORIS: You could create something like this. You could create something like, you know, then we can add options like, you know, scan it. And then -- I didn’t save it again. Get the idea. And then when you’re
actually filling out the form, you know, that -- one process, and I’m not saying we need to decide this now, but just so you kind of get a sense with the flexibility here, what you can work with, you could say, okay, if you get something, you’re going to report it here. If you don’t even know how to translate it, you need to mark, needs translation, put what the original language is and at least we have like an entry form now, but then other processes can be like pick that record up and then work off of that.

So, you can -- the nice thing -- I like Airtable because you can build these processes within Airtable so that people get alert. You can actually, what’s nice here is -- and I didn’t really show this off, but the automations could literally have a -- if a record comes in that needs translation in a specific language it can automatically send an email to the translators for that language to say, hey, this needs translation, and then it’s like great. There’s no sort of manual processing. There’s no one that needs to like not go on vacation because they have to like go and look at it every day, things of that sort.

Like I said, it’s nice when you can let the computers tell you what to do.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Wonderful. Phil, are you able to throw out the tags that are already loaded real
quick?

MR. ZIGORIS: Sure.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And, so, if you all will just take a quick look at them, and we won’t do it here, but if you would email Commissioner Ahmad and myself if there are any additional tags that are needed. Of course, ABC is not one of them, but we do have general, geographic, agricultural, urban, rural, industrial, cultural are the tags now. So as we’re thinking through additional tags, if we could submit them and then we’ll bring them back for the entire Commission to look at to ensure that there is agreement that these would be helpful tags. Then we can set them as our permanent tags going forward, or, you know, until we discover something different, Commissioner Andersen.

And so as a recommendation for consideration we’re looking at the database updated biweekly, being every two weeks with new COI input received via be it input meetings, the COI tool, email, et cetera, so that we’ll have current information, so it’s not something that we’re thinking about every -- you know, ongoing, but every two weeks to have the tool updated.

And, Phil, did you have anything else.

Commissioner Fernandez?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Just a couple of things, and
I’ll go fast because I know we’re down to the wire for break.

In terms of updating biweekly, as we get -- once we get to the line drawing would that be a more frequent update? It would seem like we may want to have that more frequently updated.

MR. ZIGORIS: Yeah.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, I’m sorry.

MR. ZIGORIS: Go ahead, and I’ll answer your question.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then just based on how you were -- it appears that the process would be to enter it into the Statewide Database first and then into the Airtable so that we have that COI number instead of having to go back and forth.

And then my third comment to you, Phil, other than this is a wonderful presentation is that I like when you said “we” and then you said “you”. You get to take ownership. You’re a we now, so thank you.

MR. ZIGORIS: Cool. Thanks, and I think in terms of the updates, you know, hopefully we eventually will have it as a daily update. I might even talk to the staff about potentially doing real time updates. I have some hesitancy there because of the complexity involved, but there might be an opportunity.
I think the other point you asked about, kind of the sequencing between the two tools I think is a really good one, I think needs to be flushed out. When the data manager comes in and we see the process working we can understand how to better link the data between the two. Right now it’s a little free form. I think when we harden that process a bit more we can make it a little bit reliable.

So, I think that’s an important one because, like I said, the Statewide Database tool we don’t have really any ability to change that, so we’re kind of figuring out how to kind of wedge that into the process.

Just really quick. There was a question earlier from Commissioner Kennedy about text limits. The limit is 100,000 characters, so --

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Pretty robust.

MR. ZIGORIS: Yes. And I have to follow up about the batch update. I’ll look into that.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Phil, with that, we’d like to thank you so much for an amazing presentation, reminder to all the commissioners, this was our introduction presentation. So no doubt you will end the day with additional questions that pop into your mind. We’re not finished with the discussion, but we are very proud of the product to this point. Hopefully you have an increased
level of confidence and just can appreciate the process and the product that USDR has delivered.

So, thank you again to Commissioner Kennedy that actually pointed us in this direction. And Phil and to your team, we say thank you for appearing before us today and giving us such a wonderful presentation.

MR. ZIGORIS: Of course. It was my pleasure.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair, back to you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Yes, thank you. Thank you, Phil, thank you Commissioners Turner and Ahmad for bringing this to us today.

So, we are going to adjourn, and when we return we will return to closed session. So, let’s go ahead and take a break, though, first. So, if we could log into closed session at 11:20, please. Thank you.

(Off the record 11:02 a.m.)

(On the record 2:02 p.m.)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you and welcome back, everyone. It is approximately 2:01 and I’m going to report out that the Commission did not take any action during closed session.

So with that, we’re going to go back to where we left off prior to going into closed session. We were still on Agenda Item Number 8, and Communications Director Ceja had asked if there were a couple of commissioners that
could work with him on PSA and messaging. He said messaging brainstorm session for public service announcements.

Commissioner Kennedy still has his hand up. So I have in terms of being interested were Commissioners Yee, Turner, Sinay and Kennedy. And, Commissioner Kennedy, did you want to say something before?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: My question to you is if we already have a Materials Development Subcommittee, do we need to create yet another subcommittee?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What do you think, Communications Director Ceja? Do you want to be stuck with Commissioner Kennedy and myself?

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yeah. Why don’t we take the first step and then we’ll share with the other commissioners that shared interest?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Oh, okay. Commissioner Sinay, I saw your hand up.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Well, I was interested in it. So, we also have an outreach -- you know, everything keeps going to one over the other, but we do have an outreach and engagement subcommittee as well, and this is, you know, kind of the shifting. But either way.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, for now we’ll keep it with the materials, but that’s a good point. If we come
up with something and it overlaps, then Communications Director Ceja may reach out to other subcommittees for information, or wording, or feedback. Okay. Everyone is okay with that?

So, we’re going to -- any other questions for Director Ceja before we move on?

Let me write down before I forget the materials subcommittee.

So, we’re going to move on to the subcommittee reports. Agenda Item 9A is Government Affairs. That we have moved to tomorrow morning.

And Agenda Item 9B, Finance and Administration. That is Commissioner Fornaciari and myself. And we’re going to move that to the end of the subcommittee updates. We’ll come back to that. We’re waiting for some additional information on that.

So, the next one up would be 9C, which is the Gantt Chart, Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing to report at this point.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Anything for the subcommittee? Okay, we’re going to move on. 9D is VRA Compliance, Commissioner Sadhwani and Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Nothing new to report.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Nothing new, although we
look forward to our new VRA counsel hopefully being brought in very soon.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That’s great. That’s great news.

9E, Outreach and Engagement, Commissioner Sinay and Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Nothing to report at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Agenda Item 9F is Language Access, Commissioners Akutagawa and myself. And I don’t believe Commissioner Akutagawa is here.

We’re actually going to defer the information that we have and the recommendation to Agenda Item 11 when we discuss the Public Input Design Committee. So, we’ll talk about that later.

9G is Materials Development. That’s Commissioners Kennedy and myself. Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just that at this point I have received from Director Ceja an updated draft for the paper communities of interest tool form. So, I’m going to be working on that over the next few days. I do have some more changes to recommend on that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. And I’ll look at that, too, as I’m like the second half of that subcommittee.
Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I just wanted to say that the libraries are really excited for that tool and are thinking through ways to distribute it, especially in the rural areas.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Excellent.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that’s great. And 9H is Website, Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: We are working on a rather substantial list of recommendations which aren’t yet ready to present, but we’ve got about a two dozen items. Some are very minor, some are a little more substantive, but we’re working on that.


Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: If we have -- if we see something on the website should we send it to Fredy and then he gets it to you all?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: How would you like that?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: That’s fine with me. I mean I’m also taking into account public input that we’re receiving from the public in developing these recommendations.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. I think it would go to
Director Ceja if it’s something minor that needs to be fixed, but if it’s something major in terms of, you know, you want to switch things around or add something, then that would probably be a different discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CEJA: Yeah, exactly that, what you mentioned. If it’s content changes, if there’s a grammatical mistake or something like Congressional district still says 53 instead of 52, I can make that immediately, but if you have potential changes, if you want a new column or a new pulldown, yeah, let’s bring it up with the committee.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Except staff needs to be kind of our webbing around the commissioners because you need to be careful how many commissioners you email to, and that’s why I was asking do we send it to staff, and staff collects it and shares it with the committee.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, probably the best course is to go ahead and forward it to Director Ceja and then he can at that point determine if it’s something for the subcommittee or if it’s something that he can fix. Okay.

All right. 9I is Data Management. Commissioners Ahmad and Commissioner Turner.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. Just wanted to
give an update, and we basically -- our main point today
was to do the presentation that’s already taken place, but
from the session that we had earlier there was a question
that came up from I believe Commissioner Andersen in
regards to bulk uploads, and Phil was already able to check
that question of being able to do batch updates, and he
says that will be an easy add on that will be provided
through and upgrade to our Airtable.

And, so, right now I think we’re still using the
free version, Alvaro, and with that next level that we knew
we were going to have to get anyway, we certainly will be
able to do the batch updates as was discussed earlier
today.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Commissioner Sinay.
Thumbs up by Commissioner Andersen. Great. Commissioner
Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: It was a great presentation.
I’m really excited.

You had asked us to give -- to look through the
tags and give any updates. Could you maybe email what tabs
are there and what the purpose of the tags are, because I
was like, wait, I’m not sure, just so that we can all be
clear.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, I will. The purpose
of the tags is just for searchability. So, if you’re looking for something that is having to do with agriculture, I think we exampled this earlier, waterways, even looking for something for, you know, rural town. So, it’s that kind of generalized, so not really specific, but enough that would allow us to be able to search through the data and be able to print out ad hoc reports that will help us find what’s been submitted.

So, yes, I will send out to Alvaro the tags, and then if you’d send that through to the commissioners we can then see what your add-ons are.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. And again, I want to echo, that was a wonderful presentation this morning, so thank you so much for setting that up.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: You’re welcome.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: 9J is Grants, and there’s been a request to discuss this tomorrow because they are still gathering some more information, so we’ll discuss that tomorrow.

9K is Communities of Interest Tool.

Commissioners Akutagawa and Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: So, I’m not seeing Commissioner Akutagawa with us right now.

We received a report from Statewide Database last
week. We may receive another one tomorrow, but as of last week there were 237 registered users, 188 in communities of interest submissions in total, and none of the new submissions were in non-English languages.

We received a query from one of the commissioners about updating the video, and I received a response from Statewide Database that they are updating the how to videos and have recently sent the scripts out to be translated into all of the languages in which the tool is provided. So, that is well underway and we hope to have that up soon.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: That’s great. And, again, anyone that’s listening, tell your friend, tell your neighbor, tell everyone to please go into the communities of interest tool and update your community of interest information.

What was the term you had, Director Ceja? It was skip the line and submit on line. I like that. I’m going to make a shirt out of it, so, it will be good.

Any other questions for the COI tool?

Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: This isn’t a question, and we can certainly also -- Commissioner Andersen can also certainly give this during the Line Drawers Subcommittee update. But in those conversations one of the things that we have discussed as a possibility, and I’d like to just
raise it here and get other folks’ thoughts on it. Given that we have now nearly 200 -- I didn’t realize there was that many -- submissions. Was that it, 189?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: One-eighty.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, 180.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, 180.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Sorry, 188. It was 180.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Okay, almost 200. You know, one of the ideas that we’ve had and I just wanted to share with everybody is maybe we take a couple of hours in one of our upcoming meetings to just really go through those submissions and make sure that we are all aware of the submissions that have come in and make sure that they’re given equal weight as everything else.

