STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty
APPEARANCES

Commissioners Present:
Derric H. Taylor, Co-Chair
Pedro Toledo, Co-Chair
Linda Akutagawa
Jane Andersen
Isra Ahmad
Alicia Fernandez
J. Ray Kennedy
Sara Sadhwani
Patricia Sinay
Trena Turner
Russell Yee
Neal Fornaciari

Staff Present:
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant
Marian Johnston, Legal Counsel
Ann Marx
Sulma Hernandez

Technical Contractors:
Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director
Interpreter (Margarita de la Torre)

Also Present

Mappers:
Andrew
Kennedy
Tamina

Public Comment:
1. Val Muchowski
2. Valerie Starkey
3. Speaker Number 3
Public Comment (Cont’d.)

4. Speaker Number 4
5. Speaker Number 5
6. Colin Fiske
7. Brian Louis Stone
8. Eileen Evermore
9. Ava Biscoe
10. Eric Lucan
11. Maddy Hirshfield
12. Laurie Richmond
13. Alicia Hamann
14. Grant Werschkull
15. Tess Albin-Smith
16. Matthew Simmons
17. Lupe Gutierrez
18. Julie Fulkerson
19. Tim Farley
20. Marion Nina Amber
21. Michael Webster
22. Kevin Hendrick
23. Barbara Scott
24. Noah Levy
25. Erin Kelly
26. Speaker Number 26
Public Comment (Cont’d.)

27. Speaker Number 27
28. Catherine Balck
29. Tim Howard
30. Tanya Horlick
31. Belia Ramos
32. Speaker Number 32
33. Leon Garcia
34. Jackie Elwood
35. Speaker Number 35
36. Speaker Number 36
37. Mathilda Chigaw
38. Randall Cruz
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4. Adjournment: page 132
Monday, August 23, 2021 9:32 o'clock a.m.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR (via Zoom): Good afternoon, California. Good afternoon, staff and Commissioners. Good afternoon, listening public. I hope everyone is well and excited for today’s COI input meeting.

Let me extend greetings and salutations on behalf of the Commission. Welcome and thank you for tuning in to today’s California Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of Interest Input Meeting.

I am Commissioner Derric Taylor, and I’ll be co-chairing today’s meeting with Commissioner Pedro Toledo. Today we will be offering one language line in the following language, Spanish, so language speakers can listen to the meeting in their native language.

Can I please have our interpreter provide our call-in numbers? Can I have the Spanish Interpreter, Margarita de la Torre, read the Spanish language line instructions?

SPANISH INTERPRETER (via Zoom): Yes. Good afternoon, Chair. This is the Spanish Interpreter, and I will be reading the language line instructions in Spanish. Thank you.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: [Instructions read in Spanish]
Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Margarita.

Now we would go to Ravi for the roll call.

Ravi.

MS. SINGH (via Zoom): Thank you, Chair.

Commissioner Toledo?

Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Vasquez?

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

Commissioner Andersen?

CO-CHAIR ANDERSEN (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ (via Zoom): Present.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI (via Zoom): Here.
MS. SINGH: And Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY (via Zoom): Here.

MS. SINGH: And Commissioner Taylor?

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: And here. Thank you.

MS. SINGH: You’re welcome.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Before we begin, we want to acknowledge all those who are impacted by the Caldor, Dixie, Monument and McFarland Fires, and the other wildfires burning now in California. Know that we are thinking of you, your families and your communities. We understand that you may not be able to participate today, but encourage you to do so later. Your voice and the voice of all Californians is important to ensure fair and representative maps.

I will start by sharing a little bit about the Commission. Every 10 years after the Federal Government publishes updated Census information, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization Districts, so that districts correctly reflect the State’s population.

In 2008, California voters authorized the creation of the Commission when they passed the Voters First Act. It authorized the Commission to draw the new district lines for State Senate, State Assembly and State Board of Equalization Districts. In 2010, the
Congressional Voters First Act added the responsibility of drawing Congressional Districts to the Commission.

The 14-member Commission is made up of five Republicans, five Democrats, and four not affiliated with either of those two parties. The Commission must draw the district lines in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representations for all Californians.

The Census redistricting data was released the week of August 9th. When the Official California Redistricting Database is available in late September, the Commission begins drawing maps using six line-drawing criteria as outlined in the California Constitution. One of these is minimizing the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods and community of interest to the best extent possible.

We can obtain the city and county information from those jurisdictions, but we need the neighborhood and communities-of-interest information from Californians directly. That’s why we have launched these Communities of Interest Input sessions, to get that valuable information from you directly. We encourage all Californians to participate in this process.

If you would rather submit COI input over the
internet, you can do so from our website, or by visiting
drawmyCAcommunity.org. Skip the line, go on-line.

Now I will call on the Commissioners to introduce
themselves and to say hello. To see the biographies for
all 14 Commissioners, or for additional information, or to
sign up for our e-mails, please visit our website at

And if he’s present, I’ll begin with the co-
Chair, Commissioner Toledo. Did he hop on yet?

All right. We’ll move on to Commissioner Isra
Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair, and
welcome everyone to today’s COI input meeting. I echo the
sentiments shared by Commissioner Taylor regarding the
fires and the disasters happening right now in Northern
California. And we encourage you to participate when you
can and when it is safe to do so, but looking forward to
today’s meeting.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.

And if she has joined us, Commissioner Linda
Akutagawa?

We will move on to Commissioner Jane Andersen.

CO-CHAIR ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair.

I also want to say to all the Californians in
this area of Northern California that our thoughts and
prayers are with you. This is a very hard time. And
despite that, we’re looking forward to all the people who
can -- who are able to come and speak with us today. We
greatly appreciate it, and we really do want to hear from
everyone else. So, thank you.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner
Andersen.

And next we have Commissioner Alicia Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: [Introduction spoken in
Spanish]

Good afternoon, California. I’m Alicia Fernandez
from Yolo County. Thank you all for participating today.
And I’ve got to tell you, every time I -- someone calls in,
I learn a little bit more about California. So, thank you.
Keep -- either call in, write, e-mail, whatever the case
may be. And, again, our hearts do go out for those that
are impacted by the fires. Thank you.

Thank you, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner
Fernandez.

Next we have Commissioner Neal Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Good afternoon,
California. Thank you for joining us for our input
meeting. Looking forward to hearing all about your areas.
And I just want to echo the sentiments about the fires and
the impact that those fires are having on folks. And please provide your input in any way you can, but please be safe, and our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

We have Commissioner Ray Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

Good afternoon, everyone. I’m joining the meeting from my home in Morongo Valley, which is a rural Joshua Tree gateway community in the desert of Southern San Bernardino County. I’m looking forward to hearing what makes your community special to you. And thank you again.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

I have -- Commissioner Antonio Le Mons able to join us yet?

We will move on to Commissioner Sara Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Chair, welcome to all who are able to join us today. My name is Sara Sadhwani. I’m a resident of Los Angeles County, looking forward to hearing more about your communities, whether that’s today or at some point in the future. As mentioned by everyone, you know, sending -- sending many thoughts to those impacted by the fires. And please know this is not your only opportunity to get involved. There will be many more.
CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

Next we have Commissioner Patricia Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Gracias, Commissioner Taylor.

[Introduction spoken in Spanish]

All those who are being affected by the fires, we’re thinking about you. Please do participate when you can. There are a lot of different ways to participate. I’m serving you from San Diego

[Introduction continued in Spanish].

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

Joy, joy, joy. We have next Commissioner Trena Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Well, good afternoon, California. It’s just an honor to be able to serve you in the way that we and my fellow Commissioners, all of us are. I’m Trena Turner. I bring you greetings from the San Joaquin Central Valley. I live in Stockton. I’m an ordained minister there, and just really looking forward to hearing from each and every one of you, expecting to be further enlightened by where you live.

I’m surprised always at the pieces of California. I think I’ve been pretty much all over the world and what have you, and as we are hearing from the Californians
that’s calling in, I’m thinking, I don’t think I’ve been to that part of California either. So, I think I’ve traveled too far out now. I need to expand and learn more about the State in which I live. So I’m looking forward to doing that vicariously right now through you all. Thank you for being here.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. Has Commissioner Vasquez been able to join us yet? Then we will move on to -- I’m eager to learn a new fact today, Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Hi. I’m Russell Yee here in my home town of Oakland. And I look forward to hearing from California today, but especially from the North Coast. Our hearts are indeed with you through this fire season and active fires in your areas, but also the ongoing drought, which I know is grinding and really affecting many, many of your lives along the coast.

So, we want to hear about your concerns, about representation that you have and are happy with or unhappy with, and how would you like to see the maps drawn for this next election decade.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, Commissioner Yee.

And hearing from all Commissioners that have logged on, I am Commissioner Derric Taylor. I’m joining you from L.A. County, from the City of Los Angeles, and
much like Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Turner, explained I learned something new from each and every one of these COI input meetings. Your input is valuable. And much like Commissioner Kennedy stated, I am eager to get more of your COI input.

We as a Commission we are active on social media, so please also follow the California Citizens Redistricting Commission on social media. You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube at wedrawthelineca.org. Again, your handle is at wedrawthelineca, one word. Follow us on social media. Following us on social media is another way to get useful information about redistricting and updates from the California Commission.

Before we continue, could I please have our interpreters provide our language line numbers one more time?

Margarita, please.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair.

[Instructions read in Spanish]

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you.

This meeting’s primarily for communities-of-interest testimony, focus on Del Norte, Humboldt County, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, Sonoma, Trinity Counties and the
surrounding areas, however, anyone in California can call in to provide input. General public comment will take place at the end of the meeting. Although the Commission has divided up California into 11 zones, that in no way is related to or reflective of redistricting lines or boundaries.

The Commission created the zones to assist Commissioners and staff in their outreach efforts only, not as an indication of plan boundaries. Today, we are joined by our line drawing team, Haystaq DNA and Q2 Data & Research, who will be displaying a map of the area that attendees describe.

Please start with the area you would like to discuss, and be as specific as possible about the boundary of where you community is located. It is our goal to find the area on the map you would like discuss prior to your testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your area, your time will begin.

Attendees will not be able to share their screen. We are also joined by our Spanish Interpreter and Katy, our Comment Moderator. We’ll be introducing attendees when it is their turn to speak. When you join the meeting, please use the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. If you have registered for a timeslot, we
encourage you to call in during your appointment timeslot. When it is your turn to speak, Katy, our Comment Moderator, will be identifying you by your assigned, unique I.D. number. You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio.

Registration is not required to participate in this public input meeting. The public has the option of calling in during the meeting to get in the queue to speak. If you do not have an appointment and wish to call in to provide public input, the number is 877-853-5247. Again, the number to provide input is, 877-853-5247. You will need to enter Meeting I.D. 86916422442. This call-in information and access code is also listed on the live stream. You will need to dial this number in order to give public input.

Today there will be Spanish interpreters available to interpret non-English input at this call-in number. The comment moderator will assign you a speaker order number before you begin speaking, and please make a note of this for future reference. You will be able to use this number to identify your COI testimony on our website at a future date.

The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit for English speakers, and a six-minute time limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a
warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining.

At the beginning of your input you will see a map on the screen. Please remind the mapper what area you would like to see on the screen, and be as specific as possible about the boundaries of where your community is located.

If at the conclusion of the meeting there is still a need to allow for members of the public in the queue to speak, we will continue this COI input meeting at a new date and time, and will attempt to schedule the remaining members of the public to speak for their allotted three minutes. Please monitor the website, as we expect to post the continuation of this agenda within 24 hours.

A little information about the communities of interest and the Communities of Interest Tool. While there are no clear rules on how to define a community of interest, we’ve identified ways for you to describe your community.

One, begin with your county or city. Two, mention the street names and significant locations in your neighborhood to help us identify the parameters of your community. Three, what are you shared interests? Four, what brings your community together? Five, what is important to your community? Six, are there nearby areas you want to be in a district with? Seven, are there nearby
areas you do not want to be in a district with, and please
us why or why not. And, eight, has your community come
together to advocate for important services, better
schools, roads or health centers in your neighborhood?

And these are not the only ways that you can
describe your communities. Also, we invite you to use the
Communities of Interest Tool to draw a map and describe
your community by visiting drawmycacomunity.org. The
website is available in 16 languages. Again, skip the
line, go on-line. Submit your COI input today.

And, please, encourage at least three or more,
indefinite numbers of people to do the same. As a
reminder, even though we are focusing on specific counties,
Californians from anywhere in the State are welcome to
provide input.

We will now begin the public input session, and
we’ll start with the people who are registered, and then
open the phone lines, if there’s time, before the next
session. If you are calling without an appointment, please
do not hang up as you will lose your place in line.

I will hand this over to Katy, our Comment
Moderator.

Katy.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair.

Welcome to the public input session. Please use
the raise-hand button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is your turn to speak, I will identify you by your assigned, unique I.D. number from your invite. You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio. You will then be assigned a speaker order number before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your speaker order number for future reference.

The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute time limit for English speakers, and a six-minute time limit for those with an interpreter. There will be a warning at 30 seconds and 15 seconds remaining. It is the Commission’s goal to find the area on the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony. If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city, please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your area, your three- or six-minute testimony will begin. Attendees will not be able to share their screen.

At the end of your public input or at the end of your time, you will be reconnected in a listen-and-view-only mode. At the beginning of your input, please remind the mapper of what area you would like to see on the screen. At this time we will begin with 012, and then up next will be 002.

