STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

In the matter of:

PUBLIC MEETING

721 Capitol Mall, Second Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Via Livestream Zoom

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

4:00 P.M.

Reported by:

Peter Petty
APPEARANCES

Commissioners Present:
Alicia Fernandez
Isra Ahmad
Derric H. Taylor
Linda Akutagawa
Jane Andersen
J. Ray Kennedy
Sara Sadhwani
Patricia Sinay
Pedro Toledo
Russell Yee

Staff Present:
Anthony Pane
Ravindar Singh, Administrative Assistant
Marcy Kaplan, Director of Outreach

Technical Contractors:
Public Comment Moderator
Kristian Manoff, AV Technical Director

Interpreters

Also Present

Public Comment:

1. Samuel Sukaton, California League of California Voters Education Fund
2. Dylan Johnson, SEIU California
3. Kimi Lee, Bay Rising
4. Rosalind Gold, NALEO Educational Fund
5. Helen Hutchison, League of Women Voters, California
6. Vanessa Green, Alliance San Diego
7. Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Asian Law Caucus
8. Kirk Samuels, People's Bloc
9. Kristin Nimmers, California Calls
10. Aiyanna
11. Fayaz Nawabi, CAIR LA
12. Sky Allen, Inland Empire United
13. Deborah Howard, California Senior Advocates League
14. Jeremy Payne, Quality California
15. Speaker Number 15
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   Not on the Agenda*/Agenda Items for Future Meetings

* Note: The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment period that is not already on the agenda, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting. [Gov. Code Sections 11125, 1125.7(a)]

Adjournment: page 122
PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:00 PM

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, Kristian and welcome everyone to the May 18th, 2021 California Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting, and we are calling this meeting to order. And we'll roll call. Is that going to be Ravi? Okay, thank you Ravi.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Ahmed?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Akutagawa?

Commissioner Andersen?

Commissioner Fernandez?

MR. SINGH: Here.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Andersen's here.

MR. SINGH: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen.

Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNICIARI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Le Mons?

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Taylor?
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Present.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Toledo?
Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Here.

MR. SINGH: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Here.

MR. SINGH: And Commissioner Yee.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Here.

MR. SINGH: Chair, you have a quorum.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ravi.

And before we go to public comment, I just want to let everyone know that we have a condensed meeting scheduled today, and these are the following agenda items we plan to discuss.

Agenda item five, which is our Executive Director Report, agenda item 9F, as in Frank, Language Access; 9I which is Data Management, if needed. 9J, Grants, if needed. 9N as in Nancy, Public Input Meeting Design.

Agenda item 10, Legal Affairs, if needed. Agenda item 13, which is the discussion of future meetings. And after that, we will recess to close session.

So, with that, if we can go to public comment and we'll take public comment now, and then prior to recessing to close session.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Alright. And 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 livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247. When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press *9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a message that says “The host would like you to talk” and press *6 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 livestream 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 livestream volume.

And again, I’d like to remind those calling in to press *9 to raise their hand indicating they wish to comment. We do have several raised hands at this time and I will begin opening the lines.
Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MR. SUKATON: Hello? Confirming that you can hear me.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. SUKATON: Excellent. My name is Samuel Sukaton from the California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner Ahmad, I'm hoping you're going to chair a good meeting today.

I’m calling just to lay down a CLCV’s position on a kind of continued conversation about deadlines. I do want to flag given our research, we believe we're the only environmental organization who's ever testified before the CRC in its history. We have seven letters submitted from the 2011 process. We had the pleasure of speaking to you earlier this year, I believe in February.

And we take that responsibility rather seriously. We have been standing in for a broad California community of supporting habitat conservation, public lands, and environmental justice communities. My predecessor, Dr. Shockman, Eric Shockman attended nearly every CRC hearing to the point where your predecessor said hello to him by name.

I want that relationship not just for us, but for the broader environmental community at large. Whether
that's People's Collective for Environmental Justice and Human Empire, the Environmental Protection Information Center in Arcata, the Mono Lake Committee.

With that in mind, we want to make sure we get this right, and I want to make sure that the rest of the environmental community participates as fully in this Commission's deliberations as fully as we did in 2011.

With that in mind, we are going to continue urging that the Commission take as much time, one, to thinking about the schedule as necessary to make sure that communities can submit maps, communities can comment, particularly with kind of the disruption of the holiday season that may change kind of the end of the process.

Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Sukaton. Thank you. Next one, Katy.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Next caller. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MR. JOHNSON: Hello? To confirm you can hear me?

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. We can hear you. The floor is yours.

MR. JOHNSON: Great. Good evening commissioners. This is Dylan Johnson again, with SEIU California. I just wanted to call in, wanted to thank you all again on behalf of SEIU for the opportunity to participate in the labor
panel last week. We thought it was a really terrific and
an awesome discussion.

So, I just wanted to follow up on two points that
I made during the panel. First, I wanted to touch on the
potential for the Commission asking for supplemental
outreach fund. If the Commission feels that the additional
supplemental funds for outreach are necessary, we would
encourage the Commission to direct staff at this meeting to
prepare a budget for you to approve at your next meeting.

So, we were making the suggestion, is we're near
the end of the state budget cycle. So, understanding it
will be much easier to get that approved now than a month
from now -- so, if that is something that the Commission is
interested in.

I know there was some interest in requesting
additional funds for that outreach in order to front load
some of this work. We just encourage the Commission’s
direct staff to do that at this meeting.

And the second piece I wanted to touch on is just
the continuation of that. So, we talked about on the panel
and I've commented about front loading the work. I know
there's a lot of concern around the timeline and doing some
of this outreach before the census data is released.

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. To ensure the schedule,
there's time for public input. So, the committee analysis from the last Commission, they cited two reasons for requesting the formation of the day be moved up from December to August. And that was to allow for earlier public education and outreach, and to allow for more time to hire staff and consultant.

MR. MANOFF: 10 seconds.

MR. JOHNSON: So, I just really want to encourage the Commission to front load some of that input from the public on things like COIs and just other general public input ahead of getting this out over the lines.

MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you so much for your time as always. And I look forward to continuing work together.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Johnson.

MR. MANOFF: Chair, point of clarification, please. Would you like us to enforce a two-minute or a three-minute time limit?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Two-minute, please.

MR. MANOFF: Understood. Thank you so much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And we have other raised hands, but I also would like to remind those callers in the queue to press *9, to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. We do have several raise hands. There are a
MS. LEE: Hello.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes, we are here. We can hear you. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. LEE: Hi, my name is Kimi Lee. I am the Director of Bay Rising. We're a network of over 30 grassroots organizations working with immigrants, working class, disenfranchised people in the Bay Area in about five counties. And we're calling today because we're concerned about moving up any timelines and just the deadlines for the maps.

And actually, we want to just make sure we can extend that amount of time as possible for our communities to have feedback. The CCRC was put into place by builders to ensure a public redistricting process that allows Republic participation and district lines that provide fair and equitable representation.

So, communities are at the heart of why we have an independent Redistricting Commission, and it will be those communities that ultimately, will bear the impact of the final maps for the next 10 years.

So, we really encourage you, please give us the time we need and please don't rush this. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you, MS. Lee.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller. Go
ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. GOLD: Yes, good afternoon. It's Rosalind Gold. On behalf of the NALEO Educational Fund, thank you all so much. And we would very much like the Commission when it is looking at its timelines and scenarios to make sure it provides specific time for community members to submit draft regional and draft statewide maps after the statewide database releases its processed data, and before the Commission itself starts to draw a line.

We are particularly concerned about the scenario in handout 9A, the milestone scenario that has one place where the Commission starts to draw lines immediately. After this process, data is released, there's enormous benefits for the Commission providing time to allow groups to submit public draft regional and statewide maps.

Partly, because we will have the opportunity to resolve conflicts and tensions regarding compliance with the Voting Rights Act, regarding different communities of interest. We can help the Commission if we're allowed to provide you with drafts, maps, and navigate some of the tensions that you will also have to navigate yourself.

We would note that giving us the time to submit those maps before the Commission—

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MS. GOLD: … actually starts to do line drawing is
consistent with one of the earlier Gantt Charts, which actually had a six-week period between release of process data and the commission's actual first draft maps.

MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

MS. GOLD: There is also plenty for the Commission to do during this time period before it starts to draw lines. It can drill down on regional maps of communities of interest. It can resolve some big picture questions.

MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

MS. GOLD: So, there's lots for the Commission to do. It can analyze the data that came from new statewide database. There's lots for the Commission to do before it actually starts to draw lines, to give community groups the opportunity to present-

MR. MANOFF: Plus 15.

MS. GOLD: What we might want to call in some cases, our unity map; draft maps after the data is out before the Commission starts to draw its lines.

Thank you so much and happy to answer any questions.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, MS. Gold.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And our next caller.

We can hear you. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. HUTCHISON: Good afternoon, commissioners.

This is Helen Hutchison with the League of Women Voters of
California. I sent an email using the web interface on Friday and got an acknowledgement, but I don't see it posted. So, I'm just going to cover a little bit of it. Most of it was just confirming comments from last week about clarifying your definition of redistricting matters and regularly providing the public with an explanation of your policy. But one more thing that I wanted to raise is that you are required to announce the subject of your closed sessions as you go into closed session.

Even if you don't intend to take any action or going to take any action, you need to announce the subject. And we would appreciate that. Thank you all again very much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Hutchison.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. GREEN: Hello, commissioners. My name is Vanessa Green and I'm the Redistricting Program Manager for Alliance San Diego, a partner in the IVE Redistricting Alliance. We are a community empowerment organization doing work to ensure participation from the San Diego region in California’s redistricting process.

We would like to comment on the CCRC’s adoption of a timeline that allows significant and thorough community
involvement in the process.

The work of residents and community groups is an important part of the independent redistricting process. They will collect and analyze COI data, develop VRA section two compliant maps, analyze the 2020 data once it is released in a usable format, engage, coordinate and develop joint maps with other residents, community groups.

Seeing map proposals from a variety of community groups and stakeholders will enrich your own map drawing process and appreciation for the importance of community input.

By maximizing time for public input and engagement, the CCRC will give residents the opportunity to provide clear, meaningful and responsive map submission, feedback, and as a result can minimize the amount of conflicting testimony it receives.