So, just wanted to float that idea. We can talk about it more in that subcommittee report, but, you know, I think I’ve heard many conversations about, you know, just a concern that we don’t yet have a process of how exactly we’re handling them, and so just wanted to raise it. And I have -- I see Commissioner Turner’s hand raised. So maybe others are also thinking the same thing, you know, and however we can best coordinate that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. That sounds like a great idea. Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. I was going to
agree. I absolutely love that as an idea, and as we’re thinking through tags, if we’re going through the 188 current submissions that we have, can kind of test what we think are the current tags, not that they will be all inclusive of everything that we’ll get, but certainly it will be a good start to see tags that may pop out right away that we should have. And, so, I think we can do that probably even before we submit our final tags for the initial program.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And I guess a quick question, Commissioners Sadhwani and Andersen. How quickly do you think that we would be able to have something like that? Because I’m thinking on Tuesday we have a placeholder meeting, so if they were able to do that, would that be too soon?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I think this is definitely something we should discuss as a Commission, you know, in terms of -- I guess do we want to have Airtable kind of set up and running and figure out like what that integration is between the two before we do that session? Maybe, maybe not. You know, I’m not sure. Certainly we could take the time on Tuesday to just look at them all. Do we want to have that sort of married with the data management and kind of as we are working out that data management process? I’m not sure.
So, you know, open to other thoughts on that for sure.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And the only reason I mentioned Tuesday instead of further down the road is if we do have -- if we do want to add tags, we don’t have as many inputs at that point versus, you know, if we wait another month, then somebody may have to go back and try to backfill the tag information. So, that’s the only comment I had on that.

Commissioner Andersen, and then Commissioner Turner, and then Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Well, I was just going to say there’s several things we’re talking about the line drawer I’d kind of like to do at the line drawing because there’s a couple of things, but I noticed Commissioner Turner, because I was going to refer to the Airtable, and Commissioner Turner might be trying to say something about that, so I’d rather defer to her, if that’s okay.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. What I wanted to say about the Airtable is to remember the information we just received. So even if we are later going through much greater quantities of COI input and we determine there’s a new tag that needs to be added on, we now know that we’re able to create that tag and then go through and do a search...
for. I mean, as was indicated earlier, if it’s agriculture, we can search for anything that’s farming, you know, rural, you know, whatever else would be associated with agriculture and create a bulk upload that will put those tags on, and it can be a one-on-one kind of process.

The other thing I wanted to say is that I would love for us to start to look at the data now. The information that we’ve seen in Airtable was -- he showed some fictitious data when it was smaller little bits and pieces just to ensure that we weren’t showing any personal identifiable information. But beyond that, it’s real information, live information that’s there now that we’ll be able to go through and take a look at.

So, I think the sooner the better. I think it’s good even for people that are viewing to start seeing and hearing us discuss and talk about what’s there, no so much as are we going to draw the lines around it, but just the fact that the data is there, and I think it will bring ease to all of us from just getting used to receiving different types of input and comments.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you.

Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Pass.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions or comments regarding community of interest tool? Okay.
We’re going to move on to 9L, Cybersecurity.

Commissioners Fornaciari and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Nothing new to report.

Neal, nothing new?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, nothing new, although the conversation today about, you know, now that we know that we have Airtable and the Amazon services Cloud, you know, and there was some questions that came up about backups and that kind of thing. Maybe Derric and I need to get together and talk about that and how we might, you know, better understand what’s happening there and what might be a good approach to ensure the integrity of our data.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah, I’ll agree with that, but that was new information to us as it was happening.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Okay. Any questions for the subcommittee?

Okay. Moving right -- oh, Director Executive Hernandez. You know, you kind of blend into the background. I was going to say that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: I know. I should have my dark blue jacket or something with the bright green shirt that I have.

I just wanted to kind of uplift this issue of the
cybersecurity beyond just this particular product as we are looking at other products. It is a major consideration. I want to make sure that we have conversations. So, I’ll be sharing with you some additional information on some research I’m doing for queueing systems and other systems that we’re looking at. So, just wanted to let you know that’s coming your way.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you for the reminder on that. Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just tagging on to what we learned this morning, could you -- the Cybersecurity could also look into the backup, you know, that was mentioned.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Of the Airtable?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Of the Airtable, yeah. All the data, right.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah, true.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen. Anyone else?

Okay. We’re moving right along to 9M, Incarcerated Populations, State and Local Facilities. Commissioner Sinay and myself.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No update at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. We’re moving on to N,
Incarcerated Populations, Federal Facilities.

Commissioners Kennedy and Turner.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Commissioner Turner and I have agreed on a draft of the letter to Senator Padilla, so I just wanted to check. Is that -- should I forward that to Director Hernandez and he will take care of getting signatures on it? Is that where we are on this?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: It includes the signature on it. Is that signed on behalf of both of you or is it the Chair?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: It would either be both of us, the Chair, or all commissioners. What’s the desire I guess of this Commission?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: You know what, I think we have a policy on that, and I’m thinking that Commissioner Fornaciari is going to have to remind me what our policy is.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We do have a policy on that, and I -- if we had an old-time projector, I guess I’d be running that, too.

Anyway, the Chair signs it.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, I guess the best route would be to Executive Director Alvaro, then he could forward it to me. Thank you.

Any other questions? Okay.
90 is Lessons Learned. That’s Commissioners Ahmad and Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Our standard refrain. Please keep the lessons learned coming. I have a section in my notebook that grows pretty much every week, so, keep them coming.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Item 9P is Outreach Director Recruitment. That has been sunsetted since we already have our outreach director equipment -- we already have our outreach director, period.

Then Q, 9Q, is Chief Counsel Recruitment. I believe we’re going to sunset that as well. Commissioners Andersen and Toledo did a wonderful job, and we’re excited to have our chief counsel start on Tuesday legally.

Okay. And 9R is IT Recruitment, Commissioners Andersen and Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We don’t have anything new to update.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. And Outreach Director Kaplan, are we ready to go back to Finance and Administration? Are we good?

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Sorry, yes we are.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, we’ll start.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, Finance and Administration.
That’s Commissioners Fernandez and Fornaciari.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Are you waiting for me?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: No, no. We’re going to -- we’ll -- yeah. So, the recruit -- the only thing we have to report out is the recruitment or the identification of our candidates, one for the outreach manager position and --

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Outreach coordinator.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Outreach coordinator, sorry, and then three for the field leads; is that correct?

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: And, so, we thought it would be more effective to have Marcy just -- Director Kaplan describe the jobs and the candidates that they selected for you, then to have Alicia and I try to do it, so turn it over to Director Kaplan.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Okay. Thank you so much. And just again, want to emphasize how much I really enjoyed this process and really excited to bring on an amazing team of folks.

So, we’ll start with the outreach coordinator position. This position will assist the director of outreach and outreach manager with scheduling and planning the Commission’s public outreach and engagement activities,
including virtual education meetings, as well as working on scheduling planning of public input meetings virtually and as we pivot potentially in person.

The position will also oversee the work of four field leads, providing guidance and direction to our outreach activities and overseeing and identifying gaps in outreach across the state.

The candidate that we are recommending is currently managing her own community relations firm in the L.A. County region, working with nonprofits and businesses to develop communication programs, outreach and strategic planning for community projects related to equity and social justice. She organizes and facilitates group discussions to address community issues and identify solutions for providing equitable services for the underserved. And she really throughout her interview really focused on different ways that she did work together with groups to identify solutions, which I thought was a great skill set that she has.

She has also worked as a mayoral aide and regional programs coordinator for the City of Los Angeles’s Mayors Office as public safety reductions, use development program. She was a regional coordinator with the homeless count for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and was also a council aid and then promoted to a field deputy
for the City of Los Angeles’s City Council District, and worked as a litigation clerk for Caldwell, Leslie and Proctor in the past.

She’s a graduate of UCLA with degrees in history and Chicano and Chicano studies. And I’m very confident that her past experience working with stakeholders, the links, the managing team and contracts will allow her to flourish in the outreach coordinator role.

She’s an excellent facilitator, and from the examples she provided in her interviews I have no doubt that she will succeed in this role.

So, I don’t know if you want me to go through all of the candidates or one by one.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  Yeah, just go ahead. You’re switching jobs, right?

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN:  Yeah. So that was for that outreach coordinator role.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  Yeah.

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN:  And then -- so keep going? Okay.

And, so, now I’m also going to talk about the field staff leads. We are currently recommending candidates for the two southern California positions, one that will be covering Los Angeles County and Orange County and the other to cover San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino
and Riverside Counties, as well as the Central Valley lead.

And under the direct supervision of the outreach coordinator, the field staff central California leads and the two southern California leads provide support for the Commission’s public outreach and engagement activities for their assigned regions.

As a part of their role they will be working to promote and distribute Commission materials and resources to educate and activate Californians to participate in the redistricting process, including promoting the COI tool, public input meetings, how to participate, and other opportunities to provide input to the Commission.

They will be working and coordinating on going with each other as a team and the outreach coordinator to share best practices and strategies for educating and activating Californians to participate in the process. And they’ll also be working to assist the outreach coordinator in scheduling, formulating and promoting opportunities for virtual education presentations in their assigned outreach zone, as well as supporting, and scheduling, and participating in virtual public input hearings, providing logistical support. And as these meetings may pivot to in-person, they will play a critical role in helping to identify venues and support with planning logistics for in-person meetings, as well as really providing support on how
to provide access to participation in the redistricting process, whether that’s through technology needs, language access, et cetera.

So, I do want to highlight the candidates that we’ve recommended and why they’re a good fit for the position.

The first candidate for the field lead Los Angeles comes to us after working as a communications coordinator for the Office of Mayor Garcetti in the City of Los Angeles for the Census, 2020 campaign. There she conducted outreach to L.A. city departments, external stakeholders and community members. She delivered presentations and assisted with outreach events, and also created their digital campaign, including social media toolkits as video scripts and coordinated with our translation and remediation.

And, so, even though we have our amazing Comm’s team, this is even an extra skill, you know, that she’s bringing to this role, as well as extensive work and experience working in the L.A. region, she’s also worked for the L.A. County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and City of Los Angeles Council Members Parks Office, the City of Los Angeles Office as the City Clerk, Elections Division, and also the Workforce Investment board.
And I mean for all these candidates the references were glowing. Just the amount of work that she has done and really, you know, experience in a fast-paced environment, and really working in the public sector in understanding that impartiality in serving communities. And, so, I think she would be a great fit for the position. She’s also a graduate from USC with a degree in journalism and sociology.

For the second southern California field lead that will be covering the San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties we are recommending a candidate who comes after working as a partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. There he established partnership agreements with local governments, small and medium sized businesses and nonprofit organizations to develop and implement strategies to eliminate barriers to the census in hard-to-count communities and locations. He planned and ensured public engagement activities were carried out, resolved problems that came up, and determined the need to reassess their outreach strategies.

He conducted presentations to various groups and was instrumental in training census staff and maintain a positive environment.

He’s also worked as a civic engagement organizer and human rights organizer for Alliance San Diego, and a
civic engagement coordinator for health centers.

He’s a graduate of San Francisco State with a degree in Asian/American studies. He also has extensive experience through his census work of working with Asian/American communities throughout the San Diego region, and that was another great asset for this position.

And the third candidate that we are recommending is for the field lead for the Central Valley, and this candidate comes to us working as district representative with the California State Assembly. There he monitored and updated the Assembly member and District Director on local issues and was the liaison to state, district and local agencies and constituents.

He built relationships and engaged the local community foundation’s elected officials from county, city and state government and others to do outreach and collaborate. He’s also worked as a parent engagement coordinator for every neighborhood partnership, student media coordinator for the office of spiritual formation at Fresno Pacific University, and a union representative organizer for the United Farm Workers of America, as well as a researcher and principal investigator for the Center for Collaborative Research for equitable California. And he’s a graduate from Fresno Pacific University with degrees in political science and Spanish.
He has extensive experience in the Central Valley, as well as with indigenous populations. And just one key thing that, you know, came up in our interviews is really his passion and dedication to the community in working with diverse stakeholders in the region ranging from the Hmong community, to the Sikh community, as well as I mentioned his, you know, experience working with indigenous populations and really highlighting them, for instance, (indiscernible) competency in doing outreach.

So, as I mentioned to begin with, we were really blown away with all of these candidates. I’m so excited that they have extensive experience in their regions which will be key for communities to engage and reach out to across the region, and that’s our recommendation.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Marcy. That was very thorough. I, too, I did go through the resumes and applications and was also very impressed and very excited that we see some really high-quality candidates that can probably step in and start working right away. So that was very nice to do that.

Do we have any questions? I’d like to make a motion that we move forward with the hiring of the four positions, the outreach coordinator as well as the three lead field staff. There’s two southern and one central.

MR. TAYLOR: I’ll second that.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

Are there any questions before we go to public comment? Okay.

And I’m giving you time, Executive Director Hernandez. And remember it’s p.m., not a.m. Sorry.

