STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:
CRC PUBLIC MEETING - LIVE LINE DRAWING

Southern California

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021
8:57 a.m.

Reported by:
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Monday, November 15, 2021  8:57 a.m.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Good morning, California. My name is Pedro Toledo. And I will be chairing today's California Citizens Redistricting Commission Business Meeting.

I'm excited to be of service to you. I hope you had a wonderful Veterans Day Weekend. And I would like to thank every veteran who committed their life for the protection and defense of our Nation and the State of California. We appreciate your sacrifice, and thank you for your service.

I also hope our commissioners and staff had a restful weekend.

Alvaro, please take roll call.

MR. SINGH: Good morning, Chair. This is Rav. I'll be taking the roll today.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. Thank you, Ravi.

MR. SINGH: You're welcome.

Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vázquez?

COMMISSIONER VÁZQUEZ: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmad?
COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Here.
MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Here.
MR. SINGH: Commissioner Andersen?
Commissioner Fernández?
COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Presente.
MR. SINGH: Commissioner Fornaciari.
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Here.
MR. SINGH: Commissioners Kennedy?
COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.
MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Le Mons?
Commissioner Sadhwani?
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.
MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay?
Commissioner Taylor?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.
MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Toledo?
CHAIR TOLEDO: Here. Thank you.
MR. SINGH: You're welcome. You have a quorum, Chair.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Commissioner Andersen is here.
MR. SINGH: Yes. I did get you, Commissioner Andersen. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.
MR. SINGH: You have a quorum, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: I appreciate that, Ravi. You know, before we begin I want to thank all Californians who have taken the time to engage with us over the last few months. I also want to thank members of the media, and community-based organizations all over the state who are educating Californians about our district maps and the redistricting process.

And I'd like to invite every person in California to make your voice heard. Please contact us. Your voice matters. Last week we released draft maps for the State Senate, State Assembly, Board of Equalization, and U.S. House of Representatives, the maps are posted on our website.

We released the draft maps last week to ensure that Californians would have as much time as possible before the holidays to provide feedback. And we will be hosting public input sessions November 17th to November 23rd to get feedback on those maps.

The commission is committed to drawing fair maps in a transparent manner, and with meaningful public input. As we all know, California is a large, complex and diverse state, and population growth over the last ten years has been uneven. Our draft maps are in compliance with Constitutional Equal Population requirements, which
is our first requirement.

Section two, Voting Rights Act Compliance is our second requirements, because a significant portion of California is subject to Section 2 VRA considerations and requirements, these VRA districts are the foundation of our maps, and it is thus not surprising that we spent most of our time and energy last week on those areas.

Those districts will continue to be an important focus, and we want to encourage Californians from those districts, and advocates for VRA-protected groups, to take the time to provide us with feedbacks on those districts.

Our third criteria -- is that districts must be drawn continuously. And after that, our fourth criteria is that we must minimize the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and communities of interest to the extent possible without violating the three requirements previously mentioned.

Consequently there will be instances where communities of interest will need to be divided to be in compliance with one or more of these three requirements I previously mentioned. Lastly, our final two criteria are geographic compactness and nesting when practicable.

When providing feedback to the commission please keep in mind that we are hearing your feedback, weighing
it, and where possibly, applying it. At this stage in
the redistricting process even small refinements might
have implications for the architecture of our maps. And
that the implications may ripple across California.

In terms of today’s agenda we will be starting with
director’s reports, and turning to committee and
subcommittee updates, and during the line drawings of
committee reports, we will be debriefing our last week’s
live line drawing process.

After that, during the public input subcommittee
report, we will have a discussion on how to continue to
ensure that the public has meaningful opportunities to
provide input on our maps through this next stage of the
redistricting process.

At 3 p.m., I intend to go to close session, under
the security and pending litigation exceptions. We will
be coming back into open session at 4 p.m. to take
general public comments.

With that, let’s go to the executive director
reports.

Mr. Hernandez, are you ready with your update?

MR. HERNANDEZ: I am ready, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Good morning, Commissioners. So I
wanted to bring up and raise a question and a concern to
all of you, hopefully you've had a take -- you've had a chance to hear some of the feedback that we've had over the last couple of days. We just recently received a letter from a group of folks that wanted to have you consider changing the amount of time that we have for the upcoming public input on the draft maps meeting, five minutes to less than five minutes.

So if you recall when we did the presentation the COI public input meetings we had three minutes. I do think that there is an abundance of folks that want to participate and want to talk to the commission, that we should reconsider the five minutes, and reduce that, say, to three minutes, or even less than three minutes.

I think last week we did two minutes and things went really smooth, and we were able to get through a lot of people. But I wanted to present that to you as a consideration because that was previously voted on to do the five minutes as part of the overall plan.

But now that we know where we are, the amount of participation that people are asking for, I think we should definitely reconsider reducing that to less than the five minutes, for sure. So I would like to make a recommendation for you to consider that.

Marcy is going to be talking a little bit later about the run of show, as far as those input meetings are
concerned, what we're going to be doing. I also share some information on the number of people that have signed up. And also we're ready to pivot if you decide to go with less time. So with that, I wanted to put that out there for you to consider. Any questions?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Alvaro. I think we can take that recommendation when we start -- when we have the Line Drawing Subcommittee discussion. So at that time, since we're going to -- since we'll need to take public comment at that time on that issue, and we can consider it in the context of all of the public input.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Very well, thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

MR. HERNANDEZ: I also wanted to share with you that we had submitted a request to the legislature in the Department of Finance to release funds for the operations, basically, of the commission's work up to the completion of the maps, which will be December 27th.

So that request has been submitted. We are waiting to hear back from the Department of Finance, awarding us the -- or releasing those funds to us so that we can continue our operations up until the 27th.

We will also be requesting funding, post-map funding, and also litigation funding to be available to the commission. We'll be submitting that letter to them
later this month, to request that those funds be available after the 27th, so that we can streamline the process and make sure there are no hiccups from -- the transition from the pre-maps to the post-maps. I just wanted to give you an update. We're working on the budget information, the expenditures, and the support to provide you more detailed information. The next meeting we'll be meeting with the subcommittee this week to discuss that. As you know we have a new budget officer, who's going through and putting the information together for us. We'll take a look at that.

So I wanted to make sure that you're aware of that. I also wanted to let you know that the paper COIs, we have started to receive them back from a number of different organizations that we sent them to. The prisons, this is mostly the ones that have gone to the incarcerated folks, we've received a lot of them back, returned; not necessarily processed. We have approximately a hundred that have been completed and returned, so I just wanted to give you an update on that.

That will complete my report. I know it's rather short for the operations. The last thing I wanted to mention is that we have had a number of staff supporting the commission's meeting, and taking notes during the visualizations for the most part. We did that also last
week when we were doing the actual live line drawing. So I wanted just to bring it to your attention that we have, pretty much, all hands on deck and it is a lot of time that is involved in taking some of these notes.

I talked with Chair Toledo, that the type of notes that we'll be taking are going to be -- moving forward at the high level, because we are going to be doing live line drawing in the future, but that type of note-taking will be a little bit different than what we've been used to. It's going to be more of a high-level type of line -- note-taking. So that you're aware that it's not going to be to the level of detail, we are working on the transcripts in having those available.

We will also have the video available should you want to go back. And I just wanted to make that -- make you aware of that because it is so time-consuming. The staff has been very available.

And with that note taking piece, especially this week that we're going to have the input meetings, we wanted to know from you if you needed staff to do any type of analysis on any of the notes. We wanted to kind of get ahead of it, rather than be called upon during the meeting, to provide you analysis or information from, you know, various different groups of who said what.

So if there is something specific that you'd like
for us to do, as far as the analysis, we'd be more than happy to do so. And if you could give us a little bit of what you're looking for that would be great as well, so that we can have staff ready, and able to provide you that information. That was it. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And on the note-taking piece, the most important aspect of the note taking work that we need, one is to ensure that we understand why we're making the decisions, and to have enough information to be able to explain that in the future. We can always go back to our transcripts and to videos, but we need to understand why.

Is it for population purposes? Is it for deviation? Is it VRA reasons, or some other type of reason that we are making decisions? And so that's -- you know, so keeping it high level, while having enough detail to understand the why, and for us to be able to explain our decisions as in our final report.

And turning now to (indiscernible) asks.

MR. HERNANDEZ: (Indiscernible, simultaneous speech)

CHAIR TOLEDO: I believe Fredy has a question.

Director Ceja, I mean.

MR. CEJA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And with that let's go to the communications report. Fredy, you're next up.
MR. CEJA: Thank you so much, Chair. I think I hit the hand raise by mistake.

Yeah, yeah, I'm still coming off the high from last week. So I missed everyone and seeing everyone in person.

Jumping into the communications report, I want to provide a few updates. We're entering into the last month of our radio and billboard advertising. We have finalized the document, a one pager called Roadmap to Final Maps, and I posted that under handouts for today, to give the public an idea of what it's like for the next few weeks, and Commissioner -- Chair Turner approved that during her rotation.

We did send out the November 2021 Newsletter, and we had some great news to announce with the release of our draft maps. We're continuing to streamline the input that we received from the public with our data team. We are caught up with regards to input, but we have not inputted today, so I'm sure our team has a backlog from the weekend, so we'll get to that today.

We currently are at 16,000 inputs on our data page, which was a huge increase from the past week. We were excited to 10,000, and a few days later we hit 16,000. So it just shows the engagement from the public, as they log on to our web page and provide feedback on our draft
1 maps, and hopefully it continues into this week.
2
3 Our ethnic media vendor is placing advertisements in
4 ethnic newspapers, and preparing to hold roundtables in
5 hard-to-reach communities, focus on the draft maps that
6 you've now released. So we have something tangible to
7 show the public, and gather their feedback.
8
9 Our social media vendor will also target
10 advertisements on Facebook and Google, with some specific
11 draft maps, again, to solicit public input in response to
12 the draft maps that we put out.
13
14 I do have CDs that were sent to me by Ravi, and they
15 have transcripts for the following meetings: That's
16 August 9th of this year, August 12th, August 19th, August
17 24th, August 30th, September 10th, and September 29th;
18 we're going to upload those immediately, and post them
19 onto the website. We are just going to need some time,
20 as these files are fairly large. So we'll do that this
21 week as well.
22
23 As far as interviews for the past week since the
24 last commission meeting, we had of course a busy day, the
25 day of the draft maps, and then the day immediately
26 following.
27
28 We spoke to Northern California Record to, AP, KCBS
29 Radio in the Bay Area, KLOQ Radio Lobo, KRC Media, KGO-
30 TV, Chapman University, Fresno Radio, KCRA3 in
Sacramento, The San Diego Union Tribune, KPCC and LAist, KRON4, AP again, The Desert Sun, Sac Bee, NBC4 Los Angeles, and NBC San Diego. And some of those requests are still in my inbox, so we'll continue with those.

Thank you to those commissioners that made themselves available for these requests. I'll continue to issue them out as I receive them.

As far as media mentions, over the last month I pulled the report from Atwater, we actually had 414 stories mentioning the commission itself. And we had 1,175 stories on redistricting in California alone.

Our website, our contacts in the database are up to 19,731, views for our website over the last month were 762,212, that's a new record so people are following us, and logging on to our website. And on the homepage alone, we had approximately 300,000 clicks, so people are browsing through our website looking for information, which is great.

The e-blast that we did over the past week, we did the 11/7/21 visualizations announcement, that had an open rate of 27 percent. Our draft maps press release announcement had 30 percent open rate. So people are naturally interested in what we had to say. And then the newsletter for November had a 26 percent open rate. Anything above 20 percent is great, that's what's
expected, so all the good numbers there.

Our social media numbers, for Facebook we're at 1,389, Instagram 385 followers, Twitter 2,489, LinkedIn was at 323, and YouTube was at 95 subscribers.

And that is my report for this week.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And thank you for your service and your great work. And we have a couple of questions for the commissioners.

Commissioner Fernandez, first, and Kennedy second.

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, this one is for Executive Director Hernandez. I didn't get my hand up, quickly enough.

The meetings that we're going to have in December 13th through the 19th, or something like that. I had a question a while ago, and I think a few other Commissioners, if we could have a later starting time than 9:30, because quite a few of us have, not just this Commission, but other responsibilities as well, in terms of work, and it would be nice to be able to take care of that prior to our meeting, if necessary.

I noticed that you changed it from 9:30 to 10:00, but I was kind of hoping if it could be a bit later. And I'm not sure if any of my other fellow Commissioners also have feedback on that. So I was hoping for maybe even 11, but if that's too late for everyone, I can make work.
Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernández.

Commissioner Kennedy, then Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Director Ceja, I've got two concerns, or one that has several aspects of it. One, my sense from some of the public input that we're receiving is that there is some degree of misinformation out there. And I don't know who is spreading it, but it is definitely concerning.

I mean, with the number of people who seem to believe that they are literally going to have to start paying taxes in a different county if their district includes part of that county. Things like this, you know, they are really serious for members of the public. And I don't know -- I mean, there are enough of these that I don't think it's just -- you know, individual, I think it's coming from sources somewhere.

So I don't know if there's a way to ferret out where some of this misinformation is coming from, but I think we do need to be aware of it.

Second of all, we have to be careful and be very precise in our messaging. I have received items from -- I believe from our own social media toolkit in Spanish, that are saying: Don't let legislators draw your new lines. What is that about? There's no -- there's no
question of legislators drawing new lines.

So you know, not only do we need to be aware of misinformation that's out there, we certainly don't want to be the source of any of it. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Mr. Kennedy -- or Commissioner Kennedy.

Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I will -- first off I just want to support what Commissioner Fernández requested. 11 a.m. would be ideal, at least that would enable, you know, all of us I believe to get some things done since most businesses start or open at 9 a.m., even if it's virtual, or even if it's in person, it will -- since we have a long stretch of time I think that would be helpful to -- that would I've us the time to get at least one thing done in the morning. Maybe even possibly two, depending on, you know, distance, and meeting schedules and other things like that. So I just wanted to say that.

Two, also, I'll just briefly comment on what Commissioner Kennedy said. I've seen the same things that he has said, I do wonder though if some of it is a combination of individuals who misunderstand what districting means, and then you know, in conversation with others is also spreading which then, you know,
continues to spread more. It could be other things too, but I will just share that.

In a conversation with an individual I just asked that question, what does that mean, and that person is — not due to misinformation, but just their understanding of what they think redistricting mean. And so there may be an element more of civic education that may be needed, less so misinformation.

I don't want to say that there isn't, but I think it could be a combination of both that may be kind of converging here. So thought I'd just also share that.

Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

In terms of the public input of specifics, I mean, the schedules, the times, the amount for public input. We'll come back to that in the afternoon when we do our public input discussion. And hopefully, as necessary, we'll take action on any changes that way we need to make.

In terms of media, the media relations, I would remind the commissioners when we're doing interviews to really -- to be careful when you're speaking on behalf of the commission, and when you're speaking as an individual Commissioner.

And if it's your opinion it's coming from you as a commissioner, of course you have First Amendment Rights
to do so. And when you're representing the commission on
general redistricting issues that's on -- that of course,
is in -- when you're speaking on behalf of the commission
on those items. And so there's two -- those aspects of
it.

Commissioner -- let's go to Fredy. Let's see if he
has any feedback on any of this. And then we'll go to
Commissioner Akutagawa, if she still has her hand raised.

MR. CEJA: All right. Thank you so much.
CHAIR TOLEDO: So let's go to you Fredy.
MR. CEJA: Yes, thank you so much.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Director Ceja, I mean.
MR. CEJA: So Commissioner Kennedy, it would be
great if we could get together and start a myths and
fact, maybe fact sheet to correct some of those issues
that you've seen out there.

But yeah, naturally too, I mean, as people are
dialing into the commission for the first time, we're
going to have to go back to the basics of reeducating
what redistricting is, what the process is, where we are.

It's a continuous cycle, but yeah, I have seen an
increase of individuals also directing their comments to
specific Commissioners, and that's going to happen as we
move through this process. But yes, definitely want to
remind everyone to continue sticking to the points that
we have.

   Am I frozen?

   And I'm going to continue to provide those basic
talking points as we move along, because some of the hot
issues will emerge, and hopefully we'll have responses
for those on a weekly basis.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. We have hand raised by
Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yeah. Just in the spirit of
what Commissioner Kennedy was raising, I absolutely,
wholeheartedly respect First Amendment Rights. I think
as commissioners, particularly in this particular stretch
of the process, I would encourage us to keep our comments
specific to our role as commissioner when we're asked
about commission business, because the possibility of
things getting confused and misconstrued is greater when
we don't.

   So if we just personally make that decision, that
despite the fact that I have the First Amendment Right to
have an opinion, that I'm speaking and representing the
commission, and so I don't want to further confuse the
messaging, or give people something to misconstrue as we
move into this final stretch of the work. Thanks.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. Any
other thoughts around this to close the loop?
Any suggestions, Director Ceja?

MR. CEJA: So perhaps we can put together updated talking points on a weekly basis as issues start arising. I know some of the issues will change more frequently now, so it will require talking points on a weekly basis, so we can do that. And then like I said, putting together myths and facts handout that we can use, and send that to individuals, and keep posting on social media.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And your talking points are always very on point, and specific to the work that we're doing, and the message we want to get out to the public. Especially around how to engage with our processes, how to submit information to the committee, and where we are in the redistricting process.

So thank you for all the work that you're doing. And I think a fact sheet would be great, and updated regular talking points would also be helpful.

With that, let's go to our outreach director, Director Kaplan.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Chair?

CHAIR TOLEDO: I'm sorry, Commissioner Turner. I didn't see your hands raised.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh. That's okay. I just wanted to kind of ask for your opinion or so. So I appreciate the talking points, they're always very helpful, but in light of what Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Le Mons is sharing, I know some of the requests that are coming out now, are coming out specifically asking in regards to our experience in a particular area, or our experience based on our own. So they've asked I think a lot of the general questions that can be responded to with the talking points.

And so is the thought process that we're not taking interviews based on our own personal, where we live, background experiences, because I find the requests now are coming with that type of lens with it. And so how are we thinking of addressing these requests?

MR. CEJA: Yeah, that --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Yeah, that's a great question.

Director Ceja?

MR. CEJA: Yeah, so if I can respond -- yeah, thank you so much. Yes, a lot of the media requests now are: hey, how did you come up with the draft map for my area, right? Or what implications does this have for these communities? They're lumping together districts that exist now.

We can provide pivot points for all those. Not
shying from the question, but also looking to those zone leaders that have more context to how we reached those decisions. I know certainly during the deliberations for draft maps, certain commissioners took the lead on certain areas, and they sort of engaged the other commissioners around how to get to a certain point, or how to create a certain district.

So I'll be tapping into the knowledge that we have on this commission for those individuals that have more knowledge about a certain geographic area that we can translate into talking points to let the folks know how we reached our consensus.

And then going back to the basic criteria, right? We're looking first and foremost at population, second at VRA recommendations, and then making sure that we're keeping cities, counties, and communities of interest together to the best of our ability.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes. Let me just add a follow up to that, Fredy, that will be helpful. And adding to your response, it's specific things: living in the Central Valley, living in San Joaquin County, a lot of this is, living there, what is your experience living there? Whether you think it's still an agricultural area.

MR. CEJA: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Is it? So you see, it's not so much about the criteria and we agreed, it's again, and I just want to be really clear, so that I'm in alignment with what we have determined as a Commission. Are we not asking and responding, that's what I mean by personal kind of questions?

MR. CEJA: I would say that there's always an opportunity to add your own personal flair to a response, so long as you're still delivering the main message, which is, we're following a set of criteria, based on my expertise and my knowledge of the area, because I live here. You can always add that, that context to it as well.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Let's go to Commissioners Andersen, and Akutagawa, Le Mons. And then hopefully we can -- we can get to some level of consensus around this.

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair. I just saw the myths and facts, which I think is a marvelous idea. But could you send that around to us as a draft before it goes out, so we can add additional things which we found out about, and/or just, you know, tweak a few things to make sure it sort of fits for everybody, please?

MR. CEJA: Yep.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. Also, I wanted to also add in perhaps a request about being more clear about what the VRA means. I feel like it took us a little while to fully understand it, I think they're -- it would be helpful for the public to also understand at least some high level, you know, just perhaps FAQs about it so that they -- you know we say that, because it's the number two, and we talk about it a lot, but I don't know if everybody fully understands what that means, and so it may be helpful to have those FAQs included about the VRA. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes. I just wanted to express a little bit of a concern that I have as it relates to interpretation. I'm glad Commissioner Turner raised those very specific questions.

If I recall, the zone leaders were established to ensure that we were promoting outreach to get input from the public. And I think that long the way that has gotten misinterpreted a little bit, is that if you're a zone leader area, you are somehow now the expert of that area, and so anything that comes out of your mouth related to that area is fact.
And so that's not what our purpose was, and that's not what we were trying to represent, as far as what I understood. What's most important is the COI testimony, so our goal was to hear from as many Californians as possible, for them to inform us about their communities.

And while we do have communities, I mean, we lived in communities that we have an awareness of, my singular awareness of a community, just because I'm a commissioner, doesn't mean that that is the reality of the community, that's just my experience of the community.

And I think what happens is, our opinion is elevated because of our role. So I think that's why it becomes very, very important that we be very mindful of how what we're communicating is being received. It's not so much what we're saying. We know our intentions. But it's about the possible misunderstanding by the recipient. That's what concerns me.

So I think if we can err on the side of not making this about our personal experience, not about where what we understand about the community, while that's valid, that doesn't trump the COI testimony, which to me is the most important. And that's why we put all of that effort into outreach, and we made a concerted effort, as a Commission, to make sure that we did outreach far and
wide, so that we could have the kind of intel necessary
to draw the best maps based on the community.

So I think if we just use that lens as we talk about
it, even when we're giving our direct feedback into
live -- live line drawing, et cetera, we're not framing
it: Oh, I know this, and I know that. I know a caller
said, well, Commissioner Le Mons lives in that
neighborhood. Well, yeah, I do, with a whole lot of
other people, but my neighbor might feel very differently
about it than I do.

So I just wanted to kind of put that out there. And
I think we can manage what we communicate out of our own
mouths.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons. And
I think it's really imp for us to drive our message, and
I think other talking points that Director Ceja creates,
helps to focus us -- focus us and push our message
across. What's really important for us to drive the
message with members of the media, to focus them on
what's important to us, and to the redistricting process,
and not to get sidetracked by some of the reporters who
may be doing it, without good intention.

So with that, let's go to Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I just
want to reiterate a point that I made a couple months
back, which is that, you know, as much work as we did
getting the California redistricting basics presentation
out around the state to as many people as we did, we
still have to recognize that there are many people who
never came in contact with that presentation, and the
information that's in there.

So I would encourage us to continue to push that,
not just have it available, but to proactively push it
out. You know, even to the point, it occurred to me the
other day we've had complaints about our hold music. Why
do we have hold music? Let's use the hold time to get
across the basic facts about redistricting from our
redistricting basics, presentation, or fact sheets, or
something else.

Let's just continue to push, push, push to get the
facts out there. You know and I've said also, if we
don't fill the voids in people's minds, they start making
up their interpretation of it without reference to the
facts because we haven't done a good enough job of
getting the facts out there.

So I just want to encourage us to continue to be
very proactive and push all of this information, not just
new information, as much as we can. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: I just wanted to quickly add
in, and hopefully Fredy captured it. I thought the wording that Commissioner Le Mons gave, or lifted up, was really good wording for kind of leading to some of the pivots, because the questions are specifically. And my challenge, I think sticking point was, I do live in the area, but I certainly recognize I don't represent everyone's opinion.

So I just like the wording to be able to say, yes, I certainly can talk about me, however, I recognize I'm only me. I certainly don't speak on behalf of.

And so he, I think, laid it out really good, and I think that will be helpful, because we will continue at this point to be asked specifics. Not so much about the commission, we know how to find those resources. But people are curious about the people that's making the decisions, and we are representing the almost 40 million, and yes, we live here, but we're only one of a large number of people that are in our areas.

So anyway I just wanted to add that, and maybe we can use some of that consistent wording. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So do Commissioners feel like that's sufficient guidance at this point? Or do we need additional guidance on communications, media communications? Let's just show -- yes, no, maybe.

Okay, it looks like everyone is comfortable with where
we're at.
With that, let's transition to Director Kaplan with our -- or actually our outreach report.

MS. KAPLAN: Hi. Good morning, Commissioners. So I'm just going to walk you through a little bit the written report that's posted, and then I'll go into some more notes. So I had posted an outreach report, and the first few pages include upcoming and past presentations, that staff have been providing across the state.