The public needs time to understand and analyze the redistricting data when it becomes available. Drawing initial maps, communicate with and work through potential conflicts, prepare testimony on behalf of their maps, understanding and analyze the-

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MS. GREEN: ... in its draft maps. Provide feedback on the Commission’s draft maps and comment on the Commissioner's final deliberation in the waning days of the
redistricting process. Thank you.

      CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Green.

      COMMENT MODERATOR: And to our next caller. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

      MS. MARKS: Thank you. Hello, commissioners. My name is Julia Marks. I'm calling from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus. Thank you for your time today.

      I first, want to second the comments made by previous callers uplifting the need for time for community input through multiple stages of this process.

      I'd like to provide some additional context on a really important phase of the public input process, which is the time after the statewide database releases data, but before the Commission starts drafting district maps.

      The Commission COI collection process is very important, but COI is not the only source of valuable public input. We do ask that you also plan for a period where the public can propose draft maps before the Commission starts drafting its own maps.

      As a previous caller noted, there are multiple steps that the Commission can take after data are released before actually putting pen to paper to come up with proposed district lines.

      For example, the Commission can dig in on
complicated areas of COI or engage in VRA analysis while community groups have some time to also work on draft maps and propose those to the Commission. We believe the commissions process is strengthened by seeing maps created by both statewide and regional coalitions.

Community coalitions can suggest solutions to complicated puzzles, balancing different COIs and also complying with the VRA. These maps can help the Commission think through its options-

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MS. MARKS: ... and think through various permutations, as it undertakes its own drafting process. A lot goes into putting together a community map, including analyzing the statewide database, adjust the data drafting, thinking about VRA compliance-

MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

MS. MARKS: ... and most importantly, working in coalition with multiple partners to handle complicated questions. Our organization plans to undertake this work with more than 30 local API organizations and statewide and regional partners representing Latin X and black communities.

MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.

MS. MARKS: We really hope that you incorporate enough time to allow us to provide proposals to you. Thank
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Marks.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one more caller with their hand up. Go ahead, the floor is yours.

MR. SAMUELS: Good evening, commissioners. My name is Kirk Samuels. And I'm with the People's Bloc. People's Bloc is a growing Alliance of 35 organizations from LA County who serve different communities, ranging from Latin X, API and blacks.

The thing that brings us together is that we aim to ensure that marginalized communities are included to participate in the redistricting process so we can get the results we need to reflect our interests. The People's Bloc is also part of the IVE Redistricting Alliance, which is a statewide Alliance.

We want to lift to the Commission that COI input is only one step of the process for public participation, but drafting and proposing district maps is another important step for communities to participate and requires a lot of the time coordination and work.

The work of the residents and the community groups is an important part of the independent redistricting process. They will collect and analyze COI data, develop VRA section two compliant maps, and analyze the 2020 census data once it's released in a usable format, engage and
coordinate and develop joint maps with other residential community groups.

So, for example, we will be coordinating with other partners in the IVE Redistricting Alliance to figure out how all of our COI maps in the LA region overlap and can be combined together in a single district map. We will be collecting and analyzing data with our base. And for this, we need a series of trainings and meetings to prepare and to do an analysis together.

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MR. SAMUELS: In closing, I invite you all to continue to think about what we need to do for public process and ask yourselves, what's the timeline we need to fully maximize public participation and what are the actual versus the perceived risk of moving the 2022 primary-

MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.

MR. SAMUELS: ... by one to two weeks to make time for public participation and redistricting that will ultimately have a 10-year impact. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Samuels.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And our last caller did choose to raise their hand. So, we do have one more caller.

And go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. NIMMERS: Hi. My name is Kristin Nimmers. I’m calling on behalf of California Calls. We are an Alliance
of over 31 grassroots community-based organizations across the state that engage and educate new and infrequent voters in efforts to ensure that our electorate reflects our state diverse population.

And from our experiences from our engagement with traditionally underrepresented communities, we really wanted to touch on agenda item 9A and lift the importance of providing the most possible time for community organizations to engage and mobilize residents to engage in this process, and help you all ensure that there's actual input. And that that input is reflective of the diversity of California, which means that there's time for the public to understand the data, analyze the data, to draw maps, communicate, and work through points of conflict that other callers have identified and provide the Commission with feedback.

So, I really just want to ensure that community organizations have time to mobilize the public and get them engaged in this process as well. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. NIMMERS.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And we did have another caller call in while that caller was talking and raised their hand. So, we do have one more color.

And go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. AIYANNA: Hello, my name is Aiyanna and I was
calling to just ask some clarifying questions to the committee. And could you possibly clarify what the difference is between the group zone and statewide COI meetings, and specifically, who is expected to present at each of these meetings, and where neighborhood, regional and state COIs should be listed. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Aiyanna. And we'll be discussing that later today in our agenda item 9F and 9N.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Alright. And that was our last caller.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, everyone that called in and everyone that continues to be with us at our meeting today.

We will move on to agenda item ... are there any announcements by commissioners before we move on to agenda item number five?

Okay. So, we're going to move on to five, Executive Director Report. Executive Director at Hernandez, do you have anything?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Just a couple of things and I'll be brief about it.

For those of you who haven't heard, we have the new Chief Counsel, Anthony Pane, who is joining us. So, welcome aboard. Marian and I had the pleasure of meeting...
with him this morning to kind of get him on boarded. And so, he'll be reaching out to each one of you, I'm sure, shortly. So, welcome aboard Anthony.

I also wanted to mention that we have our field staff and Outreach Coordinator positions filled. Our Outreach Coordinator is going to be Sulma Hernandez. She'll be starting tomorrow.

Our field leads are Kimberly Briggs in Los Angeles. In San Diego, we have Andrew Amorao, and in the Central Valley, we have Jose, Eduardo, Chavez, Garcia, and they will be starting next week. So, I wanted to share that with you.

Lastly, in regards to staffing, we have the Data Manager job up that is posted on our website. So, please get the word out. We really need to get that information to those that can help the Commission with their data management responsibilities.

As far as contracts, I'm going to defer to the appropriate subcommittees to share whatever contracts that we have in the works. I do want to remind the Commission that as the Commission, as a state entity, we are required to follow the state contracting guidelines, which as you've all experienced by now, are not the most expeditious.

So, just giving you that frame of reference so that as we are looking forward to bringing on additional
vendors or contracting with anyone, that there is a process that is not immediate. So, there's that.

Regarding the budget, we’ve received the May revised letter this week from the Department of Finance. I know I reported that we had approval, but we actually received a letter this week to approve our augmentation. And their fiscal director, John Fitzpatrick and I met with members of the joint legislative budget committee to discuss the Commission's approved budget and to answer general questions.

That is the extent of my report. Any questions?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any questions by the commissioners on that? Commissioner Ahmed.

COMMISSIONER AHMED: Thank you. Do we have the number of what that adjusted budget now looks like?

MR. HERNANDEZ: It was what we had originally posted back on March 29th, I believe. That's what we submitted and that's what has been approved.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Any other questions? Okay. And again, welcome Anthony. We're very excited to have you with us today. I'm not sure if you wanted to say something or should we just keep moving and put you ... would you like to say anything?

MR.-pane: Sure. I'm happy to say hello again.

And thank you, Commission and thank you to Executive
Director Hernandez. I really appreciate the time just from today and I'm looking forward to assisting all of you.

And as the Executive Director mentioned, I will be reaching out and look forward to assisting with all of you with any questions you have. Thank you again, I'm looking forward, and it's a great opportunity.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. We're looking forward to it as well. And we will move on to agenda item ... I'm going to combine agenda item 9F with the 9N, which is the public input. It's continuation of our discussion from Friday.

Commissioner Akutagawa, Director Kaplan and I met to amend the recommendations that we had. And so, we'd like to go through that.

Hopefully, everybody had a chance to review the information that was posted and we'll just walk through it. We'll just show what the changes were from Friday, instead of going through the whole document. We'll just highlight some of the changes if that's okay with everyone.

And I'll start. I guess that's okay, Commissioner Akutagawa, I'll just start the change discussion. So, when you have a document, make sure you have the right one, it's dated 5/18/2021 on top on the page, the title.

The recommendations - we numbered the recommendations instead of having bullets; that way, it's
easier to refer to them.

The first three pretty much stay the same. The fourth recommendation, we did change that. We noted it earlier on Friday, but we changed that to five business days in terms of appointments for interpretation services must be submitted no later than five business days. That was similar to what our recommendation was back in January when we made our recommendations on language access.

And in terms of the fifth recommendation, and this one is just noting that any remaining unfilled interpretation time slots will be open 24 hours prior to the meeting. So, again, as we discussed on Friday, an interpretation time slot is twice the amount of an English time slot. So, if there’re any open 24 hours prior, we will open it up for others to sign up for that time.

And the sixth one is if there are no time slots designated for language interpretations, if none of them are filled, then all the interpretation designated time slots will be open to all Californians four business days prior.

And I believe those are the only changes that we made, substantial changes that we made to our recommendations.

And we’ll continue on visibility access. The only thing we added there, I believe, was Commissioner Kennedy ...
Commissioner Kennedy, you got a question before I move on. Sorry about.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yeah, thank you. That's alright.

Just to clarify, if interpretation slots, which are longer are not taken, someone else can sign up for them. But if someone else signs up for them, they're not going to be longer. They would be the regular three minutes?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Correctly. They would be the three minutes.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Okay. We just need to make sure that everybody understands that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right, because that would be beyond the five days required prior to a meeting. Yes, thank you for the clarification.

And then disability access; we just added requests for any other disability-related modifications. It just clarifies that we will have ASL and close captioning for all of our public input meetings.

And we go to the next page. I don't believe we made any substantial changes until we get to the recommendations in terms of the number of public input meetings. And do you want me to hand it off to you, Commissioner Akutagawa? Commissioner Turner?
COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Is this a good place to answer the question of the caller in regards to ... because I'm noticing right here, it says the public of course, we know is not limited to the Commission outreach zones, and I'm just thinking about the public comment that asked this question about who can participate at each of these meetings.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sure, we can discuss it now. Any Californian can participate at whichever meeting we have. We had a zone specific. There was a voice concern when we try to make it generic. Some of our partners wanted to have zone specifics so they can concentrate their outreach efforts, which I completely understand.

