

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE (CSA)

In the matter of:

2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)  
Applicant Review Panel (ARP) Public Meeting

621 Capitol Mall, 10th Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:  
Peter Petty

APPEARANCESAPPLICANT REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS:

Ben Belnap, Chair, Deputy State Auditor, California State Auditor's Office

Angela Dickison, Member, Senior Evaluator Auditor II, California State Auditor's Office

Ryan Coe, Member, Auditor Specialist II, Information Technology Audits Unit, California State Auditor's Office

APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL STAFF

Christopher Dawson, Counsel

Yvonne Le Tellier, Executive Secretary

CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR

Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway, Chief Counsel

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daniel Quincy

Laurie Shellenberger, Common Cause

Jonathan Stein, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Carol Moon Goldberg, League of Women Voters

Jacqueline Coto, NALEO

Christopher Sanchez, CHIRLA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

9:30 a.m.

1  
2  
3 CHAIR BELNAP: It being 9:30, we're going to  
4 reconvene the ARP Panel. I see that all my Panel members  
5 are here and present. We'll continue the meeting that we  
6 started yesterday.

7 We left off on Agenda Item Number 7, so we're  
8 going to pick that up today. So the same ground rules  
9 apply as yesterday, so, if you're here for the first time,  
10 silence your phone. I guess, if you're not here for the  
11 first time, silence your phone as well, and take all calls  
12 in the hallway.

13 Also, if you don't know, the restroom is right  
14 there in the hallway as well.

15 I have an opening statement. Then I'll ask my  
16 Panel members if they have anything they'd like to add.

17 So the California Constitution lays out a  
18 selection process for citizens to serve on the  
19 Redistricting Commission. The first sentence of that  
20 selection process reads:

21 "The selection process is designed to  
22 produce a Commission that is  
23 independent from legislative influence  
24 and reasonably representative of the  
25 state's diversity."

1           The California Constitution then charges the  
2 State Auditor's Office with carrying out the selection  
3 process. The regulations that define and implement the  
4 selection process state the following:

5           "As the application process is designed  
6 to produce a Commission that is  
7 reasonably representative of the  
8 state's diversity. The Panel shall  
9 also consider whether the composition  
10 of the pool of applicants to  
11 participate in phase three of the  
12 application process is reflective of  
13 the state's diversity. The Panel shall  
14 not use formulas or specific ratios in  
15 identifying which applicants will  
16 participate in phase three of the  
17 application process."

18           So phase three is the interview process that  
19 we're going into next.

20           So we, as Panel members, have received, read, and  
21 appreciated numerous letters asking us to make sure we are  
22 aware of and carry out this criteria. I want to assure you  
23 that we are well aware of the criteria, and we are well  
24 versed in what it means for the selection process, and we  
25 are exercising our professional judgment in applying this

1 and all relevant criteria with the selection process. As I  
2 said yesterday, this requires us to balance out numerous  
3 factors related to diversity. As defined in the  
4 regulations, "diversity" means:

5 "The variety in the racial, ethnic,  
6 geographic, economic, and gender  
7 characteristics of the population of  
8 California."

9 Nowhere in the regulations does it order any of  
10 those factors of diversity. It doesn't order them by level  
11 of importance, and we are specifically prohibited from  
12 using formulas or specific ratios to select applicants. We  
13 are using our combined level of experience and skill to  
14 select the best applicants based on the number of factors  
15 we are required to consider.

16 Finally, in some of the letters we've received,  
17 we've been asked to carefully examine and balance out the  
18 diversity of each subpool of candidates. I understand this  
19 desire. If each subpool has a wide variety of diversity,  
20 then the collective pool of 120 will likewise have a wide  
21 variety of diversity.

22 However, first, I want to say that we are working  
23 from a candidate pool of people who have completed  
24 applications. That's the pool we can work from. Second,  
25 the criteria associated with the selection process requires

1 that we consider diversity of the whole pool, the 120  
2 applicants we move forward to the interview process. The  
3 criteria does not speak to each of the individual subpools  
4 of 40 candidates.

