

**Proposed Guidelines Regarding Associations during Phase II: Public Input
Presented by Outreach, Education & Engagement Subcommittee
July 21, 2021**

Proposed Motion

All associations are welcome to submit their Communities of Interest to the CRC using all the publicly available methods, including but not limited to the COI Tool and COI input meetings. The current rules for public input apply to all individuals and associations. Only if the Commission has clarifying questions on any COI will the person or entity who submitted the COI be invited by the Commission to a public meeting to clarify.

Background

Political scientists Alexis de Tocqueville and John McKnight both agree that what makes the United State's approach to community problem solving unique is that:

- A number of people believe they have the power to define the problem
- They agree they have the ability to choose the solution for the problem
- And often, they become key in implementing the solution

Tocqueville gushed about how individuals in the United States could come together or associate for any community need or opportunity. Building on this wisdom, the Outreach Subcommittee proposes that the CRC use a broad and inclusive definition of association. This definition would support the CRC's purpose to create an inclusive process that is accessible to ALL Californians. We have already received input from several associations, including but not limited to the Westside Neighborhood Council, John Long regarding Vietnamese communities in California, from government entities like the memorandum from the City of Calabasas dated May 19 and Napa & Solano Counties Board of Supervisors' May 5th letter.

To be clear, associations are any collection of people who:

- Work together face-to-face (if there was no pandemic) -- thus live, work, play, learn, pray, celebrate, & protest in a specific geographic area
- Solve problems in their public life and are typically not paid.
- May or may not have official government documentation like 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), city or county charter, etc.

These associations may include but are not limited to government entities, faith-based, commerce-focused, labor, issue-based nonprofit, parent associations, and local book or garden clubs. The issues or opportunities associations chose to address are infinite.

The Commission wants to hear from ALL Californians, and thus all associations are welcome to participate. All individuals or as part of an association are invited to submit their COI using the CRC's publicly available methods. The CRC will not be hosting specific COI public input meetings for associations. The guidelines that have been used to date for CRC business and COI public input meetings will continue to be applied equally to individuals and associations when presenting public testimony.

The CRC will host public meetings if it is needed to clarify COI input that has been received. Those who submitted the COIs in question will be invited to respond to the Commissioners' inquiries.