And we all agreed to leave it as zone-specific, but you're not relegated just to that zone. You can live in whichever zone you want and whichever meeting is most convenient for you and there's a time slot, we encourage you to sign up for that time slot.

Was that what you were referring to Commissioner Turner? Yes. Okay. So, I'll hand it over to Commissioner Akutagawa or did you want me to go over the 11 verses ...?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: You’re on go, so why don't you keep going?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Alright. I'm going to keep
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I’ll just chime in later.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, quite a few hours went into this in terms of we went back and looked at the numbers in terms of the limited English proficient. And initially, if you remember, if you recall, there were four Spanish designated meetings less the statewide. And so, what we did, is went back based on the number of limited English proficient Spanish speakers -- we increased it from... it was initially five meetings, now, we have 12 meetings.

So, if you look on to table two, you will see that now, there are 12 meetings that are designated for Spanish. So, we'll have time slots for Spanish interpretation. And we have two designated in Los Angeles, one in every other zone. The only zone we did not designate it is Zone G because the numbers of limited English proficient were fairly low.

But again, I just want to remind the commissioners as well as everyone else that is viewing, you can always request a language at a specific meeting, as long as it's done five days prior. And if it's in those 12 languages that we've identified prior, we will contract for that. If it's beyond the 12, we will make attempts to provide that interpretation. And again, individuals are welcome to bring their own interpreters also to the meetings.
And we made one other change by request, and we're hoping that the commissioners are okay with that.

On August 9, initially we had Zone G and we changed it to Zone B as in Bob, and then on August 25th, it was Zone B as in Bob, and we changed it to Zone G. The reason we did that is Zone G would only have two weeks in between both of their designated zone COI input dates. So, we wanted to give them a bigger gap, give that zone at least a month in between the first and the second for input.

And I believe … was that it Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I was also going to mention that we did move … on the original document or the earlier document; [inaudible 00:34:54] was in Zone F and we moved it to Zone H, which is the LA Long Beach area. And it is now assigned to, or at least, we set it aside for June 26, Saturday, June 26th.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Was that it?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess, I was just going to make one other comment. I think I just want to remind everybody both on the Commission and anybody who's listening in; the absence of an assigned language or one of the 12 languages does not mean that we cannot have that language. I think we're just trying to find that right
balance between having things open enough that other
languages can also be inserted in and also, try to again,
make it so that then from a planning perspective, those who
might not feel comfortable making the requests will know
that they could try to schedule an appointment on any one
of the dates that a particular language that they feel is
best for them, and a date that's best for them that they
can hopefully sign up for an appointment.

Also, Commissioner Fernandez and I also recognize
that this is a lot of guesswork, and this is probably more
art than a science. And we do realize that the likelihood
is that after perhaps the first couple meetings, we're
going to be revisiting all of this again, and to figure
out, do we need to make adjustments.

So, I do want to just emphasize, please don't
think that this is the absolute never to change kind of
schedule. We're likely going to -- we expect that we are
going to be making some additional changes.

But until we start and we see what the responses,
it’s right now, just guesstimating what we think is the
best kind of spread. We also try to as best as we can,
ensure that, for example, with Spanish, there was going to
be dates in the beginning, the middle and the end.

And then for languages that are not identified on
here outside of the 12, we do recognize that in certain
cities, certain regions, there may be a high preponderance
of certain languages. And specifically, I'm going to name
Hmong in the Fresno area has a very high, specific
concentration of Hmong speakers that are limited English
proficient. Even though we recognize that, we wanted to
also be consistent -- not fair, but consistent with what we
said are the 12 languages.

However, we do recognize that it could be likely
that we will get requests for Hmong interpretation in the
Fresno area. And we do realize that that's a likely kind
of occurrence there. It could be also very likely that in
other cities or other zones, I should say; depending on the
date, we will get requests for other languages as well,
too.

So, we're trying to be a little flexible, but also
try to assign times so that people can feel like they can
plan around certain dates without having to make a request.
So, hopefully, that helps.

I see Commissioner Toledo and Director Kaplan.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: What if we go with Director
Kaplan first, and then ... she was part of our group as well.
Sorry, Commissioner Toledo, I have you number one, okay?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And then Commissioner
Kennedy, I think after that.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Alright.
MS. KAPLAN: Just adding to that layer though, that for these languages, even though we've identified, there still needs to be a request made. So, just clarifying that point you just made right now. So, these are-

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The dates that are outside of the dates that we've already scheduled?

MS. KAPLAN: The dates that we have scheduled, individuals still need to request prior to five days for those meetings.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: For languages that are not scheduled?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: No, no, no. Even for languages that are scheduled, like let's say for example, on the 28th, we have Chinese, Mandarin, and Tagalog. Although we've identified it, we still need the request five days prior to.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So, signing up on the appointments?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Commissioner Toledo, then Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. And thank you for your work on this the committee.
I'm just wondering when I look at table two and if I hadn't read all of the other pieces, which I did. But if I hadn't read the rest of it, I wouldn't know that I could contact the Commission and get Spanish or Chinese or other interpretation on dates where ... the languages on there.

So, I’m wondering if maybe there should be like a little asterisk that says “Upon request, we may be able to ... upon request Spanish or whatever other languages may maybe available,” just so that the public is aware that on most of these dates, you can get interpretation on any of these dates, as long as you provide sufficient notice to the Commission. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Kennedy. Oh, what'd you say?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I said like a little cheat sheet.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Or a reminder in case you didn't read the first two pages, right? Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you. And I can imagine how much of a headache it's been to come up with this table. So, I recognize that.

Looking through it, I'm noticing that most regions have at least something of a spread of days of the week, but Zone I, for example, they're all three on Thursday. Zone K, they're all three on Saturday. So, I'm wondering
if there's some scope here to take another crack at it and see if we can mix up the days of the week a little bit more for the zones that have all of these events on the same day of the week. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner Kennedy. And so, in terms of the zones, we can go back to look at that, but that wasn't language access in terms of the date-specific, but can definitely go back to look at that. Because it would be nice to have some of those Saturdays versus Thursdays. So, we can take a look at that.

I think Commissioner Ahmad and I worked on that piece of it, so we can go back and review it. And thank you for bringing that up. That was the same reason we changed the dates based on Commissioner Andersen's feedback that her two dates were only a couple weeks apart. So, we needed to accommodate that as well.

Any other questions? Okay. So, with that, Commissioner Akutagawa, are we just looking for like a thumbs up or Marian, do we need to vote on this?

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, the most you can you do, you vote on it as a tentative schedule, maybe vote on the first few days, first two weeks or something like that so that people can plan on those, but then say the other are proposed.
COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Actually, if I can ask a question, Marian; do we need to have two separate motions? One would be on the recommendations and then the second one would be on the schedule?

MS. JOHNSTON: No, it's all one proposal. You can if you want to, but you don't need to.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I guess my only concern, right now, I do want to get approval just so staff can get started on this, but then also Commissioner Kennedy did bring up a good point if there are some of these zones that have the same date or the same day of the week, we might want to look at that as well.

But we could, at this point, maybe get approval until like maybe July 12th because then you get back to your H and I zones that Commissioner Kennedy was talking about earlier.

MS. JOHNSTON: I don't think you mean July 12th. You want to wait that late?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Well, I would like to get the initial meeting for each zone approved so that we can move forward with that because right now, what we're talking about just specifically is our language access recommendations, as well as the language is associated with certain dates. And I feel that for our outreach and our communications, that might be important to start working
towards that, working towards the first set of meetings because it's going to be very difficult to pivot and shift if we get to the end of June and we haven't talked about or approved the rest of the schedule. Does that make sense, Marian?

MS. JOHNSTON: Sure. So, do it through … I see that's how you came up with July 12th. That'd be fine.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. yeah, I think July 12th, because then we don't have any repeats by then. I've got to grab a pencil real quick.

So, any other questions or further discussion? So, I'll make a motion to approve the recommendations. And also, the schedule up to July 12th, 2021 for Language Access. Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: I was just going to second.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, good, thank you. Director Hernandez, are you … we'll actually have to take public comment also. So, how about as you get that together, we can go to … are there any other questions before we go to public comment?

Okay, Katy. If we can go to public comment, it's for agenda item 9F with Language Access. Again, just a reminder. Comments are limited to two minutes. Thank you, Katy.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. And the public comment
this time is going to be in relation to the motion on the floor.

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 livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247.

When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for this meeting. When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key.

Once you have dialed in, you'll be placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press *9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a message that says “The host would like you to talk” and press *6 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 livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call.

Once you're awaiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the livestream volume.
And again, the Commission is taking public comment on the motion on the floor in regards to Language Access. We do have a caller with their hand up.

And go ahead.

MR. NAWABI: Hello, my name is Fayaz Nawabi and I'm calling on behalf of CAIR LA. I'm calling in particular about the California Supreme Court's decision centered public participation in their extension of the redistricting deadline.

The framework reflects a policy judgment that the public should have the opportunity to be involved throughout the redistricting process.

Proposition 11 amended Article 21 of the constitution to specify that the Commission shall conduct an open and transparent process, enabling full public consideration and of comments on the drawing of district lines.

As a recent assembly analysis explained, the requirement guarantee that the public will have the ability and time to review the maps and respond to the Commission at least six weeks before the August 15th deadline for the final map set by the California constitution.

As explained above, the precedent establishes that a court may form statutory deadlines to effectuate the enactor’s clearly articulated policy judgments when it is
feasible to do so and when the enacting body clearly would have preferred reformation to invalidation.

Adjusting the August 15th deadline by contrast gives effect to the voters’ intent that the Commission play the lead role in drawing new district lines with input from public received in a timely manner. State law provisions setting forth the deadline for the Commission to the released draft maps and approved final maps were designed-

MR. KRISTIAN: 30 seconds.

MR. NAWABI: ... to ensure that the Commission can take the necessary steps to prepare for public redistricting process. Thank you very much.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And thank you. And I would like to remind the callers in the queue, if would like to comment, press *9 to raise your hand indicating you wish to comment. And we do have one caller. And go ahead, the floor is yours.

MS. ALLEN: Hello, good evening, commissioners. My name is Sky Allen, with IE United, a collective impact table serving the Inland Empire. We're a member of the IVE Redistricting Alliance. And we also facilitate a regional table of about two dozen local partners in the region.