And so just to follow up on some of the discussion that you all were just having. We do still continue to push the redistricting basics video that was created, along with other ways for the public to participate in the process, and so we're continuing to conduct these presentations and -- and just updating a few slides today, and based on the release of the draft maps, and ways to provide input as well.

Going further along in the document, and there's an overview, as Fredy mentioned, we have increased our public input dramatically over the last months. And so there's a breakdown at the bottom of page 4 of the source type of the input that we've received, whether it's coming from email, letter, the contact us form, the drawing tools, live meetings, visualization feedback form, and the district map feedback form, which we have
just updated.

And then I've provided a breakdown of the goal and activation rate by county as of October -- I'm sorry, that should be November 13, 2021. And so this is to continue as of I've done in previous commission meetings. And this is highlighting the commission's strategic outreach goal at an activation rate of one per one thousand, or 0.1 percent of an area.

And this is based on the input that we've received that mentions respective counties and again, just want to continue to highlight that there's numerous inputs to submit -- that are submitted that mention multiple counties, so this is capturing when counties are mentioned more than once as well.

Also, just going back to some of the input that we've received in the different sources where it comes from, and there's been some additional non-English verbal testimony that's been provided at several meetings in October and November. And so from the ones from October 29th, 30th, and November 2nd, we had English subtitles included on those clips.

And those are now posted on the past meeting pages, for those meetings, and we've also included the written transcription in the non-English language as well as the English language into the database. And we do have
another batch of non-English written in part, and with our language vendor that we should have this week to post as well.

And just going further through the document, there's also a breakdown. So it's sorted by county in alphabetical order, and then sorted the actual goal actively -- the percentage goal activated per county, as have been requested in the past, and then there is a breakdown by zone as well.

And then I wanted to just provide some overview of the draft map input meetings, and some additional updates that staff have provided. We did update the visualization form to, it's now a draft map feedback form, but we are using the same link, because it's already in circulation. So there's, we just have to tweak the questions a little bit, and that went live as the draft maps were approved.

I wanted to highlight the draft map input meetings that are happening this week and the following as the commission approved earlier, or last month, November 17th, 18th, and 19th, will be from 3 to 8 p.m. starting with November 17th, focusing on Congressional District feedback, November 18th on Assembly District feedback, November 19th on Senate District feedback, and then November 20th, from 10 to 3, starting with quality
equalization feedback, and then opening to any district feedback.

And then two additional meetings on November 22nd and 23rd from 9:30 to 2:30, focused on any district feedback. We opened up the apartments for the in-part meetings after the commission approved draft maps, and an email blast went out with the announcement, and that's when the appointments were opened for the public.

And the majority of the appointments had filled up by 12 -- between 12 and 1 p.m. on November 11th, and on November 12th staff had identified where there were duplicate sign ups within one day.

And additional appointments opened up given the commission had approved the limit of one speaker -- one speaker per day. The appointments are based on a five-minute time limit per speaker that was also approved at the previous commission meeting when this was discussed.

We did create a flyer that was translated into thirteen languages for the draft map input meetings, but it also includes other ways to provide input to the commission, including the feedback form, and other ways to participate that are on our website.

My understanding there will be a mapper present during the meetings to display the area the public is going to be speaking about during the meetings as well.
I also wanted to highlight that we have secured translation with our language vendor, and a Spanish language line, and interpreters will be on for all days as the commission approved all other language access requests. Or requests for disability accommodations can be submitted via email to the commission by calling our office, are also included in the appointment request form.

For language requests, we have not received any beyond Spanish. And I wanted to also highlight that we're working with a vendor, to solicit a vendor to provide audio descriptions of the draft maps, per request that we received to provide additional access to those who have limited sight. And we'll be working with the COMs team, when those are posted, to be able to blast those out as well. I think the goal was by the end of this week.

And just wanted to give you some overview on additional staff logistics, and prepping for all these meetings, Sulma and her team really helped over the last, just getting everything together in order for us to be able to launch new appointments when the draft maps are released, and all the additional steps on the backend.

So just really highlighting that we'll be finalizing a run of show for the week, and a general script for the
chair and vice chair, staff are going to be on to support with note taking, and coordination with the video team on appointments.

I want to highlight that we've been working with our data teams so when there is public comment in live meetings, it is going into our database, so that there is this move to transition, and we have the record of those inputs as well. And the database staff are also supporting with coordination to set up the language lines, and coordinate witness interpreters as needed.

And then just highlighting the process in terms of logistics for participants, there will be anyone who has registered for appointments will receive their Zoom login link the day before the meeting, and also a reminder the day of the meeting. And sometimes, just to highlight, these end up in a spam folder, so letting the public know if they don't see those immediately to also check their spam folder.

And that was it for my report. Just wanted to try and give a little bit more overview of how staff has been prepping for those meetings.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Director Kaplan. And we'll come back to some of these items during the Public Input Committee as we work through some of the time constraints, and the schedule, and other logistics.
With that, let's turn it over to director -- or Chief Counsel Pane.

MR. PANE: Good morning, Chair. Thank you, Commission. I just wanted to give you a brief highlight during the Legal Affairs Committee, Subcommittee Report, I'll be looking to seek approval for the Strumwasser & Woocher litigation contract.

As you know, we've been having further negotiations, and added additional protections for the commission since the last time you voted on it. And Strumwasser & Woocher which has been very helpful; and we have their signature for this contract. So I'll be seeking your final approval to get that in place. And that is posted as well.

Other than that, I just wanted to give you a brief update. We are finalizing negotiations with Gibson & Dunn (sic) on the litigation contract for them, we expect to -- we hope to finalize those in the coming weeks, to get that one before you for approval as well.

With that, I can answer any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Chief Counsel Pane. And Chief -- or rather, Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to mention, on the Strumwasser & Woocher contract, the signatory for Strumwasser & Woocher is Dale Larson. I
believe his name is signed but not printed. So I just
wanted to mention that on camera. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Yee. Any
other questions for Chief Counsel Pane?

Fabulous, so with that we'll go to subcommittee and
committee reports, and starting off with government
affairs and census.

MR. MANOFF: Chair? Chair? We do need to take
public comment for that agenda item, for the director's
report.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Oh. Thank you.

MR. MANOFF: Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Certainly. Let's take public
comment, Katy.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you, Chair. In
order to maximize transparency and public participation
in our process, the commissioners will be taking public
comment by phone. To call in, dial the telephone number
provided on the live-stream feed. It is 877-853-5247.

When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided
on the live-stream feed. It is 82982211105 for this
meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply
press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you will
be placed in q 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 -- please be sure to mute your computer, your 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.

The commissioner is taking public comment on agenda item number 2, director's report, at this time. If you would like to make comment on agenda item number 2, if you'll please press star nine to raise your hand.

At this time, Chair, we do not have any raised hands.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Can we wait a couple minutes?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We do have one raised hand, and we will take that. Caller 4149, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star six, The floor is yours.

MR. COSNEY: Thank you, Commissioners. My name is
Kevin Cosney (ph.) calling from the Black Census and Redistricting Hub. Again, I want to thank you for your service, and all of you worked to make this a fair and public process.

We do want to encourage the commission to send additional time, thought, and consideration on public comment participation process to ensure there are not unintentional inequities in the system. I was concerned about a few things, namely, that they're producing a process that favors political insiders, wealthier, and more privilege individuals.

For example, the appointment link for the draft map input meeting, opened right after draft maps which are released late at night. And really, only people who are political insiders that have the luxury to watch the commission all night, and wait for that very moment for things to be released would have known that the appointment link was open.

The appointment link did open before full PDF of draft maps were released, and didn't give ordinary members of the public time to analyze the map to decide if they even wanted to weigh in. And then the newsletter that came our Friday, November 12th, promoting the appointment system, again, but it came out at a time where there were no more appointments left, which again,
gave the public a false impression that they can weigh in via oral comments, when the option was no longer available.

There's lots of issues with clarity regarding sign up process, this happened during the map's admission process, and again, now in the feedback process. Again during map presentation process there was confusion over whether (indiscernible) would be given multiple processes. And as a result, we at the Hub we're given less time than other groups with smaller proposals, during the draft map feedback appointment process this time, and second were unclear and didn't fully --

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MR. COSNEY: -- lay out the commission's policies and procedures. And as a result many community residents have been denied opportunities to give their feedback. Again, we know that you all want to hear as many people as possible, but again, we have concerns --

MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

MR. COSNEY: -- about written feedback process, and again, by not having enough slots open, was certainly denying folks from being able to speak. So again, we would love to hear more opportunities to give oral public comment, less than --

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. Right
now we will have caller with the last four 2829, if you
will please the prompt to unmute by pressing star six.
The floor is yours.

MS. WESTALUSK: Yes. This is Renee Westalusk (ph.),
and I'm calling to find out, because there was a mention
of decreasing the speaking time for the appointment
slots. Does that mean you're going to open up more
appointment slots?

My second point, the appointments that were made
available were filled up in less than 24 hours after you
opened them up, and many groups didn't get to reserve a
slot. And then what about the people who are forced to
call in to give their public comment because they were
unable to get an appointment slot? They won't be allowed
to present a map to you visually.

I understand the appointment people get to present
maps that you'll be able to see, but the people that are
forced to call in, because they couldn't get an
appointment slot, won't be given that opportunity. I'd
like you to comment on those things. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And
right now we have caller 4201. If you'll, please follow
the prompts to unmute by pressing star six. The floor is
yours.

MR. WALDMAN: Yeah, hi. Stuart Waldman from the San
Fernando Valley Redistricting Coalition. I have to agree with the previous callers. I was unaware of appointment links. And I've spent hundreds of hours watching everything, and didn't know it existed until now, and unfortunately seem to have missed out, as many other people did.

I don't think it was advertised well, I did not see it on social media, I didn't hear it, of course I was doing other things while I'm listening to the commission, but definitely something needs to be done to open up to give people an opportunity to voice their opinion.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you so much. And that is all of the raised hands at this time, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So in response to some of the issues that were raised right now through some of these calls, and letters we've received over the weekend from Common Cause, League of Women Voters, and others, we'll be talking about the public input process later today. And looking at ways to increase participation and engagement through our public input process over the next couple of weeks, and think through some of these issues.

So we will be talking about these issues, and addressing later in the meeting today, during the Public Input Subcommittee discussion. So hopefully you can follow us through that process later this afternoon.
With that, let's go to subcommittee and committee reports. And we'll start with government affairs; that's Commissioner Sadhwani and myself.

And we don't have any update at this time.

So we'll move on to Finance and Administration, Commissioners Fernández and Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: I do not believe we have anything at this point. Director Hernandez noted the funds request for the Department of Finance, and then we'll also have a budget meeting this week.

Was there anything else, Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: No.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Next up is the Gantt Chart Committee, that's Kennedy -- Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing to report, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. We'll move on to Outreach and Engagement, Sinay and Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I don't think we have anything to submit -- to report. We've met with Marcy, she mentioned -- or Director Kaplan, sorry, she mentioned that the feedback form was updated. And I guess one thing I want to point out is we specifically asked folks to -- you know, to be specific with recommended changes, right? Instead of just saying, I don't like this. Tell us what -- you know, how you would like to see us change
the map. So hopefully, hopefully we'll get more of that. So that will be helpful.

CHAIR TOLEDO: All right. Let's move on to Materials Development. That's Commissioners Fernández and Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: The update that we have right now, is Mr. Kennedy and I, we are working on the report that will go with our final -- that will be included with our maps, and we've been working with Strumwasser and also our staff. So we're working on that and hoping to get some sort of draft to the full commission for their review.

Is there anything else, Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Well, yeah, I would say that our goal is to get a draft to the full commission by next Monday, as I recall from our meetings with staff and attorneys last week. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Great, we'll look forward to the draft. Next up is the Website Committee, Commissioners Kennedy and Taylor?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing to report, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Next will be the Data Management Committee, and that's Ahmad and Turner.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Nothing new to report; just enjoying the updates that have been coming in to our
website, as with everyone else.

Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you. That's all.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate it. I'll move on to the Communities of Interest Tool Committee. And that's Commissioners Akutagawa and Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. We don't have anything to report, other than to please keep submitting it through the COI tool, or directly through our website, too, any of your inputs. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. Incarcerated Populations, this is in regards to the Federal facilities. Commissioners Kennedy, and Turner.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Nothing to report at this point, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. I will move on to Lessons Learned; Commissioners Ahmad and Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Chair, at this point, with the discussion of the post-release of maps -- post-submission of maps budget process, we want to make sure that there is budget in place for a robust lessons learned exercise at some point next year.

My estimate at this point is that we would be engaging commissioners and staff for approximately one week. It doesn't have to be one week solid, but I think...
that's a reasonable estimate of the time, that we would
need to engage with everyone. And there's one time for
report writing, and editing, and so forth.

So I just want to make sure that those who are
involved in developing the budget are aware of this, and
Commissioner Ahmad and I will be happy to provide
additional details as needed by those who are developing
the budget. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yeah. And just to add to that.
Commissioner Kennedy and I, and although we were planning
to meet today, but we didn't know we were going to have a
meeting today. So we're going to find another time
for -- perhaps some time later this week to talk through
these items moving forward.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. With that, let's move on
to the Cybersecurity Committee; Commissioners Fornaciari
and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Chair, can I just respond
to?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Oh. Sorry, about that.

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: That's okay.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Fernández?

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Thank you. I just want to
respond to Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Ahmad.

Yes we, Finance and Administration, we've already --
we're going to be meeting in early January to discuss budgeting proposal that we'll probably submit during the -- February to see what our budget needs are going to be, or going after the maps and submit a proposal at that point.

That we'll definitely be obtaining information from everyone to see what we think that's going to look like in terms of post maps, and all of our needs. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernández.

Let's move on to cybersecurity; Commissioners Fornaciari and Taylor.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Nothing to report in open session at this point.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. We will move on to Legal Affair. We do have an item that Chief Counsel is bringing to us, and we will be taking a vote on that item, taking public comments, and then taking a break coming back, after break to have a discussion on -- a debrief in -- during the Line Drawings Subcommittee.

So I just wanted to set the stage so we all know what's happening in the next couple -- over the next couple of minutes. And during that debrief I am going to be asking every commissioner to ask -- just giving a heads up so you can think about it through your break.

Think about what works, and what could be improved
during the line drawing process. So just something to think through, and if you can create a list -- I'll be calling on each one of you to give what works and what can be improved.

With that, let's turn it over to Chief Counsel Pane for his update and action item.

MR. PANE: Thank you, Chair. As I mentioned in the chief counsel report, Commissioners Toledo, Yee, and myself had tried to further close out the pending -- the litigation contracts. And we were able to successfully do that with Strumwasser, and we're putting the final touches to the Gibson & Dunn one.

So I wanted to put the final approval before you, well, for final approval with Strumwasser's signature, to approve the litigation contract. I'd welcome the motion if we could --

CHAIR TOLEDO: A copy of that contract is on the website. Do you want to go over some of changes?

MR. PANE: We can, yeah. So just as a --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Just making sure that everyone is on the same page.

MR. PANE: Sure, yeah. So just from a high level, one of the finalization pieces we made was a term ending December 31st of 2022, that is to make sure that if we need to renegotiate rates that we just don't all of a
sudden turn into a different rate, starting in the
following year.

So if need be, we would certainly negotiate a new
contract, to go past that date. There is also additional
protections in here for budget contingency clauses, so if
for some reason legislature doesn't appropriate the funds
that we know they will do, there's sort of a contingency
plan built in where the commission will seek to put --
will seek to get the funds the best way it can.

And hopefully to smooth over any sort of -- and
wouldn't want to interrupt any sort of legal services
that might occur. In addition to that, there's an added
clause that talks about Commission's rights, which refers
specifically to documents, and that they retain -- that
they're retained by the CRC. So there's no ambiguity
about who has those records. They will be the
commission's records.

There's additional protections or additional
references to Business and Professions Code, and there is
also additional changes for invoicing and payment. And
again, that was mainly just to, again, protect the
commission when we're talking about records for payments.

And as you can imagine, with litigation it gets very
time intensive. And also record keeping is a premium,
especially when we're dealing with a lot of discovery,
and I'll just say costs associated with litigation. So we wanted to make sure there were additional specificity for that.

I think those are sort of the higher level additional protections. And just so the commission is aware, what we did is we made sure that these provisions, these add-in provisions since you all approved the previous version. We made sure that they were also in the Gibson & Dunn contracts, so that we're dealing with the contracts the same way, and have the same provisions.

And so these provisions that we've added into the Strumwasser contract, have also been added into the Gibson & Dunn (sic) Contract. Strumwasser has been first to sign and finalize it, and we're seeking to do that now with Gibson & Dunn (sic) as well.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. Do we have any questions? If there are no questions, do we have a motion?

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: I move that we approve the Strumwasser & Woocher contract for litigation counsel.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Patricia, I'll second.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay. With that, any discussion?

I'll just add that one of the reasons we're bringing
these on separately as opposed to together is that we want to make sure that they go through the state process and we have litigation contract approval in place early -- early next year, at this point, hopefully sooner. So the sooner we get it through the process the better, just so that we don't have to deal with the -- deal with these issues as we're going through line drawing.

And with that, if there's no additional comment or questions from the floor, let's take public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thanks, Chair. The commission will now take public comment, the motion on the floor to approve the legal contract. To give comment, please call 877-853-5247, and enter the meeting ID number 82982211105 for this meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star nine to enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions have been read previously in this meeting, and are provided in full on the live-stream landing page.

And for those of you that have called in, and are listening in the queue if you wish to give comment on the agenda item -- I'm sorry on the motion on the floor, please press star nine, this will raise your hand indicating you have something to say on this particular thing.
At this time, Chair, we do not have any raised hands in the queue, and we will let you know when the instructions are complete.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Katy.

Alvaro, do you have the motion ready for a vote?

MR. HERNANDEZ: I have it ready to go, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Instructions are complete Chair, and we still do not have any hands.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Let's go to vote. Okay.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Can I just make a recommendation to spell out, not just put SW, please spell out the name of the firm. Thank you.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Will do.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And how about litigation counsel contract?

FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. I'm going to need help witness this, Strumwasser; is that correct?

MR. PANE: And you'll want the "&" sign, and Woocher is W-O-O-C-H-E-R.

CHAIR TOLEDO: There's no -- first a -- S-T-R-U-M?

MALE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is that, I mean everyone's needs there everyone's needs there, litigation contract,
so we can begin the vote?

CHAIR TOLEDO: It looks like Commissioner Yee is okay with it, Commissioner Sinay, as well. All right let's go to vote.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Very well. Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernández?

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Abstain.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani.
Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor. And Commissioner Toledo?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Alvaro, sorry?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

FEMALE SPEAKER: For Derric the number didn't show up.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Great. So with that, let's go to a fifteen-minute break, we'll come back at 11 o'clock, and start the line drawing debrief process, so we'll be coming to the Line Drawing Committee after the break.

Thank you. And we'll see you at 11 o'clock.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 10:44 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.)

CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. We are now at the Line Drawing Subcommittee reports, and we will be doing a debrief on last week's line drawing process.

With that, I wanted to start by having all of the commissioners go around and give one, two, or as many examples of what went well.
Starting with Commissioner Turner, since she was Chair during the process, and I'll give you a couple of seconds.

So we'll start with what went well, and then we'll do a turnaround and talk about what could be improved. I'll turn it over to Commissioner Turner, so she can begin.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. So the session last week, I think what went well was the support that we had through some of the technology that was developed, so the visualization tool that was available, having access to support, I think from the line drawers were very accessible, they were ready to help us with visualizations.

I think all of the commissioners were very supportive in trying to understand the direction that we were going, and recognizing the pressure that we were under from a time constraint. So I think things like that. I do have some -- when we get to it, some suggestions about what I think might make it helpful going forward.

It was a time unlike any other, so I think all of us are drawing lines for the first time, so I think we were kind of figuring it out as we went. So for me, I think most of it was a blur trying to hold all of the pieces in
place while receiving a lot of data coming at you, a lot of comments, words, feedback, proposals, requests, trying to listen.

So all of that was interesting, I think I could probably have better feedback when I was able to kind of observe it more, as opposed to feeling like I was in a kind of orchestration standpoint. But I think it went -- I think for the most part I think I was really pleased with recognizing we started from scratch knowing that the tools that were available. I think that was something that was beneficial for us. And I'll stop there for now.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Turner.

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yeah. Just, it was really satisfying, to probably get to this part of the process, where we get to actually draw lines together, something we've been waiting for for so long. I really appreciated the line drawing team, their technical skill, their adaptability, their presence, their preparation for each day, behind the scenes, you know, they were there, where we needed. And I appreciated that.

Appreciated the input we got from the public. Appreciated really just the spirit of our commission and everybody really, from what I can tell, it's just wanting the fairest map possible. And I think that was reflected
in our final unanimous vote, so I just appreciated, you
know, we could do this together.

CHAIR TOLEDO: All right. Let's go to Commissioner
Fornaciari. And then we'll be going to Sinay, so you
will have a heads-up.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. It's random. I
thought it -- I thought it was going to come on to me a
little bit later. Let's see, what went well? I agree
with everything that's been said, appreciated having the
staff there to look up our COI input that we've had, and
kind of summarized it for us real time. I think that was
helpful. I think we'll continue to need that kind of
support.

I was making a second note here. I didn't get
finished with it. I think we did a good job looking for
opportunities to identify -- you know, to make solid VRA
districts, and actually identify the opportunity to, I
think creating two more VRA districts than we had
initially started with. I think that was a big win all
the way around. And I'll stop there.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.
Commissioner Sinay, if you're able? Otherwise we
can come back to you later. I know Commissioner Sinay is
on the road, so we'll -- so I'll come back to her.

Commissioner Fernández? I'm just going down my
screen; so Fernandez, then Le Mons, then Andersen.

COMMISSIONER FERNÁNDEZ: Okay. Thank you. You know it's funny, because you always -- you can always think of things that are negative versus positive. So I think what I really appreciated, Chair Turner, was she kept us on task and then she also thought about the maps after the first day, and allowed us, and to go back to make changes so that we feel better about what we were going to release. So thank you so much for that. I really appreciated that.

And I think what went well, was when we met our deadline. And also for me it was just the reality of doing the actual line -- live line drawings, and how long it takes, and for me it'll just -- I just wanted to be better prepared for when we do it again.

So thank you all, also for of my fellow commissioners for going through this journey, some of the journeys were little bit more painful than others, but for me, for the patience. So thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay, Commissioner Fernández.

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Ah. Sorry about that. I'm having a little bit of problem getting off of -- let me get off and let m show my face here, for appreciation.

So I guess what I wanted to say is, I felt like the
line drawing teams did an incredible job under intense pressure, and I think their ability to pivot as we ask for new things, to build the plane as we were flying it in some ways.

I know they come with an incredible amount of experience, but not with this particular group of 14. And so I think to be able to navigate this process with us real time, let cooler heads prevail in some situations where it happens necessary. And I think the professionalism of all the line drawers that I got to experience was top-notch.

So I think that hopefully your teams feel good about the process as well, and are reinvigorated, and ready to go, and do this last lap, and pull it across the line with us. So for that I want to say how grateful I am, on behalf of my fellow Commissioners, in working with you all in this process.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you. Yeah. The word that first came to mind with me is "flexibility". I really appreciate the flexibility with each commissioner and the line drawers. And as I'm sort of echoing a few things that other commissioners have said about the line drawers.

What really was great is when the line drawers
explained it more, about when we asked questions, we said: Well can you -- why were we doing that. And the line drawers were able to go back and tell us: I had direction from here, and then we pivoted to this, and then repivoted to that; which was really helpful I thought, and explaining the information behind, and where it was, and also how things trickled through the whole process.

I thought the line drawers really helped us step back and look at the whole picture, which I believe is really, really important. And I appreciate the flexibility of the commissioners, and level of patience, when some of the -- you could tell some were trying to get somewhere but we couldn't quite tell where.

And then I believe it was Commissioner Fornaciari said, look, we really have to emphasize what are you trying to do, and where are you trying to go. And then we all started doing it that way, and that really, really, improved, and then we sort of started working almost like in little sets of teams to work through a portion, which I thought was very, very -- very beneficial.

The labeling on the visualizations really helped, you know, putting different deviations, putting terrain back and forth. These are all things that were -- that I
thought were very beneficial.

And I also agree with Commissioner Turner, or Chair Turner, turned back and say, let's look at those items again, which I thought was really, really helpful, because as we know, when get one area, destroys a different area, and let's just get back to it. And I believe what we ended up with was much, much better than what we were leading to end up with on the first day.