5           Thus, if one subpool lacks diversity in a  
6 particular category, the level of diversity in that  
7 category from another subpool may counter or lessen the  
8 impact of this condition, and, again, our starting point  
9 was not the general population. It was the completed  
10 applications that we received. We have used and we'll  
11 continue to use our professional judgment in applying the  
12 criteria for selecting candidates for the Commission.

13           Now I want to give an opportunity to Ms. Dickison  
14 or Mr. Coe, if they have any statements.

15           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I don't have anything to  
16 add to that.

17           PANEL MEMBER COE: I don't have anything to add,  
18 either.

19           CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you. All right. So let's  
20 move on to looking at the Republican pool, and let's put in  
21 front of us the candidates who have already received three  
22 yeses. I believe the answer to that is 25 individuals.  
23 Yes. Thank you. So we are looking to add 15 individuals  
24 in the same manner we did yesterday to this pool, 15, maybe  
25 more, depending on how it works out.



1           Ms. Dickison, you gave me the opportunity to go  
2 first last time, so I suggest we use that same order, where  
3 you're sitting, and let you go ahead and put forward the  
4 same candidate -- or not the same candidate -- a candidate,  
5 and then we'll go in that order, the same thing we did  
6 yesterday.

7           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. I want to put --  
8 is it working? I want to put forward candidate number  
9 4886, Mr. Riley, Jeremiah Riley.

10          CHAIR BELNAP: So do you want to tell us your  
11 reasons for that?

12          PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. So, when I was  
13 looking at this candidate's application, I felt like he  
14 satisfied all the criteria, and then, in the impartiality,  
15 he really showed the ability, with an open mind, to set his  
16 own views aside and just do something for somebody else.  
17 He used a really good example of actually setting his own  
18 beliefs aside in that essay, and then, on the diversity, he  
19 grew up in a multicultural family. He was immersed with  
20 the traditions of both of those families.

21                 He also worked -- his work involves reviewing  
22 grants for USC's Good Neighbor Campaign. That's a  
23 university fundraising and grantmaking vehicle, and it  
24 raises money that goes to nonprofits that impact  
25 neighborhoods surrounding USC, a diverse population, with

1 diverse populations and needs.

2 His letters talk to the experience that he has  
3 that shows that he does have the analytical skills, and  
4 that he has a generous character, ability to participate in  
5 complex processes, a good work ethic, and interest in  
6 public affairs.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Thank you.

8 Mr. Coe, do you want me to go --

9 PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: -- or you go ahead? Okay.

11 So I think yesterday, as we went through this  
12 process, initially we were adding folks to the pool, and  
13 then, toward the end, I invited, "Hey. If you need to  
14 disagree with me, feel free," and I think you guys took me  
15 up on that quite a bit. I appreciate that.

16 So, Ms. Dickison, this is one of those times I  
17 think I'm going to have to disagree with you. I didn't  
18 consider this application to be all that strong. I  
19 understand where you're coming from in some of the areas,  
20 but I would like to look -- I would like to set this one  
21 aside and come back to it.

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: That's my opinion. I'd like to  
24 hear what Mr. Coe has to say first.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: I would tend to agree with Mr.

1 Belnap. It wasn't one of the stronger diversity arguments  
2 that I had seen, in the essay on appreciation for  
3 diversity. So I would agree with Mr. Belnap.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: So can we come back to that? I'm  
5 going to put it at the bottom of my sheet, and then see how  
6 the pool plays out.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: So it would be my turn.  
9 Personally, I'm going to put forward -- I need the number.  
10 Let's see. First name I'm going to put forward is Karen  
11 Gayle Koenig-Sanko, number 6881.

12 So this candidate has been an educator for 25  
13 years, has a doctorate in educational leadership and  
14 management, and has had involvement in various committees,  
15 including appointed to the Technology Education Task Force  
16 as the Legislative Subchair, California Regional Training  
17 Institute, various work groups for the Assembly Committee  
18 on Jobs, Economic Development, and Economy.