Is Katy back, or is it still -- Katy is here. Katy, can we go to public comment, and the specific item is Item --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Yee has a question.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, I’m sorry. Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Are all these positions going to be remote?

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: They are physically located in those areas?

OUTREACH DIRECTOR KAPLAN: Yes. And the outreach coordinator is located in Los Angeles County, and also has extensive experience in that region.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions? Katy, can you open it up for public comment related specifically to the hiring of the four outreach positions, three lead and one outreach coordinator?
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, chair, and is it 9P?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: 9F -- oh, no, I’m sorry, 9B as in Bob.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: B as in Bob, okay.

All right. 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 93330293366 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 the commissioners are taking public comment relating to item 9B and the hiring of four positions in relation to the outreach -- outreach coordinator. I wanted to make sure that was correct.

We do not have anyone in the queue with their hand raised at this time, and I would like to remind anybody calling in that star nine will raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. And we still do not have hands raised.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We don’t have a quorum -- we have a quorum; we don’t have --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We don’t have enough? 

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We don’t have enough folks to do this vote.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So, we may need to wait until tomorrow.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. It was a really good motion. We’re going to hold onto the people.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We’re missing Isra and Commissioner Le Mons.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Le Mons, right.

COMMISSIONER YEE: And Linda. That’s three.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And Pedro. Okay. We are going to take this up tomorrow probably. But thank you for the information, Marcy. We’ll start with it tomorrow. Let me highlight it so I don’t forget to discuss in tomorrow.

Okay. So, we’re going to move on to Agenda Item Number 10, and thank, Commissioner Fornaciari for pointing that out.

We’re going to move on to Agenda Item 10, which is Legal Affairs Committee update with Commissioners Yee, Toledo and Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: We don’t have much to update. We are preparing, I think, for a relatively short meeting next week on the 18th. Largely we’re just kind of in a holding pattern until our chief counsel as well as our new VRA counsel is on board. And I anticipate that once, particularly for VRA counsel, is on board that we would be developing a strategy of how we’re going to, you know, embark on the VRA work, including the RPV analysis, assessment of data that we have thus far in terms of where historically excluded populations that are covered by the VRA would be. So, we’ll be talking more about that next week in our meeting.

I don’t know if Commissioner Yee or Commissioner
Toledo, if he’s here, have anything more to add. That’s it. That’s as far as I can go. Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: I have nothing more, unless there’s any update on the litigation counsel contracts.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: You know, Commissioner Toledo has been working on that. I think he -- I’m not sure if he’s -- are you there, Pedro.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Can you hear me?
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, perfect, yeah.
COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Sorry about that. I’ve been having audio issues.

In terms of the contracts, the contracts have been moving forward. They’ve been forwarded onto the state agency that is going to review them and hopefully approve them for the VRA counsel.

We are still working on the litigation counsel contract and getting information from the two firms as we move forward. And we hopefully will be able to bring those contracts to the committee meeting on the 18th for review, and hopefully approval later this month at the full Commission.

So, that’s the timeline that we’re on right now.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thanks.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any questions? Commissioner Sinay.
COMMISSIONER SINAY: We kind of set the calendar for the summer, and I just wanted to make sure, do we need any extra dates or meetings for VRA, or does that fold into our business meeting? How are doing that work?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: That’s a great question. You know, certainly, that has been something we’ve just kind of pondered about, and certainly I think it might be appropriate for the full Commission to discuss, you know, whether or not the VRA work you want that to live in the Legal Affairs Committee and the VRA subcommittee in the full Commission. I think a lot of it will also be done by our attorneys, so, you know, I look to you all for guidance, and I think that’s worth a discussion of how we want to advance this work. And, I mean, there’s pros and cons to both, of course. Certainly with holding it in the Legal Affairs Committee, you know, everything then will have to be agendized as appropriately in the subcommittee.

One of the things that we’ve come to learn is, of course, with only three members on the Legal Affairs Committee two commissioners could not have a conversation with anyone, right, which is why Commissioner Toledo is advancing the contracts on his own. And there’s pros and cons to that. So, you know, certainly open to whatever the full Commission would want to see happen, since these are simply advisory committees.
COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank God.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: You kind of like threw me off a little bit, Commissioner Toledo. Where’s that voice coming from?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Sorry about that. What I would add to that is that we have been — we hope to have a strategic planning session around VRA, and I think once we have that session, it will be a full session with all of us. But once we have that full session and we understand the strategy that we’re going to undertake for VRA, that will determine — that will hopefully determine how many meetings we’ll need and what type of staffing we’ll need. I mean, it will help us in any regard thinking about legal staffing, thinking about our — what our counsel is going to be responsible for, what the committees will be, which committees and who are best able to support our counsel and our litigation firms in getting us the information that we need to make decisions. And, so, I do think that that’s a priority. That’s why we moved the VRA counsel first, to try to get that resource in, and luckily, now that our chief counsel is starting on the 18th, that could be probably one of our top discussion items where the 18th is really thinking about bringing in our VRA counsel as quickly as possible to have that strategy session and have a — we’ll probably even do a training session first and
then a strategy session after, one of the two. But
beginning the process of developing that session, which
will be both training and strategy for the Commission, and
like remodeled after the session that we had with the line
drawers that was so effective on the Saturday where we just
-- that was the only issue we tackled, and we go some
training, we went through some exercises and then -- and
also developed -- got enough information to think about it
strategically. And I think it helped us in terms of just
moving forward in our strategy.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. I have Commissioner
Fornaciari and then Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I guess -- I remember
my question now. You were -- I watched one of your last
meetings and there was some discussion about maybe
expanding the committee a bit. Is that still something you
all would like to see happen, or ---

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. We haven’t
discussed it. We don’t meet outside of open sessions. We
haven’t discussed it beyond that discussion.

You know, I think one of the issues is that if --
because there’s only three people, two commissioners
constitute a quorum, so it’s very difficult to have any
conversations outside of public session, so we don’t. So,
things don’t advance at all really, which I think one
possible solution to that could be adding additional members to that committee. You know, I think a lot of it kind of depends on -- we took on the Legal Affairs Committee for a couple reasons, in large part as a recommendation from the 2010 Commission. That was how they operated.

I think as we pull in this new legal team, I think there’s a lot of wait and sees to see how things will function, what their recommendations may be. I don’t have any strong preference one way or another.

I don’t know. Commissioner Yee or Toledo, if you have any thoughts on that.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah, that’s right, and, you know, I think Legal Affairs Committee, I mean, once the VRA counsel and litigation counsel are in place and up until, you know, anybody sues us, you know, we may not have a lot to do in the meantime until the maps are out and get challenged. So, you know, there will be some strategizing about how to position ourselves well, you know, along the way. But it’s not clear what more we’ll be doing between now and when the maps are done.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I guess you had said that there was positives and negatives about doing the VRA work with the Legal Subcommittee or the whole Commission. And
that caught me off guard. I just thought the whole Commission would be involved in that work since it’s such an important part of the maps. So, maybe I’m not understanding.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: No, I meant in terms of the Legal Affairs Committee versus individual subcommittees.

So, for example, right, like the negotiating of contracts. You know, our subcommittees we try our best to have two people of different partisan affiliations, right. But because we’re a three-member committee, and if we had two people from that committee working on something, it would constitute a quorum, then it’s left in the hands of one commissioner. I don’t have a problem with that personally, but, you know, I don’t know if we all do. It’s just some of those things I think we should think about moving forward.

At this point in time it’s not clear to me what the -- you know, how much the Legal Affairs Committee has on its plate moving forward versus the individual subcommittees. I think, you know, it formed out of the VRA subcommittee for the purpose of hiring litigation counsel. We are in the process of doing that, right. We’ve approved the firms that we selected. So, I think it’s a question of what continues to be within the portfolio, if you will, of
that subcommittee.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Sorry, go ahead, Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Commissioner Sinay, you’re asking about the VRA work, like who besides looking at maps and start developing proposals and options and so forth, working with the VRA counsel. I mean, of course that would eventually come to full Commission for sure, any actual decisions, you know, line drawing obviously.

The question is whether that homework, the background work, is done with the VRA subcommittee working with VRA counsel or whether -- and maybe the line drawers and so forth, or whether that would be the Legal Affairs Committee doing that, and that’s something we haven’t decided.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: In terms of what I’ve seen, how I see our work moving forward is advising and being support for our chief counsel. I think the chief counsel will want to have a corps group of individuals who work with the litigation firm, who work with the VRA firm and be able to deal with issues of, yes, we’ll have to notice the meetings and such. But they’d be able to work through some of these issues in a way that we can delve into them a little bit more deeply than the full Commission might be
able to at one of our meetings.

And, so, I do anticipate that there will be --
and maybe once he’s on board, he can help us think through
these issues of how best he can support us in achieving our
legal goals around VRA and around litigation. But I do
anticipate he’ll need to have some level of support from
us.

And when it comes to negotiating contracts and
such, things like that, the reason that the Commission is
doing that is because we don’t have a chief counsel.
Normally we delegate that to staff. And, so, we’re working
-- and, of course, I’m working very closely with staff, and
staff is actually doing most of the work. And, so, it’s
just convening meetings and attending them.

But I think moving forward it will be helpful to
I think for the chief counsel and for our legal staff to be
able to have a committee that oversees their work and
supports that work.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And I do want to --
that’s kind of how I see the role. Commissioner Fornaciari
and myself, we are the Finance and Administration so we
kind of oversee the budget and the personnel, and that’s
kind of how I saw the Legal Affairs Committee taking on
that different role on whether or not it’s three versus
two, because if it’s three you have to notice the meetings
14 days in advance, especially as we move forward and we may not have 14 days in advance. So, that’s something to think about.

Any other questions or comments? But I do believe it’s a good idea to wait until we have the chief counsel. They should have an idea of how they want to handle it, how best -- you know, the chief counsel can work with our Executive Director Hernandez and maybe come up with a strategy.

Any other questions? Okay. Was that it for the Legal Affairs? Okay, thank you.

Agenda Item 11 is probably going to take a little bit of time, so I’m going to skip over it and go with Agenda Item 12, Line Drawer Updates.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes, because it isn’t going to be as long as 11.

So, just really quickly, jump in with the idea of let’s look at the COI tool information. The line drawers, first of all, are coming up with tags that they know they’ll need, and we’re working with them to forward on to data management.

And they’re also working on a pin map, which we’ve seen just briefly today in our meeting, and that’s going to be brought forward to have a look at as it’s working right now. It’s quite exciting and it will be easy
to put onto the website so we’ll be able to see where the
COI’s are, and it’s actually going to have more detail in
it.

So, like say if someone actually wants to click
on, oh, I think that’s me, you know, it’s kind of like
almost like Google maps. It is actually on Google map.
So, they can actually see and they can get information on
it. So, that would be very lovely.

And then the idea is to let’s have a look at the
COI data with the Airtable data and see, you know, what is
this so we can kind of understand, because the idea is to
look at what we’ll be looking at roughly. We actually try
to use it for line drawer, but this is not line drawing.
This is just looking at the COI’s that we have to go, oh,
so this is what we have here. And it’s going to be sort of
rough, but as Commissioner Turner was saying, it will give
us a really good idea of things that we’ll go, oh boy,
looking through this we need that key or this key. And,
so, it’s just a -- and that’s something that it’s just
being tossed around right now.

But as we have a little bit more of a concrete
idea, the data management, as necessary, is working
directly with the line drawer, consult the consultant to
make sure they’re talking the same language. And as such,
we’re getting a bit more -- you know, what really would be
viable, what would be a good thing to work to bring to the
Commission. So, that’s what’s ongoing.

Sara, did I miss anything there?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Well, yeah, just to kind
of clarify a little bit. So, we had talked with the line
drawers about the possibility, and really as recommendation
three different kinds of meetings over the next -- some of
which might happen relatively soon and some ongoing.

As mentioned before during the COI tool update,
having a time, whether that’s next week on the 18th or at
another point in time, of actually just all of us sitting
down and reviewing these submissions that have come him.
So, that’s one type.

A second one, and I believe this was mentioned
yesterday in the Input Design meeting, was a dry run of the
process for the input meeting, so that we had discussed a
little bit as well.

And then the third one, I think that Commissioner
Andersen is talking about is like a debrief session. So,
we anticipate, you know, July, August, September, we are
booked with input meetings, and we can anticipate that
those are going to be long days in which we’re receiving a
whole lot of information.