As you land on the best deadline for redistricting, I want us all just take a quick step back, consider any social, political, cultural considerations, et
cetera, surrounding the potential redistricting deadline, falling on the holidays.

We've spent over a year distancing and physically isolating ourselves from our families, our friends, our coworkers, our community; things are just now beginning to loosen up and hopefully, as more of us become vaccinated, we will all be able to celebrate the holidays with our loved ones again. And you can imagine many are gathering for holiday vacation this November and December given the collective experience we’ve all had this past year.

I raise this just to give us the opportunity to reflect not just on what amount of time this Commission needs in order to create maps, but what the schedule may or may not ask of the residents. We really appreciate all of your willingness to facilitate so many public input meetings throughout the summer, as these will give our community members ample time to share our COIs. But just as COI input is important, it's not the only process that residents need to be able to engage with.

We need COI time, but we also need time to react to your maps and to draw and advocate for district maps of our own.

MR. KRISTIAN: 30 seconds.

MS. ALLEN: So, we just ask that you allocate as much time as you need to offer yourself sufficient and
reasonable time to do your job and offer us community
members sufficient and reasonable time to chip in and
provide our feedback as well. Thank you so much for your
time. Have a wonderful evening.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Ellen.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was our last caller
with their hand up at this time.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani, I think I
saw your hand up.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Oh yeah. I just wanted
guidance from Marian or Anthony on this. I mean the
purpose of public comment at this point in time was around
the motion on the floor and certainly that's not what we
were getting. Of course, very important information
nonetheless.

I can only envision as we move forward in this
process, as stakes begin to rise more, that this will
continue to happen. Advice on how to handle that; I feel
like early on we were like stopping people midway, but just
something to put out there and if we can have advice on how
to handle that moving forward.

MR. PANÉ: I'm happy to defer to Marian as far as
what the historical practice has been with this Commission.
I can let you know that based on my experience, various
boards and commissions have decided to exercise a few
options. I've seen one option where they allow the caller to use the allotted time and then remind callers in general that the topic needs to remain germane to the motion.

On others, I have also seen where public bodies have ... once it's been clear that the topic is not germane, that they do politely interrupt the caller and just let them know that the discussion really needs to be regarding the motion. And so, there's probably at least two, maybe three different ways to address that.

MS. JOHNSTON: And past practice has just been left up to the Chair. So, if you want to adopt a uniform policy, that would certainly be appropriate or you can continue to leave it up to the Chair.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I think I agree with Commissioner Sadhwani. Right now, it was only a couple of callers, which was fine. And I believe it was actually a little layover from our initial public comment and they just called in a little bit late.

But yes, as we move forward, it's probably something that we should discuss and determine how we want to move forward with that. Thank you very much for that.

Okay. Executive Director?

Actually, unless we want to discuss it now, that's fine too. If we want to discuss in terms of how we want to move forward with public comment. If we want to be
specific to what the ... if it's related to specific motion that all comments should be related to that, or whatever the case may be.

So, I don't want to move it to another meeting if that's not our intention, if we want to resolve it now, that would be fine as well. Okay, so we'll just ...

Commission Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I see no reason not to resolve this now, as we've actually had precedent already is we have, say, “Thank you very much, it must be on this topic.”

Given that we really do want as much public comment possible, and we are specifically allowing as much time in the morning, as much time after lunch, and as much time for the end of the meeting, if we want to take comments indeed like after each particular item, that's a good idea.

But then it should be about that item. And so, in particularly when we're doing a vote. I think it really should indeed be about the motions being discussed.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, how about if we deal with the motion first and then we can discuss this. Okay?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the motion on the floor is to approve the interpretation recommendation that's posted on the website 5/18/21. From the Language Access
Subcommittee and the schedule up to July 12th, 2021. Is that correct?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Alright. And the motion was made by Commissioner Fernandez, seconded by Commissioner Toledo at 4:48 PM. I got it right this time. So, we will begin here.

Commissioner Fornaciari?

COMMISSIONER FORNICIARI: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Le Mons?

Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez?

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Yee?
COMMISSIONER YEE: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Ahmad?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: And Commissioner Fernandez?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MR. HERNANDEZ: The motion passes.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Before we go to the topic that just came up regarding public comments, I wanted to ask Commissioner Ahmad and Fornaciari, if there was anything else that was held over from Friday's meeting regarding the public input design recommendations that you had made, or are we good?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: There is something. We can either discuss it today or we can discuss it next meeting.

The first COI input meeting is scheduled for June 10th. The date to post that agenda two weeks prior falls on May 27th. So, that means that the Commission would have to come to an agreement on what that agenda looks like prior to the 27th.

And the only time that we are meeting as a full group for that approval is today, or next Monday, May 24th,
or next Tuesday, May 25th. So, I don't know if we want to
get into that today or if we want to discuss that next
week, but it has to be approved if we want to go that route
of formal approval by the 25th, just wanted to throw that
out there.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I'm sorry, for the 25th or
27th?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you have a question
Commission Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: I did, I'm sorry. For the
25th or the 27th?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: So, it has to be posted by
the 27th. However, we won't be meeting as a full
Commission on the 27th. The last day that we’ll be meeting
as a full Commission is the 25th.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER AHMED: I can recommend-

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: There we go. Why don't you
recommend-

COMMISSIONER AHMED: I can recommend that we all
take a look at the draft agenda that has been posted ahead
of next week's meeting so that we can come to next week's
meeting with a discussion ready in our mind of what we like
about it, what we want to change so that we can make those
adjustments and approve that at next week's meeting and
have it ready to be posted prior to our 14-day requirement for June 10th.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Why don't we all do that? Take a look at the draft agenda or the agenda that's posted and then come back with feedback.

And then also, so Commissioner Ahmed and Fornaciari, in terms of the recommendations that you made on Friday regarding each presenter would have three minutes, six hours will be the first meeting, and then we'll have an appointment system. So, that's taken care of for our first meeting, correct?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: I got a sense of some consensus on that just for June 10th. But if I am wrong, please correct me and we can open up that discussion again. And Chair, I also see Marian’s hand up.

MS. JOHNSTON: I would just suggest you postpone the discussion on your policy for public comments until you put it on the agenda. And maybe you should go to the policy committee first to come up with a recommendation.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Oh, Marian, you're killing me. You know, what's funny, Marian, is Commissioner Fornaciari probably wanted that. So, now, you're giving it-

MS. JOHNSTON: But in any event, I think it needs to be on the agenda so that the public has a chance to weigh in.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Marian, this is for the public comment, correct?

MS. JOHNSTON: If you're going to this for policy for public-

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Alright. So, Commissioner Fornaciari and I will come up with a draft policy and we'll have something for our meeting next week, next Monday and Tuesday. Thank you, Marian. I can't thank you enough. It's good. It's all good. So, with that, we're going to keep moving. Oops. Director Kaplan?

MS. KAPLAN: Thank you. And just, you voted on the meeting dates through July 12th. Can you clarify when the Commission then hopes to confirm the following COI dates? I know that you had a tentative thumbs up and now some may switch days. Do you anticipate at next week's meeting?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm thinking Commissioner Ahmed and I can get together before then to discuss whether we'll move some ... are we good for that? Yeah. So, hopefully, by next week, we'll have something Monday, Tuesday -- Commissioner Turner?

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Thank you, Chair. I know we've not yet had conversation about the exact time and we don't have to do that now. But are you waiting on suggestions from the different groups or how are we going
to go about setting times for these meetings?

   CHAIR FERNANDEZ: For the public input? I believe the first meeting we had a time for that. Didn’t we, Commissioner Ahmed?

   COMMISSIONER TURNER: Right. But we're approving now meetings all the way through July and then-

   CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. Okay, we'll come back next week with recommendations on that as well. How's that?

   COMMISSIONER TURNER: Sounds good.

   CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm sorry, I have to catch up and put my to-do list right now. Okay. Any other questions before we move on?

   Seeing none, we will move on to agenda item 9I. I'm not sure if we need it, but Data Management, is there anything that we need to report out for that?

   Okay. I'm seeing no action. So, no action.

   Okay.

   9J, do we have anything for grants in terms ... I know you were waiting from the Department of General Services on the RFP language. Any updates?

   COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Hold on, sorry. I'm trying to get all my stuff together. Okay. So, here's our report.

   So, we have heard from Department of General Services.
Services, Office of Legal Services, and they've completed the initial review of our outreach RFP. And based on their review, there are two major edits that are going to require additional revision to the RFP before we could even put them out.

So, anyways, I probably don't want to get into the weeds on it right now. I think I'll just keep it simple. But we do have to make some additional revisions. I will say that there is going to be a major impact to the timeline of when we can actually post the RFP. Our initial hope was that we will have been able to have posted it yesterday, however we're behind.

And now, we're looking at the earliest posting date is going to be possibly June the 4th, we would be bringing it to the full Commission for approval of the RFP at the June 2nd meeting. So, we're looking at roughly about a two-week, an additional two-week delay.

Given that, we are looking at with all of the minimal required timelines that we have to meet in terms of once we post it, the earliest that we would even look at possibly awarding any of the contracts through the RFPs, is going to be early July, specifically, July 8th. And so, work would not be able to begin until after the contract is awarded and everything is all sewn up with OLS.

And so, I just want to say this out loud to
everybody in terms of the time timeline. If we're looking at early July at the earliest, when a contract could be awarded, work then cannot start until after July 8th.

So, we're looking at possibly, any organization, any bidder that successfully wins one of the contracts, the earliest that ... I mean, depending on how they're situated, I mean, they could start right away.

But we probably realistically are looking at sometime in mid-July before even the earliest someone could start actually doing any work possibly. And I'll defer to Alvaro on this as to whether or not my assessment of the earliest timeframe.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, you are correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I'll just ask a question; so, you submitted some draft language to DGS, right? Office of Legal Services?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Correct.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And so, you don't want to share that language with us until they're okay with the language? I'm just trying to see if there's a way for us to expedite our review; if we can review it kind of like at the same time. I mean, I wouldn't see us having substantial changes, but I also don't want to hold this up any longer than we need to.