19 She also teaches GIS, and her letters of  
20 recommendation refer to her commitment to her students and  
21 fellow staff. She's an effective communicator and  
22 collaborator. She also adds to the diversity of the  
23 applicant pool from an ethnicity and gender perspective,  
24 and adds to the overall regional diversity in that she's  
25 from Northern California. So those are my reasons for

1 putting her forward.

2           Angela, do you want to go next -- or Ms.  
3 Dickison?

4           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Let's see. So I was a  
5 little back and forth on this candidate in particular. I  
6 thought she had a really good application, and I was a  
7 little back and forth. I was a yes on her the last two  
8 times.

9           My change came this last time, when I was trying  
10 to balance my pools. I'm just noticing that we were really  
11 heavy in this pool for Northern California, but we're not  
12 so heavy overall in Northern California. So I wouldn't  
13 have a problem bringing her back in.

14           CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

15           PANEL MEMBER COE: So I noted a lot of the same  
16 analytical skills as you guys did, a lot of experience  
17 teaching groups of diverse students, has committee  
18 experience, cited experience determining the validity of  
19 information, relevant versus irrelevant information, et  
20 cetera, taught GIS, as you mentioned, experience working as  
21 part of the group. The letters of rec consistently  
22 identified her as a good communicator and a creative  
23 critical thinker.

24           On the other side of it, with impartiality and  
25 diversity, I thought that they weren't as strong a

1 demonstration as some of the other people that we had in  
2 the pool, a lot of what I said yesterday, again, a lot of  
3 examples of having met with or worked with lots of people,  
4 but didn't connect it for me into "What did you learn?" as  
5 the regs cited about, about how political representation  
6 preferences could be different amongst those people you've  
7 met.

8           There was no connection there for me, and, again,  
9 on impartiality, there weren't really any strong examples  
10 of putting aside personal interest, as the regs cite as a  
11 way to demonstrate the ability to be impartial. So I  
12 didn't think those were as strong there as some of the  
13 other folks in the pool, and so I was leaning towards  
14 tabling this applicant.

15           CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

16           PANEL MEMBER COE: I'd like to bring forward  
17 applicant Hellen Meade, number 19939. Ms. Meade, I think,  
18 brings a unique and important perspective, potentially, to  
19 the Commission. She has small-business perspective from  
20 rural Northern California.

21           She's the only applicant from Shasta County in  
22 the pool, has experience, local nonprofit boards, a lot of  
23 experience working in collaborative groups, understands the  
24 benefit of multiple perspectives, has lived in both  
25 Southern and Northern California, aware of issues and

1 perspectives in the various regions, has experience  
2 gathering and analyzing different types of information and  
3 data, actively seeks to help those in need through  
4 volunteer and work opportunities.

5           The letters of rec cite her volunteer experience  
6 to increase voter participation. They praise her written  
7 communication skills, and describe her as enthusiastic and  
8 committed. Also, this is somebody who is on one of the  
9 lower socioeconomic groups that we have, of which I think,  
10 in the 25, there's nobody below 75,000, and again from  
11 Shasta County, adding some diversity on the geographic side  
12 of things.

13           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, Mr. Coe, I agree. I  
14 was also going to bring this applicant forward. I echo the  
15 same things you said. She's community service-driven. She  
16 helps those in recovery, the homeless, the disadvantaged,  
17 victims of human trafficking. She's served as a  
18 coordinator for events and community development work. So  
19 I thought she was a strong applicant.

20           CHAIR BELNAP: So, being the lone no vote here, I  
21 believe we should put her on the list of those we're  
22 putting forward to the 120.

23           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I want to bring forward  
24 applicant 1387, Christy Jewell. For this applicant, I  
25 thought she did a really good job. She's from Placer

1 County. I thought her appreciation for diversity essay was  
2 good.

3 She participates in creating programs that assist  
4 individuals to acquire skills to succeed. She demonstrated  
5 an understanding that various characteristics of diversity,  
6 as well as geography, can really influence a person's  
7 preferences for representation.