And I think that was why it was unanimous, you know, we really had addressed a lot of the issues, understanding that we were getting more input, but this was a good draft map. These were good draft maps. And I believe it's all those, the flexibility, the pivoting, telling each other the goals, these were items that really moved things forward.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Two things, one, you know, the transparency, that's what we're here for, that's what we're about, and I think, you know, that was clear throughout the process.

All right, second, second and you know, this is something that I mentioned in an interview the other day, with The Desert Sun in Palm Springs is, yeah, I think one of the biggest advantages that we have enjoyed over the
2010 Commission, is that we have had ample time to get to
know each other, and our styles, and build very solid
working relationships.

I can't imagine having had to do what we did last
week, on the timeline that the 2010 Commission had to do
it -- without, you know, the ample time would we've had
to build these relationships. I think that really is a
factor contributing to the success. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. My last name
is with an A, so I'm not usually later down in the line,
so a lot of what I was thinking has already been said.
But I'll just highlight some of the key points that I
took away from last week's live line drawing session.

What worked well was that transparency piece, right?
This is what Californians voted for. They wanted to
watch the live line drawing process play out. Sometimes
it was really messy, we made mistakes, we went back and
forth, but that was the beauty of this whole process,
being able to watch it play out. Something that I think
we can do better on which we already started to make
improvements on during last week's session, was sort of
explaining what our thought process is.

Similar to what Commissioner Andersen was stating,
really trying to draw out what -- where we're starting,
and where we're trying to go with a proposed change, just so everyone can be aware of what impacts that proposed change may have on other regions so.

So trying to make that known upfront before we ask the line drawers to actually change a line, I think would be very helpful, just from a technology standpoint, so we're not asking the program to move a little bit faster than it can, and as fast we want to move. So those are my thoughts for now.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.

And Commissioner Sinay, we come back to you; if you could just focus on what worked. I think you're on mute, Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry, I thought you would come back to me later.

CHAIR TOLEDO: No, no, no.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I didn't realize you were talking now.

CHAIR TOLEDO: I'm coming back to you now.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes. I'm sorry about that. I thought what worked well was just our -- the camaraderie, and just kind of help each other, and ask questions, and correct each other. Again, there was no -- everything was transparent and no one was trying to do anything -- you know, sometimes we were in our own brain, and so I
thought it was helpful when someone would say, hey, what are you thinking of doing? Or reminding us, or helping us -- helping us out.

You know, when you're on the spotlight it's kind of -- it's a puzzle and you might not be seeing that piece that someone else can see because they're not on it. And so I thought that was really helpful. I absolutely appreciated Commissioner Turner bringing us back to the Assembly.

I thought that really helped to kind of restart us in the right direction. And I really appreciated -- to me that was one of the best parts of the whole thing.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'm going to try to remember what Commissioner Turner kept saying to us, be additive. Although that was a hard because I think it was also wanting to affirm or uplift things. I do want to say in terms of -- I'll start with the staff. I want to -- I think what worked well was having the staff that we did have. I know it's been said by others, but what's not being said is that maybe it's the unglamorous parts of what they did.

One of which I do want to take notice that they kept us fed, that was really thoughtful. I thought that was
very much appreciated. I want also just stay in terms of the line drawers, I was always surprised and appreciative. And I think this worked, about how poised they remained in light of multiple changes, and at some point I was just waiting for them to just start screaming and pulling their hair out in terms of you know all of what we were trying to do, but they stayed poised. And I think that that help us also stay poised. And I think and I think that that also then led to all of us being able to stay focused, collaborate with each other. I think it's been said, you know, to help each other out. But also hear each other out as well too.

You know I think it could have been worse. I absolutely agree -- you know time may have been one thing, but I also think, you know, interestingly we also had our challenges given the Zoom, but I think Zoom might have also helped too, that we were forced to have to get to know each other a little bit more because in the lead-up to this, you know, we did come in knowing each other a little bit differently than if we had just done things in-person.

And so for that, I think the transparency I think was -- I also want to echo as well too, you know, some people talk about how painful it was to watch, but that is what -- what the intent was, right? It's to see us
actually doing the work, see us talking to each other. You know someone may have likened it to watching paint dry, but if you thought that was like that for you, think about how I felt for us as well too.

So I think those were just some of those things that I think worked well in our favor this time around. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate it, Commissioner Akutagawa.

Commissioner Vazquez, then Commissioner Sadhwani.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: I'm definitely struggling to be additive, so will just say that Commissioner Turner gave a master class in facilitation, overall; both keeping room for folks to let their ideas breathe, and play out, and also reminding us of our ultimate task, and keeping us -- keeping us focused on the big picture, especially as we go deeper and deeper into the weeds, which is by necessity.

So I thought she did an incredible job. And so I would like to see sort of that type of facilitation at sort the next phase. Again, allowing ideas to percolate, and folks to build off of each other, and for us to go deep in a region, and trusting that our facilitator will sort of ask us to pause and zoom out as appropriate, to make sure that things are staying on track. Thank you.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Am I the last? I think everything's been said. Yes, I agree with everything that's been said. Line drawing team, amazing, and you still have your hair, you didn't pull it out. So that's incredible. So well done, to you.

In general, it seemed like the synergy also between the VRA team and the line drawing team, especially those days that David Becker was there, and in the room, it seemed really good. That seemed like a positive. Though I will allow you to tell us if it was good or not.

In general, I think we had had a lot of conversations in the run-up to live line drawing about decision points. And I think that was one of the ongoing issues from my perspective when we were doing the visualizations, is one commissioner might give direction on a visualization, others might disagree with it, or give conflicting direction on visualizations, and I think the impact that it had on our map were sometimes -- we don't know, right. Where exactly are things going here, and why? And which direction is being followed, and which isn't?

I think in live line drawing that corrects itself because we acted collectively, and I think just to speak to all of the pieces Commissioner Kennedy and many others
already lifted, we were working together, and we have the
relationship in order to do so.

   Finally, Chair Turner, I was skeptical of going back
to the Assembly, but I am very glad that we did. I think
we have a better draft for it. I still think we have
lots to do, but I really do want to appreciate you taking
that leadership there. The facilitation was awesome, and
right on, and everyone had an opportunity to be heard,
and to explore different areas. So thank you for that.

   CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And for me, and after I
go I'm going to turn it back to Commissioner Turner,
because I know she had to step out for a couple minutes.

   I thought Commissioner Turner did an amazing job of
being collaborative. I think what -- what some folks on
watching the live streaming may not have seen it, but she
was checking in with all of us, s very collaborative,
making sure that it was -- that it was a consensus, that
we achieved consensus. That it wasn't, you know, one
commissioner get -- I mean, certainly we were all giving
directions, but that we achieved consensus as we moved
on. And that's a difficult job, so just extraordinary
leadership from our Chair, helped us get through the
three days.

   At some point it seemed, seemed like we might not,
that we'd need additional time. But we managed to do it
in the time frame that we set out to do, which was excellent.

And with that, we'll turn it over to -- I'll turn it over to Commissioner Turner to share some of the improvements that you'd like to see moving forward, especially from the standpoint of chair.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Since you have been in that position, and can maybe give feedback on how we can make that role a little bit more -- give that role some guidance; or whatever you think is necessary. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you. And thank you to all my fellow Commissioners, you all are kind, indeed. I was, for sure, trying to serve in my best, that I could all of you. So I'm glad that it was -- provided some service for you, and for all of us.

I think going into the next section, the next part of our line drawing, particularly, will be -- the fact that we're going to have this opportunity just to have a discussion on the 29th. I think that that will prove to be so valuable for all of us to be able to determine we're receiving all of the input. How are we, I guess, internalizing? How we bring an analysis to what we're hearing, and how we move collectively. I think that will
be really important before we begin line drawing again, particularly drawing our final maps.

I think another part that would be, and I got a chance to mention it to Karin ahead of our time. And she, again, her team is so phenomenal and flexible, and just trying to do whatever they can do to help us. But having the line drawers call up the actual map types as we're receiving input, or as we're having discussion. Because for me, even trying track between the different maps, between Assembly, and Congressional, or Senate, as we are getting live testimony or public comment coming in.

Did we do that already, or not? I think we already -- so you know, trying to hold it all in my mind. So having up whatever is most current, as people are giving us their testimony about what they'd like to see, will allow us to see, yes, we've actually already done that.

Or you see how, you know, off we are, as opposed to what they were requesting. And regardless of whether or not we are able to do what's being requested, we can at least see it real time on the map, to know if we've already made that change or not, I think would be really good.

And as an area is being discussed, just using the
little hand tool, circling the area, that kind of helps us focus on the geography of what's being talked about, I think would really serve well. Another point, just through the discussions, it's easy to get caught up as you're listening to passionate testimony, and wanting to -- for me, I like to provide what people need, what they told me in their own expertise.

And so it's easy to get caught up down a path, and having to balance, we're here for sure to represent, you know, the whole of California, the almost 40 million people. And so really, just in showing their voices aren't muted, that we're not drawing the lines that keep people from being represented.

And so I think, going into this next phase, it will be important for us to look, not just at the lens of who's the loudest voice, who's the most that's calling in, you know, how many times, or who's dissatisfied. It's back to basics of what is our intent, how do we ensure everyone is represented, and have opportunity and equal opportunity to be able to elect candidates of their choice.

And so you know, what we drew I felt good about, it's not perfect, we certainly have to make a lot of other adjustments to it, but the process in all of us, I think, wanting the same thing. I'm grateful that I don't
feel the contention. We have fourteen different ways of thinking, processing, fourteen different experiences, but I really do believe that this particular commission is all trying to work together.

    If I start down a path and I hear someone with a diverging thought, it's not an attack, it's a different way of thinking, something that I may have left out or forgotten to think about, and so I lean in and try to pay attention and focus on that.

    Because if we can't represent the fourteen of us, and really listen for changes, I don't know how we think we're going to represent 40 million people. So I just we're a good example of what we're trying to do for the whole of California. And I think we have fourteen great individuals that's trying to do the same thing.

    So I'll just end there, and say that I'm looking forward to this next process. I don't know how it's going to shake out.

    Oh. And I also wanted to say for all of our behind-the-scenes data people, that we only had our hope and aspiration of pulling together a tool, Commissioner Ahmad, about what may work, right. And so now we have more public comment, more technology, and things than we know what to do with. And the flexibility of us stating we need something, and then them creating it, and making
it available.

I think it'll be important too that we slow down, and just look at some of the tools that are there, the visualization tool. A lot in California, we also received feedback that said, oh, it would be great if we had this visualization report. We did have it, but maybe we didn't talk about it enough.

So anyway, a lot of run-on sentences there, but I'm excited about the process. And I just think if we slow down to recognize what we have in each other first, then in our data, and tools, and all of the community of interest testimony that's come from all of California, how we're receiving that information, how we are providing analysis to it. How we're bouncing it off of each other. I read it, but what did that mean for me, it might mean something different from you, and so how do we make that mesh together as we prepare to draw these final lines.

I think we'll have a product that we'll all feel -- we'll all understand and feel good about the process, and it'll end up being, you know, what it is. But I think at least we'll feel good about it and know why we created it. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: So I just had another question for you, specific just -- less global but more specific,
things like, but Chair, you were so busy, I mean, in handling all of the logistics, and business side, the legal side, every -- questions coming from all directions.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Uh-huh.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Is there anything that staff or the commissioners could have done to help you. I'm thinking of things like, you know, your lunch and dinner requests, and things like that.

CHAIR TOLEDO: I was thinking something like -- I was thinking something like "depends" you know, because you don't get a restroom break. When I think it was recognized, I think people were more than willing to support with that, because there just isn't time. You know, staff is doing their best to be able to support us, and help us, and how wonderful is that.

But in the middle of trying to listen and address, and you know, we're grateful for counsel, and for staff, and the line drawers, and then you get a thing up about lunch, and it's like oh, crap, forget lunch. I'll just walk to McDonald's one day, and it's like, I don't have time to think about it, or figure it out, and get it turned in.

But I think things like that would be helpful for the next staff just to -- the next chair, excuse me --
because you -- and you know, I think I mentioned early on, to me it's important for people to have breaks and lunches just to be able to breathe, and to take a mental break, and the process, up to this point, has not really allowed for that, while our breaks are fifteen minutes for the most part.

Maybe a little bit longer. Typically they're just all responses that need to be given during that time, so others can do their work, so that they'll know how to move and proceed. And so certainly you can't just say, oh, well, I'm taking a break, no, I don't care. No, we do care. And I want others to have what they need. But from a Chair's perspective it leaves no time at all for any break, or another quick call, or a check in with a family member. You know, thankfully my kids are grown, and old, they don't need anything from me. But I can't imagine having a family that, you know, you still are engaged, or whatever, and needed at that level, because you don't have an opportunity to interact.

And so that's just is an awareness, and so it made me more aware. You know, I hadn't checked in with other chairs before to see: How can I serve you? What do you need? Can I get something for you? It certainly will, I'll make that my business to make sure I'm supporting others as well.
So I think people are doing what we can. I think that from Chair's perspective just know that it is fast-moving. I also enjoyed it. I wasn't angry at any of it. I love the interactions and being able to, you know, act like I'm an orchestrator -- you know, I'm the conductor of an orchestra, you know. And so yes, no, in ten minutes we're going to do this.

All that's exciting; you know, I'd be not telling the truth to tell you I didn't enjoy every bit of it. I did.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And you did a great job. Thank you. We'll go to -- or I'm going to do it backwards. So opposite direction, we'll start with Commissioner Sadhwani this time.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: And this is what, things to improve?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Improvements, opportunities for improvement.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh, you put me on the spot, because it was just a little -- well, I think there's a lot of places, right. I mean, and I'm thinking off the top of my head here, and I apologize. I think that as we move forward, we need to have a more clear path, and I understand that we changed course halfway through.

When we get back to line drawing I think really need
to have a more clear and concise, and well communicated
path forward, of what regions we're addressing, what maps
we're addressing, when we're addressing them, when public
comment will be, and do our best to stick to that.

And I think, you know, things happen. So sometimes
we have to be flexible, and be ready to pivot, but we
have two weeks to really prep ourselves for what's to
come, so I think we really need to lay the groundwork for
a solid plan for December, that we can collectively
connect to, and communicate to the public and to execute
that plan to the best of our abilities.

I also think that we need -- there are a lot of
technological components to, and behind-the-scenes
staffing requirements, to getting a public comment,
posting drafts, posting drafts that are clear. Being
able to do all of those things, and I think it's -- I
don't know if it's that, I don't think it's that the
public has an unrealistic expectation, but it's just
simply not something that we could meet as quickly as
people were hoping that it would be done, and still meet
our timelines.

But I do think as we move forward, we need to have a
better plan in place for how to communicate changes that
we're making to the map, in what format, when things will
be available. I think we dropped the ball on that
portion of our communication strategy, and I don't -- Fredy, that's not aimed at you, I think there's so much coordination that needs to happen behind the scenes, how can do it better as we move forward. So those are some initial thoughts.

CHAIR TOLEDO: That's great. Thank you. And just so everybody is aware, I asked Chief Counsel Pane to take notes. And so he's been capturing all of our comments, and he'll be pulling out themes both for what worked, and what didn't, so that we can use that -- so we can both things to work through the public input process later this afternoon.

So with that, we'll go to Commissioner, it looks like Vazquez next. Commissioner Akutagawa will be after that, just so that you have some awareness of who's coming in the line.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Thank you. I think in terms of upgrades, building up on what Commissioner Sadhwani mentioned about having a plan in place. I think if we have a plan in place and communicate it both to the public and across the commission, and to staff, I think that will actually, hopefully, meet one of the requests from our outreach staff after sort of having a better understanding of when areas or regions will be discussed. So that they can be sort of pre-reviewing, particularly
new public comment as it comes in, and be ready to
provide us with some analysis.

So for me that's what sort of stood out as like a
ing that I wish could have been more robust, so we had
it and I very much appreciate all of the on-the-fly
alysis that folks were doing. But I think to the
extent that we can -- we can give them more lead time, so
that our analysis is of higher quality, and may be a
little bit deeper. I think that would be -- that would
be really, really helpful.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Vazquez.

Commissioner Akutagawa; and then Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Thank you. I was trying to
write down my notes as quickly as I could as I was also
hearing others speak to. One, I think I will also uplift
what's been said about clarity of process. I think we
switched gears midway through. It felt like at
sometimes, you know, we were focusing on other areas at
the expense of others because of the switch, and I think
it became a little confusing, and at times frustrating.

You know, when are we going to spend time on one
area versus another. I think we just need more clarity
on that so that it does feel like -- and I think this was
also outlined in the letter that was sent to us by the
League of Women Voters and Common Cause about the amount
time that is spent on complex regions and spending time
on other less populated regions.

   It's not that one is -- one is more important than
the other, but the complexity does require additional
time, that I think we have to be prepared for, and I
think we should be also building into the process.

   I think on that note then, I think we spoke about
this, I am a little unclear at this time, what the timing
or the process is going to be on this but you know, the
analysis of all of the inputs that we're receiving. I
think Commissioner Turner had talked about it, at some
point. We haven't had a chance for all of us a
commission, to just take a pause and discuss: What are
we hearing?

   And I know it's been brought up and referred to in
this conversation. I think that that would be really
helpful, because I think we're hearing, definitely we've
alluded to it, the conflicting testimonies. But you
know, what's conflicting for me may not be conflicting
for someone else. What I may read and see, and
interpret, may be different than what others interpret,
and read, and see, as well too.

   And I think -- I think we do need to just spend some
time, you know, just really -- before we go into the next
line drawing, really think about and really look through
what all of these inputs are saying, and what are we
reading, and in a sense, debating it amongst all of us
first, so that then we're not trying to do it while we're
live line drawing, because I think that happen.

And then I think that will enable us to better
prioritize where we're going to make certain kind of
choices, where some -- where a county or city might get
split, where we may have to say, you know, this COI is
going to take precedent perhaps over another COI.

I mean, it's not that again, one is more important
than the other, but I think these are the nard decisions
that we're making, and it felt a little haphazard in this
last round. And I think that would help bring the
clarity that Commissioner Sadhwani was also talking
about, and that other commenters have also talked about
as well too.]

I also just want to say, I appreciated having VRA
counsel there, particularly Mr. Becker. No knock on the
Strumwasser team, but there was a noted difference when
Mr. Becker was available, and when he was not available.
And I know it's super-late for him, but it would be very
helpful for him to be there the entirely of our line
drawing. And make plans to be there, you know, for that
time, because I think the VRA districts are really
important, and I think his knowledge was helpful to have
and to hear his guidance on that. So thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. And I think I mentioned earlier what I think could be improved. I thought we were doing both at the same time. But just to remind folks, I think Commissioner Akutagawa also touched on it as well. In terms of the commission having a conversation with each other before we actually engage in changes on the drafts would be very helpful.

Just so that we can work through any misunderstandings or clarifications ahead of asking the software to pick up, you know, ten million people, and then having to go back and redo that, might change things. And hopefully maybe make it more efficient. Otherwise, keep it up, everyone.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.

Commissioner Kennedy; then Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. A couple of things, first of all, you know, I don't know whether being at a new location had any impact on this. It seems to me that having a fiber optic connection to a much more powerful computer to be able to do some of this processing faster, certainly would have helped.

You know, doing things on laptop is great when
that's necessary, but I think it would be excellent if a way could be found so that the processing could be done on something more powerful, resulting in less downtime.

To the extent that there is downtime, I think we could have used some of that downtime, particularly when we were waiting for the Board of Equalization districts to process for public comment.

I mean, I really want to see us use every moment that we have available to us when we're not line drawing to be taking public input. And I think we could have, perhaps, used some of those intervals to better effect in order to take public comment.

You know, I think we went into this perhaps without a finalized playbook, and without a clear shared understanding of what was going to happen, when, and how. And I would encourage us to make sure that all of that is in place before we get into the next round. You know, what order things are going to happen, and you know, the Chair recognizing people, you know, we had some slipups as far as that goes.

I would have found it very helpful to have at least two active screens as it were, one showing the detailed level that we're working on, but one showing at all times, kind of the statewide big picture, because I found it very difficult to see what we were doing in the
context of the bigger picture, and I think that would've been helpful if we could figure out the technical aspects of that. And finally, we certainly improved as we went along, and so I think it would've been useful had -- and we did some practicing a month or two ago, but I still have this thought that if we had done some more extensive practice with ACS data, reminding everyone that this is not official census data; this is just an opportunity for us to get more practice so that when we do have the census data, we can go through this faster. Might have been helpful. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

Commissioner Andersen, then Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Oh, sorry about that. I didn't realize I was next. Yeah. I'm not going to be additive. There's been a lot said which was really good. We talked about process, things like that. The one thing I do want to go into is what Commissioner Kennedy just kind of hit on -- the big picture. And I found all too often we were working in great earnest and together in things in little areas, not realizing what it was doing to large swaths of the state. And I think Commissioner Kennedy said, having that large map with deviations would really help. So when you're working on a smaller area, you can look at the other and go, right. And that same
thing if we -- we didn't actually sort of step back and
look at what are our constraints and where are they?
Kind of across the state, realizing there are areas where
that's a line; here's sort of a line, in a couple
different areas. And I believe that sort of overall,
which -- the line drawers were trying to give us that
information and trying to help us go there, and we didn't
quite didn't let them do that a little bit. That was my
interpretation. I thought the line drawers were really
trying to give us information and help us to facilitate
things, and we weren't quite as good as we should have
been at listening to them, I felt. That could have been
a very small, minor point.

I did love -- this is a technical thing -- the PNG,
when you could -- the big state picture, and you could
look at it, and you could really get into detail, so you
could see what was going on. I thought that was very
easy to see. I know a lot of us had been going to the
visualizations on our -- the website, but if those had
the deviations on it, that would also be extremely
helpful. Just the overall deviation, I thought that
would be very helpful.

And now, on the fiberoptic connection, I really
didn't -- I thought things went very quickly. It was
just the BOE, which was slow. I did also like the -- I'm
a little concerned about some analysis. I really liked the staffing giving us what the communities of interest -- what they're hearing. But I'm always a little concerned when someone starts doing analysis. Is that the way we would do the analysis if we were reading the same input? So I just want to uplift that. I'm going to stop there because I -- well, actually, I do want to say one really good thing -- is we are working together, and we are working through things. And I know a lot of the input we're getting and people saying, well do this, do that -- they're expecting us to argue and fight. And often, that's the easy way. And if we're looking at things a little more creatively, there are more solutions out there that we can come to together without having, oh, it has to be this way or that way. I find people that tend to say that aren't being creative. And I really appreciate this entire group looking at an area and relooking at an area and going, you know, we could try something different that might really work for everybody here. And I really want us to keep that in mind, because as Commissioner Turner said, this is a group that's really trying to get to the same purpose, and as long as we keep that in mind, I think we aren't going to have these, you know, oh, it has to be this way or it has to be that way. There'll be areas, certainly,
where that was true, but not everywhere, and I just want us to keep that in mind as we work through this. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Great point, Commissioner Andersen. We'll go to Commissioner Le Mons. How about we go to Commissioner Fernandez, and we'll come back to Commissioner Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Let me get my little Post-it note here. I think, like for me, personally, it's very difficult to be -- to have a precise plan when we receive the visualizations, like the day before. And you're traveling, and you don't have all the information with you. And so with us issuing the draft maps, for me, personally, that's going to be very helpful, because I feel that we can all take a look at the draft plans and already come to the next meeting with a plan, an idea of what we want to see, how we want to see it done. Because it's difficult to just review the maps the night before and then try to come up with a plan in terms of the changes that you want to see made.

And there was -- we were making a change one time and someone said, I'm not going to give them up, said, the easy fix is to do this and that. And at the end of the day, I think we just need to remind ourselves that we're not looking for easy fixes. We're trying to find
the right fixes. And as Commissioner Andersen just said, if we're creative, we can try to find the best fix, instead of the easy fix. So I'm just challenging myself as well as my fellow commissioners on that. I'm trying to think if there's something else. And for me, personally, it would also be helpful if we -- Karin, I don't if it's possible, is when we're reviewing the maps if we can actually put the VRA districts, if we can have them in a different color. That way, I know if we're moving into there, we're like, oh, can't move into that area because that is a VRA district. That would just be super helpful for me and hopefully for everyone else.

