

From: **Lilbert Ontai**

Date: Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 8:28 PM

Subject: General Comment

4/28/21

Dear Commissioners,

Earlier I sent an email urging you to pursue your own independent timeline, not the legislature's timeline, to complete your district maps free of the appearance of partisan influence. Make no mistake; adversaries will seek to capitalize on the perception that the Commission was influenced by a partisan group controlled by the legislature by shortening the process for public participation and hence weakening the outreach and transparency so fundamental to your mission.

You must be comprehensive and conclusive in your plans to outreach to California's varied communities, including hard reaching communities. I implore you to consider the 2010 Commission's experience that showed the greatest and most intense feedback will occur in the second round when your maps are on display for public feedback. I suggest that this intensive iterative phase will occur precisely within the last two months of the year – in the middle of the holiday seasons – giving the Commission January to February to complete a comprehensive outreach process to complete the maps that fully incorporate the public's feedback. In closing, I would point out the CA State Supreme Court cited the strength of the 2010 final maps were based on extensive public outreach and transparency. Don't allow partisanship to take that power away from you in order to serve their interests.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lilbert "Gil" Ontai,

2010 CRC Commissioner