Like if you share it with us, we review it, we
provide comments by next week, and then you have
everything. And that way, when it comes back from DGS,
potentially it may not have to come back to the Commission,
it can just go out. So, I'm just trying to see if we can
streamline the review process.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: The current state of the
RFP is going to require some pretty major changes, and it's
going to take the staff some time to rewrite portions of
the RFP so that it's in compliance with what OLS has
indicated needs to be changed.

I think Alvaro, I think that could take up until
that time, I guess, maybe I see May 31st is probably a
realistic timeframe. But please, if you could confirm?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think that would be
realistic for us to get that language changed.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: So, even if we showed you
what we have, it's all going to change. And so, I mean,
your looking at it at this point, wouldn't really be
conducive to speeding it up because it's going to change
anyways from a contract language point of view.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. I was thinking more of
once the admin team had made the changes at that point,
like once those changes were made.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I'll defer to you,
Alvaro, first, and then I know that some others have
questions.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, we're going to take the guidance that was provided by OLS on what the contract needs to have in it. The way we had drafted it up didn't really work for them. So, in order to meet the guidelines, they've made some recommendations. We are going to go through the contract, make those adjustments.

The timeframe for that, we're hoping to get it done early next week to end of the week realistically. And then share it with the Commission as soon as possible.

We're not going to have to go back to OLS for them to review because they pretty much have provided the guidance that they were going to provide. At that point, they'll have opportunity to do one last final check, and then we move forward with posting it. So, that's kind of where we are right now.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. I see Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I think, I guess my question goes back to the step of work that we talked about last week and how we ensure impartiality given that we will be selecting grants or potential contractors to be doing work, potentially advocating ... essentially, mobilizing individuals to advocate to us.

And at this point, it looks like we'd be the one
selecting the vendors or the contractors. So, that does pose some conflict-of-interest issues and some impartiality issues.

And just at this point, it'd be great to get the scope of work, aspect of the contract -- maybe not the whole contract, but the scope of work so that we can think through these and see how we minimize our potential risk when it comes to conflict of interest and impartiality, as those are potentially issues that that could be used to challenge our map drawing and out final maps. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Sadhwani and then Commissioner Kennedy.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Thank you. I very much agree with Commissioner Toledo. From the get-go, when we initially began these conversations several months ago, I was very concerned at the notion at that point in time of re-granting ourselves and very much advocated for this Commission to look for an external organization to do that work.

I understand that that's not possible and that this is our option forward, but I'm really cautious to not have seen anything thus far. I mean, all of the other RFPs and RFIs that this Commission has put forth, began with a Commission-wide discussion around the scope of work. Certainly, led by the subcommittees, but at the direction
of the Commission. So, I would really ask for that.

Particularly, I'm interested to know what are the deliverables that we would anticipate for the contractors. And given the timeline that it looks like we're setting forth, would they even have the time to deliver those deliverables? Like what would that actually look like?

I completely agree with the concerns Commissioner Toledo raised regarding impartiality and what the process would look like for us to select organizations to receive these grants.

I can imagine that there are a lot of organizations around the state, as we know, from all of our redistricting basics 101s who would be interested in potentially receiving these. And I'm very cautious about how that would play out in terms of impartiality.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. I’ll have Commissioner Kennedy and then Commissioner Sinay.

COMMISSIONER KENNEDY: Thank you, Chair. I'm wondering, I mean, what we ideally need to do is find a way to have these awards made at arm’s length, or have some arm’s length element included in this process.

And I'm wondering if, for example, we could find a state agency that is not this Commission that we could engage to review and make recommendations so that the recommendations, yes, we make the final decision, but we
have some outside input that helps us insert at least some arm’s length element into this process to give it greater credibility. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I'm not sure if this the right time or place. We have moved forward on speaking with the public libraries and seeing what they can do especially in the rural areas. And we've spoken to several of the rural libraries and I'm not sure how to get what we've learned to the Grants Committee to consider if there's a possibility to support that type of effort. It is a state agency, so the local libraries in speaking with them -- I spoke to four or five of them, said they could do a lot of hearing ... what did we call them, Neal?

COMMISSIONER FORNICIARI: Viewing parties.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yes, COI viewing parties. Also, getting the paper, the tool out; some of them are actually hand-delivering books and tools because they're not open. Others are open. Some to do viewing parties, they're saying, hey, we just need food and cover some of the costs of staffing because some aren't open on Saturdays anymore, budgets are really tight.

But really what we were hearing is for 3 to $5,000, they could support us and training. They would like some training on community mapping and community
discussions. And they would have PSAs.

It was a pretty robust conversation. They were willing to do a lot for little and especially, they really understood the rural component of it. So, I'm not sure how to move forward with that because that might be something that we can roll out pretty quickly.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. So, I would just think that that could be part of an outreach recommendation that comes out of the Outreach Committee, that then as potential state ... I mean, these are state agencies as like community colleges, libraries, whatever -- they're government entities potentially that we could partner with, maybe through some kind of intergovernmental agreement or whatnot. It doesn't have to go through the book.

The contracting process, I think this contracting process is really for like nonprofits and other nongovernmental agency. If I'm remembering correctly, as opposed to governmental contract, where they're already part of the state or government system, is what I would think.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right. And the same could be with ... Commissioner Vazquez and I when we had the education panel, we talked about the possibility of partnering with the schools, because they're in session now, they'll have
summer school, they'll have education with the students and families. So, that's another statewide.

And I think that might be a future topic item because I was thinking about that this weekend; we're gathering all this information from statewide agencies, so how are we going to engage and move forward with the statewide aspect of it, which is separate from this RFP component. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: I don't see it as separate because it's the outreach. I mean, that's the only budget we have. So, that's why I was bringing it up now because I don't see it necessarily as separate.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I mean, it's separate in terms of the RFPs for external agencies that are not government-related. But yes, you're correct, it is the same bucket as I like to say in terms of the fence. Yes, of course.

Any other questions? Comments? Oh, Director Ceja?

MR. Ceja: Yes. Thank you. So, as we're thinking about this, I think it's important like Commissioner Kennedy mentioned if the Commission wants to remain an arm's length distance from this process, we're certainly creating the process through this RFP. We could seek the support of the census because they've already dealt with some of these organizations, and the auditor's office because they're far removed from any politics.
And they were involved with the recruitment of the commissioners. And then at the end, just approve the process, make sure everything was followed with regards to the process that we laid out and approve the applications or the selection process at the end, so that you're not involved with the selection process itself.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commission Sinay and then Commissioner Vazquez.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Director Ceja, I think the census is closing next month their offices. So, I mean, we could look into that, but I think that that's what they ... actually, Marcy probably knows.

And then the other thing is, as you spoke Commissioner Ceja, we've had a lot of requests and a lot of input from everybody who presents about how important it is to do radio and how important it is to do paid media.

And do we have a budget for that? And I just want to make sure that if we're looking, it's not going to be till ... having done grants, I don't see how it's going to be done by early July, I'm sorry. Especially when government's even more bureaucratic than any foundation I worked at. So, we're really looking at almost being halfway through to the end of our COI bullets, COI Input time.

So, any thoughts Director Ceja on that? What
budget do we have? What plans do we have to really do a big PR?

MR. CEJA: So, if I can respond, we do have a healthy budget to do ads. We can certainly use some of it for this granting opportunity. We're actually putting together a funding plan right now for the use of those funds. I think total is 200,000 and definitely radio is a top priority for some of those hard-to-reach communities. And knowing that a few members on this Commission were actually recruited through the air waves.

So, yeah, that is on our radar. And we'll have something to you very shortly.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Vazquez and Commissioner Toledo.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Yeah, two points; the first being, I do think Commissioner Sinay’s point is important to lift up in terms of, as we're developing a scope of work for these grants that will be going out later, I would encourage the Grants Committee to think about being explicit about how much of the outreach budget is going towards this grant process.

And given things have shifted so much, I would encourage them to consider -- and I'd like to hear what their ultimate recommendation would be around partnering with state agencies to get some of this money out the door
quicker including through the libraries and Department of Ed for the school's component.

And then the second point, in speaking of schools, I also really liked Commissioner Kennedy's idea of getting a state agency to do some of this for arm's length. That being said, that will probably add more time to getting this out the door.

And my other concern about having another state agency do the administration of the grants, is I'm not particularly sure which agency -- I personally, would feel better if that agency had direct connections to community orgs.

If not statewide, at least sort of in their physical geographic location, just so there's a special sauce for community work. And I would like the people who are evaluating these grants be pretty familiar with that special sauce.

So, the one that comes to mind honestly, is maybe a university or a community college or the Community Colleges Association just because those folks are again, closer to the ground.

So, they wouldn't just be sub-granting to folks who work with the community college. But again, they are a bit closer to the ground, so to speak, than some of our other agency partners, including us.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I also want to

lift up what Commissioner Sinay mentioned earlier about
time limit. When foundations, I know locally, when our
foundations try to plan a granting program, it takes them
over a year longer in some instances to put their plans
together. And these are agencies that have significant
expertise in granting.

And certainly, I've been so impressed by our
Commission and our staff’s ability to make the impossible
possible, including the website that just magically
appeared. And I mean, I'm sure it didn't just magically
appear, but people worked really hard on it. But that
appeared really fast. Thank you, Director Ceja.

But I do think potentially, we may want to look at
a plan B in case we need to pivot and like Commissioner
Vazquez said, potentially with nonpartisan state agencies
that are prohibited from lobbying and that kind of thing,
like the libraries. I believe Commissioner Kennedy has
previously talked about community colleges, and the schools
potentially and where we'd be contracting for ... and Rahul
talked about the details of potential types of contracts
that we could do with agencies to help with outreach or to
help with the specific tasks that we may want to lean into.

So, maybe taking a look at that a little bit
closer as a plan B in case we're not able to get our grant program up and running and implemented in a timely manner. I think I would hate not to use our outreach dollars to the fullest, and given that we have such a constrained timeline and if we can use it for marketing or for other types of work, that’d be ... we should at least have a plan B that we can implement in case that should happen.

I mean, just like most of us, I think we all want to be able to support community groups especially the smaller ones in our community to be able to participate and to help their communities uplift and outreach and engage community members.

But it may not be possible given the government process and bureaucracy that we're having to work through. And as a state agency, that's what we have to do. And we're working through it, I think as efficiently and effectively as we can with our very able staff. But we may need to consider at least, or develop a plan B just in case. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: We’re right at break time. So, we're going to go to break, but just before we go on break, I just want to make sure our Lessons Learned Subcommittee is listening to this piece so that at the end of it, it's great to give us outreach funds, but it's very difficult to grant. So, maybe for the 2030, they'll have a better
solution.

