SLIDE 1 – Welcome
Thank you for inviting the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to present at your meeting. My name is ___________ and I am a field lead staff covering _______________ regions which include the counties of _____________.

In this presentation, we will be going over who the Commission is, background on redistricting in California and how to participate in the process.

SLIDE 2 – Reminder—No Public Input Will Be Taken Today
As a friendly reminder, California Government Code Section 8253(3) strictly forbids Commissioners and staff from taking public input outside of a regularly scheduled Commission meeting or official public input meeting. However, at any point you are more than welcome to visit our website at WeDrawTheLinesCA.org to provide input. You will find instructions on how to do so on our homepage. And we will be going over this today.

For clarification we can discuss any questions you have regarding the State redistricting process and how you can participate by providing your input but we cannot discuss district boundaries or your specific input.

SLIDE 3 – California Citizens Redistricting Commission
One of the greatest powers that the people of California have is to elect their own representatives in government to represent their needs. How districts are drawn can make the difference between empowering and maximizing the voters’ voices or minimizing and muting those voices.

In most other states, politicians draw the lines.

California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission was formed to take back the power and have the people redraw the maps for Congress, State Senate, State Assembly and Board of Equalization. The Commission is made up of 14 citizens who went through a rigorous selection process. By fully participating in and monitoring the upcoming redistricting process, more communities may have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Speaking up about your community is critical to help keep your community whole to the extent possible. This ensures that your voice is heard by your elected leaders when making decisions such as the quality and funding of your child’s education, addressing your transportation concerns, or determining your tax rates. Your input is valuable in shaping the new political boundaries.

SLIDE 4 – How Redistricting Affects You
We thought it would be beneficial for us to break down how redistricting affects you directly.

Power to the People: In 2008, California voters passed Proposition 11 –The Voters FIRST Act, authorizing the creation of an independent Commission to draw new district
lines for the State Senate, State Assembly, and Board of Equalization. In 2010, Proposition 20—The Voters FIRST Act for Congress, added the responsibility of drawing Congressional districts to the Commission. This process was historic in California. It transferred the power of drawing district maps away from politicians and gave it to the people.

**Champion Your Issues:** Having the opportunity to elect representatives that champion your issues is important in a state like California, where issues can vary drastically from one street to the next. Northern California might champion environmental and economic issues, while Central California might champion water and agricultural issues, and Southern California might champion issues dealing with transportation, housing, and employment.

**Funding Priorities:** Tied to the issue of electing representatives that champion your issues, you might want to elect representatives that have your financial interest at heart. When the time comes to build a budget, you will want a representative fighting to ensure your community gets the financial resources it deserves for various services such as education, water, and fire protection.

**Community Boundaries:** The redistricting process is all about drawing lines and determining which communities get grouped together into districts. Your input in this process is essential to help Commissioners understand where your community starts and ends. Redistricting in California is one of the few civic activities that any Californian can provide input to regarding their community that can ultimately impact the law and regulations, tax structure, how funding is distributed, and which services are provided.

**SLIDE 5 – Different Redistricting Efforts**
The California Citizens Redistricting Commission is one of many redistricting efforts occurring in California. The Commission is redrawing districts for state offices, while counties, cities, school districts, water districts, and community college districts are also redrawing their local districts at the same time.

We wanted to bring this to your attention because different efforts are happening simultaneously, and it can be confusing. Aside from being involved in the state redistricting process, we encourage you to also be involved in your local redistricting efforts.

**SLIDE 6 – Line Drawing Criteria**
The Commission must follow these criteria, in this order, when drawing district maps:

1. Districts must be of nearly equal population to comply with the U.S. Constitution.
2. Districts must comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have a fair opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
3. Districts must be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district are connected to each other.
4. Districts must minimize the division of cities, counties, neighborhoods, and communities of interest to the extent possible.
5. Districts should be geographically compact such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations. This requirement refers to density, not shape.

6. Where practicable each Senate District should be comprised of two complete and adjacent Assembly Districts. Board of Equalization districts should be comprised of ten complete and adjacent State Senate Districts.

In addition, the place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate may not be considered in the creation of a map, and districts may not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.

SLIDE 7 – Communities of Interest

When drawing maps, the Commission has to be mindful of Communities of Interest. We can easily obtain the city and county information from those jurisdictions, but we need the communities of interest information from Californians.

Communities of Interest are defined as a concentrated population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples include areas in which the people share similar living standards, have similar cultures, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media. People can belong to multiple communities of interest.

Keep in mind that a Community of Interest is not the same as a district, and a district is not a community of interest, but Communities of Interest are key building blocks of districts.

Some ways to describe your community:
- Geographic (waterways, rural, urban, mountains)
- Boundaries (cities, towns, counties, school areas)
- Things you have in common

SLIDE 8 – Participating in the Process-Draw Your CA!

Your input is vital to the success of the Commission. The Commission has started the line drawing process. DrawMyCalifornia.org is the one-stop shop where you can access Redistricting tools to share your input.

