

May 24, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via electronic transmission

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your commitment to an open and transparent redistricting process. On behalf of the California Black Census and Redistricting Hub, a coalition of 30 Black-led and Black-serving organizations across the State, we write today to request clarification on 2 issues: 1) the purpose and intent for the 3 types of COI input meetings you are planning to conduct and 2) the appointment system you plan to implement for members of the public to sign up to speak at COI input meetings.

1. Purpose and Intent of COI Input Meetings: While we understand that the commission seeks to ensure that all Californians feel welcome to present to the commission at each COI Input Meeting, we also understand that the names of the 3 different types of COI input meetings indicate a specific purpose and intent for each meeting. Accordingly, clarifying, in writing, the purpose and intent for each type of meeting would go a long way in helping the public plan and make informed decisions about when they would like to appear before the commission. For instance, clarifying the types of presenters that are intended to speak at group, zone, and statewide meetings would help statewide coalitions like us, who might present a statewide view of COI data and maps, know when to present so as not to take away time and attention from individual community members or local community groups who will also be presenting more local and neighborhood COI data and maps. Similarly, community residents may feel more comfortable presenting with other community members rather than with statewide or regional networks. If there is no difference between the intent and purposes of each type of meeting, explaining the reason they are named differently would help give additional insight into the commission's thinking and planning.

2. COI Input Meeting Appointment System: Thank you for proposing the implementation of an appointment system for the public to sign up and present before the commission. We strongly believe that such an appointment system could remove important barriers that the public may face in appearing before the commission. That said, providing the public with as much detail about the appointment system as possible as soon as you know those details will help the public plan and secure their slots to speak at COI input meetings. Specifically, clarifying whether members of the public will be able to sign up for specific time slots that are most convenient for them to speak, or if, in the alternative, members of the public will be automatically assigned specific time slots to speak will help the public plan their participation.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to address the commission and we look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,

James Woodson
Policy Director
California Black Census and Redistricting Hub