012, I will be promoting you now. 012, your
speaker order number is number one, if you will please make
note of that for future reference. You can now enable your
audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.
If you will please let the mapper know what area you would
like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. MUCHOWSKI: Okay. This is Val Muchowski.
And I’d like to discuss the North Coast, which includes
Mendocino County where I live. And I live in Philo,
California, so -- can you find it?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment.

MS. MUCHOWSKI: Mendocino County. Philo, Highway
128.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MS. MUCHOWSKI: Okay. When do I begin?

MR. MANOFF: Go ahead, please.

MS. MUCHOWSKI: All right. My name is Val
Muchowski. I live in Philo in Mendocino County on the
North Coast. We are 17 miles from the ocean. I am a
retired teacher. I moved to Philo 45 years ago and built a
dome on 20 acres. We were part of the back-to-the-land
group who loved the North Coast.

The North Coast consists of Del Norte, Humboldt,
Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. Linked together by
the coastal range of mountains, the west side of the
mountains are lined with ocean, with beaches, state and
federal parks, coastal tourist towns, redwood trees and fishing.

The eastern side of the mountains are fruitful valleys filled with vineyards, tasting rooms, dairies and cheese making, as well as small towns and villages. This area used to be ranching sheep and growing apples. There’s quite a variety now.

Highway 101 links the North Coast from Del Norte to Marin County. The North Coast is also linked by water distribution. Lake Mendocino, Lake Sonoma and Russian River bring water to Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. The Eel River northward flows through Mendocino and Humboldt Counties.

People are also linked by Humboldt State and Sonoma State, educating the students of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. They are the only University of California campuses on the North Coast.

Although the North Coast is very rural, we are notably different from much of rural California. Environmental protection, love of public land and concern about climate change are values shared on the North Coast. Mendocino is affected by climate change in a similar way to the other counties on the North Coast.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.
MS. MUCHOWSKI: Where sea levels rise and changing ocean conditions will affect our economies and our natural resources. The North Coast holds together geographically, and should have the same representation -- 

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. MUCHOWSKI: -- on the state and federal level. Please keep Del Norte and the Golden Gate districts -- to the Golden Gate districts intact. Thank you very much. And I made it through.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right now we will have 002, and up next will be 001.

002, I’ll be promoting you now. 002, your speaker order number will be number two, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. STARKEY: Great. Thank you. I want to be talking about District 2 as a whole today. So, I’m just going to go ahead and start.

My name is Valerie Starkey. I am a supervisor in Del Norte County. And while I am not speaking on behalf of the entire board, I do want to bring your attention to some of the concerns I have regarding the possibility of
changing our district lines. You have a very important job on this Commission, and your decisions will impact rural communities for a decade.

Del Norte County has a population of roughly 27,000 people. We are rural, we are poor, and we greatly rely upon the State for assistance. Most of our livelihood locally comes from the fishing industry, our prison, which is Pelican Bay, and our increasing industry of tourism. Eight-percent of our land is state or federally owned, so growth in our area is restricted, and we will most always be -- we’ll most likely always be rural and we will most likely always be a poor county.

Some of the speakers today are going to want you to consider moving us to District 1, so they will present information which indicates that we are more in line with Shasta and Siskiyou Counties. And I will admit we share some similarities, but our likeness to District 2 is far more significant.

Del Norte County, along with Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin have a coastline which promotes fishing, crabbing, outdoor recreation, and sometimes a lot of restrictions from the California Coastal Commission. The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does though -- so through planning and
regulation of environmentally sustainable development, and most important, effective intergovernmental coordination.

We need to ensure that our governmental representation is familiar with our coastal needs. As it stands now, five out of the seven counties in District 2 are coastal counties, allowing our representatives to become intimately familiar with our needs.

Our fishing industry is one of the last remaining industries in our region. Over the past few years, restrictions on crabbing due to whale entanglements have made it difficult for our fishermen. Knowing that our representatives were advocating for five counties at once, because they were familiar with our needs, eased some fishermen’s concerns.

Our crabbing season on the North Coast correlates with Humboldt, Mendocino and a portion of Sonoma, tying this coastline together. Additionally, our coastal counties all share research and resources for tsunamis.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. STARKEY: After Del Norte County experienced a tsunami in 2011, our connection with other coastal counties who have port-based fishing communities and harbors to house our boats became even more significant. Please consider keeping Del Norte County with the coastal communities in our district. Thank you for your time.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 001, and then up next will be 003.

001, I will be promoting you now. 001, your speaker order number will be number three, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 3: Thank you very much. I’d like to speak to Sonoma County, most specifically, the town of Sebastopol. We’re equidistance between Santa Rosa and Bodega Bay. So we’re west of Highway 101. It’s (indiscernible). There you go. There we are.

My family owns and operates a vineyard and winery in this area, in West Sonoma County. We identify as North Coast. We’re 13 miles from the ocean as the drone flies. And one unifying interest of our community is broadband. I have the pleasure of being active with the North Bay/North Coast Regional Broadband Consortium. And we advocate for the deployment and access and affordability of broadband in four counties, representing Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino.

Our purpose is to now coordinate with new legislation that is going to build a middle-mile, statewide, open access broadband infrastructure that will
generally run north and south. It’s being coordinate by
the California Public Utilities Commission, Caltrans, and
other agencies. And a lot of what is being discussed is to
follow the state right-of-ways and highways, so most
notably Highway 1 and Highway 101. And so that strategic
corridor is part of what links the North Coast together.

There are currently 14 such consortia throughout
the State. We’re funded by the California Public Utilities
Commission. We also share in North Bay low population,
agriculture, tourism and geographical challenges to the
deployment of broadband, so many of those issues are shared
issues.

To the north of us there is another consortium
called the Redwood Coast Connect, and that includes
Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte. Broadband connectivity
does not stop or start with county lines. Coordinating and
planning north to south will reduce the cost, the capital
expenditures --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 3: -- and increase access to
broadband, which is so vital to everyone in the State of
California. I thank you very much for this opportunity to
explain this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 003, and then up next will
be 021.

003, I will be promoting you now. 003, your speaker order number will be number four, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 4: Yeah. So I will be discussing Del Norte through Marin Counties, the current district. And I’m having trouble turning on the video. There we go. I think that’s good, right? Can you see me?

MR. MANOFF: We can’t see you but we can hear you okay.

SPEAKER NUMBER 4: Sorry, I --

MR. MANOFF: You have -- it’s okay. We can hear you --

SPEAKER NUMBER 4: All right. I’ll just talk. I’ll just talk.

All right. Dv-laa-ha, Commissioners, Dv-laa-ha is greeting in Tolowa Dee-ni’, the indigenous people in most of Del Norte County. We also are home to the Yurok Tribe, which extends into Humboldt County. And you may not know this, but our county has more registered tribal members living on or near their traditional land than anywhere else in California, and we’re very proud of that.
I have lived and worked in Del Norte County for 28 years. My work is developing nature tourism and restoring coastal dune habitats. And if you hear Supervisor Starkey say, that our county is 80-percent federal and state land, then you can see why we would have nature tourism.

Our county is isolated from the eastern California counties by steep, roadless mountains quested with federal wilderness areas. I hope that you will keep Del Norte in our current coastal district with Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. All of these counties have redwood and outdoor tourism, harbors, rivers, salmon and other fishing and more.

One of our most powerful regulators is the California Coastal Commission which connects us all. Common challenges in our future are sea level rise, earthquakes and tsunamis. My restoration work on public land relies on close partnerships with state, federal and nonprofit agencies, for example, state parks. So you may be surprised to hear that nearly all of these partners are based in and live in Humboldt County, which is a two-hour drive to the south for me.

Regulatory agency staff of the Coastal Commission, State Air and Water Boards, are also all located in Humboldt and Sonoma Counties. Through our
Humboldt-based dunes co-op we connect with Mendocino and Marin. I have meetings, trainings and conferences with these folks down in Humboldt. I also receive healthcare in Humboldt. What do I do when I’m done with these meetings?

It is relatively easy to meet with our elected representatives or their --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 4: -- or their staff in their Humboldt offices. I may talk to them about candidates for the northern Coastal Commission seat, or other state parks and Cal Fish and Wildlife funding issues.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 4: More than 10 years ago we were a district with the counties to the east. I am hard-pressed to find something that our temperate rain forest and redwood tourism-dependent county has in common with the dry, hot counties in the valleys to the east.

MR. MANOFF: Time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 021, and up next will be 014.

021, I’ll be promoting you now. 021, your speaker order number will be number five, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to
SPEAKER NUMBER 5: Good afternoon, everyone. I am Eureka, which is in Humboldt County. And Eureka’s there on the bay -- there we are.

So, I want to thank everyone for your time today. As I’ve already seen, you’re going to hear a lot of reasons that our district boundaries should remain, and that we should continue to be considered the North Coast.

I thought I’d mention something that is a little more specific, maybe that folks might not know about, that I think is a good example. So, I work a lot in economic and workforce development. And when Covid started, there were a number of economic development professionals I guess that are here in Humboldt, realizing that the agencies in support needed to come together to support our local businesses, to support our workforce. And in bringing that group together they immediately realized that we as Humboldt County are not alone, that we are a region. And it was very important that we bring regional partners in as well.

And so, Del Norte County became involved, Mendocino County became involved. We’ve even had representatives from Sonoma and Lake County come. And really, the point of this simply is to look at economic and workforce development and supporting the region
economically through this Covid crisis. It’s been incredibly effective. There have been a lot of regional projects that have come about as a result of that collaboration and this organization and continues to.

And the other advantage of bringing these groups together is we have had a chance to meet with elected representatives. And because this entity, this organization, even though it’s not formal, this collaborate group already existed. And so, we’re very effective in being able to communicate with our representatives our needs, our opportunities, the challenges, that sort of thing.

It’s also built relationships, and I think the whole North Coast really has a culture of collaboration and mutual support. And I really hope that you consider all of the testimony today, and that we are allowed to continue to work with our partners to the north and the south, and a little bit to the east of us. And thank you very much for your time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now we will have 014, and then up next will be 008.

014, I’ll be promoting you now. 014, your speaker order number is number six, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your
MR. FISKE: Good afternoon. My name is Colin Fiske, and I live in Arcata in Humboldt County, but really I do want to discuss the North Coast as a whole, so I think that map is probably fine.

I really, like many of the other speakers, would like to see the coastal counties north of San Francisco Bay kept together in a single district. North Coastal California is a large and diverse area, but it shares a set of important ecological parameters with foggy, mild coastal areas separated by only a few miles from sort of more typical dry, hot, summer Mediterranean climate conditions.

We are a community of rivers and bays and lagoons and coastlines, and many of the region’s main industries are based on our shared and unique environmental features, from agriculture to tourism. We also have along with those, strong shared environmental values.

Our economy, our history and our culture are dramatically distinct from those of our neighboring inland counties, where environmental values are not as strong and the economies are more heavily extractive and industrial.

Critically, our future challenges are distinct as well. Because of our combination of environmental
features, the coastal counties face both increase in wildfires and increasing sea-level rise. Our small towns and rural communities will be origins and destinations for climate refugees. This complex and evolving situation is perhaps unique in the State, and I think will dominate much of the future policymaking that most affects our region.

So, for that reason, I would encourage you to keep the region together, so that our future elected officials can effectively represent the unique, shared conditions that will face as a result of the climate crisis. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now we will have 008, and up next will be 011.

008, I will be promoting you now. 008, your speaker order number is number seven, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. STONE: Yes. My name is Brian Stone. I am a harbor commissioner with the Crescent City Harbor District. I’m also the board president. And if we could zoom in a little bit on Crescent City, please. There you go. A little bit more to the left. There you go, is Bertsch-
Oceanview. There we go. If you look down below in the corner there, you’ll see the Crescent City Harbor. There’s that little tiny strip down there. It’s actually not just that corner of land right there, it is the entire 4,352 acres of harbor that exists in Del Norte County. And that’s primarily where I want to speak about.

This is one of the largest ports on the West Coast. It has a net value of about $420,000,000. And the primary focus is on two things, fishing, as well as tourism. The fishing industry, the crab season alone the year before last, brought $54,000,000 worth of revenue. The other fisheries that are involved with the harbor are crab -- the crabbing season, the Dungeness crab, salmon, (indiscernible), bottom fish, shrimp and others.

One of the primary things that I need to tell you is that the harbor is basically tied to the south through -- along Highway 101, through Humboldt, down into Mendocino and down into the Bay Area, primarily because catch from our fish that we bring in, the crab primary goes south in the San Francisco Bay area. Most of the processing that is done is done in Eureka, California, and we’re tied directly to them. And we just recently signed a lease with Pucci Foods one of their subsidiaries, which is a Bay Area company. And they are going to open a facility in our harbor, which will basically -- what’s the term? I’m
missing it. But, anyway, they will basically process the fish right there at the harbor, and then ship it via trucks out. That’s the primary goal. Because one of the things that I think we should look at is our geographic ties to the rest of the State. We don’t have any roads going east over the mountains into Siskiyou and over in towards Shasta.

Can you draw the map back a little bit, please? You’ll notice from the map there, you’ll see -- well, right there. That’s good -- you’ll see that Highway 101 goes north and south. And then you’ll see Highway 199 that goes over to the east. That goes up into Oregon, up into Grants Pass, up into Medford, and it follows along the ridgeline and extends itself all the way into Oregon. So we’re not part of the eastern part of the State here.

MR. MANOFF: Twenty seconds.