And again, just for me, I'm hopeful for these two weeks that I can really take a look at the maps and hopefully come with a plan instead of, it's my turn and I just say, oh, I just don't like this area. That's not helpful. So if we can be more specific as to what we don't like about it as well as state the reasons for it. And also to be mindful of all of the communities of interest for that area. And then whatever areas you're moving into in terms of trying to find extra population, please research that community of interest as well, because we don't want to break up one while we're trying to fix a different one -- a different area. And I think that was -- oh, and just one thing that I did notice is
that we had just made a change on one area and about three commissioners later we were trying to change that area again. So let's just try to be cognizant of what we're doing bigger picture. So I think the whole planning process will be helpful to all of us. But thank you. Thank you for this opportunity.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez. And we'll go to Commissioner Fornaciari, then Yee.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I think we skipped Commissioner Sinay somewhere along the way.


COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: You want to go now, or --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Then we'll come back to Commissioner Fornaciari and Commissioner --

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. Want me to go? I'll go. Okay. So a few things. First thing, most important to me personally, is I'm going to reiterate what Commissioner Sadhwani said: we need a very clear path forward on how we're going to get to the end to -- so we all know -- what are we going to be working on and how are we going to progress along the way? For us, for the public, for the line drawing team, for us so we can make sure that we're understanding -- revisiting the COI testimony in that area and in the feedback, and have a
plan to step through the state in a way that makes sense, that we're not going to create pockets in different places. And frankly, being the project manager-type person I am, I've already given that a great deal of thought, and I have a proposed plan I wrote up. So I can share that with the Chair or with the Commission. So I think that's really important to enable us to get to the end.

A couple of other things: we were a little rushed, and we kind of sort of randomly split up some cities, just started picking census blocks. And I think that we need to deliberately go back and look at those splits as we go along -- I mean, deliberately look at the city splits that we're going to settle on and make sure they make sense in some way, and hopefully, we're getting feedback from those cities that we're going to have to split to help guide us in making sense of that.

A couple things have already been said. One of the things I want to bring up though, is the recency effect. We're getting real-time feedback, and it's real easy to grab that, incorporate it, but I think all of us just need to be cognizant of the recency effect. And when we're going to -- when we take input, current input, and that current input is, in some ways, is going to be specific about some lines that we've drawn, but I think
we all should just go back to the COIs and try to balance that before we give direction. And I think that, I guess, the 29th we're going to get together and review the input we heard. So I think that's a really great idea, and that will help a lot. So I'm going to stop there. Thanks.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thanks. And we look forward to seeing the document you created in the next session, which is the public input session. And so that'll be a starting point for us to think through some of these questions.

Next, let's go to Commissioner Sinay, then Yee, and then Le Mons.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thanks. The first day did not feel good to me. And I didn't know why it didn't feel good. And part of it was it was new. To me it was very stressful when it was -- you're trying to think through what to do -- yeah, how to move things -- how it's going to effect. It's a lot of responsibility. And we weren't given sometimes the space we needed to think it through. And I didn't appreciate having a, here's an easier way to get it done, and I didn't appreciate that it wasn't coming from my fellow commissioners. So I think if there's recommendations or ways to move forward, it should be coming from the commissioners and not from the
contractors. You know, unless we ask for it, there may be times to say, I'm stuck or whatever and we ask for it. But the first day we didn't ask for it, and it was being proposed and it wasn't easy.

I would hope that there's a way that we can go back after we make changes. And I would also like to have the better map. I know that what the line drawers are using is good for what they're doing, but it wasn't good for what we were doing and I'll tell you why. We split my city in half -- we split my city. We split Encinitas. And I heard lots about it. They've been email -- they've submitted us comments and stuff, but I didn't notice we split it, and I kept reading, Encinitas was split. And I was like, no, it wasn't. And then when I looked at our tool, yes, we did split it. And so we do need a better way to -- something that's similar to our map. Our mapping tool on our website is a lot better to see the fine lines, and we need some -- we need that opportunity to go back and look at what happened and not rush us.

Okay, we're done with this zone, let's go to the next one. We need to actually -- after we work in a region, take a deep breath and say, okay, let's go back and look at everything we did, and does it make sense? What doesn't make sense?

The other thing that was difficult, was that some
people are using Twitter to get input from the public.

And I know it's -- I think we've created tools that are equal to everybody, and everybody can submit public input in real-time. And we should probably maybe think about getting off Twitter while we are meeting, and use it during breaks maybe or others, but not while we're doing -- and all social media -- while we're doing line drawing. Because that made it difficult at times as well.

And I really didn't appreciate that some people would step up and work on his own while other people were stepping back and looking at the communities of interest, and coming back respectfully, and saying, okay, we've gotten this piece, how do we look at this? Or just when there is conflicting, allowing people to have a conversation that is conflicting and not letting the loudest voice who's yelling, almost, that one -- be the one that's taking priority. And I think that's the main thing.

I really -- oh, I'm really concerned as we're moving forward that we need to better be able to call out what's political and what's not. It's gotten political, and it's going to only get worse and we need to be -- in the past we've said, it's veiled or whatever, but I think sometimes we're going to need to be able to say it
comfortably out loud or remind each other, hey, this is coming from -- this may not be coming from a place -- you can tell when you're reading statements where they're coming from and stuff. I'm really impressed with some of the public input we've been getting recently. They're really thought out in a of details and I appreciate that. But I think what Neal -- I'm sorry, what Commissioner Fornaciari said is true, we're going to need to be able to be more aware of what we're reading and be more careful how we're bringing it forward as we're moving forward. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Really appreciating all the comments so far. One big thing to add, in my mind, is I'm wondering if there's a way for commissioners to have time available with line drawers to compare proposed changes. The way we were doing it most of the time, working on proposed changes in live session and watching the population changes as we made changes and seeing if they worked out or not. I mean, if we had all the time in the world, that's fine, but we don't, so to be able to sit down with a line drawer and work out a proposed change to balance out the populations beforehand, and then have all that ready before bringing
it to the full commission it seems to me would save a lot of time.

Also, there's a lot of little changes we probably all have in mind that if we have to do them one-by-one in live session without preparing them beforehand, it would just take, I think, more time than we have. So to be able to work on those little changes, a few blocks here, a few blocks there for some districts beforehand and be able to bring them forward as a package seems much more realistic to me. I checked with our counsel and this is actually explicitly allowed for our regulations. Any one or two commissioners can meet with a line drawer because they are staff, and that does not violate our input restrictions. So that's a suggestion. I know this would be adding to the line drawing team's responsibilities which may require additional clauses, additions to the contract, and more capability. I don't even know if it's possible, but it seems to me that, it would just make this process a lot smoother. It would take some coordination.

I think Commissioner Ahmad's idea of coordinating what changes each of us need to make maybe to get line drawing time -- line drawer time, we would each need to request in public session and name where the changes are that we want to make and kind of the scope of those
changes. And then other commissioners that may be interested in the same area would be alerted to that and know that that would need some coordination. Maybe that would be one way to go, and maybe Commissioner Fornaciari part of your proposal might be able to include something like this. So that's my thought that would really help the process.

I appreciated Commissioner Sinay's comment just now about staff taking initiative to propose possibilities before the commission had -- I understand the concern there. Absolutely, we need to be very -- jealously guard our responsibility and privilege as a commission to be responsible for changes. I did have -- I have to say for myself, I actually found that helpful. As a newcomer to this process, as we all are, to have possibilities put before me. Of course, it's absolutely up to us to make a choice about any of those possibilities, but I actually found it helpful when staff used some of their expertise to help us through a stuck spot, and I thought staff was appropriate each time about only -- asking for permission, and certainly not making any changes until and unless we actually asked them to be made. There's a balance there, I understand that. But I just want to say, I myself found that helpful.

One other thing to add, that's already been said,
how to deal with a huge quantity of COIs. I mean, I think staff is doing everything it can. It's given us magnificent tools -- the Airtable, the visualizations. We have staff available for real-time research. We have staff providing summaries of COIs from time to time, but still, it still seems overwhelming. So I don't know if there's an answer, but Commissioner Fornaciari's point about not just listening -- not just thinking about the latest COI, is relevant, too, I think. Still struggling with that.

Could I just add one more positive thing? A late-breaking. I wanted to add to all the accolades for Commissioner Turner's magnificent leadership. And I was sitting right next to her during these sessions last week, and we've all worked with leaders or been leaders ourselves, and the balance between taking care of people and staying task-oriented is one of the hardest challenges with leadership. Right? It's easy to do one or the other, it's so hard to do both. She did both magnificently, and I just sat there in such admiration and appreciation for her, especially the evening where we got through the Congressional map. Up to then, I wasn't sure this was going to happen. But when she pushed us through that I was like, we could actually do this. And it gave me a lot of hope, and inspired me, which is
something leaders do -- the best gift that leaders can
give to their groups, that inspiration, and she gave that
to me, certainly. But thank you, Commissioner Turner.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And what I'll add is, I
think after having worked with so many of -- well with
all of you for the past year-and-a-half or so, many of us
are perfectionists. Right? And we want to get
everything right. We want it to be perfect. And we just
have to remember that perfection is the enemy of
progress, especially when you have limited time and
resource. And when we are under significant pressures,
twelve-hour days, thirteen-hour days, sometimes longer,
takes its toll, and so we just need to be able to
prioritize and project-manage this very important task so
that we are able to get to the important aspects of the
work. Everything's important, but the key critical
pieces that'll make our map process flow and to identify
those and work through those -- oftentimes they're called
bottlenecks, but identify those potential bottlenecks
that we're going to encounter.

And of course, to give appropriate time to all
districts across California. So it's very easy to focus
on some areas and to not give enough time to others,
especially the more complex and the more -- the more
complex ones because they oftentimes require the most
time. So just making sure that we balance all of these things. And I'm sure that that's a goal of all of ours. With that, I'll turn it over to Commissioner Kennedy, who has his hand raised.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. Related to my point about getting in some live practice earlier, I think to resolve the issue that Commissioner Yee pointed out so that we can individually walk into a meeting with plans more fully formed, QGIS is there. I haven't made it all the way through the installation process or the installation and uploading of the -- or downloading of the shape files so that I can play with them, but it seems to me that that's really what would help us, is ensuring that each of us has the QGIS software on our work computer and are able to work with our existing shape files so we can click; we can see what the population is; we can see what needs to be moved. We can actually work on moving it to see if it works, so that we're not taking up that time in a live line drawing session. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy. That's a great observation. Commissioner Le Mons, are you -- I'm just wondering if you had any -- if you're available at this point to give your feedback? And if not, we'll go to Commissioner Sinay, because I know he's
juggling a couple things.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Thank you. Just a couple things. Building on what Commissioner Kennedy said, I remember we had this conversation way back when, and it would be fun to see that conversation again and watch it now that we've got -- we've been forward. But one of the things that we kept reminding ourselves in that conversation way back when, was that the reason we have a redistricting commission was to make those tough -- learn those things and make those tough decisions in public and with each other. And we had really said, it's going to take time, and it's going to be messy, and it's going to be frustrating, but the purpose of this is for us to be able to do it in person and that's why we opted not to have some of that software put onto our laptops, even though our laptops have the capacity to do that.

At that point, we had said, yes, it's about us doing it together and being public and that -- so I just think it's -- I could go either way. My concern is, if we did all have that, we would spend more time playing with the shape files and stuff than reading the communities of interest input we're receiving. There's so much of it and it's hard to keep up with that, that I think that that's where -- that's one of our strengths, and that was where my comment was going to come to was that, yes, we
split my small city, and I actually think it's funny.
But it also proves that we've been listening to the
community and building upon what the community has said.
And when I've been interviewed here in San Diego, that's
one of the things I've been very -- thanking people for
giving input, because for so long it was tough to make
decisions because we didn't have the communities of
interest. I could've brought my own public -- my own
thoughts into it, but I was really -- I worked really
hard to bring in -- read the communities of input for all
the State of California, and I appreciate everybody else
doing the same and pulling out those pieces we may miss.

And so for some -- for me, it's a perfect example of
how we're not using the old lines and we're not being --
we don't have our own agendas or all whatever. The fact
that I -- that we split my city, to me, is a perfect
example of how we're looking at the bigger picture and
looking -- taking care of everybody and not looking at
our own agendas. I just wanted to share that, that I
find it -- it's frustrating, it's funny, and I think it's
a perfect example that you're all welcome to share with
others when you want to tell about how we are looking at
the big -- looking at -- you know what I'm saying.

Sorry.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Akutagawa?
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Of course, he has to make his presence known now. I just wanted to -- sorry. Let me go to -- let's go to Commissioner Kennedy. Let me just try to get him --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. Commissioner Kennedy. And then we'll come back to Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. And thank you Commissioner Sinay. I don't see that using -- excuse me -- using QGIS outside of a meeting to explore feasibility of something goes against the fundamental purpose, because when you bring it back into the meeting, you still have to present it and go through it step-by-step and describe the reasons, and why this is better than that and so forth. I think it is a matter of -- we have extremely little time in our meetings to do an incredibly complicated task, and looking for something like that, I think, would contribute without getting us off track. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. So we'll go to Commissioner Akutagawa. Then I'm going to go to Director Hernandez and then Karin -- Ms. Mac Donald for feedback from the line drawers. All right. So let's -- where are we?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. So I just wanted to
make a comment on the line drawer idea. I think this is one of those ideas that on the one hand, I really like because I think there's an efficiency, and it also helps us to test out the different what-ifs so that when we come in it helps to move the process along. On the other hand, though, I do have a concern about that because of the COI inputs that we're receiving -- I think part of the -- I'm going to call it the transparency, is for the public to see us testing out these what-ifs. Okay. We got this testimony, let's try this, and then for everybody to see that it's not going to work. Either it's too many people or the ripple effects will dismantle a VRA district.

There's just so many different kinds of variables that we're looking at, but if everybody could see it, then it makes it so that it's not this, like, hidden kind of thing that we've done and we didn't take anybody's input into account. I think that's what I'm struggling with in terms of weighing it. When I heard Commissioner Yee talk about it, I thought, oh, yeah, that's a good idea, but at the same time I'm also concerned about this other side.

On the COI input, I would like to make a request or suggestion -- and I don't know if this is possible just given how much it is, but it would be interesting to know
when we get -- the staff helps to just summarize the COI input. It is just that it's a summary, but I don't have an idea as to, like, is this like -- we get a lot? Is this just one person? Is there a theme? Maybe that would be helpful, just to know, like, what's the general themes? Maybe not the amounts of testimony, but what's the general themes that are emerging? And I think that that's what they've tried to do. But I don't know, maybe it's not been as clear to me about it, but what would be helpful is that, like, in this region, these are the themes that we're seeing. There's people who don't want to cross county lines, and then there's people who are, I don't want to be with these communities. And then there's other people, I want to be with these communities. Things like that would be helpful. And lastly, I just want to -- I'll just take a moment like Commissioner Yee said, also, too, I also want to acknowledge -- I saw one comment at least that thought that we should have utilized the additional time between when we accepted the draft maps to today was the deadline, and that we should have utilized the additional time to keep working on the draft maps. And I just want to remind everybody that we made this decision so that everybody -- not just us -- but everybody, including those who are the advocates and those who are interested
in redistricting can enjoy their Thanksgiving with their families, many of us for the first time in over a year, to be able to come together and have that just nice Thanksgiving together. We wanted to do it so that the public comment period would close right before Thanksgiving. So then the day after we would all be free, including the staff, and all the individuals who are interested in this would have a chance to have a guilt-free time to be able to enjoy their Thanksgiving before we jump right back into it beginning on Friday. At least in terms of us as we review the COI testimony. So I just wanted to also acknowledge that. That's one of the reasons why, and I just wanted to appreciate that. We did think about that, too. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa. So let's go to Executive Director Hernandez, and then we'll go to Karin. And then we'll go to the hands that are raised.

You're on mute.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. So first I want to acknowledge our staff. They have done an amazing job just to keep things on track, taking notes, the lunch situation. We're asking a tremendous amount of work from them and they are meeting the challenge. So I wanted to acknowledge that first and
foremost with our staff. Marcy and her team has done a
tremendous job. Our data managers have done a tremendous
job of having the input ready to go for you to take a
look at. The visualizations up and ready. The map up
the same day as it was posted. And also Fredy's team
getting the communication out. So I just can't say
enough about the team.

I will say that there were some challenges during
the week last week, and really it's just the timing.
There's a lot of stuff going on, and we want to make sure
that we get things out timely, and sometimes there just
isn't enough time. And going late into the evenings was
challenging, yet we were able to get a lot of the things
done.

I do agree with much of what was said already by the
commissioners in that we need to have a plan. We are
hearing quite a bit from the public and different
organizations that -- what's the plan? How come we can't
do this? Or when are you going to do this? When are you
going to talk about this region or that region? So that
has been something that we have heard and we're trying to
address it as much as possible with the run of show. As
things change, the Chair does definitely share the
information as real-time as possible when there are
changes. We've had to pivot -- as a Commission, you've
had to pivot, and so I think we've done as good a job as we can, but we can always improve a little bit better. I like what was said already that we're perfectionists in many ways, and so we're trying to make it even better than what it is. And those are some of the challenges that we're encountering. So that's kind of my perspective.

I do appreciate working with our vendors. The communication there is always top-notch, whether it's our videographer folks, line drawers, our ASL, legal team -- everyone has been very responsive as things change and we pivot to the longer meetings or changes in our days scheduled. So I also want to acknowledge them for doing a tremendous job keeping us together. I also want to acknowledge the court reporter. I don't want to forget you guys, so thank you, and the captioners. That's all for me. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Director Hernandez.

Ms. Mac Donald?

MS. MAC DONALD: Hello, Commissioners. Thank you so much, Chair Toledo. Thank you for this opportunity, and thanks for having me back. Yeah, I wanted to also thank Chair Turner one more time. I know everybody has already talked about what a great process this was. And from our perspective it's been -- it made things a lot easier to
have this really great communication with the Chair and it allowed us to pivot and really kind of change this cruise ship at some point and then go back to the Assembly districts, for example, when we had already started processing them, and so forth. So we really appreciated that.

I wanted to thank all of you who realize that we sometimes need a break also. And again, also, Chair Turner, thank you for saying that a couple of times; that please, the line drawers do need a break once in a while and we really appreciated that, because we all want to talk to you during the break, absolutely, but sometimes we do need to go and eat something. And the challenge in the meeting space last week was that we could not eat in the meeting space. So that made it -- created that necessity to actually leave the meeting space, leave our computers and go someplace. So thank you for your kindness.

All of you who came by and gave us the thumbs up once in a while, that really makes a big difference when you're in so much stress for us. Of course, we are trying to deliver the best possible service to you. We're trying to be with you all the way, and when you're pivoting, we want to be there so you can do it, and it's just helpful to get the thumbs up from you once in a
while and get these kind words. And it helps us work really long hours.

    Thank you also for understanding that when you leave we're still there, because we have to do backups and oftentimes have to just work on like file integrity things and whatnot, run reports, make sure everything's been assigned. And that can take sometimes up to two or more hours. Like Executive Director Hernandez just said, the long hours definitely were challenging because of that. And I don't want to forget saying thank you so much, Executive Director Hernandez for your help for the just collegiality for your staff. I think we could not -- all of us -- we could not ask for a better team, honestly. And that to us made a big difference also. Just to be in this really incredibly supportive environment makes it a lot easier for us to do the work that we do.

    For us sometimes it's difficult -- some of you have brought this up -- sometimes for us it's difficult to figure out when we should say something and when not, because some of you will say, okay, make a suggestion, and then some of you will say, don't make a suggestion, we want to make the suggestions. So I feel like that became a little clearer as we were starting to work with each other and, as much as you can help us with that, and
just let us know when you want us to say something and when not.

Obviously, the line drawers -- they have been working with these maps nonstop. They have redrawn some of these areas so many times. They have tried things that you may want to do and sometimes they already know that what you're about to give direction on or what you want to see actually can't be done. So they could give some feedback, but they don't have to. And we also, of course, don't know where you're going afterwards, but if you want to hear more, please just ask for it. We're here for you. And if you don't want to hear more, that's fine with us also. So again, we're here to support you.

And I wrote down notes on all the feedback that you just gave and I think just sitting with that and figuring out what we can and cannot implement -- of course, Commissioner Fernandez, some of these things, for example, like coloring in some of these VRA districts, that is absolutely possible, obviously. But again, none of this is straightforward ever because we're really looking at areas and not necessarily just the districts. Right? So maybe the coloring needs to be a little differently, so I want to make sure that we bring that up with our VRA counsel. And yeah, just generally, we'll go through all of the feedback that you just provided and
then work on that and work with you on how we can improve moving forward. So thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Ms. Mac Donald. And we will be taking lunch at 12:30 today, just so everyone's aware. So that's five minutes from now. We'll listen to -- hopefully be able to get through the two comments that we have left. And then when we come back from lunch, we'll be going into public input discussion and looking at the document that the public input committee has put together. Leverage the product management expertise of Commissioner Fornaciari and the rest of the team -- the commission -- to develop a roadmap, even if it's a high-level roadmap, to help us, I think, through some of these important issue.

So we'll start with Commissioner Andersen, then go to Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair.

And thank you for that summary, Karin. I really appreciate that.

The one thing I want to say is, back to the idea of having a couple of commissioners work with the line drawers to go through some ideas ahead of time; I do not like that idea. I love the idea that we're working on ideas using QGIS, getting the help from the statewide databases, outreach centers -- that might not be the
proper term -- to work through those, but I think it's sort of unfair to ask the line drawers to work on specific things, and then the whole commission might say, I don't want to do that at all. It's sort of -- it's not a prejudicial thing, but it would be -- it would have an outside influence that is not happening in the public's view.

I do, however, love the idea of having the commissioners work through some areas. I know, myself, I'm thinking, well, if we added more -- if we get population over here, then that could work this out. I would love to work through that, but I think that's -- and there are two tools. You can also do that just the My District as well, which is very similar to how you did the COI, as well as the QGIS. So I just want to bring that forward. While I love the idea of working through ideas on our own, I do not like that idea of working with the line drawers with it not being public.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I just want to take the opportunity -- I understand what Commissioner Akutagawa was saying, and it's something that we have said -- that we wanted people -- we wanted the public to have two clear weeks of the public comment
period before the holidays. It doesn't close any
opportunity for public comment. We'll be taking public
comment on Thanksgiving Day, the day after, Saturday,
Sunday. Anytime anybody wants to provide public comment,
please shoot it our way through any of the channels that
we've been talking about for a long time. But we wanted
to have the official two-week period during which we
could not display additional maps end before
Thanksgiving. But we certainly want public comment to
continue as long as people have comment. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa,
and then we'll be breaking for lunch.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes. I just wanted to say,
thank you, Commissioner Kennedy for that additional
clarification. You are so right.

Commissioner Toledo, I just want to acknowledge that
there is a caller who would -- who I guess is waiting to
make a public comment on, I assume, this agenda item, and
given that we've been asked to be more upfront about when
we expect timing for this, it might be helpful to note
when you think. I mean, everything is always an estimate
right now, but when you estimate you'll be able to
complete this subcommittee agenda item and then receive
public comment on subcommittee reports. Not general.

CHAIR TOLEDO: That's a good question. And so I was
planning to give an opportunity for the public to weigh
in after we completed all of our committee updates. So
that'll be after the Public Input Design Subcommittee,
which will be around -- I'm hoping around 2:30, maybe a
little bit earlier if we can get through our public input
update and debrief by then. So around 2:30, and we would
take public comment on all of the committee reports and
debriefs that we're doing. These are all part of our
subcommittee updates. So we'll be taking comment --
public comment on our subcommittee updates around 2:30.

With that, let's break for lunch, and see you all
back at 1:15.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 12:30 p.m.
until 1:15 p.m.)

CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California
Citizen's Redistricting Commission, our business meeting,
and we're focusing on public input design. We're going
to receive an update from the Public Input Design
Subcommittee and have discussion around their public
input process.

So with that, we'll turn it over to Commissioner
Fornaciari and Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Okay. I'll go ahead, if
that's okay? Okay. Thanks, Commissioner Ahmad.

So with regard to the -- our public input meetings
that we have coming up -- so I guess, they've been already fully booked, almost immediately. We had two days -- so that was the 17th through the -- yeah, the 17th through the 20th. So those booked up quickly, so the outreach staff opened up the 22nd and 23rd. I guess those are booked up now, too.

Are they fully booked up, Marcy? Okay. So we're getting kind of -- you've heard the feedback. We got a letter for the call-in feedback that we've gotten. It's difficult for some folks to get on board an appointment, not knowing when we opened up the sign-ups. And so there's been a suggestion that we maybe shorten the duration of input and therefore add more appointments. So when we initially proposed this, we had proposed five minutes for input for folks. The letter we got suggested we shorten that to three. We may have gotten other feedback suggesting three. There's another suggestion on the table, maybe two minutes, for the appointments. And then -- so that's one thing we need to talk about and figure out what we want to do. Since we voted to make it five minutes, if we're going to change it, we need to have a vote.