And so, one of the ideas we’ve discussed is
building in some time, and it could be in the business
meetings that we’ve already calendared, but building in a
couple hours where commissioners can just debrief, right,
so that we can say, okay, hey we did this input meeting in
Zone B, I don’t know, and here are some of the key
takeaways, right, because the key takeaways that I might
have had from sitting through eight hours of meetings might
be different from what, you know, Commissioner Yee had, or
Commissioner Fornaciari, or anybody else, right. And so,
having a little bit of time built in for us to discuss that
along the way.

So, maybe we do two per month, or one per month,
or whatever, we can figure that out. But just having some
time so that we can process this information, and also to
make sure that we’re really receiving not just the
testimony that’s given during the sessions, but also those
COI maps, also written testimony, whether that’s coming in
and it’s being input through Airtable, or the COI tool, or
emails that are coming in, that we have a little space in
our agenda throughout the summer to just take a breath and
process everything that we’re receiving, so that when we
sit down to actually draw the maps, we’re not trying to
process 50,000 submissions at that point in time.

The reason this kind of came forth was Karin had
shared with us she had found some old notes that she had --
you know, that they had used in 2010, and she remembered
that there had been a note taker from her team who took
instruction from the Commission of what were some of the
key pieces as they were coming up. And so, the idea with
rather than to wait until we’re at the line drawing stage
to do that, to be doing that along the way.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I would just also say,
particularly because, again, I keep going back to
Commissioner Turner, but I think she’s the first one to
mention this, obviously with the data, but to make sure
that the public who is submitting things, not just through
the COI tool, but also through our website can actually see
that, oh, it’s there. And if we can actually, you know,
show them, hey, this is what we’re getting, and not just,
as Commissioner Sadhwani was saying, not just the input
session, but all the things that have already come in. And
this is, you know, again, what’s the -- you know, skip the
line, you know, input on line, to really emphasize that and
that we see it all and see us actually working through it
because it really gives a good idea to go through that
information as well. So, that’s the idea behind this. I
think that’s it, right.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any questions on this?
Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. I really like
that idea of just periodically kind of reviewing where
we’re at. I think it’s a great suggestion.

And Karin also suggested, you know, the way we schedule the input meetings is like ending mid-September, and yesterday at the Input Design meeting Karin also suggested maybe taking a couple of meeting days and just kind of reviewing, again, reviewing all of the input that we got through the COI tool, whatever input that we’ve got, is just take some time in those two weeks before we actually get the census data to review as a group all the public input so that we’ve got it fresh in our mind as we go into those line drawing meetings.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, and I might just say, that’s like -- the touching on it beforehand like when it’s kind of fresh and any of the material that we actually haven’t seen, that really gone over as we go, so then that is really a review as opposed to, whoa, that’s the first time I’ve seen all this information.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Just a reminder that it will be a review plus we will have new information because people can give input, yeah, throughout, so we are going to have to, you know, keep our minds open throughout the whole time because we might get some changes. Not changes, but we’ll get additional input, so let’s not close our -- you know, it’s not done until it’s done.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I just want to say, if, in general, we’re feeling like this is the good idea, something that we want to do, I know, Chair Fernandez, you were taking the lead in our calendaring for summer. I don’t know if you wanted to start thinking about like where we could plug some of these in, or if you want us to do it, or, you know, however. I don’t want it to slip through the cracks, so if we want to do it I think we should, you know, start plugging that in some time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And I did -- if we look at the calendar, what I did plug in some dates in terms of in case. So, as you were talking I was thinking, well, we can use those four-hour blocks, like every few weeks. And I can take a look later to see if maybe we can add a few more, but yeah, definitely.

And purposely we did end all the input towards the beginning of September knowing that, you know, the census date would be delivered soon, giving us time to kind of step back and determine how we’re going to move forward. I will take a look.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: And I’ll be happy to help you on that one because it’s definitely -- the line drawers have certain considerations that they’re thinking as well.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I’ll appreciate the
help. Any other questions? Executive Director Hernandez.
Maybe we should move the flag behind you or something.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Yes, I’m watching myself as I’m blending in, so kind of stand out a little bit.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the line drawers. They’ve been very supportive. They’ve been very involved and providing tremendous amount of input on the process, how it was done previously, and looking at possible solutions.

So, I wanted to take this opportunity to share that with you all because I’ve worked with them not just with the Line Drawer Subcommittee, but also with the Data Management Subcommittee, and also yesterday in the Public Input Design meeting, and their input has been tremendous in helping us, you know, look at what we need to have in place and how we’re going to do it, so I just wanted to throw that shot out to them. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any other comments, discussions?

Okay, we’re going to move on. Agenda Item Number 13. Commissioner Turner, do you have anything else for the Data Management? We did have the wonderful demonstration this morning, but did you have something else to add to that?
COMMISSIONER TURNER: I do not. That completes it. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, now I’m going to ask for Commissioner Fornaciari. So, we have Agenda Item 11, and we’re also going to -- Agenda Item 9F, which is language Access, we’re going to kind of talk about that.

Oh, my partner is back, fellow Commissioner Akutagawa. But, Commissioner Ahmad won’t be back until tomorrow, so -- and it probably will be a lengthy discussion, so I’m wondering, do we move it to tomorrow, or do we take a break now and then start fresh, like an hour-and-a-half? Because tomorrow, so just so everybody is aware of what’s on schedule for tomorrow, is 9A, which is the Government Affairs Subcommittee, as well as the 9J, which is Grants. And then we also have the Labor Panel presentation which is number 14. So, those are the three items we have. And I was thinking we could move this to tomorrow, the Public Input Design Committee/Language Access, so I’m looking to both Commissioners Akutagawa and Fornaciari in terms of do we move forward or wait?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I mean, I’d like to have Commissioner Ahmad here, if that’s possible. I mean if we have time and can do that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think so. And because we won’t -- we’ve already come up with a schedule so we won’t
necessarily have Agenda Item 16 to discuss, other than continue to submit items for -- if you want them to be on the agenda in the future, so please do that.

Is there anything else?  Is anyone opposed to adjourning early today?  Oh, Commissioner Sinay is opposed to adjourning early today.  Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY:  I’m just concerned that we have a lot for tomorrow, and we have time today, and so, I just want us to be realistic about how much we can get done tomorrow.  It is, you know -- I would always rather adjourn early on a Friday than Thursday.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Commissioners Fornaciari and Akutagawa.  I’m fine either way.  I do --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  No, I mean we can go. That’s fine.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Okay.  Everybody else okay with going or do they have a preference?  Okay.  How about going forward, discussing today.  Can we do a thumbs up?  Okay.

So, let’s do that, but let’s take a break so that we don’t have to break in about 20 minutes.  So, let’s take a break now and come back at 3:25, please.

(Off the record at 3:09 p.m.)

(On the record at 3:25 p.m.)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Thank you and welcome back, everyone.  We will be going to Agenda Item 11, which is
Public Input Design Committee, and that’s Commissioners Ahmad and Fornaciari, and almost consecutively we will also discuss the Language Access recommendations, which are associated with the Public Input Meetings.

So, I am going to hand it off to Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you. So, the committee met last evening. All the committee members were present. The Line Drawing team joined us. The Outreach and Communications team were also there, as well as Director Hernandez.

I think we had a really good meeting with lots of good conversation and discussion about the design of the June 10th meeting. So, we focused on our first -- the design of our first public input meeting intentionally. We have another Public Input Design committee meeting scheduled in between the first and the second one, and the idea was let’s focus on this first one, get an agreement on what we want that to look like, but we’ll have an opportunity to make some adjustments, you know, as we go along.

So, again, the recommendations are for the June 10th meeting. As I said, lots of conversation throughout. The Line Drawing team was there and I think provided a lot of good input, and experience, and thoughts about how we
might want to run the meeting and look at the meeting and how things might go, what to expect, that kind of thing.

So, the recommendations that we came up with for this first meeting is we would give each presenter three minutes, and so that’s three minutes for them to speak, you know. There’s time to shift between presenters and that kind of thing. That doesn’t count against them.

But we also recommend that there’s a hard stop at three minutes so that we ensure that we keep on schedule and that everybody is treated equally.

The second recommendation that we came up with was, you know, that we would hold this meeting. It would be six hours of meeting time. That’s six hours of time for public input, so it would be kind of equivalent to the length of the meetings that we’re having now.

But based on some of the conversation that we’ve had today and some of the thoughts we had, we didn’t get to designing the exact agenda, and we have another Public Input Design meeting, you know, in a week or so.

We’ll bring forward an agenda, a recommended agenda and design, but we’ll include the kind of the thoughts about, you know, the training and some background. You know, maybe Commissioner Kennedy’s recommendation of playing the video before the meeting starts kind of thing. We’ll think about that and then what sort of introductory
materials we want to have before we want to start taking
input.

The next recommendation is -- the next question we looked at was do we want a sign-up appointment platform. And uniform support for that idea. So, the CRC staff is
going to go back and look at some ideas for an appointment platform and then we’ll bring that to the full Commission, what that looks like, in a couple of weeks.

So, those are the three recommendations that we have at this point. As I mentioned before, we’re going to work the details of the agenda and then we’d also talked about some informational materials, having some information materials to have -- you know, for folks to read ahead of time about, you know, what public input looks like and what -- you know, what to expect when they’re providing their public input.

And then -- so I’m just going to stop there at this point and see if there’s comments, conversation, thoughts.

Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, and I want to thank the subcommittee for all the careful thought that they’re putting into this.

I think the one thing that I would like to see is more time for public input. You know, no one promised us a
easy time of this. I think we need to just make this as accessible to people and maximize the amount of input we get. So, I would like to see a little bit more time for public input.

I think the three minutes should be good. I learned when I was facilitating 26 groups around the table in Mexico City years ago that once I got them used to a two-minute time slot they could say a whole lot in two minutes if they knew that that’s the time that they had. So, I think three minutes is good. I would suggest maybe flashing a yellow card at two minutes or two-and-a-half minutes and then, you know, so give them some fair warning that it’s time to wrap up. I don’t think that 15 seconds was really enough time to wrap up, so I would say at either two or two-and-a-half minutes flash a yellow card at them to give them a good chance to finish up by three minutes.

So, thanks.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay, I’m sorry. So, I’m not sure I quite followed all of that, because you said you support more time, but three minutes is adequate did you say?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Three minutes per person. I’m saying more time in terms of numbers of hours.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Maybe a clarification question for Commissioner Kennedy.

Are you also suggesting the possibility of adding additional days to be able to also realize the additional time that may be needed, or are you just really suggesting just how long a meeting?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I’d be happy with both.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So, we do talk about, you know, time a lot and what to expect, you know. One of the -- you know, we talked a lot about the fact that folks have the opportunity to provide input other ways that they didn’t have last time, that they can go to the COI tool, that, you know, there’s other avenues for input. And, so, you know, part of this first meeting is for us to kind of take a pulse. We were thinking kind of take a pulse of what -- you know, how this is all going to go, how many sign-ins we’re going to have, how many folks are going to be, you know, be getting engaged.

And, you know, anybody else on the committee, feel free to chime in and share your observations and what I’m missing here.

So, I think I saw Sara and then Alicia. I’m sorry, Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Sara is fine. I just had
some logistical questions, and I think this also speaks a little bit to, you know, just so many implications if we were to go beyond six hours.

I’m wondering, what does it look like when -- considering we’re at least going to begin in a virtual environment, what does it look like when someone calls in? We’re not going to see them; is that correct? How will that work from like the videography standpoint? Maybe we don’t have it all figured out yet. But if part -- so, I certainly think not seeing people when they’re calling in is going to be really tough, you know, sitting for so many hours and never seeing people’s faces. I’m really concerned about that, but certainly will do it.

But if we go -- I’m assuming also that in all of this we have to still abide by a 15-minute break every 90 minutes of -- you know, a full hour break from all of those things. And I’m also assuming there’s going to be a cost associated with going over a certain amount of time from a videography standpoint, but also from a line drawer standpoint. If I remember correctly, and I’m sure, Commissioner Andersen, you might have this at the ready, but I’m pretty sure the contract was structured in such way that it builds in for so many meetings and then once we go above and beyond that, there’s an additional fee.