8 She had good examples as a cochair of the South  
9 Placer Women's Coalition, in her impartiality. She has  
10 experience working on commissions and boards. Her letters  
11 attest to her dedication to working in the community and  
12 her support of students.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: For all the reasons Ms. Dickison  
14 just identified, I already voted for her. I would put her  
15 forward to the next phase.

16 PANEL MEMBER COE: Obviously, as you guys  
17 probably see, I was probably the one outlier on the  
18 favorable vote here. For me, diversity, it was not super  
19 clear to me that -- the demonstration that she understands  
20 that different demographics could have different  
21 preferences for political representation, and more  
22 inference than I wanted to make there, but some of  
23 these -- it was not something I don't think I could ask her  
24 about in an interview. So I would be okay with adding her  
25 to the list of people that we interview.

1 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, I have a note-keeping  
2 query. Did we table or include Ms. Koenig-Sanko?

3 CHAIR BELNAP: We tabled.

4 MR. DAWSON: Thank you.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: So the candidate I would like to  
6 discuss is Elizabeth Ann Ahlers, candidate number 758. So  
7 this is a unique situation. I think I was the lone holdout  
8 before, and now I'm the person advocating for them. So  
9 here are my reasons for advocating for her.

10 So she has a masters in linguistics from UCLA.  
11 She's been a professor, a teacher. She's also a university  
12 staff. The thing that impressed me as I considered you  
13 guys' previous votes and reread the application was her  
14 interest in serving -- the essay, question number one, she  
15 talked about her family immigrated to the United States  
16 from a country that does not enjoy the freedoms we have,  
17 and she talked about her greatest desire is to protect  
18 those freedoms.

19 So that affected me. Gosh. I get so emotional.  
20 That affected me. I know there are reasons why I voted no  
21 before, in terms of the quality of some of the answers  
22 later on, but, in terms of what I think she brings to the  
23 table, I feel like I'm now in agreement with you two, and  
24 then we kind of switched votes. So I'm going to put her  
25 forward as an applicant to consider for the 120.



1           PANEL MEMBER COE: So, Mr. Belnap, obviously, as  
2 you noted, I voted favorably for her in the past. This was  
3 kind of one of those last ones I ended up having to move  
4 out of my 40. We noted she's from Los Angeles, a lot of  
5 candidates from Los Angeles, and this was a tough one for  
6 me. So I ended up putting her aside, but I obviously echo  
7 a lot of what you're saying.

8           I mean, she has a solid understanding of the  
9 importance of citizen redistricting, and recognizes the  
10 importance of getting all perspectives involved. She's  
11 participated in efforts to help the less fortunate in other  
12 countries, South America, India, and in East Asia.

13           She's an English professor, very solid written  
14 communication skills, other experience gathering data,  
15 analyzing it, drawing conclusions, has worked with diverse  
16 teams towards a common goal, experience on boards. Letters  
17 of rec, commenting there was "Cares about communities."  
18 I'd be happy to interview Ms. Ahlers.

19           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I had also voted for  
20 her twice before, and for the same reasons. Because there  
21 were so many people in L.A., she was one of the last ones  
22 that I moved down my wall. So I would definitely put her  
23 back in.

24           CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Great.

25           PANEL MEMBER COE: So the next candidate I'd like

1 to bring forward is a little interesting. The person  
2 shares my last name. There's not a lot of people that I've  
3 met that have my last name that aren't in my family, but  
4 that's applicant Anthony Coe, applicant 15880. I'll call  
5 him "Mr. Coe," but I feel like I'm referring to myself.

6 Mr. Coe is a current security guard, former  
7 letter carrier for San Bernardino County, experience  
8 working with diverse groups to reach agreements, has  
9 demonstrated ability to have an open mind and listen to  
10 different perspectives. He has a clear understanding of  
11 what communities of interest are, based on his essays.

