

April 26, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via electronic transmission

RE: Agenda Item 9E - Virtual Public Input Design Proposal

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to an inclusive and collaborative redistricting process and your hard work around public outreach. All of the undersigned organizations draw upon our respective expertise of educating and activating historically marginalized and underserved communities to uplift the following concerns regarding your Virtual Public Input Design Proposal and suggest a few recommendations that better reflect the needs of our population.

One of the chief aims of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission is to gather community of interest testimony from Californians across the state in service of drafting fair and equitable maps, reflective of the needs and priorities of the communities impacted by those set districts. The proposed Virtual Public Input Design is a reasonable starting place; however, there are clear accessibility issues in regards to language access and an inequitable focus on coastal regions at the expense of heavily populated regions in Inland California, Northern California, and Orange County.

With regards to population, there is certainly a clear need to ensure Los Angeles County and the Bay Area region have ample opportunity to provide COI testimony, but it is not clear why there are not equitable opportunities for input in nearly every other region across the state. The 11 Outreach Zones identified range from under 200,000 residents to over 10 million with great variation in between. The Outreach Zones for the Inland Empire, Central Valley, and Orange County in particular are quite populous with vast geographies and diverse populations that are particularly underserved by the initial draft plan. **We recommend adjusting the existing proposal to a sliding scale according to need.**

Population Range	<1 million	1 - 3 million	3 - 5 million	>5 million
Proposed Meetings	1	2	3	4

With this scale in mind, **we recommend a minimum of 27 region-based meetings in addition to the proposed 2 statewide meetings and 4 group input meetings.** With nearly four months until Census redistricting data is released, the CCRC has an incredible opportunity to engage

residents in every corner of the state in authentic and meaningful ways. We would be remiss to not utilize the remaining spring and summer months collecting as much public input as possible and developing as comprehensive COI maps as we can to ensure that any draft maps developed are robust, comprehensive, and community minded.

Outreach Zone	Population Estimates	CRC Proposed COI Meetings	Community Proposed COI Meetings
A - North Coast	959,120	1	1
B - Northern Inland CA	615,902	1	1
C- Bay Area	7.1 million	3	4
D - Greater Sacramento Region	2.64 million	1	2
E - Central Coast	2.35 million	1	2
F - Central Valley	4.27 million	1	3
G - Inland Central	190,272	1	1
H - LA	10.04 million	4	4
I - IE	4.65 million	1	3
J - Orange	3.18 million	1	3
K - San Diego	3.52 million	2	3
Total	39.5 million	17	27

Outside of base population numbers, California is by no stretch of the imagination a monolingual state and these opportunities for community input should similarly be multilingual. **It is our recommendation that all COI Input Meetings provide Spanish and American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation.** Given that every CCRC meeting includes an ASL interpreter, we feel it is more than reasonable to plan for similar accommodations to be made available at public input meetings. Additionally, with the Latino community in California making up 40% of our total population, there must be Spanish interpretation available at every public input meeting in order to ensure appropriate and equitable accessibility. **We also recommend that there be at least one meeting per Outreach Zone catering to the additional language needs of that region.** California’s diversity may preclude the ability to predict every language that the Commission will receive testimony in, but your process will preserve flexibility to accommodate additional language needs by maintaining the existing policy of providing interpretation for public input in the top-12 languages, including a best effort to provide it for additional languages.

Announcing proactive interpretation services well in advance of meetings will allow community-based organizations to focus their efforts and help community members with language needs turn out with confidence that they can fully participate.

We hope these recommendations offer a practicable and equitable answer to two of the three open questions listed on your Virtual Public Input Design Proposal. Please feel free to contact Sky Allen with Inland Empire United at sky@ieunited.org should you need more information. Thank you for your service and your consideration.

Sincerely,

AAPIs for Civic Engagement Education Fund
Alianza Coachella Valley
BLU Educational Fund
California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
Communities for a New California Education Fund
Community Health Action Network
Conduit Community Development
Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE)
Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice
Inland Congregations United for Change
Inland Empire Community Collaborative
Inland Empire United
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Mi Familia Vota
Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity
Music Changing Lives
Orange County Civic Engagement Table
People's Collective for Environmental Justice
Sigma Beta Xi Youth and Family Services
Starting Over Inc.
TODEC Legal Center
Warehouse Worker Resource Center