So, I’m all for, you know, being as available as
possible, but I think there’s also some financial
considerations, and I just want to have a sense of some of
those logistics, and you may not have though that far
ahead, and that’s totally fine, too.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We’ll go with Jane
because I think she’s got a response to that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: That is something that
the subcommittee did talk, indeed, about, and that’s --
where it says we talking about like six hours for input,
that actually makes it a seven-and-a-half hour meeting,
because it does consider -- you know, there’s the 15-minute
breaks, there’s an hour lunch, or dinner, or however it
happens to be. Maybe that can be a bit shorter. But it
was considering is, okay, maximum video time. And, also,
one thing that did come up. Now, first of all, June 10th
is a statewide meeting, and the first two are statewide,
then they’ll start going by region. And, so, the idea is
this is really specifically for this particular one, and
then, depending on what we learn, then it will get modified
as you go on. And it is virtual.

But one thing that was talked about the line
drawers -- I shouldn’t bring that up -- is at the same time
there will be that line, you know, getting people to sign
up so they have a timeframe, but then it’s, you know, skip
the line, you know, do this on line. You know, you can do
the COI tool. So, the idea being to make sure people realize this is not the only way to get input. This is not at all. And it doesn’t have -- it isn’t weighed any more. It isn’t, you know, more valuable or anything like that. No, it isn’t. And it’s sort of really more tailored for people who don’t have -- they’re talking about stuff that doesn’t have a geography with it, or something like that.

Also, what the line drawers are probably going to be doing is what they would do, and to be organized and such they would just be showing the general geography, like, say, it’s about Elk Grove. And then they’d be zooming in on -- you’d see Elk Grove. But that would be it. There’s no actual drawing at the time. That would all be taking information in because we’re not using the COI tool because it is very -- it takes a great deal of time. This is actually to get the information, whether it be a geographical location or not within the full state. But those are a couple of other things I wanted to make sure people realized. That’s stuff we need to talk about.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Just one thing, Sara, Commissioner -- that’s what happens when you chair the more informal meeting the night before, so, Commissioner Sadhwani, one thing we did talk about is and asked staff to look into is, you know, can we come up with a mechanism so we can see -- see the folks. I’m not sure we will be able
to do that, you know, on the first meeting, but as we go along it’s certainly a high priority goal for us, is to be able to see the people giving public input.

Did you want to reply, because I have Alicia and Linda. Did you want to go?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I was just -- that’s super helpful. My last point, actually, was just around the appointment system. I’m just thinking of six-hour meetings. I think my sense was from 2010 people were showing up and then waiting their turn, like literally waiting in line, and now if we’re more structured in our approach and we -- like for June 10th we know that that meeting is from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

I know, you know, as a working parent like I wouldn’t sign up for a 1:00 o’clock time, but I might want a 5:00 o’clock time. I don’t know that we’re going to be able to give those times to people like in time slots, but just something to think about, like, you know, maybe there are blocks that people can sign up for if we know when those breaks are going to be scheduled out at, then people can sign up in those blocks or something like that, just so that the people can plan a little bit better.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We’ve got Commissioner Fernandez and then Commissioner Akutagawa.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. I’m just going to respond
quickly to Commissioner Sadhwani.

We did talk about actually having the specific times that you would -- so that you wouldn’t know and there would hopefully be a number associated with it because you might feel faster than, you know, than we thought, or it might go slower. We don’t know. So, that’s something that we’re hoping we’ll be able to do so, you know, similar to when you signed up for the vaccine. You did your time slot and that’s when you went.

And in terms of seeing the faces, I have been in Zoom meetings where they -- it was a school board, and they could actually bring in the speakers from like the guest area in when it was their turn. So, hopefully, it’s something that, yes, I would like to be able to see them as well.

And Commissioner Ahmad had forwarded a piece that showed -- there was actually like a countdown slot that was on the screen so that everybody would see what the time is, so hopefully, you know, that’s something that we’ll be able to do because, again, that makes it fair. Everybody can see that it’s a three minute instead of, oops, I forgot to start the time or something.

So, I think that was it, and just a reminder, of course, that it’s all virtual so if the time block isn’t available for the zone you are looking for but it’s
available next week, sign up for that one because it’s all virtual. You can sign up for whatever meeting, as long as there’s a time block available.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Akutagawa, then Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. So, I wanted to build on the idea of the appointments. So, a couple of things that we also want to say is, we’re -- we like the appointments because, of course, you know, Commissioner Sadhwani, like you were saying, it would be helpful to know like what time frame you would be talking and you don’t have people holding the line up for hours on end.

I think what it also helps us to also understand is -- and this may also get to -- what I’m hearing is concern from you and also a different kind of concern from Commissioner Kennedy about if we know we have X number of spots available in any given timeframe on, you know, whichever given day, the people who want to give testimony will know, at least generally, what time frame they’re going to be speaking.

But then what it also helps us to understand is if all of the appointments get full, we’ve got choices to make. Do we need to add more meetings? Do we need to extend the meetings?

We also did talk at length about what happens if
somebody who, you know, calls into a meeting where they don’t have an appointment, are we going to turn them away. No, that is not our intent. We would take them, but what we would probably instruct them is that at a certain time, call back at a certain time, so that then what we could do at that point we’ll know where we might have some open slots because people didn’t show up for their appointment. Kind of like the vaccine right now, right. If there’s an open slot we’ll try to get people in and/or maybe towards the end of the timeframe of the public input what we’ll do is we’ll say, okay, for anybody who did not have an appointment that would like to make a, you know, give public input, you know, at that point we’ll queue them up and then we’ll just -- I mean if they’re there up until whatever stated time, we will take them even if it goes beyond the, you know, I guess scheduled time because -- at a certain time we can say, okay, this is the scheduled time. This is our cutoff. So, let’s just say, for example, it’s 8:00 o’clock. So at 8:00 o’clock if everybody knows that’s going to be the last time, but if we still have people in the queue to give input, then we’ll keep getting input from them because they’re already in the queue. And so we’ll keep doing that so that we can accommodate everybody.

But as Commissioner Fernandez said, we also want
to do -- we want to emphasize two other, I think, important points. One is anyone in California can give public input through any of the means by which we have available, which is the communities of interest tool, they could send an email, they could send snail mail letter with a postage stamp, and I’m sure the U.S. Postal Service would appreciate it. They can -- so, I said the email, but, you know, I believe that people, according to the redistricting basics they can also call us, too, so they can give input in that way as well, too.

So, the important point about that is that it will have equal weight, whether you give it in person or whether you do it through the mail, you do it through the communities of interest tool, even if you call or email, all of that input would have equal weight. So, we wanted to say that.

The second point that we really want to emphasize, too, is that even though we will have -- we will say certain dates will be for certain zones, because we’re making an assumption right now that we will remain virtual, anybody from anywhere in the state can come and give testimony on a date and at a time that’s convenient for them. They don’t have to limit themselves to their zone. So, if you’re in Zone A, you can go and you could join a Zone, you know, G call and give testimony at that time.
And, in fact, our line drawers said that in 2010 there were people that actually followed them around to every single public input meeting that was held. And sometimes people from different areas of the state actually gave input in another area of the state. So, I think that there’s been a precedent for it, and we want to make it as accessible for everybody as possible. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Vasquez, then Turner.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes, thank you. In thinking about our virtual meetings and virtual testimony, my question is coming from my profession as a professional advocate in my day job, in that in-person hearings often, you know -- if I were a professional advocate in this process, I would, you know, do my -- I would submit my COI tool map on line, and then I’d print it out and bring it to a hearing, say my piece out loud, give some sort of narrative, and then want to be able to like gesture toward my visual and then leave that visual behind. Then I’d probably go and make some calls as well.

So, just trying to think through in terms of being able to provide -- I guess I may have -- I probably misstated this. We’re going to actually be able to see folks during the virtual hearings, or whether we’ve decided if that’s even possible.
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We’re looking into that. That’s the goal.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Got it. Okay.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We want to be able to see people, but, you know, our staff is looking into it.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Right, because that would be in an ideal world my preference. I would -- if folks want to be able to sort of hold up to the screen, hey, I drew my map. I don’t feel like mailing it because I don’t have stamps, but like, here, I drew my map. I’m going to tell you why I think this map is important and be able to show some visual I think would be important for the narrative piece. So, just thinking through that.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So, if I could just comment on that before -- go ahead, Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Because what I wanted to comment on that as well. So if, indeed, someone submits their COI on line, because I think what’s done, the exact same thing, Commissioner Vasquez, it’s typically what we do. And I’m really trying to think through a way to shift how people that operate in a typical kind of activist mode, kind of grass roots effort, think about this process a little bit different. Because if someone submits through the COI tool and if they then also give narrative around why they submitted to the COI tool, we’ve got it. There is
not another thing that they need to do that would give that
more importance. But we know what the norm is and what
we’re used to is to take that and now also show up in front
of what would be viewed an elected body or show up in front
of, you know, whatever our target would be. In this case,
showing up in front to the Commission.

This will be a tough one because it’s a personal
preference. It makes people feel like they’ve been seen
and heard, and it really is a redundancy. And, so, on one
hand telling individuals not to come could sound like we
don’t want to hear from them, with quite the opposite, we
want to make sure we hear from you, and we’ve developed a
tool whereby if you submit your drawing, if you submit
verbiage, just the words, the testimony, it will be
captured. We will look at it.

And, now, and in addition to that, if you still
choose to use the COI tool and then come to the Commission
and say here’s my map, remember that we will be able to
access that as well, so we could show it both as you talk
about.

And one of the things that came up, and hopefully
we’ll be able to share that on our upgrades to COI, how to
present your public comment is that one of the suggestions
I think that Karin made was I’m going to be talking to you
about Fresno. I’m going to be talking about naming the
area up front. That will get even the line drawers ready, but, you know, I think there will be ways to tie that in. I just want to for all of our community partners, again, say I know we train people to show up and give the public comment and the testimony.

This is a tough one for me because I know the value that’s in that, and we are saying and I am believing what we’re saying, that the information input will still get the coverage, the attention, and the focus just like it would if you took the time to come.

So, I want to just say that, number one, and then I think I just was going to say before was already commented, even when we said our many times, be it from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m., we do that kind of set expectation for the public, kind of like exactly what we think we’d like to do, but as Marian has told us and reminded us over and over, if you’re in the queue, regardless if it’s 8:00 o’clock that we’ve set or 9:00, we will be listening to the public comment. And so if that takes us to 10:00, or 11:00, or whatever that time period is, we’re going to be all engaged, leaned in ready to hear what those comments are.

So, the queuing system, the appointment system, has been official for Californians that want to have an idea of when they’ll be able to give their public
testimony. But again, if that is not used and someone just
dials into a meeting, then they know that they perhaps will
wait longer past all of the appointments, but if they’re in
the queue, we’re going to hear them as well. It just may
not be a real comfortable time for people to wait long
term.

And, again, we are hoping to have captions that
run along the bottom line that says anytime, at any point
you are no longer able to hold, please do if you hang up
submit on line to this tool, or perhaps on our website we
can even refer people to where the paper options will be
located in the area, just in case they don’t have access to
go onto the tool.

So, I think those were -- let me check my notes
real quick. I think that’s the main piece is that we won’t
turn people away. We will try and be real strict with the
I think the recommendation I love about the three minutes,
and being disciplined in the three minutes so that we can
kind of be -- so that we can gauge the appointments better.
If we don’t monitor that, it could seem like we’re starting
to cut people off. I love the yellow card, or whatever the
message would be at perhaps two minutes, so that at three
it’s like end of your time. And if we don’t cut people
right at that point, then we will throw off our appointment
schedule. So, appointments are good, but they come with
them some requirements to be disciplined in other areas.

And, so, I think that overall it will benefit for those that just really do want to call in as opposed to utilize the tool.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: I appreciate that perspective so much, Commissioner Turner, and I think you are -- we come at this work, I think, from similar orientations. I will just mean that I am still struggling with -- I think attention we’re going to struggle with. I don’t think there’s a clean way to solve for this.

You know, whether we approach this as input as a vote, so one and done, or whether you see input as a dialogue, in which case it’s an iterative process and there’s some back and forth. There is some necessary redundancy to emphasize points that you find particularly important.