12 He volunteers for the missing children  
13 investigative agency in his spare time, to find missing  
14 kids. He's got experience working with large data to  
15 inform a course of action, experience working under immense  
16 pressure with short deadlines.

17 He gave an example of when he worked for the  
18 Postal Service, when there was a plane crash carrying all  
19 the U.S. mail, and having to get all of this massive  
20 amounts of mail resorted and re-sent out, and, obviously,  
21 we know there's going to be some tight deadlines for the  
22 Commission, so I thought that was valuable. The letters of  
23 rec praise, again, his time management in regards to that,  
24 and describe him as "professional and conscientious." So I  
25 would like to bring Anthony Coe forward for consideration.

1           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I was also going to bring  
2 Mr. Coe forward, for the same reasons. I noted that, you  
3 know, he also negotiated the postal routes. That could be  
4 applicable to redistricting. He gave really good examples  
5 in accepting and encouraging others to accept differences  
6 in different people, and he had a diverse set of work  
7 skills. He worked with data and reports. He handled  
8 communications, implemented regulations. So, yes.

9           CHAIR BELNAP: So, listening to you guys, knowing  
10 how you voted before, I examined this applicant again with  
11 fresh eyes, still didn't feel like, in comparison, the  
12 analytical skills were in my top 40, but, hearing you  
13 describe overall what the candidate brings, I'd be willing  
14 to put them in the 120.

15           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I would like to bring  
16 forward Louise Silacci. That's 958.

17           PANEL MEMBER COE: Can you state the number one  
18 more time, applicant ID number.

19           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Nine, five, eight.

20           PANEL MEMBER COE: Nine, five, eight.

21           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So this applicant had a  
22 little bit of a different kind of professional background.  
23 She's an educator. She works with inmates at CDCR who  
24 aren't going to have the opportunity to be paroled. I  
25 found her essay on impartiality was really good.

1           The narrative showed focus on challenges and  
2 maintaining impartiality within the correction system or  
3 within diverse groups. Her essay on diversity, she  
4 demonstrated a good understanding of the diversity of  
5 California's geography. She included some socioeconomic  
6 descriptions in there as well.

7           On the analytical, she's a business owner. She's  
8 a longstanding planning commission member. She has  
9 research skills. She has skills in public meetings,  
10 applying laws and regulations. All of those will help as  
11 commissioner. The letters and comments were all positive,  
12 attest to her creativity, intelligence, and her ability to  
13 communicate, which I thought would be really good skills.  
14 So I wanted to put her forward.

15           CHAIR BELNAP: So I'll go next. I think I've  
16 always voted yes for this candidate, and continue to have  
17 done so. Everything you just said I agree with. I also  
18 was impressed with her PhD in, I believe it is, education  
19 administration. I rated her analytical skills quite high.  
20 So I would definitely be willing to put her forward to the  
21 120.

22           PANEL MEMBER COE: So I know we had quite a few  
23 discussions in depth about this candidate. I ultimately  
24 ended up not putting her forward. I didn't think it was as  
25 well represented or demonstrated on the diversity and the

1 impartiality side, but it was -- this was a difficult one  
2 for me, because there are a lot of great candidates here --  
3 or great qualities -- and she was very nearly on my 40,  
4 after some discussions, and for all the reasons you guys  
5 cited, I think I would also like to speak to her in an  
6 interview.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So those that are taking  
8 notes, we're putting her forward to the 120.

9 MR. DAWSON: Thank you.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: So this is another one of those  
11 candidates that the two of you have been voting for  
12 consistently, and then, when I have been considering your  
13 votes as considering them feedback to myself, examining the  
14 applications, I've decided to put her forward. So it's  
15 15596, Zena Greenspan, so 15596, Zena Greenspan.

16 So Ms. Greenspan is a business owner, developer,  
17 and community leader. She's a CPA, and has 26 years of  
18 experience as a managing partner in an accounting firm, and  
19 16 years of experience as a chief financial officer. She  
20 also has a JD, with an emphasis in business.