But I'm going to go to break and I believe I saw Commissioner Yee, so we'll start with you when we come back. So, please come back at 5 45. Thank you.

Thank you, and welcome back everyone. We are continuing our discussion on agenda item 9J related to grants, and we have Commissioner Yee was next. Just one second. I want to make sure Commissioner Akutagawa is back since she is … there she is. Perfect timing. Okay.

COMMISSIONER YEE: Thank you, Chair. Actually, you read my mind. I wanted to also note for the Lessons Learned Subcommittee at the moment.

And I'm wondering if the Grant Subcommittee actually might even give us a quick thumbnail of kind of what they would've done differently, going back. Have we found out that this really is just a dead end? What would you have done differently if that's something you could summarize quickly for us, or if we're not there yet, that's fine too.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Other than not sign up to be on a subcommittee.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Well, I think going forward, unless there is going to be statutory changes to the law in which the Commission is formed and enabled to do certain things, the 2030 Commission I think, will know
going in that they cannot follow what we did and try to do a grants program. I could tell you that. That ate up a lot of our time because we thought we were going the right way.

Unfortunately, once we got the ruling that we did not have the statutory authority to issue grants, we had to pivot and then rewrite what was supposed to be, we thought an RFA for a grants program. We had to pivot and rewrite it to be an RFP. And for those of you who have done the work on the RFP, the RFA and the RFI, you can imagine then what that meant, and the specificity of the things that needed to change took a lot of time.

Chair Fernandez, I could stop there. There are some additional -- I think Director Hernandez and I were just touching base real quick about what we would be able to share. And so, I have some additional details I'd like to share, but first, I'd like to see if any of the other commissioners have other questions or comments first before I share anything else.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I think it's good to move forward, Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Okay. So, I think maybe this will hopefully help answer some of the questions that have come up. So, as I said, I mean, you can imagine the RFP challenge that we are undergoing right now. And so,
what we were told is that there are two very specific edits that we have to make to the current RFP.

So, for anybody who's done that, as I said, the RFP requires some very specific kinds of ways in which it's written. So, one -- and this is a really important one. The RFP must be open to all qualified bidders. That means that we cannot limit it to just CBOs.

So, anybody who is qualified to do the work, it must be open to all. Additionally, in terms of a qualified bidder, we cannot give additional points to CBOs for consideration in the scoring.

It must be all even for everybody that submits a proposal against this RFP. The other big change that we have to make is originally … so, let me just back up and just say, to the question about the scope of work; the scope of work has not changed from when the original conversations started about the grants.

So, I just want to just reiterate what is the RFP, the contract would be to A, educate Californians about the redistricting process and B, activate Californians to provide public input to the Commission on their communities of interests and or provide input on maps.

Now, that part has not changed. So, that scope of work hasn't changed. What has had to be different is the ways in which the activities get noted so that it fits
within the RFP process.

So, the other thing that I want to just note for everybody, is one of the things is that progress payments must be based on the work that is completed. It cannot be based on a description of what they say they're going to do. So, that's also going to change things a lot.

So, it does shift how funding is going to be dispersed in the contract itself. So, essentially, what this is going to do is probably going to change who may be willing to apply or submit a proposal for this particular contract, because essentially, the entity who is going to be awarded one of the contracts and we were suggesting that we would break the contract up into I think, it was six zones is what we were looking at. But whoever does it, that we can only pay them once the work is completed and performed.

And so, that means that any organization would have to float us in terms of the work. They don't get paid ahead of the work, they get paid after the work. So, that's also going to ... yeah, so those of you, if you're in the nonprofit sector, you know what this means. It can make things a little bit more complicated.

The bidder for the RFP will also have to submit a detailed timeline with proposed monthly activities and costs that will be associated with those activities. So,
there's a lot more detailed work that will have to be done. And then as they finish that work, then they may submit invoices for the work that they complete on a monthly basis.

But again, if they subcontract any of that work, the staff has to just make sure that they do their due diligence on any work that is contracted out including just submitting any kind of the details, reports on the work that would be done.

So, again, this is going to take some time for the staff to rewrite everything. And so, again, it's really the details of these particular areas that have to be rewritten. And so, it is going to complicate things.

Alvaro and I did speak about some kind of interagency agreement that has been brought up by several of the commissioners. He did say that there will still need to be the statement of work that is currently being worked on in terms of the RFP.

Alvaro, I think I'm going to turn to you to maybe explain a little bit further about the interagency agreements and everything else that we talked about.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Sure. So, the interagency agreements still have to have the scope of work. So, what we're working on, what we have been working on for a couple months now, is what would be included in that interagency
agreement.

I do need to do some follow up and see all it entails. We don't have to go through the contracting process. So, I'm assuming that it won't be as lengthy a process, but I don't know what is required of that process. And then identifying who the agencies might be that we would want to reach out to to see if they're willing and interested in this process.

So, it is going to take a little bit more work. We had initially looked into the interagency agreement and it didn't speed up the process. So, we kind of left it but now, with some of this additional questions and interest, we'll look at it again and see if it's going to be feasible.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: If I can also just mention one more thing. We did talk about this in this kind of, in the vein of trying to maintain as much impartiality as we can.

I was reminded that as much as we can in all of the RFPs, in all of the contracting that we've done, we've tried to maintain as much impartiality in the selection of all of the contractors that we have engaged. And in that same way, I believe that we would do our best to do the same thing as we did with the line drawers and with the councils that we have also engaged.
And so, I guess I'll just stop there. I saw Commissioner of Vazquez put her hand up.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we have Commissioner Vazquez and Commissioner Toledo, and Commissioner Sinay and Commissioner-

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Just for honestly my benefit, but also maybe for some of the public; can someone just give like a quick two sentence summary of why we chose this route of granting ourselves versus … like what prohibited us from saying, granting out to like a community foundation for them to do this work? What was the decision point?

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: We don't have the statutory authority to grant the funds.

COMMISSIONER VAZQUEZ: Got it. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: And it took a while to find that out. That's what delayed us.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Toledo?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Thank you. I just wanted to ... in terms of just thinking through this process, I do think it's different to grant money for the purposes of advocating and outreaching, and engaging the public to advocate towards the Commission. Although, I do think there may be a way to correct it as Commissioner Kennedy, or to maybe correct it from our work – but to develop
systems to ensure that we minimize our risk around this. Like having others be the ones that select the vendors and such, and narrowing down our scope of work to ensure that it's nonpartisan and groups doing the outreach and that sort of thing.

But the other thing I wanted to bring up is I remember when we first started, Rahul said that there was a possibility of doing some contracting for, I think it's smaller amounts. I think he set up 5,000, $10,000, and Commissioner Fernandez would probably know those better than I and Commissioner Fornaciari. But I think they're called like personalized contracts or something like that, or personal contracts. What is it? Sorry.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Personal services contracts under 10,000.

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: Oh, personal services contracts under $10,000. We might be able to ... worse scenario or worst-case scenario, we might be able to focus on those areas, harder-to-reach areas like in the rural areas or other places, and do personalized services contracts with libraries. I believe Commissioner Sinay said these are smaller contracts. Schools would probably be smaller contracts.

If we can't do the intergovernmental agency agreements, or if it appears that we may have some
challenges with that. But there might be some route to really tailorize agreements with community-based organizations following this or other agencies following this process.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes, I was actually thinking of that Commissioner Toledo, so I'm glad you brought that up. I have Commissioner Sinay and then Commissioner Turner.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Commissioner Turner, you were up before me, if you want to go.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Sure. A few different things. Thank you. Thank you. This has been a painful discussion from the beginning, trying to determine what the right thing is to do.

I want to ask though and make note if, hopefully we can come back to -- I do want to understand the decision or understanding that we came to that said CBOs cannot receive additional points for scoring.

And of course, I would understand them not receiving additional points just for the sake of getting additional points. But the point is typically in scoring the points are there, where there is greater expertise. And I absolutely believe CBOs would have would have ability to show and reflect their expertise in being able to reach communities to the level of degree that we want. So, I'm questioning about why CBOs would not be able to get
additional points based on who they are and what their track record is. So, that's one piece.

The other, of course, we do know that it's always problematic on any sort of government funding when money has to follow the work, as opposed to money that's extended upfront, it greatly limits who can participate. And I think it further exacerbates the issues that we have in allowing new groups to engage to be involved just because funding again, gets to be an issue.

So, I think this is a cyclical issue that we continue to see where we are offering people the opportunity to engage in a particular service provision or what have you, but not quite because you've not been in it long enough to be able to compete at the same levels. And so, I just want to name that I think this is again, a problem with our system.

And then, I'm grateful for whatever the libraries and the smaller grants that we're talking about, the personal that they can do. But I've said way earlier in the process as well, you also get what you pay for, in that -- and no slight to libraries, but typically, the services that they provide are either flyers that are left out. And I heard in this case, we are grateful that we have people that are actually going to receive some level of training and is going to engage with some level of people that
happen upon a library that show up.

But it will not be the deep in the trenches kind of training that typically happens through people that are engaged day in and day out to communicate with the community and to train and to go door to door, if need be, or host sessions and come back part one part, two that's needed.

And so again, I think that we are based on limitations, providing a smaller amount of money, and I'm hoping for the Lessons Learned that over 2011, 2021, 2031, et cetera, at some point, we start to track the difference that it made when we did kind of as scatter spray, small amount of grants out to a lot of people, as opposed to people their very existence is for them to reach and communicate and educate the community. And I think we'll find a difference with that.

The last point I wanted to make was I don't like any of it, unfortunate how we do have to work, we're not necessarily governed the same way, but we are governed the same way in a lot. So, that is what it is.

But and then in having to deal with that, wanting to suggest that next time, I wonder if we could look at shifting part of those outreach funds to the Census Bureau because they certainly have opportunity and a way that they can give money out to organizations to be able to do the
work.

And perhaps, there can be earmarked money of their education that is specifically to educate around redistricting and how to analyze numbers and how to look at maps, and how to submit community maps.