And, so, I think we’re going to have to make space for both to be true at the same time, right. We’re going to have to hold the singular inputs as valuable, and like just because someone didn’t show up to reiterate the points made in their COI tool map that their input is valued, and considered, and weighed, and at the same time I think is why we’re humans doing this, and this is why we don’t have algorithms drawing a map because I’m sure
someone smart enough out there could design an algorithm to weigh all the data inputs equally at once and create a map that we as -- humans are drawing maps because this is a dialogue, and so I do just want to like this is an art and I would like to leave some space for the art to take place, which is in the conversation in community, and that looks data-wide like redundancy, but to me that’s part of the artmaking of drawing maps.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you for that, and just to touch on the kind of question you had or sort of inferred in your earlier comments, and Commissioner Turner mentioned it, too. How do you point the idea that the appointment systems would be what is your area and that the line drawers could be prepared to pull up a general map of the area that you’re talking about? But if you’ve already submitted a map through the COI tool, if you mailed us a map through another mapping process, you hand drew a map and we submitted, we could be able to potentially pull that up if somebody already submitted a map.

Any other -- Commissioner Andersen, do you want to go?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, I do just briefly. This is a huge issue because I was used to you know, man, you’ve got to get there. We’ve got to hear you. You’ve got to get there. You’ve got to get there. And that’s why
part of the idea is let’s actually see -- so people can see. We’re reviewing all this material. We’re not just so -- you’re getting actual discussion time about your COI, which you’re not going to get at the input. We’re just taking that in. Thank you.

And we’ll be talking about it with that debriefing time frame, and that’s going to happen on a regular basis. So, I think that’s a -- the idea is -- and we really are looking at this. Yeah, I submitted it but you didn’t look at it. You’re not only paying attention if I’m there in front of you. And the problem is if we’re trying to access as a number of people that we’re touching at this time, which is a much huger number, if you submitted a COI and you come, that’s time that someone else doesn’t get to, and that’s where, you know, maybe we make all these slots and no one shows up. Okay. I don’t think that’s a new case.

You know, there is that two sides to the coin. It’s like, oh yeah, but we don’t want to just hear -- well, we’d love to hear from everybody. But if we’re hearing from the same person over, and over, and over, and over again, you keep on wondering, well, who didn’t get the time slot. And so that’s where -- but we have to show to the public that we are taking your input and we’re looking at it. See, this is how we’re looking at it. So they
understand that because otherwise no one is going to pay
attention to the COI tool or do any of that stuff, because
right now everyone thinks, just like they did last time,
the only thing that counts is if you stand in front of us.
And we have to fight that, because otherwise why do we have
the extra 4-1/2 months. It’s not quite like that, but
that’s an extreme point of it.

And I understand it’s just that we’re really,
really trying to get everybody -- now I understand everyone
is going to come once the census data is out there, and
they want to talk about variations and that stuff. They’re
going to come ahead of us. But for the COI input really
believe us when we tell you, that COI tool goes directly in
and we’re really going to look at it.

So, with all the other ways, and this is for this
COI part and put your information in there now is what I’m
-- I know that’s a hard -- I think both Commissioner Turner
and Commissioner Vasquez have really eloquently put, but
we’re so used to this, and yeah, I hear you say that, but
it doesn’t (indiscernible), and it’s -- I mean on a
personal level, not actually intellectual. But, I mean,
you still kind of think yeah, but, and there will be a lot
of people who believe that and we have to fight that
somehow or another, getting as much input as we possibly
can. Not that that helps, but --
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thanks. Works better if I unmute myself. Commissioner Fernandez.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I know that’s a difficult thing to do, and I do agree with Commissioner Andersen. Maybe it’s something that right at the start of every meeting, you know, maybe we just give some statistics in terms of, hey, we’ve got, you know, 5,000. We’ve received 5,000 and so many have been through the COI tool versus so many public, and we can actually show it in a map. I mean I think the visual. I was kind of envisioning if I have a stem, what’s it called (audio skips), and so, you know, every once in a while they treat us like, hey, good job, 100. I don’t know. Maybe we just do a shout out for a few that have submitted a COI tool and say, hey, thank you for submitting that information.

So, I don’t know. I’m just trying to be a little creative so that there’s assurances that, again, equal weight. If you submit it through the COI tool, or in writing, or if you do it in a public input meeting, it’s still one. Regardless of how many times you submit it, it’s still one, and it has equal weight whichever way.

So, yeah, I’m just trying to think of creative ways of just, you know, giving people the assurance that we do have the information and we are reviewing it, and I think it’s wonderful when we talk about debriefing because
we’re going to debrief both, all of the information that we have, regardless of the avenue that we received it.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Sounds like that’s making redistricting sexy. Commissioner Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yeah, I just -- I really want to push back against this idea that we can like -- we can do this agnostic to the emotions and like personal narratives that come with drawing the maps. We’re asking people to tell them where power lies in their community, and I just -- I think there’s a real issue of equity at play here in the sense that like I understand we don’t want to privilege certain data over others, privilege certain types of communication over others. And at the same time, not but, but and at the same time I feel like we have -- one, I think there’s more time than we think we have, so I also want to push back on this idea that like if you submit a map and you get in line to come in and talk about your map to us at a hearing, you’re like pushing out somebody else who’s just going to come and talk about their map, and so, they might not get a chance to input. I think we are clearly building a process where you didn’t -- if you didn’t mind, we’re not going to have hundreds of people who won’t be able to testify and, therefore then, they have been shut out of this process.

I think that’s less of a concern than telling
folks, if you submit your maps, you’re done. You can pack it up and go home. Because, again, I think that there’s a necessary dialogue. If I submit my maps today and you don’t talk about my district until August, after all kinds of other decisions have been made, I might want to say, you know, hey, I’ve already submitted a map, but like you really need to think about A, B, and C now that you’re in my area. You know, we have a public conversation again about that area. It’s a dialogue between community and the Commission.

And, so, again, I really -- I want us -- I want us to think about getting comfortable with that kind of redundancy because it’s conversation. It’s part of the conversation, and it’s not just one and done.

Again, then I sort of come back to this. We should just like feed all this data into an algorithm and let them spit out maps for us and we can go home if we’re not going to be in conversation.

I think that’s also why when everyone was sort of talking about, you know, in our interviews and in our applications, like we want to get out there and hear from community. We want to hear from people. We weren’t like I really want to get in there and look at a spreadsheet. But, I mean, maybe. I don’t know. I guess I can get into a spreadsheet. But like we want to hear the stories, and
so I feel like the public testimony is where all of us --
it comes alive for us and it comes alive for community.

Again, there are just going to be people who just
want to submit a map, and that helps, again, with volume,
but in terms of nuance, I think the only way we really get
nuance from these communities is by hearing them talk in
person about their community.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you. I have
Akutagawa, then Toledo.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you, Commissioner
Vasquez. I guess -- I’ll be honest. I was struggling with
what you were saying at the very beginning. What you just
said right now at the very end I think I do agree with you.
I mean, I think, you know, being able to hear stories is
going to be great.

I’m hoping that we’ll be able to receive those
same stories in written form, and that I just want to
acknowledge that not everybody is a verbal person, and so
with that, their storytelling may not be as effective doing
so in a public setting, speaking, you know, to all 14 of us
as they may be, you know, for various reasons maybe, you
know, nervous, or they just don’t feel like they could tell
this story as effectively as if they were to write in their
written testimony to us eloquently and beautifully maybe
tell a story, you know, through words.
So, I don’t also want to discount those who would be like that who would want to write their story and tell us their story and that we would take the time and the moment to really read and consider their stories as well and to really imagine what them saying that to us, even though we’re reading it.

And I think for that reason I’m a little concerned about, you know, saying that it’s going to be a dialogue, because my understanding is that we have to give equal weight to everybody, that we can’t keep going back and forth with people as we’re hearing them provide their input because we do need to in all fairness to everybody weight every piece of input with -- with -- with equal kind of weight, and that we have to take it all in, and then actually be given time when we’re going to say, okay, we’re going to take apart to assess and analyze all of this input that we received from the people of California. We’re going to draw our draft maps based on that input we see to that point, and then we’ll go back out to the communities to ask what do you think about these maps and please now give us a different set of feedback.

I’m just concerned about implying that we’re going to be in conversations and we’re going to be kind of almost making up our minds about where lines are going to be drawn and other things are going to happen along the
way. So, I want to be really careful about maybe saying
that that’s what be able to come in person would do. So, I
guess -- so I just wanted to share that, that that was just
the perspective that I heard.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yeah. I think that’s a
good conversation, and I know we all want meaningful
engagement and communication with the community, and we
made that a priority, and we all genuinely believe that, I
believe. And, great, people communicate differently and I
think all we can do is that enforce however people
communicate to us, whether it’s through the COI tool,
verbally, at the hearings, their voice is going to matter
to us. We’re going to take it into consideration, and we
will be using it.

I don’t think we are able to restrict, and I
don’t think we want to restrict people’s ability to
communicate with us, right. I don’t think that’s what
anyone is saying here. We want people to communicate to us
and we know that people’s thinking evolves over time. I
think as people start hearing other folks communicating to
us, they may realize that they’re part of multiple other
COIs. They might realize that their email -- they might
change their mind about what their community actually looks
like.
And I think that’s what Commissioner Vasquez is getting at. Once you start hearing other people, and I think this is part of the learning process of what a community of interest is, I mean, most of us -- most members of the community don’t understand what a community of interest is, right. It’s a legal term that has kind of come out that is being used in this local process. And, so, and I think once they start seeing others, their voices will come out and then hopefully -- and that’s what we want. We want people to be engaged and involved, especially those who have historically not been so and aren’t as sophisticated through this process, and that may mean that people are going to communicate multiple times, many times differently and then give us different opinions, and we need to be able to figure out how to weigh that, and I think that’s part of the process. We’ll have to figure out how to look at that testimony, how to analyze it and give it the value that it needs to be given. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thank you for that. Commissioner Fernandez, I didn’t know if you had raised your hand.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I did have it raised, but Commissioner Toledo just said everything. He said it better, though.

Yeah, I mean we can’t restrict people from
coming, and I think that’s fine. Whatever makes you most comfortable. I just think that we need to reassure everyone that regardless of how you submit it, it’s going to be taken into account. And the communities of interest tool, our paper tool, they will all have -- they’ll have space to draw a map, and you can also -- there’s space for a narrative as well. So, yeah, open to as much input as we can get.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just one quick thing I realized. You know, on the COI tool you can always add or modify your own COI tool as well. You may not realize that, but no, that is assuming that you have either created an account of you’ve written down your number. But then you can go back in, verify that that is, indeed, you and modify that.

And then the second is we are talking about right now the COI input part. We’re not talking about drawing maps or anything like that. We’re talking about making sure we’re collecting all the building blocks. Where are those communities of interest? You know, where are the neighborhoods? Because, you know, we can easily get the -- we have the geography of the counties and cities, but we need these other pieces, and that’s what we’re collecting
now.

And this is just to put them all on. We’re not -- you know, we’re not drawing lines here. We’re not. There’s no population in this. It’s location, location. So, thank you.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Thank you. Oh, Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you so much for this discussion. I wanted to just ask one other piece. I mean, in addition to -- and I don’t know how we separate this out or anything, but it’s been on my mind so I want to raise it.

My sense is there’s plenty of people out there who want to influence this process, not simply from community perspectives, but also from political perspectives. That is not our problem. We’re not going to take that as something that we use, but it will be -- you know, it will be (audio cuts out)

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did she freeze or is that me?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: You froze.

Commissioner Sadhwani, we can’t hear you.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Hello.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: We hear you now.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, you can. Okay, good. Sorry about that. I seem to have an unstable connection
today.

Yeah. Just thinking if there are -- if there’s anything that we want or can even do to protect ourselves from that in any way, shape or form by whether that’s, you know, can the same person come and provide testimony at every single meeting. I don’t know. How do we identify that someone is there on behalf of a legislator, right? We don’t. We’re not taking into consideration where legislators live or the current boundaries of current districts, but others might want us to.