And then, the other thing is talk about when we want to take public comment -- open it up to public comment. One option that's been discussed for at least the 17th
through the 20th -- the meetings on the 17th, 18th and 19th are from 3 to 8, then on the 20th -- the 20th is a Saturday, is from 10 to 3. So one option discussed was hold public comment until the 20th and then we can go longer with public comment. Or we could have public comment every day. We just have to figure out how we're going to manage that time-wise.

And then on the -- the ones on the 22nd and 23rd are currently scheduled 9:30 to 2:30. I just have a question for Commissioner Fernandez. Were you thinking to change these meetings, too, to later, or no? You were just thinking the line drawing meetings? Okay. Okay. So that's a lot to think about. I just am curious as to what my colleagues think.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And we have a couple colleagues that want to chime in. So we'll start with Commissioner Akutagawa, then Fernandez, then Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: It's so weird having to unmute myself. I've been trained not to. I'm like, where's the button. I'll just weigh in on a few things. One is, I guess a question for clarification, and I apologize if I missed this -- one of the callers this morning said that those with appointments would be able to share maps. My understanding was that that was not true. Okay. So --
COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, no. That's -- yeah. I'm sorry. Thank you for that. Yeah, I want to make a clarification on that. Yeah, we decided when we designed this that the callers would not share, that we would do our best to have the line drawers have the map -- the area that they're planning on talking about up for them to speak to, but not have them share their screens.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. Thank you. And that's helpful, because then that was going to determine the amount of time. I would be comfortable with either three or two minutes. In terms of adding time, I mean, we could either extend the time so that then instead of five hours per day, we could go to even six or seven hours, although that is quite long. The other option is, given what seems like the interest in a lot of people to give input, we may also have to consider -- and I would be comfortable, although maybe Sunday we either take a break or we just use a shorter amount of time on Sunday to allow public comment to take place.

I think that also -- I also want to just suggest in terms of the appointment times -- I did hear what people were saying. Perhaps to make it more equitable, we do make the announcement first and then we give a time on the announcement when the appointment period will open up so then that way it'll give time for everybody to
scramble and then get themselves ready to make an
appointment. Otherwise, if it's open and then we say,
it's open, people already filled it up. So that may also
alleviate individuals not feeling like they had a fair
chance to get it.

The other suggestion that I would also make on this
is, open it up on a daily basis. Like, today we'll open
it up maybe for Sunday. Tomorrow, we'll open it up for
Monday. So then that way then you can gauge how much
response you're getting, and you could control the flow a
little bit better so that everything doesn't fill up all
at once, and it does give a day to reset everybody. And
they all have, hopefully, a more equitable chance of
getting their inputs in. And let's remind everybody
that, via the email, or any of the forums also work, too.

Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.
I'm going to go to Counsel Pane to see if he has any
guidance on this process as well.

CHIEF COUNSEL Pane: Thank you, Chair. I just
wanted to clarify some points. So to Commissioner
Akutagawa's point -- because we are within the fourteen-
day window for what would be public input testimony, we
aren't able to adjust the current begin and end time for
agendas that are already posted. So I just wanted to
make that clarification. And we couldn't add a new day
currently if we're within the fourteen-day window. So I
just wanted to clarify that point. We do have some
flexibility as the commission is deciding whether or not
it's five minutes or two minutes or three minutes.
Certainly, the commission needs to take public comment
for each agenda item that is currently posted. The
agenda item for general public comment, I believe, is
number three. And I think Commissioner Fornaciari is
saying, with all the appointments, we would get to agenda
item number three probably on the 20th. That's certainly
an acceptable solution. Another option is you could
provide additional public comment within the confines of
what is the beginning and end time of each agenda
schedule.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner -- or --
excuse me, Chief Counsel Pane.

Let's go to Commissioner Fernandez, and then
Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. I -- I'm
in favor of a shorter comment period of public input from
two or three minutes is fine.

And in terms of public comments, I would prefer to
have it daily to try to accommodate those that maybe just
can't -- are not able to do it on Saturday. So I'd
prefer to do that, so it -- because -- oh, and then, 
what, Commissioner Akutagawa talked about posting the 
time of once we open it. I would agree with that, but I 
would also like the notification to be sent out, like, in 
our distribution list to everyone before you actually 
start taking appointments, so those that aren't listening 
to our meetings and know the exact time, they get equal 
notice.

So I think that's it because we can't extend -- I 
mean, I guess we can extend our time to go later, we just 
can't start our meetings earlier, is what I'm hearing 
from our Chief Counsel. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez. 
Commissioner Kennedy, then Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. And yes, I 
do want to confirm with Chief Counsel Pane that 
Commissioner Fernandez's point is correct. That upon 
conclusion of business means that instead of ending at 8 
p.m., for example, we could end at 9:30 p.m. Instead of 
ending on Saturday at 3 p.m., we could go to 5 or 6 p.m.

Second of all, looking at a agenda for the meeting 
scheduled for the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, that occurs to 
me could we announce a continuation of that agenda on to 
Sunday afternoon if we wanted to pick up some additional 
time there before we get to Monday and Tuesday. When we
get to Tuesday, could we, perhaps, post a continuation to
give us some time on Wednesday morning. I'm just looking
at all of the options and want to make sure we are
exploring all of our options to maximize the public's
opportunity provide the input into the process.

On the question of how many minutes, I'm okay with
decreasing it to three. I don't think I would be
supportive at this point of decreasing it below three
minutes. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

Director Pane, would you like to respond?

MR. PANE: Sure, thank you, Chair.

So to Commissioner Kennedy's point, the first or
upon conclusion of business is included because the
commission may well end prior to and conclude their
business prior to the agenda's end time, or if they are
running behind, of course, they could -- it permits them
to go later beyond the end time. What we wouldn't be
able to do is post a new end time based on changes the
commission would like to make, because there is a Bagley-
Keene requirement of posting fourteen days in advance.

To Commissioner's Kennedy's point of a continuation.

Of course the point of a continuation is not necessarily
an end-run around the Bagley-Keene requirements. So we
wouldn't to try to say, oh, well, we'll just do a
continuation. The point of a continuation, really, is if we have no reason to expect that we are going to run long but just for whatever reason it ends up happening, that we end up going slower or we end up needing more time, and there's no way -- and we're up against a hard stop and we have to continue the -- what has not been concluded, we can post a continuation. But that's to be sort of used, I would say, sparingly as opposed to a planning document, which if we need to post additional days, we could certainly do that.

So adjournment or a conclusion continuation or a postponement, is being referred to, is when we run out of time and we're not able to continue it, and we can certainly do that, the law allows for that, but the continuation isn't an available tool to be used far in advance to just say, well, we're going to add another day but we'll be within the Bagley-Keene requirement time period, and this is the way to post additional meetings. That would be the appropriate use of a continuation. So thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you for the clarification.

Commissioner Andersen, then Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you for that, Chief -- I was going to call you director -- Chief Counsel Pane. I also agree with the three minutes time limit, and that
is what we had in the employee input sessions, so I believe it makes sense. I also don't like going to two minutes; I think people need to be heard.

And the -- I believe Commissioner Fernandez said this, for public comment, I do believe we should be taking it every day because, particularly, the 17th we're doing Congressional, the 18th we're doing Assembly, the 19th we're doing Senate, and people who are following one particular map and not the others should be able to give public comment on that day. An idea which I -- which we went to, which I thought actually worked rather well, is we did open a public comment and then continued working. But this is a little different because it's public input and public comment. So -- oh no, you already answered that one. Thank you very much.

CHAIR TOLEDO: So I do want to -- we will have hard stops on November 17th, 18th at 10 p.m. So that's the latest we could go if we did choose to do that. But it would allow us to get through the people who are in the queue and scheduled for the time.

Well, let's see, who's next? Was it Commissioner Akutagawa? You're passing, okay.

All right. So it sounds like there's consensus on three minutes; is that correct? Just thumbs? Okay. So three minutes instead of the five minutes. And of
course, we'll take a vote on all of this, but any other
items that we need to take a vote on, Commissioner
Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: So with -- it seems to me
the only thing we actually need to vote on, and Chief
Counsel Pane, correct me if I'm wrong, is changing the
time. The rest of it is, you know, more direction to the
Chair for how the Chair is going to run the meeting. And
it sounds like the direction to the Chair would be public
comment every day. And then the other question I have is
about -- so I guess we have to open --

so Marcy -- Director Kaplan, so we -- you know, two
days from now, I guess, is the first meeting. So we need
to get the -- the appointments reopened based on this --
you know, whatever we vote on, but it sounds like three
minutes is going to be the time, maybe, but -- so can you
and Director Ceja be prepared to blast out on all of our
media channel, social network, everything, a hard time
that we are going to open the -- open the sign-ups again
and then -- and then manage it that way? Would that
work?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Director Kaplan?

MS. KAPLAN: Yes. We can do that, but I do -- I
know there was some discussion on, like, how we open them
ongoing over the week, and I would recommend that we do
it all at once, given that there's -- we're opening a lot
more appointments and there's -- the meeting's coming up
on the 17th, 18th, 19th. But if you have a
recommendation on how much lead time, we have staff that
are prepared to update to be able to reopen appointments.
So if you want to give us a sense of how much time you
want to give the public in advance, then we can time that
out, so we can send out a blast and then another once
they're actually open again.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And director Kaplan, I did have a
question for you about -- some of the community groups
have been saying that there's been -- there's some
ambiguity on our website and in some of the -- some of
the fliers and such around the -- you know, ways people
can participate, how to participate, that sort of thing.
Can you just -- I mean, I'd like to reduce any ambiguity
that there is and create very clear guidelines that are
across all of our communication channels, what other
social media, fliers, you know, on our website, et

cetera. So -- and I'm not -- and especially as it
relates back to, you know, the newsletter and press
releases and such. So do you have any suggestions on how
to do that?

And it might be helpful to have somebody who's not
used to looking at our website take a look and see it
from an outsider's perspective, because I think we get so familiar with where things are -- we know where things are, and it's pretty clear to us, but if somebody is not used to our process and our systems may not see it the same way, and it might seem ambiguous.

MS. KAPLAN: Yeah, I mean, I can work with Freda again on this. I do want to highlight that we did extensively leading up to this work on updates to the participate page, the actual sign-up page where all the links for the appointment pages were listed, to include the numerous ways to participate, as well as on the actual appointment form, including information on the -- how to sign up and other ways to participate. If you don't get an appointment, I think we can -- now that the commission is coming more to a consensus and opening public comment at the end of each day, providing additional information on those pages, that should you not be able to secure an appointment, that there's now an opportunity for public comment at the end of each day and providing the call-in information for that when we have that available as well. But I think we can --

CHAIR TOLEDO: And I think we're doing -- I think the staff is doing a great job. It's just --

MS. KAPLAN: Yeah.

CHAIR TOLEDO: You know, sometimes the public is not
as -- you know, this may be the first time they're coming
to our --

    MS. KAPLAN: Yeah.

CHAIR TOLEDO: -- website and looking at it and it
may not be -- so we just to -- have to try to make it as
user friendly as possible and think about it from that
perspective. And I know you are --

    MS. KAPLAN: Yes. And I think --

CHAIR TOLEDO: -- (indiscernible).

    MS. KAPLAN: -- also just to highlight the part of
the original discussion where the commission approved a
motion on the policies for the input meetings, to include
the limitation of one speaker per day. So I think
clarifying, you know, however we can make that clearer,
that that is the limitation that the commission approved.

    CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Director Kaplan.

    I believe Commissioner Fornaciari had some
clarification as well.

    COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Let's let Commissioner
Fernandez and Andersen go and then I'll --

    CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. So Commissioner Fernandez and
Andersen.

    COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I might have
missed this, Director Kaplan, but you talked about moving
from five to three minutes. Are you -- those that
have -- already have appointments, we're going to notify them as well that they only have three minutes because I don't want them showing up thinking that they've got five minutes and we tell them three minutes. So I would appreciate that.

And then in terms of opening up the appointments, I would recommend that we just open them up now for all of the days. I think that that should be less work on staff if -- instead of having to, you know, particular file to remind yourself to set it up. But my opinion would be open up all the days in case there's individuals that can only make certain days and they're kind of waiting for that to open up. Thank you. That's just a recommendation.

And thank you and all your staff for their work.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Thank you, actually, for bringing up about the website. Because could you make sure that you look at the home page, because that's the first place people hit. And right now if you look at the -- there are four selections on the home page and one of submit comment. Think, oh, I'll submit a comment. That is not the draft on -- comment on draft maps for -- that's a more general comment. And so it's only if you
hit participate do then you have the option of commenting on the draft maps. So we need to be clear on that.

And there's a couple things -- so I really want you to look at it from the home page, because people who have not -- aren't familiar with us at all, that's where they land. And you know, they don't necessarily know to think, if I go over and hover on all these tabs, then I might be able to find it. So if we could -- with the comments. And then, it's not obvious on that where, again, on the home page how would you sign up for -- to comment during this period. And if we could --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I have a clarity question.

When people sign up, are they signing up for a particular time spot?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Director Kaplan?

MS. KAPLAN: So similar to how we were able to do this for the COI input meetings, people are signing up for a session of time. So right now they're set up as an eighty minute block, a ninety minute block, and a forty-five minute block on the longer -- on the 17th through 20th, there's this extra block of time that we included.

And so they sign up for that time, and they need to call
back during that time frame. So if there's -- we'll make sure that that's clear on the website as well.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: So what I was kind of thinking about that, I know we're considering three minutes and I'm wondering if just for divisibility of math reasons, you think if you already have five minutes, half of that's two and a half, you won't have as much variation in your slot shifting. So you know, we're able to actually double the amount of people, essentially, in the current time structure. So with that said, I'd like to recommend that we strongly consider two-and-a-half minutes versus three.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.

Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I also wanted to ask the question of -- I guess since we have a much more specific, I guess, end time, are we going to, for example, on the 17th, 18th, and 19th, are we going to announce that lines will close at 8 p.m. and then we'll continue to take any calls after that? Because I know that there has been some concerns raised about us opening up for public comment and then closing it thirty minutes later, and -- I don't think it applies here but I wanted to just bring that question up.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Director Kaplan?
MS. KAPLAN: Sorry.

CHAIR TOLEDO: You have your hand up.

MS. KAPLAN: I'm happy to answer that but that would be -- the lines would close at the scheduled end of the meeting time, but anyone in the queue would be able to stay in the queue to continue to provide input as we get to them, as was done in the COI input meetings as well. But we can make sure that's clear also on the website as well, that -- so right now it's listed. When you look at the appointment sign-ups, there's the blocks and then there's the time where it -- public comment would start for each day. So we can make that clear in there, that the queue would close at the -- input in the specific time of when the queue would close.

I did want to also just address the note that Commissioner Andersen had highlighted about when you're on the home page and you click on public comment. We did consolidate the public comment and the map feedback form so that you're actually clicking on what kind of input you're providing. So there's a drop down, and so the public would either click on general public comment or draft map feedback. So it is one form, but it changes depending on what you're selecting. But I can -- I'll work -- connect with Freda on -- there's a way to make that clearer as well.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Appreciate that, Director Kaplan.

Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. You know, Commissioner -- or Director Kaplan, I notice that on some of the comments, people refer to something about the map that they don't like but it doesn't say what map they're referring to. Even -- some of them mention it but some of them don't. I wonder if there could be a drop down that says, I'm commenting on a Congressional, an Assembly, a state Senate, or all, or something like that, just so that -- I think they're assuming that we know what map they're commenting on but -- you know, I can try to guess by what I'm reading and so that would be helpful.

I also want to mention, I like that you're going to put that lines will close at 2:30. Just for clarity, I'm thinking that it would also be helpful that anybody can get into the queue to give public comment, I'm assuming at any time, but they have to be in by, you know, the line closing time. And that anybody who does not have an appointment, you know, will just be taken as room -- as there is room. But given the overwhelming response, which is, I have to say, is super exciting that this many people want to comment, that's great, but I think we should indicate, you know -- I think we have to spell out
all these things so that it's clear to everybody too.

Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

I did want to check in with Commissioner Kennedy, as -- if memory serves me, he had mentioned not wanting to go below three minutes. So just wanted to check in with Commissioner Kennedy and see what his thoughts are on going to two-and-a-half minutes.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: I know that I didn't want two, and you know, if we go back to Justin Levitt's (ph.) comment about easy solutions sometimes being the best, Commissioner Le Mons' easy solution may in fact be the best. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy.

All right. And -- so we'll come back to this issue at -- once we finish our conversation on our process -- input process. And at this point we're really thinking about the operational process from now until -- the operational process for our final maps. And developing a operational project plan for the -- for that to get us through to the final maps, as well as thinking through all of the obstacle barriers and giving guidance to the Chair and to the rest of the commission on all of the issues that may arise as we get closer to final maps. And so I'm going to ask at this point -- so I -- first,
let's -- I wanted to bring that up and talk about it. But also, the potential of creating a subcommittee to develop that operational plan for the final maps. So let's start with Commissioner Kennedy and Commissioner Ahmad.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. At a very high level on looking at the way forward, my suggestion would be that we look at lengthening the hours of all of these sessions. I understand there may be contractual issues involved, but you know, my bottom line is we are here for the people of California. If the people of California, you know, want and need more time to participate in this process, I would like to see us add time to meetings that are on the schedule, to do our best to give them that time. Thank you.

Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I think based off of what you just said, we do have a mapping playbook that was developed by a subcommittee. Perhaps we can take a look at that and use that as a starting point and make tweaks in terms of establishing a new subcommittee. I don't want to put this on them but I will put this on them. We do have a mapping playbook subcommittee. So I would just want to gauge their interest in potentially leading the efforts to what you
just described.

CHAIR TOLEDO: I believe the -- Commissioner Yee.

There we go.

COMMISSIONER YEE: So that would be Commissioner Turner and myself. Always happy to do anything that will help. Maybe you can say a little bit more how you're envisioning that adaptation to happen.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Sure. So I'm actually thinking about, you know, working through the operational issues and the product management of all of this. So you know, certainly the making decisions aspect, because I think the guide -- the guide that was created is very helpful in that it helps us think through some of the decision-making prophesies, and that's one aspect of it.

But the other aspect is, the schedule and all of the operational -- so more of a project management plan. So the operational issues that are involved with putting these things together, as well as coordination with the line drawers, coordination with communications, right. Making sure that the appropriate communications are coming out at the right time. That -- so we're -- that we're thinking about all of the various roadblocks and barriers. So really, a -- so that -- so it can reduce any hiccups or at least think about them prior to the -- you know, prior to the -- to when we're in line drawing...
mode.

So with that, let's go to Commissioner Andersen, then Fornaciari, then Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you, Chair.

Yeah, I understand sort of the decisions and the mapping playbook, just the straight process and how we get there and logistics of it, I thought that would be a line drawing subcommittee issue because we have been working with the line drawers and understand, you know, how they're -- how they flow and how things work and you know, what kind of communication they need, you know, what types of -- you know, this kind of file, it's got to go here, here, and here. And you know, like, I'm just thinking of a couple of things. You know, how much time frame they need ahead of time, you know, when they can make decisions. We've been working extensively with them on that, and there are items that another subcommittee might go, well, we just need it the day before and not understanding what that entails. So as far as kind of the roadmap getting there, the process of that, I would think that would be line drawing. Well, I don't mean the decisions of, you know, how are we going to process, you know, what the commissioners are talking about and how we analyze, you know, which -- one area versus another area, that sort of stuff. You know, I understand that's more
maybe a mapping playbook group. I just -- I'm not sure we need another subcommittee at this point.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Fornaciari?

Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah. So I just want to share what I was thinking about in working on, you know, kind of just off on my own, right, not as part of a subcommittee. I'm just, you know, like I said, been a project manager for a long, long time and thought about how I would schedule this and manage it in a way that we can bring it home effectively. And in kind of reflecting on the approach that we took last time, I mean, it -- it was a fine approach but I think, for me, there's some lessons learned and takeaways. You know, part of the takeaway is we want to have a strategy for mapping that doesn't put us in a bubble, right, so we don't wind up with any bubbles, so that we can effectively work through the mapping process in a way that we can keep the big picture in mind while we're looking at the details.

The second part of it is all about interfaces. You know, the way -- the way we've laid out our process is focused on counties and regions, and the areas that, you know, it seems like that we are going to need to work the hardest are the interfaces, right. The interface between Orange County and San Diego; the interface between Orange
County LA, Riverside, and San Bernardino. I mean, so you know, the way I was thinking about this schedule and this approach is a way to ensure that we have time to focus on those areas and those interfaces and then moving out to the next areas and interfaces and manage those -- manage that process effectively. And in addition to -- you know, have clarity on -- for everyone, as I said before, on where we're going and how we're getting there. So that was, you know, a small part of it that was focusing on.

I think, though, in this conversation that we've had, right, it's a much, much bigger picture of a plan. That, you know, you brought in a lot of different areas, other commissioners have brought up components of a plan that needs to be put together, you know, to bring the entire process home. So I -- you know, I just -- I just wanted to share my thinking and you know, put that out there.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And I think -- my thinking was very much in alignment with your thinking, and it's the product management aspect, to make sure that we've giving every -- so that we get through all of California and give appropriate time to all of the California, while also highlighting those difficult decisions and in creating the operational plan to make sure that they can
get there.

Commissioner Fernandez and Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I don't know about the subcommittee only because our next business meeting's not until the 29th, and that's when we're going to have this discussion of what changes you want to see. So it almost feels like it's too late at that point, so I'm not sure why we can't try to figure it out now. Because on the -- I'm still trying to figure out what we're going to do the 30th, the 1st, and the 2nd if the 29th we're talking about what we want to see, because that's not going to give line drawers time to really go back and make changes quickly enough for us.

But I also -- and I hear what Commissioner Fornaciari is saying; I hear what Commissioner Kennedy is saying, but I also go back to our meeting last week. Last week -- it was last week, yeah. And I believe it was Commissioner Sadhwani, she brought up, you know, we really need to go through LA; it's going to be a couple of days at least. I like that. I like knowing on these two days, we're going to talk about LA, and that's kind of -- and I think for me, specifically, that gives me a better idea of how to prepare for that day versus the, oh, we might get to southern California or we might get to northern California.
I would prefer to have a plan where we're actually talking about specific areas. And even if it was Los Angeles -- and we're going to look at the Assembly, the Senate, and the Congressional, I mean do it all at once because they kind of impact -- they impact each other, kind of. So that's kind of how I was thinking of I'd like to have a plan and I'd like to be -- have it be a more specific plan so that all of us can really plan and be ready for the discussion that day instead of trying to figure out if it's going to change on us. That was it.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

And I think -- and we do have an hour, but it's just one hour, to pour through so many of these issues, and so that's one of the reasons why -- you know. And we can probably tackle some of these issues to get a framework for -- a framework but we may have to have a group working outside of -- outside of this meeting to finalize some of these things and coordinate with staff and coordinate with the rest and bring something back to us, either through staff or through -- or through public meeting on the 29th.

Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair.

I think at this point, one of the things that would be most helpful for me, and I hope it would be helpful to
other colleagues, is if the mappers were able to give us a color-coded map. I may have mentioned this last week, but if we had a map, one map for each plan, showing deviations and just have the color radiant, you know, from dark red to pink to white to light green to dark green, you know, if we could see, you know, in one picture were we have, you know, more population than we need and where we have less population than we need, and if we see that we have, you know, lots of green in one area and lots of red far away, we know we've got a lot more work to do than if we got lighter colors or if the -- or if the reds and the greens are more mixed in with each other. And I think that's -- it's going to be very helpful for determining the approach that we take to this.

You know, we've got the information in a table format, but frankly, you know, it doesn't have the same impact as if you put it in a color-coded map form. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And we'll ask the line drawing committee to explore the possibility for that.

Commissioner Sadhwani and Commissioner Andersen. Commissioner Sadhwani, you have your hand raised.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes. And certainly I noted the idea of the color-coded map, and we can raise that.
I just wanted to add to this conversation. I agree. I think -- I'm pro-process. In fact, sometimes I have a hard time when we -- when we go off process. You know, we have a lot of days on our calendar, and it's not clear to me at this point what we're using them for. So you know, Commissioner Fernandez had mentioned, yes, I made a comment, we need at least two full days just to work out Los Angeles because it's so complex, and the minute we start changing in one area, it has a ripple effect throughout the whole county and possibly throughout the whole state. So I do stand by that. I think it is what we need.