MR. STONE: There’s no roads going east out of Del Norte County. Primarily we’re tied to the south and to our neighbors to the south.

MR. MANOFF: Ten seconds.

MR. STONE: One of our primary functions at the harbor is also tourism. We have 208 RV slips in two parks.

MR. MANOFF: Time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we have 011, and up next will be 022.
011, I will be promoting you now. 011, your speaker order number will be number eight, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. EVERMORE: My name is Eileen Evermore, and I have lived and worked in Del Norte County for the last 47 years. I live off of Highway 199, which was just shown to you, which runs 23 miles from the Oregon border in a little town called Gasquet.

I had a jewelry store in Crescent City, a retail jeweler. I am a goldsmith and diamond setter. I had more store in Crescent City for 27 years. I recently retired and I now have a business as a vacation rental owner and operator. And that’s what I wanted to address now is the significance primarily of the 101 corridor.

I communicate with my guests on a regular basis — and by the way, I’m very successful at this. I’ve been at it for three years, and I am booked solid from like April to October. And then I’m booked -- every year I’m booked more and more.

But I communicate with my guests, and they tell me -- one of the things I always say is where are you coming from? And I always assume they would be flying in
from Medford, because Medford is the closest airport. But, no, that’s not the case. In fact, the majority of my guests coming from the south are flying into San Francisco. And I do believe it has been part due to restrictions of Covid.

And now that they’re free and they can travel, their vacation begins the minute they rent the car. Airplane travel isn’t that enjoyable anymore. They get in the car in San Francisco, they want to see the city by the bay. They want to see the bay, they want to be on the Golden Gate Bridge. They want to travel through wine country. They want to taste the vineyard. They want to go Mendocino. They want to see Fort Bragg. They even want to drive on Highway 1.

Even when they get into Humboldt and they’re looking at those redwood trees and they want to see the trees, they also -- excuse me, want to come to Del Norte County because we have the Smith River, which is the gem of the six-river system. In fact, I live in the Smith River National Recreation Area. And that is -- the river is growing in popularity. It is beautiful, pristine, it’s water sports, it’s kayaking, board paddling, swimming, fishing, sports fishing.

And so that 101 corridor, which we had had a terrible landslide between Klamath and Crescent City, that
has really crimped our style in terms of allowing those
tourists to get to us on the south end from Crescent City
of the 101 corridor. Well, I mean, during the time I’ve
lived in Gasquet, there’s -- I’ve watched Caltrans try to
patch that up.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. EVERMORE: Fortunately now have a plan to
reroute that, and that is going to be so significant. I
really want to stay in touch with the entire 101 corridor,
because so many of our tourists are coming straight to us
from San Francisco.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. EVERMORE: Thank you for this opportunity to
speak, and for your time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 022, and then up next will
be 016.

022, I will be promoting you now. 022, your
speaker order number will be number nine, and if you’ll
please make note of that for future reference. And if
you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like
to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. BISCOE: I would like to discuss Humboldt
County. I’m a resident of Arcata, and I live near Humboldt
State University where I attend school.
My community of interest would best be described as the North Coast, or broadly Zone A, including Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Sonoma, Lake and Napa Counties. I feel that we are best represented together because of our unique ecological connections that are provided by the coastal influence of the ocean. And we are best represented together because we share this ecological community of the coastal redwoods, and we also face unique challenges of our coastal communities, which include sea-level rise and ocean acidification.

Another important reason to keep our community of interest together is because state agencies also recognize the important connection of the North Coast. For example, Caltrans District 1 is charged with our roads in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties. And the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District also ensures clear air for Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity Counties. And the North Coast Water Quality Control Board tends to clean water for Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Mendocino Counties, among others.

And, yeah, so that we are best represented together to face our unique environmental challenges, in that we are less well-suited with more inland communities, such as Tehama, Siskiyou and Shasta Counties, because those communities are based on more of an extractive economy and...
are less protective of their public lands and environmental resources. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now we will have 016, and then up next will be 007.

016, I will be promoting you now. 016, your speaker order number is number 10, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. LUCAN: Greeting, Commissioners. My name is Eric Lucan. I’m calling in from Novato, the northern most city in Marin County. If we could move over to the map there.

I am a Novato native and a 40-plus-year resident. I’ve also served on the Novato City Council for the past 10 years, and also as mayor. I’m currently the Mayor pro tem. But I should clarify that my comments today are as an individual and not on behalf of the City of Novato or the City Council.

I think if there’s one major theme or thought that I hope to communicate, is that Marin County has many more shared interests with Sonoma County, the North Bay and the North Coast, than we do across the bridge to the south with San Francisco.
Marin and Sonoma and the greater North Coast are closely connected, and I just want to briefly speak about this kind of through the lens of transportation. In addition to the Novato City Council, I’m also the chair for the Transportation Authority of Marin. And over the past decades we’ve worked closely with Sonoma County Transportation Authority on the Marin-Sonoma Narrows Highway 101 Project. Our counties and the whole North Coast are connected by one major transportation corridor, Highway 101. It connects our communities, our local economies and our businesses.

In addition to that, our counties, Marin and Sonoma, came together to form SMART, the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District, of which I’ve been a director for the past 10 years. SMART is one of just 31 commuter rail lines in the entire country. With current service running from the Sonoma County Airport Station in Sonoma County to Larkspur Station, with connection to the ferry for access to San Francisco. SMART is continuing to expand more with planned stations in Windsor, Healdsburg and Cloverdale. Transportation and transit is just one way our communities are connected and should remain connected through district boundaries.

Beyond transportation there are many other, both organic and planned, collaborations between Marin and the
North Bay and the North Coast, including the North Bay Watershed Authority, labor groups, business groups, agriculture. We have a Highway 37 working group, a North Bay Life Science Alliance, the Great Redwood Trial and many, many more. Based on all of the past work, collaboration and partnerships amongst Marin, Sonoma and the entire North Coast, I encourage you to keep Marin together with the other North Coast counties. Thank you for your time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 007, and then up next will be 020.

007, I will be promoting you now. 007, your speaker order number will be number 11, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. HIRSHFIELD: Hi. Can you see me or hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can. Both.

MS. HIRSHFIELD: So, I’m going to be talking about Sonoma and Marin. My name is Maddy Hirshfield. I am with the North Bay Labor Council, and actually Council Member Lucan just make all of my points, but I will try to add a few, and I will be brief. I doubt I’ll take the
three minutes.

But I also want to talk about keeping Marin and Sonoma County together, and not looping Marin off into San Francisco. As I mentioned, I’m with the North Bay Labor Council. We cover Sonoma, Marin, Lake and Mendocino Counties, and the issues are -- in Marin are just more similar to those areas.

They -- a lot of people live in Sonoma County and commute to Marin. Many of the workers are concerned that Marin will be sectioned off into San Francisco that’s more urban. Sonoma County and Marin are more suburban and rural, and don’t really have as much in common with San Francisco. The jobs are similar, the issues are similar. We share representatives, state representatives. And many of the workers are concerned that Marin will move off into San Francisco, and we just want to be sure that that doesn’t happen. It fits much better in Sonoma County and with the North Coast.

And I have to say that I agree with almost everything I heard everyone saying about the northern -- even northern areas, Mendocino, Del Norte, Humboldt. All of those counties have been together for a long time. We share issues. And I would urge you to keep those together, specifically Sonoma and Marin Counties. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Caller, are you still there?
MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Thank you.

Unique I.D. 007, if you could please unmute. The Chair has some additional questions for you.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Hi, caller. Are you still here?

MS. HIRSHFIELD: I’m here. Sorry.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you. I -- we truly appreciate your testimony. Just as a point of clarity, can you define what the North Bay is, and how far north your definition is of the North Coast community?

MS. HIRSHFIELD: Are we talking the North Bay Labor Council or the North Coast community? I’m not sure I understood the question.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: So, we would just like your definition of what the North Coast is --

MS. HIRSHFIELD: Uh-huh.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: -- and what your definition is, what the North Bay is.

MS. HIRSHFIELD: Okay. Well, in terms of the North Bay Labor Council for whom I work, we cover Sonoma, Marin, Mendocino and Lake Counties. But as far as what the North Coast is considered, to me that is Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte. Does that answer your question?

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Yes, it does. Thank you very
much.

MS. HIRSHFIELD: Okay. Sure.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have 020, and then up next will be 018.

020, I’ll be promoting you now. 020, your speaker order number will be number 12, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. RICHMOND: Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for this opportunity you have. Thanks for all the hard work that you all are doing. I am in Humboldt County. I’m hoping to talk about kind of the whole North Coast region, of the sort of District 2 region that you have set aside.

My name is Laurie Richmond. I am a professor at Humboldt State University in the Department of Environmental Science and Management, although I’m kind of speaking on behalf of -- not of the university, but of myself as an individual.

I do work on marine and coastal systems. And of the policy and planning dimensions, I sort of teach planning classes on marine and coastal planning, working with fishing communities and on questions of coastal resilience. And I would just like to echo -- I don’t know that I have a ton more to add from the wonderful,
articulate testimony that lots of folks have given you up and down the coast, but just to add to the chorus of really keeping these North Coast communities together. That we really -- I see them as really knitted, sort of economically, socially and environmentally, with similar ecosystems, facing kind of some similar challenges.

I’ve done a lot of work with fishing communities of the California North Coast, you know, from Crescent City kind of all the way down, and know that there’s just a lot of common issues that commercial fishing, recreational, charter fishing all remain very important parts of the economy of these regions.

And so being able to be together and have a government advocate that understands these issues and kind of advocate for them together, sort of if there’s disaster money for a crab fishery, that money can come -- sort of be advocated and kind of come together. And I’ve seen it happen, the communities are really linked and work a lot together on challenges related to commercial fishing.

Also, facing a lot of similar challenges, folks have talked about it. I am the co-chair of the HSU, has a sea-level rise initiative that’s really focused on research and planning related to sea-level rise. A lot in Humboldt Bay, which is experiencing the fastest rate of sea-level rise in California, but these challenges are happening up
and down the coast. And I think there will be a lot of need for communities to kind of work together on these issues.

At the same time we are kind of knitted together through wildfire issues, a lot of rural land in Trinity County as well. That learning how to kind of manage and deal with climate change, and also like a real forward thinking about how we’re going to plan and adapt to this. So I think facing a lot of similar challenges.

Lastly, just talk about the abundant natural resources, economies kind of embedded with them, protecting them, especially --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. RICHMOND: -- the salmon fisheries and rivers that continue to be a priority to restore. It just culturally, if feels like we’re together and we all travel together.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. RICHMOND: So, anyway, just really echoing all the wonderful things folks are saying together -- okay. And so, thank you all for your time. And I’m happy to answer questions later.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 018, and then up next will
be 017. I would like to invite 009, 015, 019 and 023 to use the raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen, as you have appointments during this session, and you will have priority.

018, I will be promoting you now. 018, your speaker order number is number 13, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. HAMANN: Hi. My name is Alicia Hamann, and I -- the community I want to speak about today is Northwestern California, specifically, I am from Humboldt County. In my work as Executive Director for Friends of the Eel River, partnering with other counties, specifically, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin, is extremely helpful on our programs on Eel River Dam removal and building the Great Redwood Trail. And those are just two examples of how connected our region and the North Coast really is.

One thing that defines our community is the unique ecology of California’s Northwest coast. Our coastal moderated forests, particularly the redwoods, form an ecological community which has really supported economic and cultural history that’s unique to our region. This
community faces challenges which are also unique to our region, especially changes we’re experiencing due to the climate crisis. Sea-level rise and reduced summer fog are two issues that affect our region, and it’s really important that we’re united in addressing these challenges.

Most of our region is rural, but we are distinct from many other rural regions of California, in that environmental protection, love of public lands, and concern for and a will to address climate change are values that are really strongly shared in our community.

Coastal rivers and streams unite and define northwestern California. They’re more than bodies of water, they’re really a way of life here. Our rivers drain to the Pacific Ocean, and unlike watersheds and ecosystems farther inland, ours are heavily influenced by the ocean, by marine fog and, of course, by the anadromous lifecycles of salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, lamprey and other wildlife in our unique ecosystem.

Our climate and environment have helped to shape the economies of the area, whether that’s wood, wine or weed, we’ve developed a similar culture that prioritizes clean and healthy environment in order to protect these economies. And, of course, ocean fishing is another economic activity which ties together the North Coast and distinguishes us from inland portions of Northern
California.

Our economy and our culture are shaped by our natural environment, and our interests are best served when regions with that shared natural environment are represented together. Geographic boundaries have shaped our culture, and continuing to share representation with the communities defined by those geographic boundaries makes sense, because it maintains a certain clarity of shared interests and goals.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. HAMANN: And Northern California’s coast and the immediately adjacent areas, we share this common economy and culture, but we are a less similarly aligned with communities to the east. These areas are more culturally conservative.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

MS. HAMANN: Their economies are more tied to extractive industries. And they’re just (indiscernible) for our area and our shared values in this community.

Thank you so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 017, and then up next will be 013.

I would again like to invite those that have appointments during this session to please use the raise
hand button at the bottom of your screen. That is for 009, 015, 023. I also invite caller 0526, unique I.D. 004, to press star-nine to raise your hand if you wish to give comment during this session.

I do see those hands. And caller 0526, I do see your hand as well.

017, I will be promoting you now. 017, your speaker order number is number 14, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. WERSCHKULL: Thank you very much. My name is Grant Werschkull. I am a Del Norte County resident, and specifically, that would be the City of Crescent City, and living very proximate in the Hiouchi area to the Smith River, which was mentioned by a couple previous speakers.