And I’m just wondering if we’ve thought about that at all or we’ll just take what comes and figure it out along the way.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I’ve definitely thought about it, but I don’t think we as a group have thought about it, and in my thinking about it I’ve wondered what type of -- I know Commissioner Taylor and I were looking at input to bias training for all of us so that we could, you know, be -- the challenge we have with that is that trainers won’t do it in public, and we can’t do the training not in public, because to be able to do input bias training you need to be open and honest about your biases and everything else, and they said that it’s not fair to any of us or, you know.
So, then it is like, okay, what other -- because I think we need some type of listening training -- not training, but make sure we’re all on the same page. (audio skips) because we listen all the time, right. But how do we -- what do we need to listen for and how do we -- I don’t want to say vet presenters, but how do we be careful that we don’t have certain biases and how do we understand what might be coming our way.

I have had that question asked about, you know, how are you going to know if a presenter is biased, or a presenter is a legislator. And I said, well, they could present as one person. You know, this is multiple inputs, and that’s why we need a lot of people giving us their input, so --

So, I’m not answering your question, but I do think that that -- I was going to ask the Public Input Design Committee to kind of put that on the agenda. These first two are statewide. One will be in English and one will be in Spanish. But as we go into regions and such, you know, we’re going to learn as we go. But this is definitely something we need to think about.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Commissioner Toledo and then Vasquez.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I don’t think Commissioner Sadhwani was implying that we limit people, right. We only
want everyone to give their feedback. It goes to how much weight are we going to give individual feedback, whether it’s advocacy group, a member of an advocacy group that’s represented saying many people, and if they come over and over again, how much weight do you give that person, right, versus an individual member of a community versus other individuals. And I don’t think it’s a science, but I think it’s an art, and that’s where we’re going to have to figure out -- we’re going to have to figure that out as a group and individually and be able to hopefully calibrate at some end of this. But -- and I’m not sure how to do that at this point.

But I do think that if an issue of how much weight we’re giving the testimony that we’re receiving and the person giving that testimony, and how reliable it is and how, you know, and how -- and whether it’s been influenced by sources that might be -- might not be so credible maybe perhaps or who might biased is the better word, right, not impartial, and so that’s where I’m thinking, but certainly I think -- and I’m not sure how the previous Commission dealt with this issue, but I think that might be interesting to look at. I’m sure the committee has already looked at that and come to some -- has some thoughts around that.

COMMISSIONER VASQUEZ: Yes, Commissioner Toledo’s
talking about this, doing this as an art form, and I think to further elaborate on my previous points, I think a data point is -- the level of (indiscernible) that we can detect when we are looking at the data, right. So, again, you will know it’s from me, you know, certain types of data are from me and, like, my organizer folks, right, because we’re going to -- redundancy, right. We’re going to make sure you hear our message, right. That’s the organizer’s perspective, that we’re going to deliver the same message in many different ways because you all commissioners are different people with just as there are different ways of communicating, there are different ways of hearing, right. So, again, the person who is most compelled and interested in the data and the spreadsheet, someone who is most compelled by spoken words. Someone who wants to read every single narrative because that’s how they process information and internalize it.

And then there’s like this level up of like, okay, we’re getting a bunch of data in this particular manner, or in this manner and this manner. Okay. We understand sort of like this group is delivering information in this way. And then again, we as the artists have to be able to say we’re actually not hearing anything from these types of people and is that important. How important is that? Do we have time to go in, see if we can
get more information, or, you know, are we passed that point, and if so, do we have to figure out a way to like channel, you know the people who have been silent in this process.

Again, this is all -- I am necessarily trying to complicate all of these like processes that we’re putting in place because I don’t -- I don’t want us to become over reliant on them and think that we’re putting in bits of data and we’re going to spit out a map, and we can say this was community informed, and, you know, that’s that. We’re going to have to -- it’s going to be a messy process, and we’re going to have to have these tough conversations about savvy players in this process and what that means when we actually come down to drawing this line here versus this line here, that there are savvy players in this process. I don’t necessarily we can say they’re all nefarious actors, or that they’re all well intentioned, right. They’re just going to be savvy players on all sides, and we’re going to have to weigh that. We’re just going to have to consider that as well.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Well, thank you for that. Great conversation. We haven’t quite gotten there yet to have this conversation in the committee yet. How about we go to Commissioner Yee, but then I think we need to move onto the Language Access recommendations, if
that’s okay. Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. I just on this conversation, so for the 2010 Commission I believe one of their criticisms, heavy criticisms that came after the maps were released was the fact that they had not taken into account some organized input that had occurred behind the scenes organizing, that was politically partisan and had been hoodwinked was the term. And the Commission, as I recall, pushed back and said oh, no, we knew full well what was going on. You know we had to listen to everyone, but we knew how to weigh things.

I’m wondering if anyone has heard anything more about what actually happened, what wisdom they brought to it and how that all shook out. I see Marian actually has a response.

MS. JOHNSTON: What I recall was a string of people all saying the same thing. They were all just lined up and it was almost verbatim saying what the person before them and the next person said, and the next person said, and it became clear after a while that somebody was orchestrating it. The Commission really didn’t know what to do about it. That didn’t necessarily mean that the information wasn’t valid, but it does mean that somebody had orchestrated it.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Thanks. Yeah, this is
definitely a topic that -- oh, Commissioner Sadhwani.

    COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah. I think that’s kind of my point, right. I don’t want to cut folks off or limit their ability to provide testimony more than once. They might change. I hear all of that.

    I guess I can -- okay, we’re going to have an appointment system, and I’m just really pro-appointment system, but you think about like concert tickets, and the scalpers go in and buy them all up the minute that they’re released, right, and you could certainly see “organized interests” who wanted to influence, you know, our thinking in any particular zone, let’s say, going in the moment it opens because they’ve been watching our proceeding and they know when it’s going to go live, and boom, all the appointments are gone and we’re going to hear kind of manufactured testimony. That’s not to say that that testimony isn’t valid, and I think -- you know, to Commissioner Vasquez’s point, right, like we’ll have to really have our ears open to say okay, wait, we’re not hearing from certain groups here and why is that the case.

    I think I just want to flag that as we go into this process. If we’re thinking about all of these mechanisms, if there’s anything we can do to kind of mitigate that, you know, maybe someone with the same email address can only get one appointment slot in one day,
right. Maybe they can get another one another day, but, on that day they only get one. I don’t know. I don’t know if that’s the right solution or not, but I think, just thinking through that a little bit would help ease my mind.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: That’s a great, great suggestion. I like the way you framed that. I’m sure Marcy is scribbling notes furiously.

Okay. I think at this point we’ll have the Language Access Committee provide their thoughts.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, everyone, and let’s see. Just a couple of things I just want to highlight. There was a revised schedule posted I think early this morning. There were just a couple of dates that were incorrect. We picked up the wrong — we updated the outdated version. The correct version should be online.

But with that, so, Commissioner Akutagawa and I and Marcy — Director Kaplan we worked many hours trying to come together as she tried to herd us into some sort of recommendation mode. So, we did post the recommendations. I’m hopeful that everyone has had a chance to review that, and we’ll just go through it quickly. We’ll go through it and if there’s questions, of course, we’re open to questions as well.

And, so, these are the recommendations for language access for the public input meetings from June to
September. And what we want to make sure that we emphasize is that these recommendations are for virtual public input meetings. If at some point we pivot, we may have to change what our recommendations are. We haven’t gone that far yet.

And, so, as we look at table one of the document, our first recommendation is, as Commissioner Fornaciari has already discussed, is to use an appointment system.

And the second bullet point is that we’re recommending that the first two hours of appointments be designated for individuals requiring interpretation services, if needed. It doesn’t have to be the first two hours. We’re trying to group the time of interpretation services because that would match. We’re trying to be sufficient, use sufficient use of our funds with our interpretation funding where if we contract it’s for a one-hour slot, or two-hour slot, or a three-hour slot, but it’s kind of like a consecutive timeframe.

And so that would be -- to get to table two there are certain meetings that we’ve designated that we will provide certain interpretations, be it Spanish, be it Chinese, Japanese, Tagalog, and for those who recommend the first two hours or a group of two hours for the six-hour time slot.

And then for all the other public input meeting
that don’t necessarily -- don’t currently have interpretation designated, we recommend holding the first hour for interpretation requests because, again, we would like if individuals want Spanish interpretation that they look to see when Spanish interpretation is going to be available and hopefully sign up for those time slots. But, obviously, if it doesn’t work in their schedule, just like anyone else, they can submit requests for interpretation services, which takes us to the next bullet where appointment for interpretation services must be submitted no later than 10 business days prior to the public input meeting date, and that has to do with, one, we’re using the time slots, and then, two, also contract for those interpretation services. And then what we would do is if there is any remaining time slots designated for language interpretation, 50 percent of them would be open to all Californians five business days prior to the meeting date. And that’s because, obviously, we don’t want to have any empty slots. We’re going to have as many people be able to have an appointment versus having to wait in queue to provide their input. And if none of the time slots that are designated for language interpretation are filled, then all the slots would be open to all Californians five business days prior to the meeting date. And the last one is something that is required
that appointment time slots requiring interpretation services should be doubled to allow for consecutive interpretation, and that is actually a requirement. So, regardless of whether you say yes to all the recommendations, we do have to provide twice the time for interpretation services.

And I’ll just keep -- should I keep going, Commissioner Fornaciari, or do you want me to stop?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Chair, the meeting was scheduled to end at 4:30, and I think we just need to know how long it might go, I guess.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. So, the next break would be at 4:55, so I’m hopeful if we can get through the recommendations and then we can do one of two things. Depending on how many questions there are, we can maybe continue to tomorrow, or we could continue to plug along. So, we’ll see how the commissioners feel at that point.

Commissioner Kennedy. Oh, sorry.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Director Hernandez, do we need to cut this off or can we go longer? Is that okay with the videographer? Are we going to lose our folks?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: We’re good to continue.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: They’re good to continue until
5:00 o’clock, I believe, right, Kristian?

MR. MANOFF: As far as I know. I’ll double check on that for you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, am I going to continue, am I going to take questions? Continue, okay, I’m going to continue.

And the next --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: It’s up to you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, I’m going. I’m on a roll, I’m a stone. Let me know when you want to step in, Commissioner Akutagawa.

So, the next one is at any and every time public can always use their own interpreters such as family members. And that’s any time. That would probably be my mom. She would take me along or one of us, take us along, because we are trusted. We’re trusted interpreters, and if we don’t get it right, we get it when we get home. But, again, just so that there is no confusion as to -- there’s no requirement that you use our interpreter. You can bring your own interpreter.

Disability access, recommend ASL and close captioning for public input meetings. That’s a requirement regardless. And as we always state on our website and on our agendas, request for disability related modifications or accommodations should be made at least five business
days prior to the meeting and should be submitted in writing either by mail to our office address or by email at the Voter’s First Act at CRC.ca.gov.

Okay. Commissioner Akutagawa, should I keep going or I think -- I can remember where you picked up. Oh, Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don’t remember. I thought of this question last night, but I don’t remember if I asked it. I don’t think I did. So, this is ASL going out. What if someone who needs sign language interpretation wants to provide public input, how are we doing that?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Kristian, can our current ASL, can they provide that interpretation.

MR. MANOFF: I’m sorry, what’s the question?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, if somebody is going to be signing their public input, so we need that to be interpreted, right.

MR. MANOFF: Oh, like back into English.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, yes.

MR. MANOFF: I’ll have to check with the team on their process on that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. That’s a great question. Thank you so much. I’m going to write that down.

MR. MANOFF: So, I just got a note that the
answer is, yes, as long as they can see the person that’s signing, of course.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Of course. Okay, wonderful. Thank you so much. It’s good to know. So, that’s another incentive to make sure that we can see the public as they’re giving their input, right.

And that’s part of, as Commissioner Vasquez was saying, part of telling your story is actually watching them tell their story that’s very powerful, so -- anyway, that’s not part of our recommendation.

And I’m going to hand it off now, I believe, Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Did you finish off at the disability ones? I wasn’t sure if I --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I just did the disability ones, and now we’re at the zone --

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I wasn’t sure if you were still at the top because I heard Commissioner Fornaciari ask about that, but I didn’t hear that part.

So, okay, then I’ll just take over for the next page where -- and we’ve been talking about this, that anyone can participate in any public input meeting. So, again, if you’re in -- if you live in a specific zone but you just happen to see that another zone has a public input meeting scheduled on a date that is convenient for you and
you’re able to get an appointment or you, you know, are willing to call in on that day, you are absolutely, you know, welcome to do so, and we would not limit that to anybody, you know, who would want to call in.