And so, maybe that outreach money doesn't belong at all with this body, that it can be carved out and given through the Census Bureau, where that can get money into the hands of the people that I think will make a difference. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Turner. Commissioner Sinay?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Before I start, I'm going to let Commissioner Fornaciari say what's on his mind. Commissioner Fornaciari absolutely agrees with you Commissioner Turner about the Census Bureau.

So, I wanted say a few things. I agree that what the government is asking us to do right now -- the system is too burdensome for small organizations and it’s sad. I think Commissioner Turner said it first. It's just sad that we're here. And I'm a bit angry too, because it's going to work against a lot of what we were hoping to ask organizations to do work first and pay it later, especially after a year of COVID where so many have had challenges fundraising, it just makes us sound tone-deaf. And I know
it's not us, but we are a part of the system.

    I do want to give some positive light, and I think
I shared this week more and more foundations are getting
involved in the redistricting and granting out to different
organizations. And so, there is more philanthropic dollars
out there for this redistricting than there was in 2010.
So, there is more interest, more engagement.

    I know Commissioner Turner is going to be speaking
with the California Association of Nonprofits, as well as
Philanthropy California Webinar, which includes all the
different grant making entities.

    So, I just want to put it out there that we don't
have to feel completely frustrated. But unfortunately, I'm
not seeing it going to the grassroots level. It's still
going to the large nonprofits. And so, I am concerned
about that piece.

    I wanted to just say for the libraries, it wasn't
to do the outreach that we were hoping others would do. It
was really about building equity in those areas that had
challenges with broadband access and challenges of
traveling long distances to get to, if we ever had meetings
in person or whatnot. But just allowing to help build
community in a way using the broadband. So, it’s kind of
comparing apples to oranges; the CBO grants with the
library grants.
And finally, I know that you've said that the scope of work hasn't changed. But I'm sorry, I don't know when the scope of work was shared with us. And so, I was just curious where we could find that because I know we've thrown out different ideas on what could be in that scope of work, what type of projects we would fund and stuff like that. But I don't remember ever seeing it. But it's late, and so I apologize. So, if someone can tell me where I can find that, that'd be great.

Thanks. Commissioner Akutagawa and Commissioner Le Mons, this has been a painful process for you all, and thank you for navigating it and sharing what you can. Thank you, Director Kaplan, and Alvaro for being part of this. It's been painful but thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Akutagawa, did you want to respond to any of that?

It is a lot and I'm just sitting here wondering how can the census do it and we're not able to do it. I mean, that's very frustrating.

But also, Commissioner Akutagawa, is there anything or any way that we can help to try to expedite this revision to the language or ... just trying to see what we can do to try to salvage something.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: I guess, I will just say that in speaking with Director Hernandez, I mean, there is
a little bit of a hopeful note and I'll have him chime in on this too. But in speaking with him, he feels that he and Director Kaplan are very close to having what we need to at least try to get something going.

And once it became clear that we had to do the RFP, I mean, it was very clear to me that it was going to unfortunately, not have quite the effect that I think both Commissioner Le Mons and I both shared when we first started this. And we knew this, unfortunately, when we started talking about the RFP, and it was very much articulated by Commissioner Turner and Sinay and Vazquez, about the impacts to certain size CBOs.

With that said, I think Director Hernandez is hopeful that we can get this going. He believes that we're not quite yet there at the place where we're not going to be able to do it, but I do want to say that we will be taking into account everything that you've said to come up with a plan B, C and D probably, so that we can have this ... and Commissioner Sinay, I'll have to look for what was shared.

I think that there was a document that was shared, I think it was in the March timeframe, I believe. And I just have to go back and look for it. But Director Hernandez, if you would please chime in on anything that you might want to share to supplement what I just said.
MR. HERNANDEZ: So, I just wanted to say it's a square peg in a round hole. We don't fit the mold in what we're trying to do and trying to accomplish. Unfortunately, we found out about the statutory authority and we were really hopeful that that would work the way that we had planned it out, where we have an intermediary and they would award that keeps our distancing, but we just couldn't do that.

Now, we're back to this RFP process and we're trying to fit within that process as well, to do what we would like to do, is to get the money out to the CBOs or to these vendors that can perform some of these activities that we would like for them to perform on our behalf, to get the communities involved, to get activation.

We have taken into consideration all the deliverables that have been identified by a variety of the different commissioners. Also, considering what we could do in the RFP process is where we are today. And so, we can't change the fact that this is where we are today.

But I do agree with Commissioner Akutagawa that we will look at plan B, C, D, E, N, F, or wherever we end up landing to try to get this out there so that we can activate Californians. And that's really our goal; to activate Californians, to participate in the process and provide the public input and provide the input on the maps.
That is the end game, I would call it. So, that that's all. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: I had Director Kaplan and then Commissioner Sadhwani.

MS. KAPLAN: Thank you. Just to add to one of the comments that Commissioner Turner raised in terms of additional factors and review, not as necessarily being able to provide additional scoring because there's a CBO.

But there are other elements within the review, including community standing, coordination with partners, other elements that demonstrating trusted partnerships with community -- there are other elements as a part of the review that would be factored in to that regard as well.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Commissioner Sadhwani?

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yeah, I really appreciate this conversation as challenging as it has been. And I just appreciate everyone's work on this topic.

I'm not leaving this conversation feeling terribly hopeful that this contracting process is going to move forward in a timely way that we can actually manage. And with that, I think from the get-go that had been our hope. My understanding was this idea came from the 2010 commission, is that correct? And the legislature approved it.
If we can't move forward with granting or contracting with organizations, I would invite all of us as commissioners, but also all of the organizations that are so invested in this process to please, be thought partners with us on other ways that we can use these funds and be thinking about how to use these funds to enhance community outreach.

What I don't want is like we leave here and then end up getting blasted for not doing a community granting program. Well, there's all of these stumbling blocks put before the Commission in terms of actually moving that forward.

So, if we are starting to think about plan Bs, send us your thoughts so that we have some ideas about how to move forward with this process, because it is a lot of money in it. The whole purpose was to use that money to reach as many Californians as possible.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Commissioner Akutagawa.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah. And thank you Commission Sadhwani for saying that. I'm glad that you said that because it would be nice to have the crowdsourcing of all of our ideas even though the Grant Subcommittee is going to go back obviously, and work on this.

I guess, a couple things that I wanted to say, and
then one that has just completely floated out of my mind, so I do apologize. It was kind of based on what you were also saying. Actually, okay, I just remembered it.

So, one, if anything, the Personal Services Contracts would not alleviate some of those kinds of concerns that were brought up.

But there are a couple things that I do say just going forward and I thought this is where Commissioner Sadhwani, you were going to go. Commissioner Yee, in terms of Lessons Learned, this may be a lesson learned or this may be for all of us as a Commission.

Given the very, very painful experience that we're undergoing right now, one of the things that I would like to also just maybe just kind of plant the seed, but this isn't something that we have to address right now.

But I would like to just suggest that finishing up the maps, that we then come back to this issue of not having the statutory authority to do these grants that we do come back and to revisit what does it mean to be able to ensure that the 2030 Commission would have this opportunity and the statutory authority so that they could do it in the way that we would like to see it be done?

We had very, very grand plans of being able to ensure that the money, the funds, the grants would get to the furthest reaches of California with the smallest
organizations who know the community super, super well.
And also, being able to have an intermediary to help us
ensure our impartiality.

So, I just want to just put that out there, that
we don't have to talk about this now, but this is a future
conversation that I think what do we need to do to be able
to do that? I do just want to put that out there for us to
think about.

Again, I do want to also have the hope that we
will be able to do what we want to do. It's not going to
be perfect, but we'll hopefully be able to do that and
absent that, then through the ideas of this Commission and
anybody who is listening, if you have ideas, you will be
hopefully, contributing to our plans, B, C, D, E, N, F, and
so on and so forth, so that we can try to make the best use
of these funds to essentially, get to all California so
that we can really engage the people of California.

So, thank you for this conversation. I know it
was painful. It was painful for me too, but I appreciate
everything that everybody said, and I took lots of notes
and I will be sharing this with Commissioner Le Mons along
with Director Hernandez and Director Kaplan.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. And so, do you feel
you have like the resources you need to be able to come
back with options B through F or whatever it is? Do you
need any help? I mean, are you good to go? I'm just offering any type of assistance that you potentially may need. Maybe we can branch it off that some look at a certain area.

I'm just trying to, trying to help out so it's not all on your shoulders, because it’s turning out to be much bigger than we initially thought. Commissioner Sinay did have her hand up and I'm thinking she's probably thinking the same thing.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Yeah, I was just going to say you want to identify what those options are and delegate some to the Outreach Subcommittee, please feel free. Or if you want the other way around where you want us to do some of our own brainstorming and come back to you with ideas, let us know and we'll do it through staff. So, it's not serial meetings.

COMMISSIONER AKUTAGAWA: Yeah, I think for me, at the very least for right now, I'd like to just get back together with the staff and Commission Le Mons and just figure out what is the best next steps and how Commission Le Mons and both Director Hernandez and Director Kaplan would like to move forward on this.

And then I think once we have a better sense of what's the best next steps, then we'll send out a communication to everybody. But as Director Hernandez
says, he feels like they are very, very close and then we'll hopefully be able to get something out to the entire Commission and for the public to also review before our next meeting.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you for that. It's never fun having to deliver not so great news. Been there many times, but thank you so much for your diligence and continuing to look into this challenge.

Any other questions before we move on?

Okay. The only other item I have for open … oh no, not the only other item; is agenda item number 10, is a Legal Affairs Committee update. I wasn't sure if you had anything you wanted to report out? And I do see Commissioner Andersen.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Yeah, just before we go on, I did want to uplift … it's sort of a bleak note. We're going, “Oh, we can't, we can't, we can't.” But for anyone who's listening, this is one portion of what we are doing in outreach. We have done a massive … our whole educational program did not exist in 2010. We've done a great, great deal of different types of outreach here.

This is one idea, which again, the actual Commission didn't … this was last in 2010. These grants were done through another philanthropic group which is wonderful and great. But our whole idea of allowing the
public time to give our communities of interest to us right now is also unprecedented.

So, there's a great, great deal of public communication and input that exists now and way ahead of the census data. We keep on hearing, oh, there's no public input -- that's not correct. There's lots of time for public input. And the communities of interest are absolutely crucial because they're a building block for the maps and the bare data from the communities directly, each individual community, I cannot stress how important that is.