And I just want to thank you for the opportunity to speak about our North Coast region, and also just acknowledge many wonderful previous speakers touching on issues that I was planning to speak to. And so I won’t be redundant. I’ll try to touch on things that perhaps were not mentioned as much.

I have been living in the area off and on for about almost 50 years as a consultant to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, planning team with Redwood
National Parks. Executive director, and now co-executive
director of a nonprofit called the Smith River Alliance,
and also consulting with some of our local institutions,
like the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority.

And, you know, over the years, some of the points
that have been mentioned so very much resonate for me,
recognizing our tribes here in the area, that would be the
Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria, the Yurok
tribes. And, you know, frankly, their historic areas, and
the natural features that we have here, the ocean, our
coastal forests, our rivers, so incredibly defining and
empowering really for all of us.

The agency that I am working with now, the Smith
River Alliance, we’re particularly involved in salmonid
habitat restoration. That’s just an important cultural
species for the entire coast. And it really, you know, all
the way back pre-European, is such a binding, almost totem,
if you would, to, you know, who we are as a people and what
we strive to do to see that those species would be fully
restored.

Some of the institutions that were mentioned
previously are public trust agencies, serve the North Coast
region, such as the Coastal Commission, North Coast
Regional Water Quality Control Board. You heard from the
harbor. One entity that I don’t think was mentioned was
the Border Coast Regional Airport Authority. And as that name suggests --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. WERSCHKULL: -- as that name suggests, that’s coastal Del Norte County, City of Crescent City, El Valley Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, and then our colleagues to the north, Brookings and Curry County.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

MR. WERSCHKULL: So, thank you for helping us hold our little bioregion together on the North Coast. And we value our neighbors very much and appreciate the opportunity to be heard by you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now we will have 013, and up next will be 005.

013, I’ll be promoting you now. 013, your speaker order number will be number 15, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.

MS. ALBIN-SMITH: Hello. My name is Tess Albin-Smith, and I’ll be speaking about the North Coast. I currently live on -- serve on the City of Fort Bragg Council and in Mendocino County, as well as many councils
and committees with joint jurisdiction throughout the
County of Mendocino.

Again, I live in Fort Bragg. It’s a community
about three hours north of San Francisco, and about five
hours south of the Oregon border. All our coastal
committees are surrounded by redwood forests and whitewater
ocean. We are unique. We are the feeding ground for
whales, anadromous fish, such as salmon and steelhead that
spawn in our coastal rivers. We have fog in our summers,
which the redwoods depend on, and from which the redwoods
capture and resupply our groundwater reservoirs, which is
our only source of water.

Fort Bragg was historically a mill town, with a
thriving commercial fishery industry. And although our
local mills have changed owners and moved east, we are
still very much logging and commercial fisheries industries
up and down the coast.

Our North Coast counties include Del Norte,
Humboldt and Mendocino County, who like us are more and
more dependent on a tourist economy. For example, my city
of Fort Bragg currently derives 50-percent of its income
from sales and hotel tax alone.

Now I know that most -- one of the criteria for
redistricting is that the district should be comprised of a
specific community interest. I think I speak for most of
our coastal cities when I say, our interests are not be
cookie cutter any town, franchise, USA. We want to be a
destination respite from the city, the big cities, and its
formula businesses, traffic congestion, high rises, heat
and smog. We want to be different.

And our coastal tourist economy has everything to
do with our -- our town histories, our whitewater ocean,
our redwood forests environment, our clean air and our cool
climate. We are not like any other place in California,
and that is why tourists come and that is how we survive
today.

So we need our elected representative to live on
-- in our areas and to understand where we come from. And
while Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties are the
most closely aligned in term of economy and history,
infrastructure issues, such as broadband, hospitals,
schools and job opportunities, and while we share a concern
for sea-level rise and what that means to our futures, to a
lesser extent our neighboring --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. ALBIN-SMITH: -- rural counties of Trinity,
Napa and Lake are also aligned. We share a similar rural
economy and similar infrastructure issues, and a small-town
feeling. I would like to add that Marin and Sonoma
Counties they should be in the mix. They are a rapidly
growing economy and rural based with ranches, and we belong together. We would not want you to include the Bay Area cities in our district. Thanks for letting me speak, and that’s for what you do.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 005, and up next will be 009.

005, I will be promoting you now. 005, your speaker order number will be number 16, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. SIMMONS: Hi. Thank you. I would like to discuss the North Coast. This current map is good.

My name’s Matt Simmons, and I’m located in Arcata -- Arcata in Humboldt County. And I want to emphasize that everything I’ve heard so far basically aligns with what I believe, which is that the North Coast is a unique community that should stay together and maintain its current representation.

I think that that’s the case because we share a lot of unique characteristics and a lot of unique challenges. So, starting on the coast, the North Coast is rugged in a way -- rugged and undeveloped in a way that I think folks in other parts of coastal California don’t --
like can’t understand until they come up here. It’s just
miles and miles and miles of undeveloped, rugged coastline
that provides, you know, the ecosystems for animals and
fishing jobs and, you know, just amazing, breathtaking
tourism.

And then as you move -- sorry. So then that’s
facing the challenge of sea-level rise, which is going to
hit our area distinctly hard because -- another speaker
already mentioned that Humboldt Bay, the sea-level rise is
rising here faster than anywhere else in the State.

As you move inland you have the 101 Highway, also
known as the Redwood Highway, which is really the artery
and lifeline of the North Coast. I thank you for putting
up this map. It’s super helpful.

Basically all commerce and travel that is coming
through the North Coast is on this north-south line. It --
people obviously do go east-west, but it’s a much smaller
percentage of folks. And, you know, if you’re someone
living in Del Norte County, you basically have to go
through Humboldt in order to get anywhere else in
California.

I was playing around with Google Maps, and if you
want to get to Siskiyou County, you have to go up quite a
bit into Oregon, and then come back down the, you know, the
5 basically in Oregon. So like Del Norte is super
connected to Humboldt, same with Sonoma. You know, it’s that north-south corridor again.

And then you have farther east, you have a coastal mountain range, which is what really gives the North Coast a unique weather and climate. I mean, it’s often like 60 or below right on the coast, whereas it’s like 100 degrees in the summer further inland. And so, living in, you know, Mendocino versus living in Tehama, it feels like two completely different places. It’s just so stark how different it is. And that’s true all the way up and down the coast.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. SIMMONS: You know, Del Norte is very different from Siskiyou in terms of climate and weather.

And so, you know, I think we’ve heard from a lot of folks how happy they are with the current situation, and that’s just because they feel like we are one community that works well together. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we will have 009, and up next we’ll have 015.

009, I’ll be promoting you now. 009, your speaker order number is number 17, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you will please
let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss,
the floor is yours.

MS. GUTIERREZ: Good afternoon. My name is Lupe
Gutierrez, and I live in Del Norte County. The --
specifically, I am at almost the intersection of 101 and
Highway 299, which is -- I’m actually just about a quarter
mile from what we call, “Ruby van Deventer Park.” But I
also would like to say that I have property in 96048 zip
code, which is off Highway 299 in Trinity County, and it’s
five miles away from the Monument Fire.

And so, one of the things that I definitely would
like to bring up, similarities and differences, people talk
about the climate, but I think more specifically, people
really enjoy the trials. They enjoy backpacking the river.

And speaking of the river, both these rivers have
a granite company that sits on it, and I truly believe and
have sat in on city council meetings in Trinity County,
where people are concerned with the water quality, the
contamination, the noise. And there’s things like that
that are similar with the company that we have here on --
sitting on the water.

But aside from that fact, also -- I’m not going
to be very popular in saying this, but nobody has brought
up our housing crisis, and our housing crisis right now, we
have what we call a continuum of care, and the common
purpose of planning housing and community action programs. And that has seven counties, and those seven counties include Del Norte, Humboldt, Shasta, Lassen, Siskiyou, Modoc, Sierra and Plumas.

So we do have some things in common with -- in common with those counties as well. And I’m going to emphasize not only the housing crisis and (indiscernible) the homelessness, but really, those trials are a wonderful thing to visit in all of those counties, and they all have distinct water issues that particularly affect the wildlife, particularly fish, and we have to pay specific attention to the natural hazards, such as the fires that we’re battling right now.

So, that’s really all I wanted to say. Thank you very much.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you for your input, and Katy, this will be our last caller before our mandatory break.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay. I was going to ask if you would like to do one more. Okay.

015, I will be promoting you now. 015, your speaker order number is number 18, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. If you will please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss today, the floor is yours.
You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.

MS. FULKERSON: Unmute. Can you hear me now?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

MS. FULKERSON: Hi. There you are. Okay. I’m Julie Fulkerson, and I am a former city council member from Arcata and Trinidad, as well as a county board member from the County of Humboldt. So I’ve been paying attention to these issues for most of my life.

And I’ve loved the unifying comments that I’ve heard during this entire session. I would like to just -- just touch on another aspect of our diversity. Most people who are into science know that biological diversity is what keeps us alive. And I think that’s also true for the social diversity and the economic diversity.

And because Humboldt and our region in general, Del Norte and a little bit farther south of us, we have to be very clever and resourceful. Some people refer to us as behind the redwood curtain. It’s -- it is somewhat in the fog. It is rugged. It is rough. It is isolated. Sometimes our roads are washed out from all three sides. We still have the ocean as access, but that’s not easily accessed generally.

So, we get to be a little bit independent in a good way. And I think as a result, we have some of the
most innovative production companies and thinkers, both in the arts, but also in industry. We have top-of-the-line industries that are exported all over world. So we have to build on the kinds of things that our neighbors from the south, Mendocino and Marin have done, and Sonoma, where they have a little stronger financial resources being closer to the center of the State. But up north we have a lot in common with those to the south of us, and we need to stick together because of our shared natural environment, the diversity of our ecosystems which make us stronger, and also our social strengths.

We’re hardy, resourceful and we’re conservative. I think that’s interesting when I look at the nation as a whole and maybe even part of the State of California. Because we do have limited resources, and because we live right next door to those resources of water and trees and agriculture and fishing, we pay attention to the limitations of that.

So, that’s what we have in common. We need to stick together, and I’m glad to hear all of those comments earlier. So, thanks so much.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Caller, are you still there?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair. Thank you.

Speaker 015, if you could please unmute yourself. The Chair had a couple of additional questions for you.
CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you, caller, for your input. How far south would you consider your community of interest?

MS. FULKERSON: Well, I’m sorry, I’m a sort of a no-borders person, so my community of interest is pretty big. But in this context it really is to -- including Marin. A lot of people in the Bay Area think of Northern California as the Sonoma-Marin area, and maybe they even think of Mendocino. But it’s important for people to be reminded in the rest of the State, that Humboldt and Del Norte are really a part of the North Coast, and a part of the same watershed systems and the same kind of thinking about ecology and so forth.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Thank you. I appreciate it. That is perfect.

And, also, I would thank all of California for your COI input thus far. We are required to take a 15-minute break to give staff a brief respite.

I would like to remind the public, even if you are in agreement with previous testimony, please define your community boundaries so that your particular testimony is correctly noted.

When we return from break we will start with individuals who are registered for an appointment time slot, and then open the phone lines if there is time. When
we come back from break you’ll be in the trusted hands of
Commissioner Toledo for the remainder of the meeting. So
don’t leave or hang up. Your testimony is needed and
valued. See you back at 4:45.

(Off the record at 4:31 p.m.)

(Back on the record at 4:45 p.m.)

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO (via Zoom): Welcome back to the
California Citizens Redistricting Commission Community of
Interest Input Meeting. My name is Pedro Toledo, and I
want to encourage you to visit the communities-of-interest
tool to draw a map and describe your community by visiting
drawmycacommunity.org.

For anyone who has joined us recently, we are
offering language lines for Spanish language speakers to
listen to the meeting in their native language. And a
separate line for those who wish to provide public comment
or public input.

Could our Spanish interpreter please read the
translation, the full call-in instructions, please?

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes. This is the
Interpreter, Margarita. I will read the full call-in
instructions in Spanish.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Margarita, you’re on
mute.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Sorry about that.
Good afternoon, this is Margarita, the Spanish Interpreter. I will go ahead and read the full call-in instructions in Spanish.

[Introductions read in Spanish]

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And as a reminder, even though we are focusing on specific counties today, Californians from anywhere in the State are welcome to provide input.

I will pass this over to Katy, our comment moderator, to continue with public input. We’re going to start with those who are registered, and then open the phone lines, if there are -- if there is time, before the next session.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

Welcome to the public input session. Please use the raise hand button at the button at the bottom of your screen to enter the queue. When it is your turn to speak, I will identify you by your assigned, unique I.D. number from your invite. You will be reconnected to the session with the ability to enable your own video and/or audio. You will then be assigned a speaker order number before you begin speaking. Please make a note of your speaker order number for future reference.

The Commission will be enforcing a three-minute
time limit for English speakers, and six minutes for those
with an interpreter. There will be a warning at 30 seconds
and 15 seconds remaining.

   It is the Commission’s goal to find the area on
the map you would like to discuss prior to your testimony.
If you are within a specific neighborhood of a large city,
please mention it by name. Once we are able to locate your
area, your three-minute or six-minute testimony will begin.
Attendees will not be able to share their screen. At the
end of your public input or at the end of your time, you
will be reconnected in a listen-and-view-only mode. At the
beginning of your input, please remind the mapper of what
area you would like to discuss.