(pull up DrawMyCalifornia.org website)

The first tool is DrawMyCACommunity.org. Here you can tell the story of your community. Let us know: what are your shared interests? What are you commonalities? What brings you together? What is important to your community? Are there nearby areas you want to be in a district with? Nearby areas you don't want to be in a district with? Why or why not?

Some examples of your community's shared interests could be (but are not limited to): organizing around a school, wildfire prevention, public health concerns, transportation
needs/uses, or environmental issues in your area; sharing a common culture or background; or anything else that impacts your life!

Your shared interests could describe what your community is focused on right now, or could be connected to a future goal such as bringing accessible public transportation to your area, getting public health updates in the language spoken in your community, organizing around bringing more job opportunities in your area, and much more! Make sure to share what connects your community together.

After describing your Community of Interest, next you’ll draw the boundaries of your community. Simply zoom in to your Community of Interest, and use the drawing tools to define your Community of Interest. You can draw as big or small as you like: layers to choose from include Counties, Cities and Towns, Tribal Areas, Tracts, and Blocks.

DrawMyCACommunity.org is available in English, Spanish, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Armenian, Farsi, Arabic, Russian, Japanese, Punjabi, Khmer, Hmong, and Thai. We recommend creating an account so that you can save your work and revisit it if you don’t finish everything in one sitting.

The second tool is DrawMyCADistricts.org. This tool is similar to the Draw My CA Community tool for those who want to draw desired borders for Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts. It features census block level data and will be able to tell you if the districts you draw are compliant population-wise. It’s available in English and Spanish.

The third tool is the Draw My CA Plugin for QGIS, which is a full downloadable program for those who want to draw the whole state map. This program will definitely require more bandwidth and is for those who are fluent in GIS software. The Plugin is available in English and Spanish.

For these programs, file types available for export are Equivalency files, Shapefile and PDF.

**SLIDE 9 – How to Get More Assistance**

There are numerous ways to get assistance with the tools on DrawMyCalifornia.org. Directly in the tool or from the hyperlinks in this slide you can access tutorials in 16 languages, user guides, how to videos in English and Spanish, you can chat directly with tech support, sign up for a virtual appointment to receive assistance or even call the helpline directly at (510) 280-3305.

**SLIDE 10 – In Person Assistance: Redistricting Access Centers**

Visit a Redistricting Access Center to get help in person or to utilize publicly accessible computers and redistricting software developed by the Statewide Database. Staff is available at each location to help members of the public use the redistricting software. Appointments are required to visit a center. Each Redistricting Access Center meets ADA Accessibility Standards.
Redistricting Access Centers are now open in Fresno, Long Beach, Oakland, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Diego. For more information about the Redistricting Access Centers including locations, hours, directions, parking, and public transportation details and to schedule an appointment, check out our flyer or visit: https://statewidedatabase.org/redistricting_access_centers/

**SLIDE 11 – Additional Ways to Provide Input**
Outside of sharing your input via online redistricting tools, you can also share your input via these other ways. The Commission is meeting weekly reviewing geographic areas for potential district ideas. Using the multitude of communities of interest testimony the Commission received throughout the summer, they are assessing how that testimony could potentially inform district boundaries and considering the tradeoffs that will need to be made in eventual maps. The Commission welcomes your input as they visualize potential community groupings for the maps they will redraw. You can submit your comments in real time to the Commission to let them know feedback on the visualizations presented.

**SLIDE 12 – Help Spread the Word**
Visit WeDrawTheLinesCA.org for more information about the California Citizens Redistricting Commission including upcoming meetings. Help spread the word to your network on how to participate in the Redistricting process. Subscribe to our mailing list and social media toolkit; like us, follow us and subscribe to our social media; host a viewing party for our Redistricting Basics video, COI tool how to video or teach others about how to use the mapping tools or the visualization feedback form; and share the various outreach materials including our Digital Toolkit and Non-English materials.

**SLIDE 13 – Timeline**
In October the Commission will be focused on line drawing, starting with weekly series of meetings to review and provide feedback of map visualizations. On October 21-23 the Commission will hold a three day meeting to allow the public to present district maps to the Commission. The Commission must post draft maps no later than November 15, and they are currently targeting a November 10 date.

The Commission must submit final maps to the Secretary of State no later than December 27, 2021. The Commission will also be scheduling input meetings after draft maps are posted. The public is encouraged to continue provide feedback to the Commission throughout this process whether it’s through the votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov email, the visualization feedback form, or various tools I went over today, or at an upcoming meeting.

**SLIDE 14 – Reminder – No Public Input Will Be Taken Today**
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SLIDE 15 – Contact Us
Because we want to encourage the public to submit public input to the Commission, we are conducting educational sessions like today’s presentation. In addition to the Draw My California Redistricting tools, you can also submit input to the Commission via email, by mail, using the visualizations feedback form, at a meeting and on our website. Visit www.wedrawthelinesca.org for more information.

To request an educational session, please contact the Commission by emailing: Anne.Marx@crc.ca.gov or use our request form hyperlinked here.

Please also follow us on social media @WeDrawTheLinesCA.