I don't remember who had said it, but I know when I said it, someone responded, well, we don't have time for that, and I thought, well, we need to make the time. And I think even -- and that's not just for Los Angeles, it's for all different parts of the state. Even when it comes to Los Angeles, I think that we need to think about LA not simply as one county. There are 10 million people plus living in Los Angeles.

The map is extraordinarily complex. And as we think about it, to me, what I see, is this, like, Eastern Los Angeles County, Southern Los Angeles County, Western, Northern Los Angeles County. And as we think about those different regions, it has ripple effects into other
neighboring counties.

I think one of the things that has happened is largely because we were coming out of the outreach zone structure. We're coming out of a structure in which the mappers had regional areas. We've been kind of boxed into that thinking. And this is particularly true for me, in any case, around the LA, Orange County border. I feel like we have a lot of work to do there. And as we work up from San Diego, we run into Orange County, obviously, and as we work down from Los Angeles, we run into Orange County.

So I think as we think about the project management perspective of how to plan out this next phase, I do think it requires some changes in our thinking about the map and how we approach it, because I'm nervous that we're maybe a little boxed in to our approach to the different regions, and I do think that that's going to need to change. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

And I am -- you know, I do want to make it so that every -- we all do, we all want to make sure that every part of the state gets adequate time, and that includes Los Angeles, San Diego, Southern California, Central Valley, and every other place in California. So making sure that -- which is why we need this thinking about our
process so that we can ensure that some areas don't --
that all areas get the time that they need to be drawn as
well as we possibly can.

Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I've been thinking
about something similar too, and I'm wondering, one, I
was thinking that from a process perspective, I'd like --
I know that with the line drawers, we've oftentimes
started in the Central Valley because of the VRA;
however, I think given the complexity of Los Angeles and
actually because of that, the complexity that it then
causes throughout all of southern California, I would
like for us to consider starting with southern California
and specifically Los Angeles, but also looking at the
region in its entirety.

I think -- I think in some ways I realize that us
thinking about LA and each county separately, it --
it's -- it has created some kind of, perhaps, mental
blocks of we cannot cross county lines. And we've
certainly gotten lots of feedback on that. But I
think -- and actually, you know, I'm thinking also about
Long Beach, and I think they're going to hate me for
this, but I think Long Beach is the second largest city
in southern California. I think -- you know, look at LA.
We're breaking up LA. There's just no way possible that
we could keep LA whole if someone said, you know, keep LA whole. We might just need to also really think carefully about parts of Long Beach too. I mean, certainly there seem to be some comfort in breaking up North Long Beach from the rest of Long Beach, but I think we may need to really rethink the entire region, not just LA County, and then move northward from there, because I think the complexities of -- as Commissioner Fornaciari had also said, you know, the San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange County, LA, there's that kind of confluence of all those places coming together, as well as LA, Orange County, Orange County, San Diego, San Diego, Imperial Valley, and then, of course, to the north between LA and Kern County and also Inyo to a degree. I think those add a lot of complexity but I think we need to really unknot LA first before we start working on everywhere else because of these ripple effects that we're looking at. So I want to just propose that as -- you know, for consideration.

Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

So we do have an hour to think through some of these issues and to -- I don't think we're going to be able to work through all of the process in an -- I've been surprised before, but I don't think we're going to be able to work through all of the process. I think
we're -- we can create some kind of skeleton -- skeletal process for a committee to work through or a group of us to work through. Of course, we have to -- we are limited in terms of how many commissioners can work on this sort of thing outside of meetings. So that's my thinking at this point.

And I'll continue with Commissioner Andersen, Sinay, and then we'll come back to that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

Yeah. The meetings we had we have. Basically, our next meeting, you know, we have input. Then we hit the 29th. And the 29th is a business meeting where we're really planning on going over input. You know, who's hearing what, what's going what. That's a good time to then to then -- basically, you know, if we put this to the subcommittee, then that comes back there and sort of finalizes things. Now, what we have after that, we have the 30th, 1st, and 2nd are supposedly visualization time. Then we have 6, 7, 8, another visualization time. Then we have a meeting on the 11th, and then we go the 12th on through for live line drawing.

What I see as happening, and I think this makes a lot of sense based on what everyone's saying, is we go with sort of hybrid visualization live line drawing on our 30th, 1, 2, and 6, 7, 8. And the 30th, 1, 2, I would
say we look at not just Los Angeles but southern California, Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, you know, parts of Ventura, and really look at that whole piece. And because we haven't -- and because they are totally intertwined and spend those three days. And then we'll sort of have -- then we'll have kind of what we're thinking there. Then, 6, 7, 8, we do the rest of the state. And you know, anchoring, we know where the VRA areas are.

The Bay area, Sacramento are the huge other anchors, and we haven't worked on those as one piece, and so that would give us another three days. And kind of a hybrid, in that we'd like to see this, you know, can we not do some of that. Then, that'll put us in a very good shape with those plans because we will have already known how it shifts and how it works at either end of that. Now, can Ventura, does it need to -- does it need to come all further up the coast, can it go into LA, can it -- you know, what -- are we holding a hard line at Antelope of Inyo? You know, how does that work together? And then we can work from the 12th on in, and I think we'll have a really good plan. So I would propose that.

And I also sort of think I'm -- in terms of working out the logistics of that, I -- that just smacks of line drawing to me, line drawing (indiscernible), that's
because -- that's what I think about line drawing in my background. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa.

No, Sinay, I believe you had your hand raised. Not anymore? Okay. All right.

Commissioner Kaplan -- or Director Kaplan?

MS. KAPLAN: Just throwing this in there. If there's someone coming back with more of that plan, I think it's also helpful to include how does the public participate in that schedule as well, and so as early as we can outlining some of that I think will be very helpful for the outreach in (indiscernible), and the public.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. So we still have some time to talk through some of these issues. I'm not sure -- Commissioner Fernandez, you raised the issue of wanting to work through some of these issues now in terms of what the schedule might look like post the 29th. Do you have any suggestions on how it might look or guidance to -- on how that might look?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just be what Commissioner Andersen said in term -- if we are going to do southern California the 30th through the 2nd, it just gives me an opportunity to really concentrate on those areas. So if I -- if I knew ahead of time, I didn't want to wait until
the 29th to know what we're going to do on the 30th, the 1st, and the 2nd, and personally, in terms of what's been more helpful to me has been the live line drawing, not necessarily the visualizations because we give direction to the line drawers, which are wonderful line drawers, but then we don't see that until, you know, the next week, so I feel like there's lost time. I would prefer to do more live line drawing than visualizations. But as long as I know, like, a week ahead, like, what's our actual hopefully plans to that week or the next set of meetings, that's helpful in terms of me being able to really structure my focus.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And I hear that, and I think that's really important too. I think we need that given the time line. So if there was a way to get this information from a group ahead of time, hopefully sooner rather than later, through staff, right, through staff, so that it -- so that we can -- so that we can ensure that we have -- we all have the information we need to do this work.

Let's see, Marcy, Director Kaplan, and then Commissioner Fornaciari, Commissioner Sadhwani, and then Commissioner Sinay.

MS. KAPLAN: Sorry, I just didn't lower my hand from earlier.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay. So we'll go to Commissioner
Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I just -- I want to kind of echo Commissioner Fernandez's comment.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Um-hum.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I think the live line drawing is much, much more valuable. I think that, you know, we have two weeks to sit with our maps, to think about our maps, to think about how we want them to change and play with QGIS if we so choose. To play with it, you know, with a pencil and paper if we so choose. But I think we should -- I mean, I would like to see us, you know, come in on the 30th, I guess, and hit the ground running with live line drawing.

So I'll just share my thinking with you all about -- what I was thinking about is starting in a southeastern corner of the state and migrating towards LA and the interface between Orange County, LA, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, get that worked out, and go west into western LA, northern LA, and then the interface is there, and then move on up from there. You know, we have another interface up in kind of between the Bay area, Sacramento there, that we've got to figure out how to work through, but that's my thinking.

And I also was thinking that we would do -- you know, go through the Assembly maps, then the
Congressional maps, and the Senate maps or whatever order, but I thought it was most effective to start with the Assembly maps, in similar -- more complex; that we learn a lot more detail about the different areas that -- and then we go to the next step. You know, if we have good Assembly maps in place, then we -- then that will help drive our Senate maps, certainly, and make that a little easier.

I think -- you know, for me, just kind of penciling out the schedule, I think we ought to fill out the calendar from here from the 29th on to the end of the year with meetings --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: -- just so we have the time, because I think that -- you know, there was a -- you know, if we take the time that we think we need to take, you know, to get southern California right and -- the whole state, right. I mean, it's probably six days for Assembly, something like that. And then, you know, probably that much for Congress, and maybe not that much for Senate but -- you know, somebody mentioned, and I think it's important, that we allow time to stew on those maps and then a little bit of time to come back and revisit. And if we don't -- I think if we don't add days, we won't have time to revisit.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fornaciari.

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADWANI: I just wanted to provide a couple of thoughts on some of the other comments that have come out. You know, in terms of the live line drawing, I agree, and I said this earlier, you know, I think we struggled in the visualizations with what we had been referring to as discipline points, in which we didn't agree on the direction that was being given by various commissioners, and yet, some of those would be reflected in the next visualization and some would not. So for me, I find that problematic. I think the live line drawing offers a better option in that regard. That being said, I think, technically, it is harder on the line drawers to do the live line drawing.

I wanted to uplift a couple of comments that were made earlier today. I think it was Commissioner Yee who had mentioned it. You know, actually, it's sometimes very helpful when we can give the direction and the line drawers can help provide a couple little options, like, maybe you could go here, maybe you could go there. Think about these potential blocks. So as we're thinking about planning these -- this next section of line drawing, this last part of this marathon, I think it would be helpful to build into our days opportunities where, you know,
we're giving direction in an area. I'm thinking, for example, the San Gabriel Valley, right, I know we have work to do there. We can provide our suggestions, and then maybe break for a while while the line drawers can have some time to work on it and show us what they've come up with, right. So I think having the flexibility of that schedule would be really a process, a clear and communicating process, but also having some flexibility.

We did that once or twice last week, and I think it actually worked very well because then the line drawers could come back and say, you asked us to do this, here's what we came up with, what do you think about it. So I think building in some extra time as we're going through because the live line drawing does have certain challenges, especially, I think, when it comes to Los Angeles, which is largely why, you know, I think the basic architecture of LA was okay, but you know, to me, why it didn't make sense to go into the live line drawing of Los Angeles because it would just set up so many ripple effects. And I see Karin is here, so maybe she has thoughts in particular on how to handle that.

Oh, and before I -- while I still have the floor. The other comment I wanted to make was, you know, Commissioner Fornaciari, you mentioned Assembly. I completely agree with that. I think we can work out so
many more of the community of interest testimony issues on Assembly, and I still believe that we can use nesting more to our advantage in the Senate maps.

I do feel like there's a little bit of a missed opportunity and almost like we're making a little bit more work for ourselves. I understand the VRA districts need to undergo their own analysis, but there's other places where, I think, we could be nesting some of these districts and possibly having districts that make a little bit more sense as we put them together.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

I did -- just wanted to go back to the point of the VRA districts are the foundation of our maps in California because they represent such a large proportion of the districts in California. And so as we think through these issues, we do need to ensure that we are addressing those districts. Whether it's first or -- and generally, I would think first, right, because if we're going to make changes to those districts and the Assembly or the state Senate, or the state Congressional district, they're going to have ripples across the whole state, and I think -- I think -- I would hope that the -- we asked the public to give us input on those districts. I would hope that they -- I believe that they will. I think that -- and that may color some of our direction in this
work as well. So just something to think through as we're thinking through our schedules, how do we make sure that we are -- that -- so the foundation is strong so that the rest of our house is not going to fall apart halfway through line drawing, right. And so that's just something to think through.

Commissioner Akutagawa, then Anderson, Sinay, and Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. I first want to respond to what Commissioner Fornaciari was talking about, starting in the -- I guess the southeast corner of the -- I believe it was San Diego or Imperial Valley. I would actually encourage us to think about starting with LA because I think LA is going to have the greatest ripple effects, and I think we've pushed off a further conversation about parts of LA because we knew that it was going to be much more complicated, but I would be concerned about pushing it off more. I think once we have LA set more comfortably, I think, then, we'll know where we're going to have -- you know, where we're going to be able to have room for play in other areas and what -- understanding better, then, the choices that we'll have to make, both in the other areas but also going back to LA, possibly, and perhaps reworking it. I guess --
Karin, I don't know if this is a question that you can answer, and I think I -- and I do apologize, I think I just continued to be a little bit confused on this part in terms of the VRA district. Are the VRA districts identified by city, or is it by census blocks, or is it just a general region? If -- and if I should know this, I clearly don't because I'm asking the question, and I just want to make sure that I'm understanding just the structure a little bit more technically than perhaps I do now. Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Would you like -- Chair, would you like me to?

CHAIR TOLEDO: If you're comfortable -- if you're comfortable doing that, then, yes. If not, we can wait for VRA counsel.

MS. MACDONALD: That might be nice. I can say a couple of things if you wish.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Sure.

MS. MACDONALD: Which is basically that they -- so they're entire districts. It's not like you have the census blocked. That's -- you know, that's a VRA block, VRA district block or a city. And in this particular context, it would not be the city that's necessarily -- that is necessarily considered to be, like, a VRA city or so. Basically, you know, the assessment is made by
region and then by VRA counsel because whether or not something is, you know, section 2 or a VRA district, that is actually a legal analysis, so we -- that's why we've been working with counsel. And in some areas, there is literally very, very little flexibility on how to comply. Sometimes really very, very, very little. And in other areas, there's a little bit more flexibility. So that's why it's sometimes even that question about what do you color in yellow?

You know, we've been doing the yellow districts coloring there, so just to -- that it's a little bit easier for everybody to look at it and see, you know, why these particular visualizations of districts are different from others. I think there -- those are really good little notes, like quick notes for us, but they're not necessarily all encompassing because oftentimes we're talking about a region or an area and not necessarily just about that particular visualization of a district. You may have a little bit of flexibility to draw that district a little differently in some areas. I don't know if that -- if that answers your question or anything, That it's more legal, and that most certainly should not be coming from me.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Ms. MacDonald.

Ms. -- or Commissioner Andersen?
COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, thank you. Actually, it was very helpful, Karin, thank you.

I have just a couple things. I do think on -- when I say hybrid, I wasn't kind of talking like that. With live line drawing, but a little bit of could you please kind of -- this is what we want to do, could you kind of work with it a little bit, you know, that sort of thing. A little bit of -- a little bit of a combo. I also like the couple of days in between just so then everyone, the public and the commissioners, can get their head around the next set of area for that 30, 1, 2, and then, 6, 7, 8.

I also want to say, I definitely -- we should start with the Assembly districts, then -- and this is for -- at the end, we should jump to Senate districts because we need to do the Senate districts a day before we finish everything for the report. We have to do a -- we have to do the splits and that sort of thing. That takes a full day for line drawers. And then Congressional districts is what I would recommend with those. And I would also -- I understand, Commissioner Fornaciari says -- which I completely understand. Like the Board of Equalization, start in that corner because you go tu, tu, tu, you know, and you don't want to leave any gaps or bubbles, but I would actually start -- for this, I would
start in the VRA areas of LA because those are areas, and we have districts drawn in them but I know that they're communities of interest that it needs to be shifted, and I think we should attempt to -- can we -- as we round those edges and shift a bit of that, can we still create VRA districts, because I know that's part of the, sort of, reconstruction area, the talking with all of LA.

And yes, it will have ripple effects but we have some play in that -- all of LA as it hits because there's LA Orange, there's San Diego. It's -- you know, we've seen it shift back and forth. So I would really kind of recommend that.

The other item I would really like to do, because I kind of like Commissioner Sadhwani's idea of, you know, we could nest a bit more. I would like to make sure that all of our Assembly districts are less than a plus or minus of two-and-a-half percent, because that way our Senate districts would work. There are some areas where we can't do that. I completely understand that -- you know, for the Assembly district, just because of population, we just can't get there, but I would like us to consider that. So that's my two cents. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I wanted to channel
Commissioner Turner because I completely agree what she's been saying to us since we -- we're doing the line drawing, that going straight into live line drawing, or even visualizations or whatever, does not make sense without first taking, I would say, two -- up to two days, maybe even three, talking about the community of interest input we have without looking at maps and just talking about it and really figuring out what do -- how collectively are we hearing this, and then that was going to inform how we moved forward on the map. But if we keep forward on the maps based on the bits and pieces that we've been hearing or reading or our own interpretation, I feel like we're going to keep going in circles, and that it's better just to stop and look at the data, and then from there, create the plan on how to move forward. That -- you know, just that --

And you know, Commissioner Turner, my understanding was, that she had already -- you know, that that was agendized for right after this piece, but I don't want to lose it. And I don't know if one day is enough. You know, but just really getting some collective understanding of what we're hearing, what -- you know, what is -- which ones are the communities of interest, you know, are we going to hear or not hear -- we're going to hear all of them, but which ones are -- when they're
competing, where to go, because it was tough last week when you're trying to figure things out and someone's like, oh, and then there's one community of interest that's saying this, and it's, like, well, is it only one, is it two, where did that information come in. So I would like us to really understand the 18,000 pieces of information we've received before we even start moving any lines.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Definitely agree with that. I think we need to take the time to do that. I wasn't suggesting we bypass that, so just to be clear. It just kind of dawned on me, my suggestion of just going every day from now until the end of the year might not just kill us but kill our line drawing team, and I don't want to do that. So maybe that's not the best idea I've ever had. I really want to make sure the line drawing team is with us all the way.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Well, anyway, we need to finish the job we started, right. So we need to make sure that we have enough time that we all get enough rest to be able to get the work done and that we're all able to make sure that we finish -- and give every part of the state appropriate time and are able to achieve the goal.
Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Just very quick, based on what Commissioner Fornaciari said. I would recommend that we agendize for every single day, and some of them will be TB days -- TBDs in case we need them, just so that we have them, but yes, we need -- all of us need to have a little bit of time to recharge. And again, on the 29th, we're going to talk about what we've heard, and that means from the start of the 1st -- we may not have even put that we received. So it's so easy to just get, you know, focused on what we're hearing now, but we've heard from many prior to visualization. So just a reminder. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

And Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Two things. One is going to the point that Commissioner Sinay just made a moment ago. Is there a mechanism in place to take the draft maps that exist, like, this is what we voted on unanimously based upon where we are in the process, right, and then compare and contrast that to the totality of the community of interest input, so we then see gaps, we see contradictions, we see those things. Like, that data -- can our data team, that they have the capacity to pull that kind of reporting together, so when we come together
in those information meetings leading up to the next step, whether it be visualization or hybrid or whatever it's going to ultimately be, we are starting from some place.

I guess, sort of what I'm hearing, and makes me a little nervous, is it feels like some commissioners are talking about this from the context, like, everything is on the table, we left some areas we knew was going to need a lot of work, and the moment you start talking about a lot of work and a lot of changes, you're talking about a lot of roads. So while they're not saying everything's up for grabs, some of the other things that are being said are sort of hinting toward what the outcome will be if we go down a particular path in a particular way. Not that we shouldn't offer high levels of scrutiny and all of those things but they're -- this can't be, like, a start from scratch mentality, loosely, accidentally. I know nobody feels that way intentionally but I think some of these threads, if we pull them, that's what it'll end up being. So that's one thought, that kind of compare and contrast. We're stepping back ourselves and scrutinizing the maps, the draft maps, that we unanimously approved, to where we feel they are, where direction may -- new direction may be necessary.

The second thing is, I was hoping we could explore
just a little bit more Commissioner Sadhwani's idea of this hybrid, because I happen to also agree that the live line drawing seems more effective ultimately, particularly for warding off this idea of visualization, direction, technique, just by virtue of the process allows for contradictory direction to sneak in. Not that it's intended to be that way, it's just based on how that process kind of works, and then you get it back.

So I think you were hinting at some kind of hybrid where it's almost like line drawing with the breather, so a live line drawer with the breather, where some direction is given, lines are drawn, and in a space while we're working on something else maybe or whatever, and then the line drawers come back with that where that can be evaluated both from the -- was what we asked for captured, B, what are the implications of what we asked for, because those implications are the key. That's what slows us down is, is the impact that we wait 24 hours for, whatever period of time, and then we run out of time. So I'd love to figure out if we can maybe -- maybe I missed it, the clarity around what Commissioner Sadhwani was suggesting, and maybe Ms. MacDonald can chime in from a process standpoint of ways to help us be effective and efficient simultaneously with the amount of time that we have. Those are some thoughts as I was
listening to fellow commissioners.

    CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.

    Let's start with Commissioner Sadhwani, do you have a response? And if not, we'll go to Ms. MacDonald.

    COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I mean, I think that's exactly, Commissioner Le Mons, what I was suggesting, if feasible with the line drawers. You know, I just think, like, over the course of doing the visualizations, there were times when direction was given. I know for myself, I said I disagree with this, and yet, it made it to the maps, and then we're in live line drawing, we're still trying to work through that. So I think the live line drawing creates an opportunity for us, in which we all kind of come to a consensus. I mean, I think Trina last week was, like, are we all good with this, right, and everyone kind of gave that head nod. Whereas, when we were doing the visualizations, we didn't operate that way. Maybe there's some alternative to that, but it doesn't feel like it.

    And so I think to me, exactly as you said, Commissioner Le Mons, the live line drawing to me is from a process standpoint, moving us closer towards where we collectively want to go, and absolutely the thought was let's be in the live session. We'll have the maps up; we give the direction that we'd like to see. And the minute
the mappers says, hey, I'm going to need a moment to
continue working on this, we can go to a break or be
working on another section, or it's an opportunity for us
as commissioners also to be reading public comment,
because it's coming fast and furious as well, and then
come back and say, okay, this is what we were able to
change, this is the effects that it's having, right, now
let's think about where the next ripple might be; is this
actually what you wanted.

So I think, absolutely, Antonio, that's exactly what
I was thinking.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sadhwani.

I'll go to Ms. MacDonald if she has any feedback on
suggestions, process, and how we could do those more
efficiently, effectively from a line drawer -- or at
least collaborative, a little bit more coordinated with
the line drawers.

MS. MACDONALD: Yeah. Thank you so much for having
me back. And apologize that I actually thought we were
done with this topic and I hopped on another meeting, so
I missed most of this conversation, so apologies in
advance. Please stop me if I'm talking about something
that you have already decided and put aside.

So based on what I heard just a few -- just a little
bit of input. Last week you decided not to do too much
to Los Angeles, and I think part of that was, of course, a recognition that touching anything in certain areas of Los Angeles would literally probably change our anticipated finalizing of the draft maps date. It would not have been the 10th; it would have probably been some other date before the 15th, just because it takes so long to redraw Los Angeles that -- and you know, there's quite a bit of input that's required by VRA counsel and so forth.

Just to give you an idea from one set of visualizations to going into live line drawing, Jamie at some point worked over 160 hours over a period of two weeks just on Los Angeles, just on configuring and we making these districts go a different way, when you had decided you didn't want to go, for example, north/south, you wanted to go east/west, just to give you an idea. So I think that there are some areas that lend themselves perfectly, even at this point, to live line drawing, whereas there are other areas where you may perhaps need to come to some decisions about what you want to see, because I think all of you have seen a lot about, for example, what can be done in Los Angeles and what the possibilities are, because you've been presented with a lot of different approaches to Los Angeles and you have a really firm handle, I think, on live line drawing now.
also, so you know how long it takes and what ripples, you
know -- what a ripple is, and how long it can take to
ripple and what that all means in the context of a voting
rights scenario. So I think everybody has a -- I think
we've all kind of come together about what it takes to
redraw something.

So from our perspective, I think, it would be
fantastic if you could perhaps come to a little bit more
of a resolution about what you would like to see in Los
Angeles and then perhaps send Jamie back with some more
specific instructions about, you know, just, again,
changing the architecture, if that is necessary, in one
or more of the plans, and then come back with something
that may not be perfect but that you can then work off
of, because at that point you are at a spot where live
line drawing really is very applicable and you can put --
you know, you can figure things out a little bit more on
the margins, I'd say, because some of that big heavy
lifting you've already given instructions on, and we were
able to figure that out for you. Similarly, going from
one percent deviations in Congress to just a handful of
people, that's going to take some time.