And we do also want to say that from an interpretation perspective one of the reasons why we’re also making this recommendation that anybody can participate in any zone is in the effort of trying to use our interpretation resources most efficiently, as Commissioner Fernandez had said, we are asking everyone to provide us with at least 10 days advanced notice. Part of it is so that we can then see, you know, how many appointments slots will be filled up. It will also enable us to set up the interpreters on time. Also, as we have also said, anyone who has an interpretation request, we will do our best. Outside of the 12 languages we will do our best to find an interpreter to find interpretation for that person if they need that.

However, we do also want to say that since we are going to be doing this statewide as well, too, we do want to try, if we can with the 10 days advance notice try to group people so that we can make efficient use of our interpretation resources.

So, for example, we’d like to try to avoid having, you know, a single language in Zone C and then we
get a similar request for a similar language for another zone. Hopefully, you know, if people can let us know ahead of time we would try to group the languages together so that then -- because we’re going to have to engage, or hire, or contract the interpreter out for at least an hour to three hours minimum time. If we can try to, you know, funnel people into the same day, that’s at least what we’re thinking. We also recognize that that may or may not happen and maybe we’re overcomplicating things, but as much as we can we’re also trying to be responsible users of our resources as well, too. So, that’s the hope and the intent around it.

I do want to just say that in terms of how we came about determining how many of the public input meetings would be provided in certain languages, I want to just point you to page number two. What we did start with is that -- what we looked at for table two, a limited English proficient population based on the American Community Survey, and it’s the B16001 data set, that is from 2009 to 2013, which I believe is the most currently available that we were able to get, and that is a document or a data set on languages spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population five years and over. So, these are those who self-identify as being able to speak English less than very well.
So, based on what saw were the total population numbers, then we grouped them into the zones. What we found is for each of the 12 non-English languages we identified (audio skips) the three zones with the largest population for that specific language, languages, for example, that are recommended for L.A. County Public Input Meetings are languages where the particular languages are the largest concentration of limited English proficient populations in that zone and/or there were no other zones with large concentrations of that specific language.

So what does that mean in terms of the breakdown? So, we had to make some cutoffs, so we looked at zones -- statewide zones where a particular language had more than a million limited English proficient speakers of that particular language. So, there was only one language, Spanish, that had more than a million LEP speakers. And so, what we determined is that because they have over a million we would assign four meetings that would have Spanish interpretation, including one of the two statewide meetings.

I do also want to say the statewide meeting in which we will be providing Spanish interpretation, we are setting aside two hours, two hours of that meeting, not the entire meeting, because it still is a statewide meeting and we will be providing Spanish interpretation at least
minimally for two hours at three other -- on three other
dates around the country.

The next tier is statewide limited English
populations where they range from more than a hundred
thousand speakers to just under a million. And there were
these particular languages that fit within that criteria,
and those are Chinese, specifically Mandarin Chinese and
Cantonese Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean. So,
for those five languages what we determined is that there
will be two meetings per language where we will offer
interpretation.

And then the remaining 12 languages where they
had less than 100,000 limited English proficient
population, what we determined is that we would assign one
meeting where that particular language is most prevalent,
we would assign the meeting in that zone for that
particular language, and those languages are Armenian,
Farsi, Russian, Arabic, Punjabi, Japanese and Khmer. And
so if you scroll down to the next table, this is table two,
you will see in date order all of our scheduled public
input meetings and our recommendations for the meetings
that we will have specific languages in which we will
provide interpretation services.

So, our very first meeting, statewide meeting, is
on June 10th. What we determined is that the second one
being on June 19th we would also set aside two hours of
that meeting for Spanish interpretation.

Now, based on the appointment scheduling system,
what we’re hoping is that it will help us to either know we
need less slots or maybe we need more slots based on the
number of people who hopefully indicate to us based on the
system that we use that that is an in-demand interpretation
need or maybe a little bit less, and it could be because
it’s a day, and so, hopefully one of the other days is one
that Spanish speakers will be able to take advantage of.

I do want to also note, in case you’re wonder,
so, for example, in Zone C you’ll see that in Zone C we
have on June 28th we have a public input meeting scheduled
in which we are going to provide interpretation in Chinese
Mandarin and Tagalog. And then in Zone C, again, what
we’re going to be doing is on July 17 we’ll be providing
interpretation in Russian and Chinese Cantonese. And
you’ll see similar breakdowns in some of the other regions
we have. In Zone J we added Chinese Mandarin, and we did
that so we can have an even -- oh, I’m sorry. In Zone J we
have Chinese Mandarin on August 12, and then in Zone H on
August 15th we have Chinese Cantonese. And in case anyone
is wondering, Zone H is L.A. County, Zone J is Orange
County, and they’re within the same -- you know, close
enough southern California region that we felt that we
could spread Mandarin and Cantonese out in that way so that they’re two instances of Mandarin and two instances of Cantonese.

And I will stop here and see if there’s any questions. Russell.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you for that. That’s fabulous work. I love the detail of research you did to come up with this.

When folks get input and are using translation, will we give them more than three minutes?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. Thank you. Yes. We are legally obligated, the law states that they get double the time. So, if we’re giving three minutes for English speakers for anybody who needs interpretation, we will be giving six minutes to allow for the interpretation.

Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Fredy has reminded us on many occasions that languages generally are not as compact as English, and while the legal requirement may be that we give them twice as much, I would suggest that we go beyond that because of otherwise we would likely be limiting the input to less than the input that was provided in the original language. It may also take the interpreter, you know, the interpreter may struggle with a word or two here or there, so I would say let’s go with seven or eight, if
we give three just to account for that. I think that we can justify that.

You know, as far as justifying, I’ve advocated since we first met back in July that I don’t think Spanish is getting the support that it needs from this Commission. I think that, you know, out of 32 events having Spanish translation available five of them seems a little thin. I’m assuming that it could impact via all 32 if there were requests.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Correct, and that’s --

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: As far as --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: It’s not limited to the dates we have, but for planning purposes and also for our staff, we -- in trying to be more efficient, we felt that this was the best way to just approach it up front and provide an avenue and opportunity in specific languages. But if it doesn’t fit somebody’s schedule or there’s more requests, we can do more than that.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: And, you know, we’ve been saying, at least recently, that we can provide -- and we’ve been saying in the Redistricting Basics Presentation that we’ll be happy to at least do our best to ensure interpretation is in place if someone gives us five days’ notice, and now all of a sudden we’re saying 10 days’ notice. So, I don’t really understand the rationale for
that, and I think that particularly for Spanish we should be able to do much better than that.

On disability access I’m just imagining or guessing that in the second part of that table you’re talking about requests for other disability-related modification. You’re not talking about requests for ASL and closed captioned. ASL and closed is all of it. You’re not talking about --

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes, that’s all.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: -- requests for any other --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I didn’t fully understand for the remaining slots, 50 percent, five business days. Those two bullet points were a little odd, but --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: So, on those bullet points --

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Back on those --

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Sorry. Back on the Spanish, I mean if we look at, you know, who attended the California Redistricting Basics Presentations, the ones organized by the Commission, we had more than twice as many people attending the Spanish language presentation than the English language presentation if I remember correctly.

That’s all. Thank you.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I just wanted to clarify, Commissioner Kennedy, on the slots in terms of giving this -- we want to make sure that there aren’t empty slots if there are people that want to provide some of those so that they can sign up for it. So, we don’t want to -- let’s say like five days before we’ve got 10 slots available. Do we keep those slots available in the hopes that somebody is going to sign up for interpretation services? What we’re saying is we’re going to give those -- we’re going to open up half of those if no one has signed up and if there are still slots available. If no one has signed up, like let’s say it’s Spanish and nobody has signed up for those slots in Spanish by day five, then we’re going to give up the slots because then we’re going to say, okay, there isn’t any participation at this meeting and we’re going to open up the slots because, again, we’re talking about six-minute slots versus three-minute slots. And, so, we want to make sure that if we’re not going to need them we can open them up to someone else that will be able to sign up for it.

And we’re getting really close to our time. I’m not sure how we want to do this. Commissioner Fornaciari, do we want to try to continue to plug along, or do we want to finish the discussion tomorrow, because we still need to take public comment before we adjourn?
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  I’ll leave it to the Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Okay.  How is the rest of the group doing?  How are the rest of the commissioners?  Do you want to keep plugging?  That means we’d have to take a break and then come back, and we also have to check to make sure that we’re going to have our ASL and captioners.

MR. MANOFF:  Chair, we do have a scheduling issue with ASL.  We have a hard stop at five at this point.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Okay.

MR. MANOFF:  So, that doesn’t mean that we can’t add that in post-production, though.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Well --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI:  Tomorrow.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  Yes, I’m thinking we’re going to finish tomorrow.  Maybe that’s the best course right now.

So, Katy, are you still there?  Can we go to public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR:  Yes, chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ:  And this is just public comment general, and again there’s a two-minute limit for public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR:  Yes, 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, enter the meeting number provided on the livestream feed, it is 93330293366. 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 at this time we do not have any raised hands in the queue, and again, I remind those in the queue that if you would like to make a comment, star nine will raise your hand indicating that you wish to do so. And we do
have someone in the queue. Again, star nine will raise
your hand for the new person in the queue. Star nine will
raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. And their
hand is raised. Here we go. And go ahead. The floor is
yours.

MS. COTO: Hi, good evening or late afternoon,
Commissioners. This is Jacqueline Coto, state director of
civic engagement policy with NAELO Educational Fund. Thank
you so much for your robust conversation today and
yesterday and ongoing until tomorrow.

I’m actually calling in relation to the Language
Access Interpretations, the recommendations that are coming
up for the Public Input Hearing. Basically given that the
Spanish language population across the state, initially we
recommended that there be more Spanish language translation
and, in fact, we recommended that there be Spanish language
translations for every hearing. However, if that’s not
going to be possible, there really needs to be far more
language interpretation available for more of the scheduled
COI hearings -- meetings that are coming up.

So, for the June 19th, one of the earliest
statewide input hearings that you’ve been addressing, that
would be one of those earliest meetings that will offer
Spanish interpretation. However, this date is really very
difficult for us and other partners to mobilize community
members and to really funnel them into this just one day for two hours.

So, this schedule is really not adequate given the large Latino population that is disperse geographically across the entire state who are not proficient in English.

So, in looking at the other proposed dates, you are missing zones with high concentrations of Spanish speakers. In zones like Orange County, San Diego, Imperial County and for Los Angeles, which is like a huge large population there’s only one meeting scheduled for this region, for this zone.

And also with respect to the 10 days advance notice for interpretation request, this really also creates an extremely difficult barrier for organizing --

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. COTO: -- our community because we are providing -- we are basically providing technical assistance and training closest to the schedule COI hearings that are less than 10 days. So, we are strongly recommending that you allow for five days instead.

MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

MS. COTO: Thank you so much for considering our concerns and recommendations.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, Ms. Coto.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And again, star nine
would the raise the hand of the other caller that is in the queue if you wish to comment at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I believe that caller has been in the queue through the entire time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, they have. I just wanted to make sure that -- I just wanted to be sure. But, yes, they have not raised their hand and there is no one else.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thank you. So, we’re going to adjourn in a minute. I just wanted to go back to the agenda items that are still open for tomorrow for those of you that are listening. We still have, obviously, this agenda item that we will continue tomorrow, which is 9F, which is Language Access. It’s combined with number 11, which is Public Input Design Committee. We also have a motion on 9B regarding the outreach positions that we will discuss tomorrow. We also Agenda Item 9A, which is the Government Affairs Census Subcommittee Report. And we also the Labor Panel, item number 14, and that will be tomorrow at 1:30.

So with that, we will adjourn and we will see everyone tomorrow morning at 9:30, and I have Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Just to add to that list, within the hour I received an update of community of
interest tool statistics, so we’ll be happy to deliver those to the full Commission tomorrow.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. I will add that to the list. Thank you so much? Any other questions?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Recessing, not adjourning.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. See everyone at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

(Recessed at 4:58 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 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 1st day of July, 2021.

____________________________________
Jacqueline Denlinger
AAERT CERT # 747
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of July, 2021.

Myra Severtson
Certified Transcriber
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