   I will be starting this session off with caller
0526, unique I.D. 004, and then unique I.D. 023, you will
be next, as you are both holdovers from the first session
and have been here since the beginning. And then we will
move on to the appointments for this session. So, 004 and
023.

   004, if you will please follow the prompts to
unmute at this time by pressing star-six on your telephone
keypad. 004, your speaker order number will be number 19,
if you’ll please make note of that for future reference.
And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you
would like to discuss, the floor is yours.
MR. FARLEY: Thank you very much. I would like to discuss Southern Solano County and Northern Contra Costa County, please.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. FARLEY: Thank you so much for the opportunity to address this Commission. It’s once a decade, and I think this is far more democratic than in the past. My name is Tim Farley, and I’m a former city council member in the community of Martinez. It’s a very historic community. And we also have a great deal of communities of interest with Benicia and other northern communities. In particular, we share the Carquinez Strait, and we have marinas that are in common.

We have industries that are in common. We have the oil industries that we share, with refineries both in Martinez, Benicia and in the Rodeo area. And, lastly, we also the wine country with the famous Diana Winery, that is a legacy winery going back to the early days.

I can only imagine how busy the Commission is, but I would hope that you would continue to keep the communities of Benicia and Martinez, and the communities of interest of the Carquinez strait, and the industrial communities together. The 680 corridor farther south is primarily a bedroom community, whereas Martinez and Benicia and Vallejo are industrial working-class communities that I
believe should be kept in interest. I appreciate the time, and I won’t keep you. And that concludes my comments this afternoon.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now I’ll be going to 023. I will be promoting you now. And then up next after that will be 025.

023, your speaker order number will be number 20, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

You are on mute, ma’am. There you are.

MS. AMBER: Okay. Okay. There. All right. So, Marion Amber. I’m speaking from Bayside, California, which is part of Arcata. And I am speaking about the North Coast, specifically, Humboldt. And as Julie said, you know, we’re part of the -- we’re behind the redwood curtain. It’s a very kind of unique, poetic way of describing this area. And it’s a quiet little world in a way. It’s out of the way, certainly, but we’re fierce protectors of nature and heritage.

We particularly share a history of environmental protection with Mendocino, our tree sitters who challenged the cutting of old-growth redwood. We mobilized to keep
Calpine -- Calpine’s LNG storage facility out of Humboldt Bay. We’ve protected Native American sacred sites. There’s a proud history here. And EPIC, which is an outstanding environmental group, has sued to protect this legacy, to protect animals, the marbled murrelet, the northern spotted owls. But we’re part of a larger community as well.

We’re part of the entire North Coast, starting with Del Norte and moving down through Humboldt, Mendo, Sonoma and Marin. Our ecosystems are heavily shaped by the Pacific. Our climate and environment has shaped our economies, agriculture, dairy, fishing, and climate change will affect all of us and we need to be able to adapt together.

And being paired with communities further to the east, such as Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, it’s not going to help either of us very much, because we have different interests. And so I strongly encourage you to consider us who we are, who we’ve been, and leave us as we are. And thank you so much for your work. I appreciate it.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.
Right now we go to 025, and then up next will be 024.

025, I will be promoting you now. 025, your
speaker order number will be 21, if you’ll please make note
of that for future reference. And if you’ll please the
mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
is yours.

MR. WEBSTER: I’m going to be discussing Marin,
Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. So ahead, please.

MR. WEBSTER: My name is Mike Webster. I’m a
resident of Ukiah and Mendocino County. I’m a retired U.S.
geological survey, Water Resources Division, which I served
36 years. For the last 18 years I was the field office
chief in Ukiah, with an area covering Del Norte, Humboldt,
Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

What geographically binds these counties together
is the ocean to the west and the mountains to the east,
with small valleys in between. Common industries include
fisheries, tourism, timber, agriculture, with main crops of
wine grapes and cannabis.

Water resources along the coastline often comes
from groundwater wells and small aquifers, or withdrawn
from rain collectors beneath the small rivers or creeks.
For groundwater, if the supply is over drafted, the wells
can dry up or result in saltwater intrusion from the ocean.
At low flows, rain collectors can dewater its source.

As our drought continues, these issues become
more important, and some communities are already dealing with them, especially wells going dry. Creeks that recharge these small aquifers run west along the coast, and east-west from the mountain ranges surrounding the valleys. They are disassociated with the State’s central valley.

On a much larger scale, there is one issue that involves the counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Lakes, Sonoma and Marin. That was started by PG&E’s intent to auction off the Potter Valley Project. Eel River water flows through Humboldt County to the ocean, just south of Eureka. Lake Pillsbury in Lake County collects runoff from rain and snow in the Mendocino mountains. Water released from Lake Pillsbury flows to the Van Arsdale Diversion that diverts water through the mountain into Potter Valley, where it runs through a powerhouse. Water from the power -- Potter Valley Project runs to Lake Mendocino, where it is held then released through summer for water supply in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

In 2017, at the request of several entities, Congressman Huffman brought together an ad hoc committee of stakeholders to discuss water supply and ecological concerns, and put together a two-basin solution for the Potter Valley Project, and the relicensing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Due to time constraints, I will not mention these stakeholders, but I
will summarize that there are a total of 30 groups. They consist of --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. WEBSTER: -- tribes, recreational and commercial fisheries. The counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, as well as forest service, irrigation districts and all active with -- and they’re all active within the current regional district.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MR. WEBSTER: A project of this level only reinforces the need to keep this region intact for the very reason that our hydro-geographic infrastructure is connected with these counties. The region has been connected for my entire career.

MR. MANOFF: Time.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now will be 024, and then up next will be 028.

024, I will be promoting you now. 024, your speaker order number is number 22, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. HENDRICK: Okay. Thank you very much. I’m going to talk specifically about Del Norte County and our
connection to Humboldt County, and more generally about our
relationship with the other coastal counties all the way
down to Marin.

My name is Kevin Hendrick. I will north of
Crescent City in Del Norte County on the Pacific Coast,
about 20 miles south of the Oregon border, and in 350 miles
north of San Francisco. I’ve been an active member of this
community since 1993.

I’m speaking today to keep -- ask you to keep our
district the same as they are now. Some people are asking
that our districts be changed to connect with Siskiyou
County to our east. This makes no sense if we are looking
to identify communities of common interest. We are
separated by a substantial mountain range, and there are no
direct roads to connect us. To get to Yreka, the county
seat in Siskiyou County, it takes three hours to drive 160
miles up into Oregon and back into California. We are
physically separated and do not share overlapping interests
in any practical way.

By comparison, our community is integrally
connected to Humboldt County and the other coastal counties
to the south of us. Del Norte County and all the counties
to the south are linked by Highway 101. We are only 80
miles from Eureka, the county seat of Humboldt County.

As a small, rural county, many of us need to
travel to Humboldt County for medical services, including specialists that we don’t have locally. Our local open-door clinic that serves low-income and uninsured is based in Humboldt County and has a satellite clinic in Crescent City. Our senior services are provided through the Area 1 Agency on Aging, which has their main office in Humboldt County and provides services to Del Norte County.

Our cooperative tourism marketing for the redwood coast promotes the redwood state and national parks, which bridge the border of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Our education system is linked through the College of the Redwoods, which has a main campus in Humboldt County, and a smaller satellite community college in Del Norte County.

Our fishing and maritime are linked. Del Norte County is a leader in California for volume of crab caught each year. Much of this crab is shipped down the coast to Humboldt County for processing and shipping. Our largest indigenous tribe, the Yurok tribe, has ancestral lands that spread across both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

These are only a few examples of why it’s important for my community --

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MR. HENRICK: -- to remain the same district as Humboldt and all of the counties to the south of us. We are all coastal counties that have much more in common than
any counties to the east. For all of these reasons --

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MR. HENRICK: -- I strongly urge you to keep our
districts as they are. I ask that you keep it coastal.
I’d be happy to answer any questions you have.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now we have 028, and then up next will be

034.

028, I will be promoting you now. 028, your
speaker order number is number 23, if you’ll please make
note of that for future reference. You can now enable your
audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen.
If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would
like to discuss, the floor is yours.

You’re still on mute. We can see you, we just
can’t hear you.

MS. SCOTT: Okay. Got it.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Perfect.

MS. SCOTT: Good afternoon. Again, I spoke at
the June meeting, and my name is Barbara Scott. Mike and I
live on the Sea Ranch, that’s Sonoma County, and thank you
for this opportunity.

Last time I talked briefly about Sea Ranch, but I
really would like to add more information about this
community. I had spoken about the abundant wildlife, the coast and how we work to preserve it. Now I’d like you to know more about the ranch itself.

We a 10-mile stretch of the coast comprising 5,000 acres, (indiscernible) with blending with the environment -- and I hope the dog barking isn’t bothering you.

(Dog barking in background.)

We have very strict CC&R’s which we appreciate. We are governed by an elected board of directors. The ranch has 40 miles of roads maintained by the association, a full security staff, over 40 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, three swimming pools, tennis courts, a community center, to name only a few of our amenities. And right along Highway 1 at Stewart’s Point is Twofish Bakery, and you must stop there if you’re up here.

We’re closely aligned with businesses in Walhalla and Point Arena, the example, the Walhalla Arts Center, the Redwood Coast Humane Society, Coastal Seniors and the service organizations. We sponsor charity events, such as Project Santa, that helps needy families in Point Arena, Walhalla and surrounding towns.

Our desire is to see our district remain as it is. We rely on our connections from Marin County north to the Oregon border. We share medical facilities and
services. They often overlap. We share educational concerns, helping with tutoring-mentoring programs in the local schools. Mendocino and Sonoma and Marin receive their water from Lake Mendocino and the Russian River. The Eel River water supplies Humboldt and part of Mendocino County, and as previous speakers have said, Highway 1 is our link. We have strong connections all the way up, as I said, to the border.

I hope this gives the Commission a clearer picture of who we are and what our needs are. They are truly coastal. It is our sincere wish that our district remains intact. And thank you so much for your time.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now will be 034, and then up next will be 030.

034, I will be promoting you now. 034, your speaker order number is number 24, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. LEVY: Thank you. I’m focused on the North Coast counties. My name is Noah Levy. I’m a resident of Arcata in Humboldt County. I really appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today, and I appreciate the important work that your Commission is doing.
I’ve been on this call for a little while, and I’ve already heard certain other speakers explain in better, more precise language the reasons that I would have liked to give for why the North Coast counties do belong to -- do belong together as a community of interest. And by the North Coast counties, I’m talking about Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino and Sonoma certainly. And then I could add in Marin for certain purposes and a couple of the inland counties as well. If we’re going to talk about a slightly larger district, we could include Lake, Napa and Trinity. But the heart of the North Coast is Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma.

I want to specifically call out those four counties and say that they must all be seen as the heart of this North Coast area, which is -- belongs together for, you know, climate reasons, for economic reasons and for cultural reasons. Climate-wise it’s really important to think about how the North Coast is its own climate that’s quite different from the inland counties. Very, very different than the climate that you find in Siskiyou and Shasta, Tehama, et cetera.

Economically we are shared -- we share the 101 corridor, which is a lot -- connects a lot of the businesses and towns on the -- in this district that we’re talking about. And, of course, we share the coast and the
coastal economy.

    And culturally I think it’s important, too, that politically the North Coast has been for a long time representing a more progressive, more liberal sort of political voice, and has had that representation in -- both in the State and Congress. That differs somewhat from the inland counties, like Siskiyou, Shasta and Tehama.

    So, I don’t want to take up any more time than is needed. I think I have made the point that for reasons that have to do with the climate, economy and the culture, I really hope that you will keep the North Coast counties together as a district representing the community of interest that spans Del Norte County down to Sonoma County on the coast. Thank you so much.

    CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

    PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have 030, and up next will be 033.

    030, I will be promoting you now. 030, your speaker order number is number 25, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

    MS. KELLY: Great. Thanks. I’m here to discuss Humboldt County and the North Coast. And my name’s Erin Kelly, and I’m a forestry professor at Humboldt State
University. And a lot of the speakers before me kind of said things that I would have said. But I live in Eureka, and I support remaining aligned with counties kind of generally to the north and south of us, including Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

A lot of people talked about kind of climatic or ecological reasons, which I agree with, but I also think I’ll bring up some political reasons. A lot of projects that have been proposed by our representatives within this region are really beneficial to us and reflect our values, things like the Great Redwood Trail and the Northwest California Wilderness Recreation and Working Forests Act. And I think a lot of the political emphasis to the inland region doesn’t reflect our values. So, there’s been a lot of denial of climate change or voting against efforts to curb or mitigate it.

So I think that we’re really well represented where we’re at right now. Our values of protecting the environment, but also advancing education and science and, you know, promoting amazing recreational opportunities, supporting the arts, and building these diverse economies that include natural resource management, and also conservation. And, you know, people have mentioned fisheries, forestry, but also the knowledge economy and the tech sector. All of these kind of hold us together, and I
think make us a really logical unit to -- as a community of interest. So, thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have 033, and then up next will be 038.

033, I will be promoting you now. 033, your speaker order is number 26, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 26: I would like to speak to Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte. And I reside in Ukiah in Mendocino County. And Highway 101 runs through Ukiah. It also runs through -- in Eureka, Humboldt, and then again in Del Norte, Crescent City, and through Santa Rosa in Sonoma, and through Marin as well to the bay.