So as I jumped in, I heard Commissioner Andersen
talk about this, and thank you so much, Commissioner
Andersen, about that, I think maybe hope ending Congress
might work in terms of the overall flow to perhaps a --
again, you could if you wanted to, give some overall
instructions about how to equalize the populations a
little bit more so that we can do a little bit more of
the painstaking work of trying to get these deviations
down once you're relatively speaking set with what you
would like to see, and then we come back and we say,
okay, here are the options. And then we narrow it down
together with you giving individual directions on the
respective blocks and on the splits and where should the
split be and so forth, to then finalize the Congressional
map. So we could do that, for example, at the tail end
of the process. So essentially, kind of start, maybe,
with Congress and then end with Congress on some level so
some work could be done.

Regarding giving instructions and then for us to
create what we called visualizations or you know,
versions of what you'd like to see, we do always need
some time to do that work, obviously, as you know. The
PDFing takes quite a bit of time. If we wanted to cut
down on that, and I'm just going to throw this out, and
this may not work, so it's just an idea, we have this
fabulous district viewer, putting versions of the maps
into the district viewer and not necessarily PDFing every
night, or you know, with each round, that might be really
helpful. Even off of the district viewer, you could do
screen prints, for example, you know. You could just
zoom into a district and just print something if you need
to see it. Or if you wanted to see it, we could, of
course, put out spreadsheets of the, you know, CVAP and
whatnot else with the district viewer (indiscernible)
maps. But you know, the PDFing and the formatting and
all of that, it really does take quite a bit of time and
it sucks basically a couple of days out of our schedule
because you also want to have them posted twenty-four
hours minimally in advance, and I understand that even
twenty-four hours is not a lot of time to review
something. So these are a couple of things that kind of
come to mind from my perspective.

I think, you know, hybrid -- some sort of a hybrid,
I think that would work. I think we all know that the
last week or so, we're definitely all going to be all
live, but maybe after you've discussed everything that
you would like to do, if there is a possibility to just
offload some of the very big architectural changes that
perhaps are still necessary and let us work those out in
the back, and then come back once you've made a decision,
that might work for us also, and that might actually save
a little bit of time, so.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you --
MS. MACDONALD: That's off --

CHAIR TOLEDO: -- Ms. --

MS. MACDONALD: -- the top of my head.

CHAIR TOLEDO: -- MacDonald.

MS. MACDONALD: Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: No, that's excellent. That's good feedback.

So I want to go back to the first point that Commissioner Le Mons made about structuring the conversations about the regions for the 29th, and I believe, the suggestion was to take the draft maps and to identify those areas of the state where there is conflict with regards to communities of interest or other types of issues, where there's competing communities of interest for lack of a better word, or conflicts. And so I was wondering -- I think that might help us to not restart from scratch but rather to focus the conversation on those areas that we have the most conflict or for lack of a better word. And I was wondering if the data management committee might -- or if there is -- if they did a management committee, if they could take the lead on working with staff to develop the analysis on those areas over the next -- over the next -- from now until the 29th.

Is that something that's doable or -- just asking,
Commissioner Ahmad and Commissioner Turner. I know Commissioner Turner's back as well. If that is something that you guys can take the lead on. I know staff will support as much as they're able to as well too. Yes or -- I mean, we can ask other commissioners as well. So I just wanted to get your thoughts.

Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair. I'm more than happy to help with that if -- once I get clear direction from the commission on what you would like the end product to look like, I'm more than happy to work with whoever I need to work with to get that to you all.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And I think it would be up to us to give you clear direction on what that would look like.

Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Andersen. And we do have a break at 2:45, and after that, we need to take a vote on the changes to our -- a vote on the changes to our line drawing process, and then public comment.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I appreciate Commissioner Ahmad saying that she'll take this on. My concern is that -- I don't -- I guess, I'm having a hard time under -- part of it is that we're fourteen people who will -- when we read the data will see different things, and when you have two people or even two people in staff who review it and
analyze it, you're using their lens versus the all
fourteen lenses. And that's -- you know, I think that
that's where the uniqueness comes in of having fourteen
of us and -- so I'm just -- I guess that would come in
with conversations but I would have a hard time letting
go of my habit of reading as many of the new COIs that
came in as possible and taking notes.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Absolutely. We want you to take --
to review. We want all commissioners to keep reviewing
the input that we're receiving. This is more of a
starting point for a conversation. It wouldn't be -- you
know, it's the analysis of the conflicts. But -- and
certainly, we're all going to be able to contribute to
that analysis and talk through it and add additional
information to it. It's just to start the conversation.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: And just to be clear, I don't
think LA was the only area that we said, okay, well,
we'll leave it as is for now and we're going to move
forward. There were other areas, and it may or may not
come up in the communities of interest, but there's --
some of it is coming up, but there's definitely things --
so I don't want us to -- you know, I'm afraid -- okay. I
will say what my fear is, I guess, is that, you know,
people will be able to -- you know, we're saying that LA
has work to be done, and then we're giving a team of two
to come back to us to say where there's still work that
needs to be done, when there's other areas that need to
be -- you know, that we worked on very superficially to a
certain extent.

I don't feel that the maps for all of southern
California are very good right now. I think they were --
that we were pushed a lot of times, we were rushed
because we had to get to other areas, but I don't -- I
think we spent a lot more time in the far north and -- I
mean, in northern California than what we need in
southern California, and so I'm hesitant to say, let's --
you know, let's step back versus giving us all an
opportunity to spend these two weeks of public input,
reviewing the communities of interest, reviewing our
notes, and coming back on the 29th and maybe even the
next day talking about where we're seeing those places
and all of us having an opportunity to go back and forth
a little before we move a line.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay, for
those comments.

Commissioner Ahmad, and then Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Then, oh -- and Jane as well, sorry.

Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you -- thank you, Chair.
I just wanted to respond really quickly. First, I would really appreciate the use of I statements because I get really confused when it's stated as we when that doesn't necessarily reflect where my positioning is at the moment.

Commissioner Sinay, your points are well taken; however, I didn't get from this conversation that this meant that other commissioners cannot look at the community of interest input or any of the other data that has come in. From what I understood, just surface level, was this was a high level overview of what we have received. Certainly, it is the expectation of myself that everyone is looking through the input that we receive and bringing that forward to our deliberations for a discussion, but by no means did I think that myself and Commissioner Turner were being tasked to take this responsibility and no one else would be involved. So I just wanted to make that clear from my own understanding.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That was my understanding as well. And my understanding would be that we would be looking at all the state, not just Los Angeles. We would be looking at all of the district maps, all of the areas.

And with that, we do need to take a break. We'll be back in fifteen minutes, and we'll start back with Commissioner Turner, then Andersen, then Fernandez.
Thank you.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 2:46 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.)

CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. We are talking about the public input sessions and thinking through some of the process for that. And Commissioner Turner was next in terms of comments. Then we'll go to Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I just wanted to weigh in on the conversation in agreement already with my subcommittee chair, Commissioner Ahmad, shared, and definitely, I think this is the point because I think you indicated, Chair Toledo, that this commission would be creating kind of the guidelines and the direction. I took the direction as just being able to lift up areas where we felt that there was perhaps some more work that's needed, and then utilizing the data to be able to see where there was conflicting testimony, to be able to lift that. And I think commissioners for sure have an opportunity, even now, to state if there's an area that they wanted to call to our attention so it's just not leaving it to us to assume.

I did think that we spent a substantial amount of time in southern California, in addition to northern
California, but if indeed there is more time that's needed, then we need to at least flag that for, you know, the data analyst to be able to say this -- not just southern California as a whole and northern as a whole, here's an area that we continue to receive public testimony about or there's concerns about, can you check this area out for us. And I don't -- wouldn't want to call a said area right now, but can you check this out for us, and then let us know where there's conflicting testimony. And I think that would just serve as a good discussion for our conversation on the 29th.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. I think this would serve as a starting point, right. I think, certainly, any one of us can send information to the committee, if they're so willing to take on this task, and hopefully the committee, in addition to gathering this information, can think through the, you know, and start developing a structure to have a meaningful conversation around all of these areas around the state, because we do want to have that.

With that in mind, I did want to raise one of the things that public comment has brought up is ensuring that all commissioners are being heard. And I think in southern California it was easier because we're all in person, so it was easier for us to be involved -- or most
of us were in person, rather, and engaged. And when
we're doing hybrid, when some of us are online and some
of us are in person, it might be a little bit more
difficult. And so just thinking through to ensure that
all commissioners are able to participate, and I believe
I've not heard any problems with meaningful
participation. And so I just wanted to make sure that we
have that in the back of our mind as we're thinking
through decision-making and also just participation at
the meetings.

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I'm
so glad when we go over these things, no, that wasn't
what -- I didn't hear that the data management committee
was going to be looking at COI and just pulling out areas
that they thought had conflicts. I thought it was you're
looking at working with the mapper team, not our line
drawers, the -- you know, the data map who had been the
visualization back together, and applying the COIs in
mass to the state. That's what I thought it was. So
it's very obvious where things are. And so it isn't,
like, you know, oh, we're just looking in particular
areas because I think we could miss it that way, I
wouldn't prefer it that way.

However, two things. One, we -- as we all -- I
believe we all know, we've been looking at a COI and it says one thing and the maps is another. They don't match. And there are areas where it's very specifically, they're saying something about this one area, that -- like, sometimes it's just been incorrectly, it's like, a different county. But sometimes it is the area but their map is not what they're saying. And so to just look at a map could be a little deceiving.

And then the other thing, and I know that there are different softwares that are being used, because I understand Maptitude, which the line drawers are using, has all kinds of bells and whistles, but when you want to put every single COI layer on, it's a problem. And I know that the -- what's happening with our data management group, they're using different software, so they might be able to do this. But I'm kind of a little bit with Mr. Sinay. I didn't realize that only certain portions will be lifted about the state, and then if we don't say anything in there. So can we sort of clarify that, please?

CHAIR TOLEDO: I believe what -- the point that Commissioner Le Mons made, and that I agree with, is really looking at the whole state in terms of the draft maps. We have draft maps, looking at the whole state, see where -- saying where the communities of interest
testimony conflicts, and they might be -- and there's conflicts all over the State of California in terms of the COI and -- and identifying the ones with the largest conflicted area and the key areas, but not limiting themselves to that as well. And I hope I captured what Commissioner Le Mons stated correctly. That was -- it sounded like a good starting place for a conversation around community interest and the areas that have the biggest conflicts.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Okay. So could I -- sorry, since I sort of brought that up. Could I say, you know, if -- you know, I don't know what the result will be, just a picture or if it's going to be, like, a list or something, but I would prefer if we could say anything, we did have the con -- oh, I see Commissioner Le Mons' hand up.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Let's hear from Commissioner Le Mons because he might be able to -- since he raised the suggestion initially.

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes, Chair. I think you captured it -- you did capture it accurately. The idea was, and it was piggy-backing off of Commissioner Sinay's recommendation of the discussion, and before going into line drawing or visualization, et cetera, is really
understanding where we are. And I think that's a very good point. And so then, what does that mean understanding where we are. So my position was a cautionary tale around our thoughts about how we approached this process, and then, I thought well starting with the draft maps, and I'll reiterate that we unanimously voted for, is the great place to start because that's where we are. And so taking those draft maps and looking at COI testimony, feedback, et cetera, if our data -- I was asking whether our data team can package that information in a way that identifies the conflicts and things as you raised. That way we can review that information and we know going in that that's the lens in which we're looking at these maps, and then we can see what's realistic in being able to make certain adjustments. Because knowing --

We're not going to be able to satisfy every piece of COI and every piece of testimony, we know that, but we can get a sense of where there are conflicts in testimony, what are we going to privilege. Whether there's unanimous feelings around certain pieces of COI testimony that are not reflected in the maps. I think that would be an issue we would want to address. Even if we can't fulfil it, I think we have the responsibility to at least acknowledge it.
If there is a consensus of a particular area, and there's a reason we cannot fulfil that particular request, we should be able to say, that we realize there is strong feedback in this particular area on this particular issue but we land here because of these considerations. But I think we've got to have the data. And it -- I don't see this as pictures, I see this as information.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Agreed. Does that --

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: I didn't mean to confuse Commissioner Andersen with that statement. It could be in pictures. It's however it is. So don't get stuck on that -- on that piece.

I'll give it back to you, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Le Mons.

Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, thank you, Chair. There is -- so -- and I'm wondering if we're utilizing the tools that are already available because there is a link that we have currently, and I know that we're asking probably for a little bit more than a length -- there is -- the data team has already done some work to ensure that there is a link that pulls in input per zone that's available, and so I want to be clear so that we'll bring back a product and kind of guidelines for this discussion
that is exactly what you want. So in addition to the
information that's already available by zone area, you're
wanting and asking us to work with the data team, to work
with staff or someone, you want them to do an analysis of
what you already have available or --

CHAIR TOLEDO: I would say it's an analysis of the
conflicts. So if we have -- let's take, I don't know --
if one community group -- let's take San Francisco. So
if the LGBT community is saying -- and I think those maps
are pretty good, but the LGBT community is saying there's
an issue with it, and the Asian community is saying that
there's another, and the Latino and African-American and
some business groups are saying something else, it's
identifying what those conflicts are and whether our
draft maps addressed those conflicts or not --

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Um-hum.

CHAIR TOLEDO: -- is the major issue. And some of
these conflicts are not as visible as others, but some
are pretty visible.

Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Thank you, just quickly.
My only concern is if we're only looking at conflicts,
what if we change a line and then we actually now are in
conflict with something else but it wasn't in conflict
prior to the line being redrawn. So I think if our focus
is only on conflicts, we may be making some matters worse, potentially, if we change things.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Fernandez.

And I think it's -- it's in response to our draft maps. The drafts maps is where we are in the process right now. That's what the community is responding to, and actually we're going to be -- we are getting quite a bit of feedback on those draft maps. So the feedback that we're getting is in response to those areas, and those are the areas that we'll be working to try to address over the next couple of weeks.

Did you have a response to that, Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes, just quickly. I understand that, but I would bet my, I don't know, salary or something -- I don't have a salary -- but yeah, salary, that many who have submitted communities of interest may not at this point provide feedback to our draft maps because they're okay with it. So if we change it and then it's too late, right -- I mean, I get that we're just looking at the feedback based on our draft maps, but there's also so much other communities of interest information that we also need to make sure that we keep track of us as well. That's my point. Thank you, Chair.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That makes sense.

Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah. I completely agree with Commissioner Fernandez. It -- rather than just an analysis of just these conflicts, it should be a summary of the good, the bad, because there might be, you know -- lots and lots and lots of people say this is -- this is -- we like these lines for these particular reasons, and then someone else might say, well, I just don't like them. And so we need to be able to weigh that.

So I would prefer -- you know, kind of like Commissioner Turner was just saying, we take the whole summary of those areas and then they're looking -- they might emphasize, hey, these are conflicts we've seen, but I don't want to do it in a vacuum because we -- I agree completely with Commissioner Fernandez, then we could be throwing all of the other perspectives, which is why we drew them in the first place.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen and Commissioner Fernandez. That's helpful. And I think the map -- the data team is already doing some of these summaries, so I think we can certainly get those summaries and put them as part of this analysis and really highlight the conflicts, but also understand the context, right, and the analysis of what's already come
in and what folks are saying on the ground.

Commissioner Sinay, does that meet your expectation if we did the summary of the -- get the summary that the data team is putting together and then also do an analysis of potential conflicts on the current draft maps?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Are you asking me?

CHAIR TOLEDO: As a starting point forward for discussion, yes.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: So --

CHAIR TOLEDO: With that, address any of the concerns you have.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: My concerns are here nor there. I mean --

CHAIR TOLEDO: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: -- I think -- I think -- so what I did during the break was kind of go into the database and kind of, you know, randomly start somewhere and spend the fifteen minutes looking at the comments. What I think would be helpful is highlighting the themes that keep coming up. So I wouldn't necessarily say a conflict or not a conflict or communities of interest that are banging heads, but maybe -- you know, the themes that continually are coming up so we can discuss -- you know, air them, discuss them, and have that conversation. And
do it kind of by regions. And I'm not saying our old
regions or zones or whatever, but whatever feels natural.
It might be the -- by -- you know, we have fifty -- you
know, fifty-two districts for Congressional districts,
what things came up in each of them, I don't know. But
to me, it's -- I like the word themes better because
there are some things that are coming up that are really
strong. There are some just that are little tweaks.

There's -- you know the coast all the way up and
down, we're hearing, you know, from the border of Mexico
to the border of Oregon, we're still getting input, you
know, the coast places. Yeah, that's a theme that keeps
coming up. So I guess, to me, having a document that
kind of has the themes. We've all spent time looking at
the data and then we come back, because that's where I
get lost sometimes, I forget what the themes are, so
having a theme document is actually helpful when we're
talking in the map, and just being able to say, okay,
there's been this theme that keeps coming up about Little
Saigon, can we -- you know, throwing out something,
because there is a theme. But just -- you know, and then
we kind of talk about it and understand that theme and
where we stand. And we don't necessarily have to
agree -- we don't have to have a collective agreement
until it comes to the lines, but at least we're all
giving input to that theme or how we read it or how we're feeling it. So I guess, it might have just been the idea of conflicts in places we still need to work versus what are the themes that we're still hearing, so.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.

Commissioner Le Mons, and then Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Okay. Yeah, I think there's a little bit of confusion about what I was suggesting. So I was thinking of the totality of our feedback leading up to the draft map. So it was almost -- in my head, it was a look back and a look forward. So we went through a whole process to get to maps that we voted on (indiscernible), and I keep saying that because that's important, but that happened over a long process. It didn't all just happen last week, right. So there could be things and themes that we missed in that process. So the question was, is there -- could -- I don't know if this is something the data team could do at all, but this analysis of the totality of the feedback that we received, whether that was COI information, comments, et cetera, leading up to the draft maps, are there things that we missed. So the word conflict is not right -- necessarily the right word -- are there things that we feel we missed.

And the reason I raised this is because in listening
to the conversation earlier, there seemed to be certain
commissioners that feel like there were areas that either
didn't get worked properly or didn't get worked enough or
didn't -- some -- you know, there was going into it, and
I think I said, my concern is that if we go into it with
this everything's on the table point of view, this could
be disastrous in so many ways. So is this idea that the
draft maps that we have gone on the record and voted for
unanimously, these are our maps.

And we know they're not perfect and all of that,
well, where are they imperfect from our own lens without
the feedback of the reaction to the maps that's also
common, because that's another piece of information. So
just so we have this base line when we go into making the
changes that captures anything that we feel slipped
through the cracks leading up to those draft maps and
incorporates feedback that's happening as we speak to the
current draft maps. So it'll be taking all of that into
consideration, and hopefully it would level set some of
us in how we're going to approach moving forward when you
start doing visualizations, line drawing, however we're
going to do that part of the process.

So I hope that clarified a little bit more of what I
was trying to convey. And how we get there, I don't
know. I was really raising it as is this even possible,
actually. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. that's helpful,

Commissioner Le Mons.

Commissioner Turner and Commissioner Ahmad after

that.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yeah, this just makes me smile

because I'm so glad that we're having a conversation

because it's not an easy conversation and it's another

part of discussion that we don't get an opportunity off

of the hasp. So I think we, again, is come into this

process with a different thought processes. And it's,

like, yes, we want what Commissioner Le Mons wants but

it's a little different than what he stated, and yes, we

want that too but it's still just different. For

example, even to talk about pulling together recurring

themes, for me, recurring themes is problematic because

we've also said, even in accordance with our playbook,

that even if one person said it or a few people, we keep

lifting up that we're not talking necessarily quantity,

and if we have and send all staff or the data management

folk to pull recurring themes, if we have a document from

AALDEF or a document from, you know, Asians

(indiscernible) injustice, or Black Census &

Redistricting Hub or whatever, now their one document may

reflect something from 400-or-some people but it won't
certainly be a recurring theme that may rise to instructions that we give an analyst to pull recurring, right. And so we've said and stated some things but you know, it's not real cut and dried what we're asking for because recurring themes may pop up and recurring themes in this process to have someone to pull it systematically could also be missed because there's not the frequency that we think, and it still may be an important point.

So what I'm hearing now, and I just keep asking because I am going to be one of the ones that's trying to bring you back what I think you're asking for, the latest was the totality of what we've got to as of the draft map date, and I appreciate the repetitiveness of what -- that we all voted for because we all did, but the totality of that -- just to say, this is kind of a -- from this part of the conversation, coming into it, this is an analysis on everything that's come in and what's been lifted, and I guess, maybe just in an organized fashion, because we're not trying to skinny it out and we're not trying to not bring something. Maybe we're just trying to organize the information that's there by area on the map so that when we get to a particular point of the map, we're able to talk about, here are -- here is what we've heard in this area.

And maybe what we're doing is getting rid of what
has been repeated so we're not saying it a hundred, 200, a thousand times, but these are the equally weighted, because it's been said in this area, and this is where there was agreement and maybe here's where we'll have to kind of determine.

And I've avoided using prioritize, because that sounds almost offensive, that we're going to prioritize somebody's word over someone else's word, but at some point we're going to have to determine what do we lift and where do we now make decisions. We'll have to lift and determine where do we make a choice over what testimony we're using. And I would imagine it would get at some point to whose voice are we muting if we don't include them in the process, you know, so.

Anyway, so I named that, and I'm still looking for additional words so that when we come back to have the discussion on the 29th, we've provided a product that says, yes, this is helpful, above and beyond what's already available to us. I think the information is there. Maybe it just needs to be organized differently.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That's very helpful. And so I'll go to Commissioner Ahmad, and then we'll close out the conversation.

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Thank you, Chair.

I would have a slightly differing view on this in
what Commissioner Turner just stated, in that I am actually trying not to bring a product back to the full Commission, and this is because of the conversation that we just had. I've heard different commissioners say that they expect different items to be highlighted in this end product, and my concern is that we will not be able to satisfy all fourteen commissioners and all fifty opinions that we have on what the summary document could look like. And I also fear that whatever we put out there will be scrutinized by the public in a way that my comment is not reflected in the summary document; therefore, you, the Commission, are not taking that into consideration. So in hopes to avoid that type of almost not accurate confrontation, I think it would be best if we just continued to review those COI inputs on our own, bringing back what we saw individually and trying to come to a consensus based off of that.

I also want to highlight that there are over 15,000 and counting inputs, and that's from the COI tool from public input for draft maps. Sorting through all of that for our team in a short time period while making sure it's as up to date as possible for our discussion on the 29th is quite a task that I personally would not want to undertake; therefore, I do not support our team undertaking that. Just my two cents.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad.

And we are data rich, right. We have so much data.

Commissioner Le Mons?

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Thank you, Commissioner Ahmad, because I think you answered my question. Because remember, mine was a question, is this possible. And you answered it, and you gave, I think, a very good explanation. So I feel satisfied with your response.

Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And mine was an attempt to try to see if we could fulfill that question, but it doesn't sound like we can. And I do think it is every commissioner's responsibility to read through the comments and the input that we're getting, and we're all doing that, and we're all analyzing it, weighing it for ourselves, and then -- well, we can come back to a conversation, a structured conversation, on the 29th to go through some of these additional difficult conversations. I do think it was helpful to go through this, to understand what we'll be tackling on the 29th, when we actually do have the information in front of us.

With that, two actions. The first, I do want to create a subcommittee to work through the final maps planning, and to take all the feedback that we got today and develop a product plan, as well as additional
guidance to where the chair is coming through. And I do think we need line drawers -- someone from the line drawing, at least some person from the line drawing committee, and it would be helpful to have Commissioner Fornaciari because -- not only because he's worked so much on the public input process, but also project management wise and has a strong expertise there.

So I'm going to nominate, I guess, is the word, Commissioner Fornaciari and Sadhwani to work on these together, given that we need someone from line drawers to coordinate that communication, and we do -- as Commissioner Andersen noted, and we do need project management very -- and to work on the process. It doesn't mean that the rest of us can't provide them individuals -- we can send through staff our feedback and our information, and certainly, we'll be working through staff as well so -- to get these documents through.

It would be helpful to get a schedule from the committee, at least a couple days before the 29th, through staff, so that we know, as Commissioner Fernandez said, what areas to focus on initially through the -- through the public input process.

And then secondly, we do need a motion to approve the changes to our public input process, moving the public input period from five minutes to 2.5 minutes,
two-and-a-half minutes. And so we do need a motion for
that.

Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: So moved. How is that?

CHAIR TOLEDO: Great, thank you.

Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Second that.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Any discussion? All right. So we'll
open it for public comment, and it'll be public comment
on this motion, as well as general public comment on --
or rather on this motion and on all of the subcommittee
item.

I believe Director Kaplan raised her hand.