Just like each city, we have its map. We know where it is. Every individual group, please, give us your community. Don't wait to work through a partner or someone; “Oh, we can't grant, oh, we can't contact the Commission.” No, you can do that now. You can draw your community. You can send us an email. You can call in. You can go to one of these input sessions. These are community of interests input sessions.

And all this is valuable information, crucial information now. The idea that we can get additional people to help us shake those bushes is what we're talking about here. It isn't we're throwing our hands up. We're sad that we can't do that additional shaking because we know how valuable that would be, but it doesn't mean that
we haven't done and therefore, we can't do our work.

We're doing this very successfully. We're just thinking of other ways to do it even better. So, I appreciate all the work this committee's really been doing and this whole conversation. Thank you very much.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commissioner Andersen. So, we're going on to agenda item 10, it's Legal Affairs Committee update. If there's anything that needs to be reported out; Commission Sadhwani, Toledo and Yee.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Nothing in particular. We met earlier today and welcomed our new Chief Counsel and provided some background information on many of the legal questions that we've been looking at thus far as well as talking a little bit about the structure that we are operating under and how we've kind of arrived at that with the different various subcommittees. Commissioner Toledo or Commissioner Yee, anything else to update?

COMMISSIONER TOLEDO: We are hopeful that we'll be able to bring our litigation counsel recommendation to the whole Commission hopefully at the beginning of June. I think we're looking at June 2nd or possibly June 1st, depending on whether there's a meeting on June 1st.

But hopefully, June 2nd. So, that's just a heads up that will be coming your way and look for the contract in the public comment section a couple days prior to that.
And of course, in the legal affairs public comment section as well, or hand out section.

COMMISSIONER SADHWANI: Yes, that's absolutely right. So, we anticipate our next meeting being either June 1st or 2nd, we need to finalize whether or not we can agendize for June 1st. Hopefully, we'll have that litigation contract for the full Commission to review. We'll take a look at ourselves in legal affairs first and then provide a recommendation to the full Commission.

And we are still waiting on the Office of Legal Services to finalize the contract for VRA, which we approved several weeks ago. So, stay tuned and we hope that we can work with our VRA and pre-maps counsel very soon.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Any questions for our Legal Affairs Committee?

Okay. We're going to move on to agenda item 13, which is discussion of future meeting dates and agenda items. And the only reason I personally wanted of bring this forward is for future agenda, we need to discuss the redistricting basics presentations that we've been conducting because now, we're moving into the public input meeting in June, July, August.

So, I think personally, that we need to eventually phase that piece out. We do have our video is complete.
So, if any of the organizations would like to use our video, they're free to use that as well. So, if we could maybe table that for a future agenda, that'd be great. Any other … Commissioner Sinay, and then Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER SINAY: On that topic, the Grants Committee will be working with staff to come forward with kind of what is the plan for the next phase of the work, because it's not just the COI Inputs meetings, but it's broader than that because the COI Input meetings because only a few people can actually access this. So, how are we going to get communities of in interest input from others? And part of that will include what you just said.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Did you say Grants Committee? You said Grants Committee. You meant Outreach.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: Sorry, Outreach Committee.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Got me a little confused. I think Commissioner Akutagawa was panicking.

COMMISSIONER SINAY: No, you don't have to do that. Don't worry, it's us.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. Thanks for clarifying that. Commissioner Andersen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSEN: Just had a short on the … just a quick from the line drawers. I don't know if we kind of skipped line drawer. Just a quick -- they are
working with ideas from that air table demonstration at the CRC meeting last week. And they're coming up with some tags as well as other actual general specifics that we do need on that air table.

So, looking forward to working with the data management group, the USDR and we'll be getting more information in our next meeting.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you. Anything else before we recess … oh, Commissioner Ahmed?

COMMISSIONER AHMED: Thank you, Chair. So, as stated earlier, our next meeting is May 24th and 25th; myself and Commissioner Yee will be taking over. So, if you all anticipate your report, your subcommittee report, to take a substantial amount of time, please just give a heads up so I can make sure I plan accordingly to allot you the time that you need. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And with that, I'm very happy to pass the baton to Commissioner Ahmed and Commissioner Yee.

Anything else? Okay. We will be recessing to closed session to consider data and cybersecurity issues, personnel related issues, and potential litigation. So, we'll recess to that. Let's meet at 6:40.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Katy is trying to get your attention.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: pardon? Oh, who is? Oh, public
comment, right? Katy, is that what you're trying to tell me? Yes, Commissioner Turner?

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yeah, the public comment.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: And are we coming back to this session, or no?

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Right now, I'm not sure. I believe we are just to report out. That would be the only thing we would come back for, is to report out if any action was taken during closed session.

COMMISSIONER TURNER: Okay. Just was trying to set expectation for those that's viewing.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that. Katy, let’s go to public comment. And thank you for the reminder.

COMMENT MODERATOR: No problem, 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 livestream feed. It is 877-853-5247.

When prompted, enter the meeting ID number provided on the livestream feed. It is 94417468697 for this meeting.

When prompted to enter a participant ID, simply press the pound key. Once you have dialed in, you'll be
placed in a queue. To indicate you wish to comment, please press *9. This will raise your hand for the moderator.

When it is your turn to speak, you'll hear a message that says “The host would like you to talk” and press *6 to speak. If you would like to give your name, please state and spell it for the record. You're not required to provide your name, to give public comment.

Please make sure to mute your computer or livestream audio to prevent any feedback or distortion during your call.

Once you're awaiting in the queue, be alert for when it is your turn to speak. And again, please turn down the livestream volume.

And we do have a caller with their hand raised, but I would also like to remind all callers that call in to press *9, raising their hand, indicating they wish to comment, and I will open the lines.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: And just a reminder of two minutes limit.

COMMENT MODERATOR: Yes. And it will be two minutes and it is general comment for the recess of this meeting. And the floor is yours.

MS. HOWARD: Thank you. Hi commissioners, good evening. My name is Deborah Howard. I'm with the California Senior Advocates League. And I have comments
that are based on some of the comments that were made in
the earlier part of this meeting.

I am concerned that the Commission is being asked
to postpone your own line drawing and map drawing
activities until after another group or groups. The Unity
Mapping Coalition have presented their own regional and
statewide maps before you.

Californians, I think, expect that you will be
drawing the maps and that you will do so publicly and
clearly. The Unity maps, no matter how well
intentioned the groups are, are not being created with
public input. They are organizations that represent a
constituency and they are drawing maps for that
constituency.

It’s your job as commissioners to bridge those
references that they’re making and to put theirs first, I
think is completely really, truly inappropriate.

I think it’s unclear who’s involved and invited in
that, and it just really smacks a special interest and
exclusion, which the Commission was set up to basically not
do. I really do, I want to say that I trust that they are
well-intentioned, but the process of-

MR. MANOFF: 30 seconds.

MS. HOWARD: ... proposed is deeply sufficient.

Thank you for that heads up -- and it’s exclusionary on its
face. I believe that you, the commissioners, will make
better maps once you’ve made that tradeoff, you’ve done a
little bit of it.

MR. MANOFF: 15 seconds.
MS. HOWARD: And navigating the conflicts of law.
So, I'm asking that you retain the leadership role in that
brine for yourselves, and that you listen to all public
voices and not allow some public voices to be more public-

MR. MANOFF: Two minutes.
MS. HOWARD: ... or more equal than others. Thank
you, and I respect your timeline. Thank you so much.
CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MS. Howard.
COMMENT MODERATOR: Thank you. And onto our next
caller. And I would like to remind those calling in to
press *9 to raise their hand indicating they wish to
comment. We do have a raised hand.
Caller 7175, if you could follow the prompt that
Zoom is giving you. Caller 7175, *6 will unmute you.

MR. PAYNE: Hello?
COMMENT MODERATOR: There you go. The floor is
yours, sir.

MR. PAYNE: Hi, thank you. This is Jerry Payne,
with Quality California. We are the nation's largest
lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer LGBTQ+ civil
rights organization in the nation. And I just wanted to
provide a public comments, encouraging the CCRC to set a
timeline that ensures as much time as possible for public
participation in all phases of the work.

    For Quality California and California overall,
it's so important that we ensure a public process that
allows for public participation and district lines that can
provide fair and equal representation. And we want to
ensure that our community has the time to participate and
make sure that they are involved and educated in the
redistricting process at the local and state level.

    And so, I just want to encourage the CCRC to set
as much time as possible for this phase of public
participation, given the importance of public input and the
role of having an independent Redistricting Commission in
our State of California. And through that, I hope
California to remain a beacon of hope not just for the
LGBTQ+ community that would like to be involved in the
redistricting process, but for all Californians, thank you
so much.

    CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you, MR. Payne.

    COMMENT MODERATOR: And we do have one other
caller in the queue and they have not chosen to raise their
hand. Oh, nope, there's their hand. They're there.
Alright. And the floor is yours.

    Speaker Number 15: Good afternoon, commissioners.
We’d just like to call on support for scenario two, which starts off with your work as soon as possible. This scenario yields on drafting scrappy maps in mid-October, which allows the public to better understand the Commission's philosophy and approach. And it also serves as a motivating factor to organize.

This also yields two more months of higher quality input for the public until the final maps are produced prior to the holidays. The holidays are a sacred time for all the reasons why Commissioner Turner and others outlined in the last meeting. And I believe that submitting draft maps going towards the holiday is actually a worse outcome and that momentum of organizing communities falls significantly. And it will be difficult to re-engage at the start of a new year.

And I just want to uplift that only those callers who are funded to following redistricting and are engaged, are just asking for more time. Thank you.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Thank you for your feedback and your comments.

COMMENT MODERATOR: And that was the rest of our public comment for the evening.

CHAIR FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, now, we will recess to closed session. If we can meet at 6 45, please. Thank you.
Welcome back, everyone. Just want to report out that during closed session, we did not take any action and there is nothing that's on the agenda for us tonight. And unless the commissioners have something which does not look like.

So, with that, our next meeting is on Monday and we hope to see everyone there. Thank you so much and have a good week.

(Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM)
REPORTER’S CERTIFICATE

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 23rd day of November, 2021.

PETER PETTY
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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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of November, 2021.

_________________
Myra Severtson
Certified Transcriber
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