And what we all share in common is our coastline, all the way from Marin, all the way up to Del Norte. So in addition to this highway, we also share the coast, which has Highway 1 along it as well for large portions of the coast. And I think all the coastal counties have been -- all have been resistant to drilling off the coast for oil. And that is one thing I believe unites all of the coastal counties in Northern California.
And the river systems, people have talked about that, too. You know, the Russian River runs through Mendocino and Sonoma. The Eel River starts in Mendocino County and runs north into Humboldt. These are very real things that join us all as a community of interest. Our rivers, you know, the major highways, and certainly the coast where people earn their living through fishing. And also in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, silviculture or logging is a large industry as well that unites -- and I would throw Del Norte in there, too, that unites all of those counties.

And then to the south, you know, Sonoma and Marin, it’s the dairy industries over on the coast, again, that unite those counties. And we have some dairy up in southern Mendocino as well, in the Point Arena area there’s some large dairy operations on the coast, also.

So it’s the -- you know, the coast, the fishing, you know, that unite us all. And more recently now, we have a train that you can pick up in Sonoma County and it takes you all the way down to --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 26: -- to the ferry. And, you know, our economies are mostly small, local businesses. We’re a tourist-based economy as well. And that we share with --
MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

SPEAKER NUMBER 26: -- with Humboldt and Del Norte, you know, along with Mendocino. And I thank you for your time. I’d like to stay together as the North Coast.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have 038, and then up next will be 026.

038, I will be promoting you now. 038, your speaker order number is number 27, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

You’re still on mute, sir. We can see you but we can’t hear you. Now we can’t see you or hear you. There you are.

SPEAKER NUMBER 27: There we go. Hi. I knew we’d get there. I’d like to discuss Humboldt County mainly. Hello?

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

SPEAKER NUMBER 27: I’m sorry. My wife Cathy (phonetic) and I moved to Humboldt County in 1971 to attend Humboldt State University and College of the Redwoods. We fled from the rat race in Southern California at the time and never looked back. After graduation from college we
liked the area so much, we decided to stay in Humboldt to make a living and start a family. Fifty years later our two children live within a half-hour drive from their homes, and we now enjoy the company of four grandchildren.

My feeling about our current legislative district is a quote by Thomas Bertram Lance, “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it.” It’s seriously over time I have noticed a great deal of synergies, synergies involved between the counties and our district.

A number of other commentators have shared their experiences. For example, local behavioral health board member Clark Moore (phonetic) detailed how the counties work with each other for the better of all. Of course climate change, ramifications are shared concerns of everyone.

On the economic development side, we have a major oceanic underwater fiber cable coming to Humboldt Bay, along with a data bank. Fish farming’s in the works. There’s an offshore wind tower -- as is offshore wind tower. And, of course, the Great Redwood Trail will be a great asset for locals and tourists alike. And Humboldt is a recognized leader in the rapidly growing legal cannabis industry, and that’s something to note in your consideration.

After graduating from HSU -- a little bit about
me, I accepted a job as a wholesale floor covering
distributor based in San Francisco Bay area, and promoted
to the Eureka warehouse as branch manager, and that
required coordinating logistics between local retail
clients and numerous manufacturers located in California
and around the nation.

In 2001 I opened (indiscernible) to offer
consulting services to clients in the flooring industry
interested in doing business in China. I was a founding
member and served on the Freshwater Educational Foundation,
Freshwater School Board, and the Eureka Adult School
Business Advisory Council. Currently I’m a board member of
the nonprofit Coalition for Responsible Transportation
Priorities.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 27: And along those lines you
heard many times today about the Last Chance Grade from
Humboldt to Del Norte County, how significant it is and how
the slides had really crippled us here lately, and we
really need to get that project (indiscernible).

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

SPEAKER NUMBER 27: Thank you very much. I
appreciate it. I’ve been a resident here since 1971, and
let’s keep it going.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have 026, and then up next will be 027.

026, I will be promoting you now. 026, your speaker order number is number 28, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. BALCK: I will be discussing Del Norte County and the coastal counties.

Hello. My name is Catherine Balck, and I have lived and worked in Del Norte County for 10 years. I work at Sutter Coast Hospital where I’m an ultrasound technologist.

I’m here testifying before you today in my capacity as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Del Norte Arts and Cultural Association, also known as the DNACA.

DNACA is the state local partner with the California Arts Council for the County of Del Norte. We have been in existence for over 40 years, providing our Del Norte constituent’s performance art series and supporting art in public places in our local community. We also provide art education in our schools and art programs for veterans, incarcerated people and seniors.
We are closely aligned with other arts organizations in Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity Counties. We interact with these groups monthly, discussing programming opportunities, fundraising issues, and other arts-related matters. We currently receive grants from the Ink People and the Wild Rivers Foundation, both of whom are located in Humboldt County.

Many of our performing artists use the north-south coastal 101 Highway corridor to travel to our venues and to head to their next concert locations. We have vendors and attend workshops in the Humboldt area, and many of our concert attendees come up from the Humboldt areas, like Arcata, McKinleyville, Eureka, Ferndale and Fortuna.

We feel closely connected with our neighbors in Humboldt, Trinity, Lake, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin Counties. These areas have vibrant arts communities that support our work here in remote Del Norte County. I feel strongly that continued association with these coastal communities is essential to the wellbeing of our county and our arts council.

I’m sure that there are also art communities in the eastern part of our State, but due to the geographical reality of difficult, windy roads that require a long drive through Oregon, we do not interact with these communities on a regular basis.
The coastal communities also share the impact of the Highway 101 transportation issues. The Last Chance Grade has been a problem for decades, and our coastal neighbors share our concerns about keeping Highway 101 open and functioning as the main transportation path through our common communities.

When Highway 101 has problems, the eastern counties are not impacted --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. BALCK: -- as their transportation hub is around Highway 5. The eastern counties do not understand the impact of slides and road closures on our main thoroughfare.

I’m asking that the Commissioners continue to align Del Norte County with --

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MS. BALCK: -- the coastal communities that we are linked with, Highway 101. We share many similar problems that are unique to the coast, and that are not related to the inland communities. Changing our district would negatively impact the arts community in Del Norte, and we respectfully request --

MR. MANOFF: Time.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have
027, and then up next will be 029.

I’d like to invite 035 to use the raise your hand button at the bottom of your screen to get in the comment queue line.

027 -- I see your hand, 035. So 027 will be right now. 027, your speaker order number is number 29, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. HOWARD: Hello. Can you hear me?

MR. MANOFF: Yes. Go ahead, please. 027, we can hear you.

MR. HOWARD: Hello. Can you hear me?

MR. MANOFF: Yes. Yes, we can hear you.

MR. HOWARD: Yes. Very good. Thank you.

MR. MANOFF: You’re welcome.

MR. HOWARD: My name is Tim Howard. I’m calling from Arcata, California in Humboldt County. I wanted to discuss Humboldt County specifically and the coastal counties currently in this district in general.

I wanted to ask if I could first ask the Commission a question first. Just from seeing -- finding out about this on your site and reading a bit on there, I
was little unclear.

So, correct me if I’m wrong. If Marin County is removed from the current Congressional District -- our current Congressional Representative, Jared Huffman, is from Marin. And that means we would have a new congressional representative if the district was rejoined without Marin, am I correct in that?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: I’m not understanding your question. Can you repeat it?

MR. HOWARD: I said in part of this congressional district we are represented in Congress by Jared Huffman. I believe he is from Marin. Correct me if I’m wrong.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Your current representative is from --

MR. HOWARD: So, if Marin County was removed and this was redrawn, then we would have a new congressional district -- Congressman, correct?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Potentially.

MR. HOWARD: So, I want to just say I -- I personally am very happy with him as my congressional representative, and I don’t want that to change. I’m thinking about the potential of how this could be withdrawn, removing Marin and putting in Napa. Marin’s a lot bigger than that. I assume that we would then get more of Sonoma, which would also be in the inland areas. I’ve
been -- I was looking at how the district is drawn, and I would much rather keep the district as it is.

I’ve been -- I’ve lived in this district almost my whole life, and I remember when -- so, I remember very well before it was drawn the way it currently is. I don’t want to go back to days of having -- being represented by more conservative Democrats or moderate Republicans. I like that this district is progressively drawn with a progressive, a progressive Congress person, and I don’t really want that to change.

I’ve -- I can only echo the comments that I’ve heard from a lot of people already on here, about how the coastal counties and this district as it is now have a lot in common as far as --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MR. HOWARD: -- as far as climate and geography and challenges and positives. So I can only echo all that, and I really don’t want to see it with -- be withdrawn specifically. I know Marin is a long way from Humboldt County and it’s not the same.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

MR. HOWARD: But when I’ve been through there, you know, many times since I was a child in the 70’s, you know, I feel a lot more in common there than I do say, Shasta, just much closer away. So I want you to keep the
district as it is, please.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, speaker. And I also just wanted to let you know that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission cannot consider incumbency in the redistricting process. We’re not -- that’s not a factor, but we are certainly looking at communities of interest and the interests that your community (indiscernible).

MR. HOWARD: I understand.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you so much for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right now we will have 029, and then up next will be 035. 029, I will be promoting you now. 029, your speaker order number is number 30, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. HORLICK: Thank you. I’m Tanya Horlick with KMUD Radio Redwood Community Radio. We broadcast out of Humboldt County and cover all of Humboldt County. We also reach into western Trinity County, southern Mendocino -- or, sorry, northern Mendocino County, and southern Del Norte.

As a speaker before your Commission, I want to first honor you for this opportunity to represent my
community. I live and work in Garberville and Redway in southern Humboldt, which you can see in your map south of that green splotch, which Humboldt Redwoods State Park. That’s the greatest, contiguous area of old-growth forest remaining in the entire world. So although we’re here in Northern California, we draw a lot of international tourists, which is ironic because our society here is not built for the modern, urban infrastructure.

Garberville and Redway are not established as cities, although they are urban centralities in these areas. The closest nearby locations that have hospitals are 45 miles to the north in the middle of Humboldt, or about 45 miles to the south in northern Mendocino. So we possess one of the only hospitals in our entire region, but we’re not classified as a city in Garberville.

I want to point this out to you because the hospital, that’s one of the only services we have. In many modern parts of California, you have complete internet connectivity, you have complete cellular coverage. We do not. So close to Highway 101, lots of our community has access to the internet, access to cellular coverage. And when you get north or west or east of Highway 101, you lose connectivity. I want to point that out to you on behalf of all of our residents that probably can’t attend this meeting.
In addition to the fact that there’s few public services in Garberville, one hospital with one ER in our entire region, we also lack funding for roads, and our roads are extensive, and our county, Humboldt County cannot pay for all the road repairs we now have for our communities to even stay connected to a hospital, if they need it. So we need more road funding. I want to point that out to you.

We also, as I mentioned, need more cellular networks and internet connectivity. Many people here are farmers, gardeners, entrepreneurs, who tend to share a love of culture on all levels. There’s a long tradition for agriculture, and an ever-evolving artistic and culturally beneficial --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. HORLICK: -- community -- thank you.

We also treasure our precious redwood forest and the rugged wildness of the Lost Coast. So it’s important to note that we are a modern community in a very rural, undeveloped area. I believe that southern Humboldt --

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen.

MS. HORLICK: -- western Trinity and northern Mendocino ought to be its own district. I stridently urge the Commission to consider this, and to look more closely at our topography and the lack of services in southern
MR. MANOFF: Time.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Can we have the caller back?

Just wanted to --

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Just a moment, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

MS. HORLICK: Thank you. What else would you like to know?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Just a little bit of clarification of what your community of interest is, and also just to thank you for promoting of today’s event. I know you’ve helped us with promotion of today’s event, so.

MS. HORLICK: yes, sir, and it’s a pleasure to see you. Thank you for also being a guest on my radio program several weeks ago, and informing our community.

Yes. Specifically, I represent I suppose southern Humboldt, Garberville and Redway, but I believe that it is true that western Trinity County and northern Mendocino are very similar to us. Does that help you clarify?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: So is that your community of interest for purposes of today?

MS. HORLICK: Yes.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay.

MS. HORLICK: Yes. Exactly this area you have
mapped right now.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. Well, thank you so much for your help.

MS. HORLICK: Thank you, Commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Right now will be 035, and then up next will be 037.

035, I will be promoting you now. 035, your speaker order number is number 31, if you will please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MS. RAMOS: Good afternoon. I would like to discuss Napa County. Perfect.

Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Belia Ramos. I am the Fifth District Supervisor for Napa County, and I have the privilege of representing the City of American Canyon, the southernmost city of Napa County, the second most populous city in our county, and certainly the most diverse.

While this is only the second Commission to have been called to service, I can say that the City of American Canyon and Napa County already have a history with the Commission. Back in 2001 under different circumstances, we loaded a bus and we came to participate in public comment
before the Redistricting Commission because of an
unfortunate event. We have a zip code. It’s a very
notable zip code, 94503. And what’s notable about is that
while the City of American Canyon is wholly contained
within Napa County, our zip code is aligned with Vallejo in
its neighboring Solano County. And this can lead to some
misconceptions of actually where we belong.

And so in order to ensure that this Commission,
the 2021 iteration of the Commission, respect the
affiliation that we have as a Napa County city, I wanted to
speak to that just a little bit.

Napa County is home to 138,000 residents, and
certainly Napa County’s agricultural heritage is
undeniable. From the vines that grow on the valley floor,
then in our hillsides, to the bottling and to the shipments
of these fine Napa Valley wines, I can actually tell you
that all these activities are occurring in the southernmost
portion of Napa County, and principally, in American
Canyon.