MS. KAPLAN: I just wanted to confirm with the
commission after this motion and perhaps I need to ask
this afterwards, that you want us to then update the
appointments and then send out a blast announcing once
those appointments are open. And because there was some
discussion about setting a time in an email, so I just
want to get clarity on that direction.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Once we have approval of the motion,
we would certainly go back and communicate with everyone
who signs up, address all the communication channels,
right, to make sure that all of our communication
channels are not ambiguous and are very clear as to how
to sign up and all of the -- what we discussed earlier
today --

MS. KAPLAN: Okay.

CHAIR TOLEDO: -- in terms of just making sure
that -- and of course, letting everyone know that this --
that an opportunity to provide public input is going to
be opening up. So sending out the newsletter blast and
all of the other channels that we use, including social
media.

Commissioner Fornaciari, then Commissioner
Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yeah, I think that -- I
think what we would like to see is a time -- a specific
time being picked for when you would open -- you would
open them, and then blasting on every channel that we
have, that there's going to be -- it's going to open at
this time, but I -- you know, I mean, you know how to do
this better than me. I assume you need to give some time
for the community groups to reblast and all that stuff.

So we -- from my perspective, I'd rather not tell
you how to do your job, I'd rather just give you the
direction, that's what we would like to see. I mean, I
think that's what I took away from the conversation.

CHAIR TOLEDO: That's right.

And then Commissioner Sinay?
COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'd like just to say that it's pretty impressive what staff did last Wednesday night. The press release that was sent out was very, very comprehensive. Had all the different -- you know, what happened. You know, that we approved it, we approved -- and then how people can -- you know, inviting the public, how people can participate, and it had all the different dates, and it went out to our complete, you know, lists and everything else. I think doing it -- you know, if we would have waited and sent it out the next day, then people would have complained that we didn't send it out right away, and I just want staff to publicly know that we really appreciate what they did do, and it was very impressive. And it -- and let's try this other way now, and then others may say that that way wasn't, you know, the way they wanted it. Just like you have fourteen commissioners with fourteen perspectives, we have almost forty million people in the State of California with different perspectives.

So just thank you for what you did -- what you did do because it was pretty -- it was pretty impressive. And if you haven't gone and seen the press release and read through it, please do because they did an amazing job.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Sinay.
Commissioner -- or rather Director Kaplan?

MS. KAPLAN: Just thank you for all that feedback. And I just do also want to highlight that I think we are -- we will work to balance that but I do want to highlight that we’ve tried to stretch as late as possible the closing of the appointments, pushing that later than we had with the COI input meetings to 11 a.m. the day before in order to allow for the video team to be able to get out all the invites and staff organize the back end, so as much as we can try to push some time of sending out an email and providing some additional space.

I want to also just highlight that in order to really get more people signed up for the 17th, that we are going to balance the timing of how much space we're going to push out for when we will open the appointments to allow for additional time tomorrow before 11 a.m. when those appointments will close for the 17th, but the rest will remain open until the day before.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Great. We'll go to Commissioner Akutagawa, then we'll open up for public input.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Director Kaplan. And just out of curiosity, I definitely like the idea, for example, like, if you put out an announcement today saying that tomorrow at 11 o'clock we're going to open the appointments for whatever day, or even, like,
wait two days, I don't -- I agree with Commissioner Fornaciari, whatever you decide is the best way to do it. I am kind of curious, because given the responses we're getting, logistically, does it make sense to open up a new day each day versus just like opening up the entire period? Just so that -- it's kind of a way to slow it down and you reset the opportunity to sign up for a new appointment on a new day for the next day. This -- am I making sense in what I'm asking right now?

CHAIR TOLEDO:  Director Kaplan?

MS. KAPLAN:  My recommendation is that once we work on -- with staff on the backend and we set a time, likely for later today, where we will open up the appointments, that we do that for the full meetings. The public will have opportunity to still participate in the input meetings without an appointment.

And so whether or not they receive an appointment, there are still an opportunity the end of each day to participate in the meetings. And I think it is logistically, there are a lot of steps involved in opening and closing and pulling all the contacts and giving that to our team to be able to send out invites and that whole process. And if this becomes staggered day-by-day, it's just adding a lot more steps that I don't think -- I think it will run a lot more smoother if
we just open it all up now --

CHAIR TOLEDO: So we do need to --

MS. KAPLAN: -- when we do later today. Once we
vote on it.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. And we do to take it to
the public comment. Commissioner Akutagawa, one last
comment?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. Once last comment.

Commissioners -- or Director Kaplan, can I just maybe
make one recommendation is to not open up the
appointments today. We're already at 4 -- almost, you
know, we're going to be at 4 o'clock. I think this is
part of the complaint that people had about, you know,
we're doing it at the end of the day. And unless you're
following it, it doesn't give people enough time to sign
up.

I'd like to recommend that you open it -- open up
the appointments tomorrow, but you put out the
announcement today. So that at least the organizations
will have a chance, you know, to let people know, hey,
tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock it's going to open. And
the that way then, it's a little bit more fair versus,
like, unless you're watching right now, I'm afraid the
same thing is going to happen.

So that would be my recommendation, is to at least
wait until tomorrow. And at least it give you a little bit of extra time to get everything set up. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you, Commissioner Akutagawa. I would agree with that. Now let's go to public input. So Katy, are you ready for public input?

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Absolutely, Chair. So it is public -- for agenda item number 3 and also the motion on the floor?

CHAIR TOLEDO: That is correct, thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Okay, perfect. The commission will now be taking public comments for agenda items number 3 and the motion on the floor.

To give comment, please call 877-853-5247 and enter the meeting ID number 829 8221 1105 for this meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star 9 to enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions have been read previously in this meeting and are provided in full on the livestream landing page.

And at this time we have several raised hands. I invite those that have called in, if you do wish to give comment on agenda item number 3 or the motion on the floor, please press star 9 indicating you wish to comment at this time. Right now we have called with the last four 7306. And up next, after that will be called 0129.

Caller 7306, if you will please follow the prompt to
unmute by pressing star 6. The floor is yours.

MS. GOODMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioners. This is Carolina Goodman, League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles. And first of all, let me express our appreciation for how hard this commission has worked to draw fair lines in California. Ten years ago, the Redistricting Commission left Los Angeles until the end of the process. The resulting maps left much to be desired. Already, Commissioners have acknowledged they didn't spend enough time on the draft maps for Los Angeles. Please make a concerted effort to devote the time required to focus on this extremely complex, dense area that has many overlapping communities.

One of the Commissions earlier in this meeting said it could take two days just to do Los Angeles. And in reality, it could easily take two days just to do just the Assembly maps for Los Angeles. I agree with the other Commissioners who suggested that the Commissions first are unknot Los Angeles, VRA areas, and Southern California, before the rest of California. Ten million people in Los Angeles County deserve your finest attention. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Oh. And right now we
have caller 0129. And up next after that will be caller 3392. Caller 0129, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. The floor is yours.

MR. BARR: Thank you, and thank you Commissioners. My name is Michael Barr. I am the mayor of King City. A couple comments regarding outreach. The City has not received any kind of outreach from the Redistricting Commission. We asked you to provide a much more concise and more instructive concerns -- suggestions as we received that from our -- the people we represent.

So I would absolutely encourage reaching out to cities. I am very concerned with what's happening in the Monterey Bay area. And I would like you to look at the comments our city has sent in verbal -- written comments, because the initial lines that you put forth actually connect an agricultural community in Monterey County all the way up to San Jose. Completely different communities of interest. And while it might make sense, demographically, and to achieve the results you're trying to reach -- achieve, you're going to be significantly harming predominately Hispanic communities, predominately farm workers, and their ability to elect the candidates of their choice.

I do thank you for this opportunity. And I look forward to participating in more of these meetings
because it of great concern to all of our cities in South County -- south Monterey County. Thank you, Commissioners for this opportunity.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Right now we will have caller 3392. And up next after that will be caller 3643. Caller 3392, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. The floor is yours.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Alejandra Ponce De Leon with Advancement Project California. Just calling to greatly thank you for all the time you spent today and throughout this whole process of being very inclusive to so much public testimony and comments that you've been receiving.

First off, I just really want to acknowledge the hard work that all of you Commissioners plus your staff are doing to just be as responsive and as accessible as you can. And so for us and for many of the partners that have been reaching out to you, the community groups, just say that, one, we appreciate the process that we have here in California to giving space for communities to participate in the redistricting process and have a direct say. And that we're here to support you. We want to see you succeed in every recommendation that we bring to you is really with that goal in mind of how do we
continue to strengthen this process.

And so greatly appreciate you taking time to discuss the public input process, you know, increasing number of time slots by reducing the time for public comments for those that are getting appointments for this week just to create more opportunities from our folks to speak. And then also uplifting, you know, the public comment at the end to create enough time so that those that get in queue, you know, are still able to speak and really appreciate your commitment to stay up until 10 p.m. if necessary.

Continue -- we just continue to uplift, you know, that, you know, creating these opportunities --

MALE SPEAKER: Thirty seconds.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: -- making it more accessible, and for us who, we've been, you know, really speaking up with -- on behalf of communities that are most impacted by various participation, making it accessible to them is making it access to everybody. So I just wanted to --

MALE SPEAKER: Fifteen.

MS. PONCE DE LEON: -- you know, just uplift my appreciation to all of you. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And right now we will have caller 3643. And up next after that will caller 2829. Caller 3643, if you will please
follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And just a reminder, the comment is on the subcommittee reports and -- as well as the motion on the table. Anything else will be after 4:30. We will be taking general comment at 4:30. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Caller 3643, the floor is yours.

MR. MEHTA STEIN: Good afternoon, Chair Toledo and Commissioners. This is Jonathan Mehta Stein, Executive Director at California Common Cause. Congratulations on reaching a huge milestone in your process. And for reaching your draft map on a timeline -- an accelerated timeline, in order to be responsive to public input and to enable more public participation.

Californians really are in awe of the hours you are dedicating to this process. And I want to thank you for your thoughtful reflection and the robust, productive conversation you've had today on the roadmaps that will get you to your final maps and the changes you're making to create more opportunities for public input.

We would urge you to memorialize any decisions your making today and make those decisions clear and widely available to the public as soon as possible. Including the details of your upcoming calendar, new public input, appointment opportunities, changes to public comment
length, other details of the public input process, and so on. And we appreciated the conversation today about how to handle the next phase of mapping, but if you could crystalize for all of us what decision was made, including when you'll discuss which regions, whenever you're able, that would be ideal.

I know you're heading into closed sessions soon, I'd just like to flag a letter we sent in earlier October about how you deal with closed session, urging more clarity for the public on when you're using closed session and why and cautioning against the overuse of closed session for issues that are not pending litigation.

Again, thank you for your incredible dedication to the people of California and for your service here. Best of luck as you head into this next round of public interest hearings and line drawing meetings. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And right know we will have caller 2829. And up next after that will be caller 5944. And for those that have called in, if you have comment on agenda number 3 or the motion on the floor, please press star 9 if you have comment for those two things.

Right now we have caller 2829. If you will please
follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. The
floor is yours.

MS. WESTA-LUSK: Hello Commissioners, this is Renee
Westa-Lusk. I thank the Commissioners for opening up
more appointments for public input on the first draft
maps, but I'm asking you to please follow Commissioner's
Akutagawa and Commissioner Toledo's directions to give
notice through blast email and press release in advance
of opening up appointments. I agree with waiting until
tomorrow to open the appointments so people have time to
put it on their calendar, that they can try to get an
appointment tomorrow rather than opening it up tonight
when people won't know about it. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And at this time, Chair,
that was our last raised hand.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. So we will go to a vote.

Director Hernandez, are you ready for the vote?

MR. HERNANDEZ: I am, Chair. One second.

Okay. The motion to change the speaker time from
five minutes to two-and-a-half minutes for the public
input meetings on the maps. That's on November 17th
through the 20th, the 22nd, and the 23rd. Motion by
Commissioner Fernandez. Seconded by Commissioner Yee.

And we had five --
CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Fernandez, do you have a feedback on the motion?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. If you could just specify that it's the draft maps. Sorry, I just want to be very specific. Thank you.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you. Is there anything else anyone sees that I don't see? Okay, we'll begin the vote. Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?

COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMAD: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fernandez?

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.
MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?
COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani?
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?
COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Taylor?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. And Commissioner Toledo?
COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes. Thank you.
CHAIR TOLEDO: And with that we'll be going to closed session under penalty litigation and agency security exceptions. It will be a brief closed session. I anticipate we'll be back by 4:30 and maybe sooner, but I would say 4:30 at this point. Thank you. And with that we'll go to closed session.

(Whereupon, a closed session was held from 3:49 p.m. until 4:28 p.m.)

CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, coming back from closed session. No decisions were -- or actions were taken. And with that, we will be starting our general public input process. Katy, please open up the lines.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The
commission will now be taking general public comment for all items including those not on the agenda. To give comment, please call 877-853-5247 and enter the meeting ID number 829 8221 1105 for this meeting. Once you have dialed in, please press star 9, this -- to enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions have been read previously in the meeting and are provided in full on the livestream landing page.

And for those who have called in and have been listening, if you'll please press star 9 to raise your hand indicating you wish to give comment this lovely evening. We do have one hand. Caller 8091, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. The floor is yours.

HAYDEN: Hi, Commissioners. My name is Hayden. I'm a resident of Kern County. I just wanted to call with -- say thank you to the commission for being so inquisitive with your public comment and it doesn't unnoticed. Know that there has been a lot of public comment from Kern County and I just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for hearing the voice of our community and for listening to us. I know that I certainly appreciate it. And just again, to uplift you guys for hearing our concerns. Please continue to do so as you're making these important and difficult decisions. And thank you.
I hope you had a good break. And enjoy the rest of the time. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: And I'd like to those in the queue one more opportunity, please press star 9 if you have anything for the general comment time period of our day. And we do have one more hand. Caller 5819, if you'll please follow the prompt to unmute at this time by pressing star 6. The floor is yours. Caller 5189, you are unmuted in the meeting so please doublecheck your phone, make sure you are no muted.

MR. PERRY: Okay. Thank you. I’m sorry. Can you hear me now.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can. The floor is yours.

MR. PERRY: Thank you. Okay, I'm sorry. I was muted too long there. Michael Perry, 38-year resident of Big Bear Lake and currently working here at Visit Big Bear, our destination marketing organization. I wanted to thank the commission again for all your work. Especially on Assembly maps VVHD and our Congressional map High Desert FB.

As we've said before, our community is very rural. And most people think that Big Bear is the ski resort with, you know, a lot of extensive homes, classy people, et cetera. But we're really a working-class community
with working people that live here, trying to provide
that visitor experience. And we really feel grateful
that you've listened to us and the other rural
communities.

We are a rural community. We're 40 miles from
anybody else of significance. And being in the National
Forest, we're greatly affected by the federal government
policies and need to have representation that will
advocate and understand the federal government and -- so
that's why we fight -- feel a tie to the desert
communities in the San Bernardino High Desert, which you
have included us in because, you know, they deal with
BLM. I go down there and recreate on my motorcycles and
quads and dune buggies and all that kind of stuff.

MALE SPEAKER: Thirty seconds.

MR. PERRY: And that is an area that is really --
has a commonality of interest to Big Bear and the
ruralness and the issues we have with federal and
visitors and things like that.

So thank you again for listening and putting us with
the high desert. We appreciate you, you know, hearing
our voices. So thank you and have a great night.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. At
this time, Chair, it would appear that we do not have any
other hands.
CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. Wait to see if we've got any more hands.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Just so you know, Chair, the numbers that are in the queue have been listening for most of the day.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent, thank, you. So at the recommendation of counsel, we are being recommended to take a short break -- ten minute break and come -- and see if any members of the public want to call in as we need to keep our lines for at least 30 minutes. So with that, let's come back at 4 -- at 4:45. And we'll close the lines at 5 o'clock.

(Whereupon, a recess was held from 4:35 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.)

CHAIR TOLEDO: Welcome back to the California Citizens Redistricting meeting. We are finishing up our business meeting with public comments. This is general public comment on anything that was discussed today. Or any items of general public concern. We will be closing the lines in - at 5 o'clock. And Katy, can you please open up the lines.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, Chair. The commission is now taking general public comment for items not on the agenda. To give comment, please call 877-853-5247 and enter the meeting ID number 829 8221 1105. Once
you have dialed in, please press star 9 to enter the comment queue. The full call-in instructions have been read previously in the meeting and are provided in full on the livestream landing page.

And at this time we do have caller 5944 that has called in and raised their hand. If you'll still follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6. The floor is yours.

CALLER 5944: Hello, I just wanted to call and ask that you please do not include Seven Oaks Country Club or Stockdale Estates or Stockdale Country Club in the VRA district that's -- that includes Delano, Arvin, Shafter, and Wasco. Those areas just do not belong in this community. They're very white, very affluent. Appreciate all your hard work. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much. And for those have just called in, please press start 9 to indicate you have called in to give comment and not just to listen to the end of the meeting. Again, star 9 will raise your hand indicating you've called in to give comment.

Thank you so much. Caller 6190, if you will please follow the prompts to unmute by pressing star 6 at this time. The floor is yours.

STEVE: Hi, can you hear me?
PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: We sure can.

STEVE: Oh, great. Okay. This is Steve from Erwin Lake up in the Big Bear Mountains. I was calling to say -- excuse me, that I looked at the Assembly and the Congressional maps, and it looks like, if I’m reading them correctly, and I’m not that good on my computer, but it looks like you've included us with the -- some of the desert area up on the, I guess it would be the east side of us. And I just wanted to let you know that, at least from my perspective, that makes sense. We -- excuse me, we do drive off that direction to access services the near mall for shopping and frankly the nearest nice restaurants and everything are off on that side of the hill, and we could get off the hill during -- especially stormy winter weather. The storms push in from the west and oftentimes close the roads to the west, which are -- we get rockslides, mudslides, et cetera and CALTRANS closes those roads.

But we always could get off on Highway 18 down to Lucerne Valley on that side so that's --

MR. MANOFF: Thirty seconds.

STEVE: -- our go to, at least for my family and my friends. That's our go to route to get off the mountain from Big Bear Valley up here and access the services on that side. So anyway, thank you. I think, if I read the
maps right, it looks like we're in good shape. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you so much.

Again, one more time, for those that have called in, if you would like give comment this evening, please press star 9. This will raise your hand indicating you wish to give comment.

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

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. We will be closing the comment line at 5 o'clock. Just a reminder to the public, the commission did release its draft maps for state Congressional, state Assembly, state Senate, and Board of Equalization ahead of the Supreme Court's mandated November 15th deadline. And we will be taking public comment on those maps during our public input sessions November 17th through the 23rd. Californians, all Californians are welcomed to provide feedback on the maps by visiting our website at drawmycacommmunites.org.

You can also draw your own maps by visiting drawmycadistricts.org. As a reminder, our final maps are due to be completed no later than December 27th. So we have about a month and a half, a little bit more than a month and a half to get our maps completed.

With that we will wait for a couple minutes to see
if there are any additional members of the public who
would like to give comment. Any closing comments from
the Commissioners prior to ending this meeting since we
had -- since we have a few minutes? Or any announcements
you might have?

If not we will be ending our meeting at 5 o'clock if
there are no additional callers. Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. This is not something
that needs to be voted on or anything, but we did not
discuss potentially moving the starting times for the
meetings in December. So I just wanted to throw that
back out to Executive Director Hernandez to see if
potentially consider moving those back a little, maybe
like 11 to 6 instead of 9:30, or 10 to 5. That was my
only comments -- I’m not sure -- and I know that
Commissioner Akutagawa did talk about that also. And I
don't know if any other Commissioners have any thoughts
on that. Thank you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: I believe commission -- or Director
Hernandez was -- is planning those session and thinking
through the logistics. Commissioner -- or Director
Hernandez.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. I just wanted to note that if
we move the meeting back from 11 -- to 11, we'll go till
6 p.m. I just want to make sure that we have time should
we have public input during those meeting -- that we have
sufficient time for that. And you know the later we push
it to start, the later we're going to go in the evening
for public comment.

And I want to make sure that we're aware of that.

So at this point, we can make that change to 11 6. And
so the meetings, beginning on Sunday the 12th, will be
from 11 to 6 through Sunday the 19th, 11 to 6. All the
meetings 11 to 6. If everyone is okay with that, that's
what I will propose. And that's the change that I will
make and then notify all our vendors and post that
information on the website as well.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Remind us what the current time frame
that we have it is at this point.

MR. HERNANDEZ: At this point there 10 to 5 for the
meetings beginning on the 13th through the 18th, 10 to 5.
Only an hour shift.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Do you mean the 12th,
starting on the 12th?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, the 12th is already scheduled
from 11 to 6. So the changes only are going to reflect
the 13th through the 18th because on the 19th we also
have that one already scheduled 11 to 6. So now all the
meetings would be scheduled from 11 to 6.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Sounds like there's no opposition to
11 o'clock. And it's up to -- and I believe you have the
discretion to -- as the Executive Director to schedule
those.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll go ahead and make that
change.

CHAIR TOLEDO: At this point I don't see any
opposition to that change. Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Not exactly opposition. Just
a question for Commissioners that is beneficial. Does
that include Saturday as well?

CHAIR TOLEDO: That's a great question. Is that
just during the week and not for the weekends or is
intended to be every day of the week? Commissioner
Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I'll just say Saturdays are
a little bit easier and I'm a little bit more agnostic on
that -- just, you know, the Monday through Friday, you
know, having that two-hour window in the morning to try
to get some other business done would be helpful. Thank
you.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner Fernandez.

COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Yes. I agree -- I
apologize. Saturday would be easier -- or do the 9:30.
Thank you.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Saturday we are scheduled
currently from 10 to 5. So I'm going to leave that one 
as it. And change the ones during the week from 11 to 6. 
And the ones on Sunday will be 11 to 6 as well, that's 
what they're scheduled for right now.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. That was a great catch.

Any other updates or announcements that you might have 
prior to the close of minutes -- the meeting. I think we 
have a good -- from the meeting earlier today, I think we 
have a good sense of -- for the subcommittee that'll be 
working on the final maps, planning, the direction for 
them to get us something sooner rather than later through 
staff in terms of scheduled and definitely by the 29th. 
But hopefully much sooner than that so the Commissioners 
can prepare for those meetings and begin that process.

Is there anything that you might need for that 
Commissioner Sadhwani or Commissioner Fornaciari in 
addition to what we've discussed prior?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: I'm sure there will be lots 
that we need, but I think we're all set for right now 
given the robust conversation that happened today.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Thank you. All right. Just three 
more minutes. And it doesn't look like we have any 
additional comments at this point.
COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: And here I thought we were going to have a flood of comments.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Yes. That's what I heard from -- I think staff predicted that they're would be more comments than we actually are getting. But I believe it also has to do with the fact that public input sessions are scheduled, folks have -- who want to speak have been able to get their appointments and so that might be part of why we're not seeing so many, that folks who want appointments were able to get them, I hope. I'm being optimistic. Director Hernandez.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I was just going to state that because we've probably opened up, you know, quite a few additional appointments for these up-coming meetings, maybe people are considering waiting to provide their input then. But it really is, you know, a challenge to really know how many people are going to call in at the end of the day. Any day can be very different from what it is right now. You could easily have a hundred people in the queue.

CHAIR TOLEDO: I don't think any of us are complaining that we're going to be able to get out at 5 o'clock, given that last week was pretty intense.

Commissioner Fornaciari.

COMMISSIONER FORNACIARI: I believe the 49ers are
playing the Rams on Monday Night Football, so that might be part of it, too.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Makes sense. Commissioner Taylor -- and of course, Commissioner Taylor will be our chair for the rest of the series of public input meetings. I just saw his hand up, but --

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah, thank you Chair. So yes, I look forward to my opportunity to commission the next group of meetings. And I'm not going to let Neal draw me back into that LA/San Francisco thing.

CHAIR TOLEDO: And we look forward to having you chair our next series of public input meetings starting on the 17th. With that, it looks like it's almost 5 o'clock and we still have no members of the public wishing to comment. So as soon as it turns to 5, we will adjourn for the day. Last chance to give an announcement.

COMMISSIONER LE MONS: Looks like Executive Director Hernandez's hand is up. It's just up.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Commissioner -- or Director Hernandez, do you have a update?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Just want to say goodnight.

CHAIR TOLEDO: Excellent. Well, with that, it's 5 o'clock. We don't have additional comments in the queue so we will -- we've closed the line and we will say
goodbye -- or we'll adjourn today's meeting and say goodbye until the end -- until the 17th.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Goodnight.

(Whereupon, the State of California, 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commissions Public Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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 19th day of November, 2021.

[Signature]

JACQUELINE DENLINGER
Court Reporter
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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.

Samantha Stewart, CDLT-253

November 19, 2021