It is imperative that our countywide small-town
living and agricultural heritage be recognized. The Napa
County Board of Supervisors on March 11th approved a
resolution that was forwarded to the Commission defining
Napa County as a whole as a community of interest.

The City of American Canyon sent a letter to the
Commission on April 6th, also noting its desire to continue to be represented along with the rest of Napa County. And I, along with Solano County Supervisor Erin Hannigan on May 5th sent a letter to the Commission, explaining the relationship of American Canyon with Vallejo and Benicia. As an original California county, we’re asking the Commission to keep Napa County whole as one congressional --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

MS. RAMOS: -- senatorial and assembly district.

It is important for us to continue to be able to advocate in a uniform fashion for our agricultural heritage that is a vital part of California. Thank you so much.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have 037, and then up next will be caller 3150.

And then I’d like to invite the other callers that have called in to please press star-nine on their telephone keypad to raise their hands.

Right now, 037, I will be promoting you. 037, your speaker order number is number 32, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. You can now enable your audio and video in the lower-left corner of your screen. If you will please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.
SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Hello. Am I on?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: You sure are.

SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Thank you. I live in McKinleyville, which is sort of the northern part of Humboldt County. And I would like to advocate for keeping our district related to the coast. I’ve spent a lot of time on the coast, but also inland in other counties, Siskiyou and Shasta and eastern Trinity. And we on the coast share a very different regimen culturally, environmentally, politically, with our neighbors to the south in Mendocino, and particularly western Trinity, that differs from those characteristics further east.

So, I find, you know, our representation is very reflective of these values. Our agricultural pursuits, our forestry pursuits, our fisheries pursuits are all sort of aligned in this region, and are quite different from those in the east. So that’s pretty much what I want to say. I appreciate the opportunity to have some input here.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Can I ask a question?

MR. MANOFF: Just a moment, Chair.

037, the Chair had some additional questions for you, if you could unmute, please.

SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Yes. Uh-huh.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. Could you please define western Trinity County?
SPEAKER NUMBER 32: How would I --

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: What communities would that include, or how would you define that?

SPEAKER NUMBER 32: I’d define as mostly those that are sort of contiguous with Humboldt. I’m not sure geographically how to -- how to define that. Probably west of Weaverville. You have the map up there?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Uh-huh.

SPEAKER NUMBER 32: Yeah, probably west of Weaverville. I’d say that probably would do it.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, expert. Appreciate it.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right now we have caller with the last four, 3150.

I would like to invite the other callers that have called in to please press star-nine on their telephone keypad to raise their hand indicating they wish to give comment during this session.

At this time caller 3150, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-six. Caller with the last -- there you are. Your speaker order number is number 33, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor
is yours.

MR. GARCIA: Very good. I’d like to speak about Napa County, please.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. GARCIA: Yes. My name’s Leon Garcia. I’m Mayor of City of American Canyon. Our supervisor in District 5, Belia Ramos, spoke a little earlier. I’d like to underscore as well some of her comments. You know, American Canyon is the logistic center for the wine industry. We have the sizable warehouse installation in American Canyon. That’s a preferred spot because it’s access to rail and the state highways. And we are very much that -- part of that huge industry in that county.

Likewise, also tied to that is infrastructure needs. We work with both Solano County, our representative there. We have joint committee meetings between Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano Counties trying to address the congestion on State Highway 37. And I guess the business in terms of funding, to (indiscernible) approve that for our economic interests, basically our commuters and our go-through services that are moving back and forth.

And that would -- so we would like to say in fact with Napa County, and we may -- keep our districts as they are right now. It serves us quite well. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

And at this time everyone in the queue has given comment during this meeting at this time, Chair, so I will defer to you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. Thank you.

So I just wanted to remind the public that there’s -- there are numerous ways to provide public input to the Commission. Communities of internet public input meetings are taking place throughout the summer. Visit wedrawthelinesca.org for more information.

Also, you can visit the Community of Interest Mapping Tool, drawmycacommunity.org. The on-line COI Tool is available in English, Spanish, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Armenian, Farsi, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, Punjabi, Khmer, Hmong and Thai. And tutorials are available in those languages.

On our website at wedrawthelinesca.org you can find the Draw My CA Community icon. Also, you can reach us by e-mailing us at votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov. We can also be reached by snail mail at California Citizens Redistricting Commission, 721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260, Sacramento, California 95814.

And as a reminder, if you need an interpreter to provide public input on a day when there is no language line, please public your request at least five business
days prior to the meeting. You can submit your request via e-mail to interpreter.request@crc.ca.gov on the COI Meeting Appointment Form, or call our office at (916) 323-0323.

With that, Katy, can you please read the instructions on how to call in?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking community-of-interest input by phone.

To call in dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the pound key.

Once you have dialed in you will be placed 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 will 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 live stream 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 live stream volume.

And at this time, Chair, we do not have any
callers in the queue.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Katy.

Just as a reminder, we have a busy week this
week. We have three Community of Interest Input Meetings.
The first is tomorrow, August 24th at 3:00 p.m., focusing on
Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo,
Santa Clara, Solano Counties and their surrounding areas.
And we will have Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian
listening lines and interpreters available.

The second meeting is on Wednesday, the 25th at
3:00 p.m., focusing on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced,
San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare Counties and their
surrounding areas. And we will also have a Spanish
listening line, as well as Spanish interpretation
available.

And then on Friday, August 27th at 3:00 p.m.,
we’ll be focusing on Monterey, San Benicia, San Luis
Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura and their
surrounding areas. This meeting will also have a Spanish
listening line and Spanish interpreters available.

Registration for each meeting closes two calendar
days before, and at 5:00 o’clock. The next Commission business meeting will be on August 31st at 9:30. You’re not required to make an appointment to provide public input at our Community of Interest Meetings, however, it is recommended and -- but you can always call in the day of the meeting.

At this time our meetings are still held virtually, so anyone in California can provide input. And please go to our website, wedrawthelinesca.org, for meeting information.

Katy, at this time do we have any callers?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I would like to invite those that have just called in to please press star-nine to raise your hand indicating you wish to give comment. That is for caller with the last four, 8056.

And for those that have just called in as I am saying that, to please press star-nine on your telephone keypad to raise your hand indicating you wish to give comment.

Caller 2114, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-six. Caller 2114, your speaker order number is number 34, if you’ll please make a note of that. If you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.
MS. ELWOOD (phonetic): Yes. I would like to discuss the North Bay, Sonoma County.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MS. ELWOOD: Hi. My name is Jackie Elwood, and I am a Rohnert Park resident. I am calling to just make sure and to remind you guys to not forget Rohnert Park while, you know, doing the redistricting.

I just -- as a resident I felt like it was important to get a call from someone from the city, so that our voice will be heard, and you guys will take Rohnert Park into consideration while doing the redistricting.

MR. MANOFF: Caller 2114, does that complete your comments?

MS. ELWOOD: Yes, sir.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: I have a quick comment -- question for the caller.

MS. ELWOOD: Yeah.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Is -- so your community of interest would be Rohnert Park. Are there any other communities that you would keep together in the redistricting process, or is that the community that you’re -- that you want to be kept whole?

MS. ELWOOD: Well, right now the way things are -- I mean, it’s just good to think about keeping it together as a whole. The represent -- the person representing us
right now is great. If Rohnert Park can, you know, put
together and be represented by that same person, that will
be fantastic. You know, it is always great to have, you
know, people represented as a whole, as, you know, as
separate. I felt like it was important to -- for you guys
to just know it, I mean.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Absolutely. Well, thank you so
much for your comments.

MS. ELWOOD: Thank you so much for giving the
time. I really appreciate it.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for taking the time.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

And at this time I’d like to invite those that
have called in that have not given comment today, to please
press star-nine on their telephone keypad if they wish to
give comment during this session.

Caller 8056, if you will please follow the
prompts to unmute at this time by pressing star-six.

Caller 8056, you speaker order number will be number 35, if
you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And
if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would
like to discuss, the floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 35: Thank you. I’m calling in
from Sonoma Valley. That is just to the west -- I’m sorry,
to the east of the Rohnert Park caller that just called in.
You see on the map there it says, “Boyse Hot Springs, El Verano.” That’s the area that I represent.

I’ve been a resident here for -- since the mid 90’s. I’m a -- have been a small business owner. I have been active in local community matters, rotary and served on various commissions, including the Transportation Commission and the Climate Action Commission in Sonoma County. And professionally, I’ve been an energy consultant for most of my career.

My concerns are very similar to the ones expressed by most of the callers today, including the last one from Rohnert Park. I believe that communities should remain continuous in their representation. I also heard similar comments from American Canyon, and all the people from the North Coast.

The concern that I have is in District 4. We are effectively -- there’s a slice of Sonoma County that belongs to Assembly District 4. And while there are certain benefits to being -- to having three different representatives touch on Sonoma County, it’s -- actually, I don’t see a logic to community of interest.

Almost all of the activities that me and the people I live in my community with are concerned about, happen in the county seat of Santa Rosa or in the County of Napa, adjacent to us. And we have assembly members that
represent primarily Marin or primarily the northern area, or Yolo County in the case of assembly more currently. And it makes it strange that, you know, our assembly person really can’t get over to the communities of Rohnert Park or Sonoma Valley to meet with us as often as we might like.

And the communities of interest really do in this area run up and down the valleys. That would be the coastal valley, the valley along -- the Sonoma Valley -- well, the Petaluma first valley, then the Sonoma Valley, and then the Napa Valley.

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 35: And further to the east, you get into the Solano County area.

So, if you’re going to have that kind of long finger district, I can see if running up these valleys, as the people from Napa have encouraged to have that remain there, the case in their situation. But in our area, it’s very strange the way that District 4 is carved out. Thank you for your consideration of my comments tonight.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: That was all of our callers at this time, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. It would be great if you could read the instructions on how to call in.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely. Would you
like the full instructions or abbreviated?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: The full instructions will be fine.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay.

In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking community-of-interest input by phone.

To call in dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When prompted to enter the participant I.D., simply press the pound key.

Once you have dialed in you will be placed 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 will 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 live stream 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 live stream volume.

And at this time, Chair, we do not have any
callers in the queue.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Katy. With that,
let’s go to a five-minute break -- or actually to watch the
video, the five-minute video.

(Off the record at 5:56 p.m.)

(Back on the record at 6:01 p.m.)

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California
Citizens Redistricting Commission Communities of Interest
Input Meeting. For anyone that has joined us recently, we
are offering lines for Spanish language speakers to listen
to the meeting in their native language, and a separate
line for those who wish to provide public comment or public
input.

Could I have the Spanish Interpreter please read
the instructions on how to join the call?

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Yes, Chair. Would that be
the language line instructions?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes, please.

SPANISH INTERPRETER: Okay. Thank you.

[Instructions read in Spanish]

Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Margarita.
And during this session we’re taking appointments. If you had an appointment and you weren’t able to call in during your block, please call in now. And as a reminder, even though we’re focusing on specific counties of California, anyone in the State can -- is welcome to call in and provide input. We will continue to take public input at this time, and we’ll also invite public comment. So any public comments are welcome during this time.

The phone line for public input and public comment will close at 6:30. We will get to all callers who have called and are in the queue at that time. To -- and if we need to, we will go beyond 6:30, if needed.

I will pass this over to Katy, our comment moderator.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair.

In order to maximize transparency and public participation in our process, the Commissioners will be taking community-of-interest input and general public comment for items not on the agenda by phone.

To call in dial the telephone number provided on the live stream feed. It is (877) 853-5247. When prompted to enter the meeting I.D. number provided on the live stream feed, it is 86916422442 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant I.D., simply press the
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Please make sure to mute your computer or live stream 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 live stream volume.

And we do not have any callers at this time, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So as a reminder, we have three Community of Interest Meetings scheduled for this week. This first is tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., focused on Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano Counties and their surrounding areas. And we will have Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian listening lines and interpreters available.

The second meeting is on Wednesday the 25th at 3:00 p.m., focusing on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced,
San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare Counties and their surrounding areas. And we will have a Spanish listening line, as well as Spanish interpretation available, and on Friday the 27th at 3:00 p.m., focused on Monterey, San Benicia, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura, and their surrounding areas. This meeting will have a Spanish listening line as well as Spanish interpretation. And registration for each meeting closes two calendar days prior to the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

The next Commission business meeting will be on the 31st at 9:30. You are not required to make an appointment to provide public input at any of the Community of Interest Meetings, however, it is recommended, but you can always call the day of the meeting.

At this time our meetings are still held virtually, so anyone in California can participate and provide public comments. Please go to our website, wedrawthelinesca.org for meeting information.

With that, Katy, do we have any callers on the line?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Not at this time, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. So I’ll open up to Commissioners, if there’s anything that -- I don’t have a prompt today, so you’re welcome to share, as long as we’re
talking about something interesting.

I did -- I thought one thing that was interesting was the, how tall we are. Thank you, Commissioner Yee, for that information. It was so revealing, because I’ve not met I think anybody on the Commission in person, so I was -- so I was -- I thought some of you guys were taller and some of you guys were shorter. And, you know, the results were a little bit shocking to me for some of you, and for some of you, not so much.

So I don’t know if anyone wants to talk about -- and in terms of just want we’re talking about, we had a -- what I’m talking about is, we had a little game that we were playing, just because the Commissioners haven’t all met each other in person. And so we had a little icebreaker over email. And so -- and one of the questions was, how tall are -- was guessing how tall we were, apparently.

Commissioner Fernandez, and then Sinay.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: That was a very fun game, and I didn’t really have a chance to really get into it. But I’m going to admit that Commissioner Sinay and Le Mons were taller, much taller than I thought they were. So, I was totally off, which is actually kind of fun, because if you’re -- I guess if I would have guessed it right, there would be no surprises. So that was actually
kind of fun. So, thank you, Commissioner Yee, for putting that together for us.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I found it really interesting that none of us are an only child. That’s what jumped out at me first versus the height, I guess because I was one of the tallest. But the first (indiscernible) that -- to Commissioner Yee was, we’re all -- we all have siblings, so I wonder if that kind of contributes to the whole working as a team thing.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Very interesting. Yeah, I hadn’t thought about that, but you’re right.

Anyone else have any comments about the --

Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Taylor.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I wanted some little helpful hints as to how Commissioner Andersen did so great, so great at -- (indiscernible) guesses.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Taylor.

CO-CHAIR TAYLOR: Yeah. I wanted to ask, Russell. Who guessed the most and who guessed the least?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Good question.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Who has guessed correctly the most and who has guessed correctly the least. I don’t have statistics on that. I would have to run a multiple regression to do that.
COMMISSIONER SINAY: But Jane, Jane got 11 correct, and Neal got nine correct. And then bronze went to Pedro, Sara, Patricia, and Linda got eight correct.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Right. But in terms of which individual Commissioners were guessed correctly, I’d have to look at that more closely.

One interesting thing you don’t see is that of the people who respond -- who gave me their trivia items, overwhelmingly the first four or five were the youngest children for some reason. I don’t know, are youngest children more gregarious or more willing to share their info on it. They feel known because they have older siblings.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Fernandez, I think you had your hand up.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: I’m pretty sure I was probably guessed the most, because seven out of eight children, I don’t think anyone else has eight in their family. And I’ve been saying that all along. I didn’t realize it was going to be question at some point, Commissioner Yee, so -- but it was fun. Yeah. I and I guess I didn’t realize that we weren’t only children. I was just more amazed at the heights and some of the other characters. And it was actually the fun facts at the end that you added that was -- that was fun.
CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Andersen, how did you guess so many?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I will say, actually it was the little things people said just -- and I just kind of took note.

The one who threw me was Commissioner Akutagawa. If anyone’s listened they’ve heard her dogs, and I know she has two dogs. And I actually -- I’m pretty sure I know a couple of the names. And as a pet she put down hamster. So I assumed that she was the one who did not submit someone, which caused my other three to be rearranged.

So, that’s -- which was unfortunate -- Patricia and Ray are the ones I missed because of, you know, basically I have seen a few people, and I know how tall, you know, Ray is, and I know how tall a few people are. And then -- and then some other guesses, other comments just here and there that I just guessed.

But I really enjoyed -- one of the things, one of the questions was, what food’s your favorite if you go out to eat, and what food do you not like? And it was quite -- it was quite a range. It was very interesting I thought. But there were a lot of other, other things which are fun.

And just, you know, for all the public who’s listening, going, what are they talking about. There are very subtle things that you get when you actually meet in
person. And -- which I don’t believe most people realize, we haven’t. We’ve all done -- all this has been remote, and it’s hard. It’s much harder to do remotely. And we all look forward to when we can actually get together and see each other and catch the little mannerisms. So, I really appreciate the little the little get-to-know-you sort of type of games that Commissioner Yee put together for us. Thank you.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Absolutely.

Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA (via Zoom): I thought I would mention this, since Commissioner Andersen brought this up. Everybody I think in California must know about my dogs. You just can’t help but hear. I think I even got called out by Commissioner Taylor at one point -- or Enzo did, my dog Enzo.

So, I will say that on a technicality, Commissioner Yee did say what have you had, not what do you currently have. So, technically, I could say that I did have a hamster at one point. And I knew that if I put dogs it would make it way too easy to figure out who I was. So I did purposely throw people off by saying I did have a hamster.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Besides being bi- and
nonpartisan, there’s dog people and cat people on this Commission. It’s pretty evenly split.

I wondering, Commissioner Ahmad, is now the time to hear the story? If not --

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Well, which story --

COMMISSIONER YEE: -- that’s fine.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: -- I might ask?

COMMISSIONER YEE: The story of how you came to love sushi. No, no, the story of you coming into the world.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah. So, I was born in a car and my dad delivered me. So, yeah, apparently the story is that my mom’s water broke, and at the time they just thought they could make it to the hospital. So my dad drove and they got to the parking lot, and I was already on my way out, because, you know, a lot of stuff to do in this world. So, they recommended not moving her at that point, and my dad was there and so he delivered me, and I was born in a car. My birth certificate says “auto” as place of birth. I would try to fight for free gas, but we should probably move towards electric vehicles eventually.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: That was a great story.

COMMISSIONER YEE: There was a baby born on BART who got a lifetime BART ticket.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: That’s awesome.
It looks like we have a caller. I think our conversation has inspired a caller.

Katy, can you please invite them in?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: I sure can. Caller 1164, if you’ll please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star-six. Caller 1164, your speaker order number will be number 36, if you’ll please make note of that for future reference. And if you have an area you would like to discuss, please let the mapper know what it is. The floor is yours.

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Can you guys hear me?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can. Go ahead.

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Well, I don’t have nearly as exciting an introduction story as I just heard. I wasn’t born in a car. But I was born in California, and I now live up in Del Norte County, in small, unincorporated community called Fort Dix, which is just north of Crescent City. So, I don’t know if you need me to correspond to some area of the map, but I assume that you all know where that is more or less. Yes? No?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, thank you. Yes, we do. Thank you. Go ahead with your comment, please.

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Okay, great. So, I would just like to speak to the coastal community of influence,
because as a lifelong, third generation Californian, I think it’s not presumptuous to say that California’s most defining geography is its coastline. It’s the only part of the State that has a, you know, both a statewide commission and a conservancy devoted to its preservation and conservation. And it’s the last of our coastal commons. It’s the last part of California that still belongs to all the people. Which makes it important not only for the people who live along the coast, but it’s also those folks’ obligation to maintain that coastline and access to that coastline for all the people of California.

And so to that end, I would just like to make the point that keeping those coastal communities contiguously represented to the extent possible, is in the best interest not only of the communities that live there, but the communities who either realize or don’t realize they depend on those communities and the representation of those communities to protect that coastline.

We’re linked by Highway 101. Transportation in and out of these rural areas is a very real issue. I’m sure you’ve heard a lot about Last Chance Grade in Del Norte County being the main lifeline to and from this community. And I would say, you know, in a word, ain’t broke, don’t fix it. So, the way these -- this Congressional District and this Senate and Assembly
District -- Districts are currently configured are working well. And if they were configured in a different way that extended their representation more inland, we’ve seen what that looked like. Ten years ago that was the case, and representation for this area was -- was deep in an inland community represented by --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: -- perspectives that knew nothing about the coast, and didn’t particularly, you know, care to represent them.

So I would say the coast is definitely one of the strongest communities of interest in this State.

MR. MANOFF: Fifteen seconds.

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: The North Coast in particular needs to be maintained in its current configuration. Thank you very much for considering my perspective.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And I have a quick question.

MR. MANOFF: Caller 1164, if you could please press star-six to unmute. Thank you. The Chair had a couple questions for you.

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Sure.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Just I’m curious how you define coastal communities. Which communities would you include in that, or which -- well, which communities would you
include in that?

SPEAKER NUMBER 36: Well, currently its coastal counties, or -- and the coastal -- particularly the coastal portions of those counties. So right now I’m referring to Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That’s helpful.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was all of our callers at this time, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: So with that, can you do a -- we will be adjourning at 6:30 if there are no other callers. So, we’re -- I was wondering if Katy can just read the instructions one last time to see if there’s any callers. And, if not, we will be adjourning for the day.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

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Please make sure to mute your computer or live stream 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 live stream volume.

And at this time, Chair, we do not have any callers in the queue.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So that was the last call for public input. I thank you for joining our Community of Interest Input Meeting today. This week we have three additional Community of Interest Meetings scheduled.

The first is on August the 24th, tomorrow, at 3:00 p.m., focused on Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano Counties and their surrounding areas. And we’ll have Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese and Russian listening lines and interpretation available.
The second meeting this week will be on Wednesday, August the 25th at 3:00 p.m., focused on Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare Counties and the surrounding areas. And we will also have Spanish listening line and a Spanish interpretation available.

And then on Friday, August 27th at 3:00 p.m., focused on Monterey, San Benicia, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura and their surrounding areas. And this meeting will have a Spanish line and Spanish interpretation available.

Registration for each meeting closes two calendar days before at 5:00 p.m. The next Commission business meeting will be on August 31st at 9:30 p.m. -- or a.m.

I see that we have some callers on the line. Can you check to see if they are wanting to give public input before we adjourn?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Given that they called before 6:30.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair.

For those that have called in, if you would please press star-nine to raise your hand indicating you wish to give comment.

For caller 9796, if you will please follow the
prompts to unmute at this time. Caller 9796, unique I.D. 010, if you will be let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, you are speaker order number 36, and the floor is yours -- no, you are speaker number 37.

SPEAKER NUMBER 37: Hi.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Sorry, 37.

SPEAKER NUMBER 37: No worries. Hi. Can you hear me?

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes, absolutely.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

MS. CHIGAW (phonetic): Okay. Wonderful. Thanks. Hi. My name’s Mathilda Chigaw, and my community is located in southern coastal Mendocino County, just over the county line. So it starts in Walhalla, just to orient you a little bit.

I have lived there on and off for the past 22 years, and have lived between there and the Bay Area for the past five attending NOLS College (phonetic). It’s the area that I grew up in.

So my community includes Walhalla, Point Arena and Manchester. Those are three small towns -- well, Point Arena is a city located at the very southern end of Mendocino County. And these areas are located along Highway 1 within about 15 to 20 miles of each other. And although they’re kind of spread out in that way, it’s very
much one kind of big community. These towns share resources, they share schools, medical care, grocery stores. The only high school in that region is located in Point Arena, so it’s very connected. People live and work and go to school between these spaces, and this connection means they share a lot of the same interests and challenges.

And like many of the coastal communities in this region, there are many tourist destinations and are very economically dependent on tourism. However, the people living and working there full-time also struggle to meet their basic needs, like housing and medical care. And those are two of the greatest shared interests in that area, and two of the most scarce resources.

Low- and middle-income housing for long-term rent (indiscernible) is expensive and scarce, in part of tourism. And medical care is extremely limited, meaning that people must travel either south or inland. And although the area itself is not very far from major cities, it is pretty cut off and -- from those places, because of very narrow, winding roads that are often not in great condition, and it can be very hard for people to move between their community and places with more resources, so that they’re a very cut-off area.

Thank you. That’s what I’d like to share.
CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for your comments.
Katy, could you check to see if anyone else has comments?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, chair.
I’d like to invite those that have called in to please press star-nine to raise your hand if you wish to give comment at this time.

Those that have called are in the queue, if you wish to comment please press star-nine.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Last call for comments. Our lines close at 6:30.
Katy, should we also translate that in Spanish, just in case?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: One moment, Chair.
Two of the callers are regular listeners that have been here all day. We do have one new caller. I’m just going to go ahead and just try opening the line.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate it, Katy.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 3034, if you wish to give comment, please press star-six at this time.

My only other option I guess would be to -- caller 3034, if you are unique I.D. 032, is this Nate Madsen? If you could please press star-six if you wish to give comment. There we are. 3034, Nate Madsen, if that you?
MR. CRUZ: Hello. This is Randall Cruz.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Randall Cruz. All right. Well, you are speaker order number 37 -- 38, if you will please make note of that. And if you’ll please let the mapper know what area you would like to discuss, the floor is yours.

MR. CRUZ: Yes. I’m talking about the American Canyon, Napa County and Solano County in Vallejo, and I want to talk about that. I have a few talking points I was interested in talking about.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you. Go ahead, please.

MR. CRUZ: Yeah. I just want to say that there are strong ties between the Filipino communities in both the Napa and Solano Counties, particularly in American Canyon and Vallejo. I live in American Canyon. I live right at the border, and friends, family on both sides. And to communicate we have the Highway 29 transportation corridor there. Shopping and tourism both in Napa County and, of course, Vallejo, that transcends there.

And, again, I just -- that was my basic talking points. I’d like to talk about how interested I am in keeping Vallejo within this same district.

MR. MANOFF: Caller 3034 --

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you so much for your comment.
MR. MANOFF: -- does that conclude your comments?

MR. CRUZ: Yes, it does. Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak on that.

CO-CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate it. Thank you for calling in.

And at this time, just a reminder we have the three Community of Interest Meetings this week. And any caller from California is welcome to call in to any of those meetings, even though they might be focused on a specific region.

Registration for each meeting does close two days prior to the meeting at 5:00 p.m., and the next Commission’s business meeting will be on August 31st at 9:30.

Callers at the Community of Interest Meetings are not limited to the specifically mentioned counties. And you can visit the meeting page at our website to see a list of additional upcoming Community of Interest Meetings at wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings.

And with that we will be adjourning for today.

(Session recessed until August 24, 2021.)
REPORTER’S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of September, 2021.

[Signature]

PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public
TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and 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.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

September 17, 2021

MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367