21 In regards to the question about appreciation for  
22 diversity, she talked about her parents were immigrants to  
23 the U.S. following displacement after World War Two. She's  
24 had interactions and relationships with clients, with  
25 property management and other residential businesses.

1           Then her letters of recommendation, I thought,  
2 were glowing, and they emphasized her community, real  
3 estate development, her charitable contributions, and her  
4 commitment to her clients and tenants. I also think she  
5 adds to the diversity of our Republican pool. For those  
6 reasons, I am putting her forward.

7           PANEL MEMBER COE: I also was very favorable on  
8 Ms. Greenspan. I thought, as you noted, she carried with  
9 her a unique perspective on freedom and representation as a  
10 result of her family experiences with the displacement in  
11 World War Two.

12           She describes many examples of an ability to work  
13 with people that she may disagree with, but still be  
14 productive and reach good solutions. Her analytical skills  
15 were topnotch. She's got experience working with  
16 complicated and dense technical materials, as the  
17 regulations cite.

18           A real strong sense of relationship building came  
19 across for me, experience presenting at government and  
20 public meetings of this sort. She volunteers with or  
21 donates to organizations dedicated to helping the less  
22 fortunate, and her letters of rec consistently described  
23 her as somebody who is proactive, versus reactive, to find  
24 solutions proactively, as opposed to reactively. So I  
25 would be very in favor of interviewing Ms. Greenspan.

1           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm also in favor of  
2 interviewing Ms. Greenspan. I had voted for her  
3 previously, or gave her a positive recommendation  
4 previously, twice before. She also was among the south  
5 coastal that were among the last that I removed from my  
6 list of 40. So I'd like to put her back in as well.

7           PANEL MEMBER COE: So the next candidate I'd like  
8 to bring forward is Russell Yee, applicant 11312. Mr. Yee  
9 is a professor from Alameda County. What came across to me  
10 with Mr. Yee's application, he's very well read and well  
11 researched. He definitely keeps an eye on events relevant  
12 to this topic, to redistricting.

13           He cites a lot of experience working with groups  
14 of people with varying goals and opinions to reach a common  
15 goal. He's demonstrated open-mindedness several times in  
16 those scenarios. He's got board experience. I believe he  
17 cites Habitat For Humanity board experience.

18           He says that he purposely puts himself in  
19 situations where people think differently from him so that  
20 he can be a more well-rounded individual, understand where  
21 multiple perspectives are coming from. I think that's  
22 going to be important for this Commission.

23           He's a volunteer museum docent, teaches  
24 California history. He's got experience with GPS data and  
25 maps, and his letters of rec refer to him as "analytical,

1 fair, and has the ability to really be open to other points  
2 of view and other perspectives." And for those reasons,  
3 I'd like to bring Mr. Russell Yee forward for  
4 consideration.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: So, knowing that I'm the single no  
6 vote, I'll just go next. So, as I tried to balance out the  
7 diversity of this pool in terms of region, the Bay Area  
8 and -- well, the whole pool, not just this pool, but also  
9 the balance between the number of gender we have, he's one  
10 individual that I hadn't put forward into my forwarding,  
11 but I'm willing to do that, willing to give him an  
12 interview.

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: And I'm willing for him  
14 to -- I was a yes vote for him.

15 I want to put forward Michael Allawos, applicant  
16 number 3410. Mr. Allawos is very engaged in his local  
17 government. He currently serves on the city council, as  
18 well as several other civic and cultural boards and  
19 commissions that are focused on cultural exchange,  
20 political inclusion, and helping the homeless.

21 He is experienced as a business operator and  
22 owner. In the impartiality, he uses a fact-based process  
23 to separate himself from emotion and personal interest when  
24 he's making decisions. He has voted on multiple -- made  
25 multiple decisions as a councilmember that were not always



1 in his personal favor.

2 He has a passion working with the international  
3 community. He's helped with cultural exchanges and  
4 political inclusion, facilitated a homeless initiative  
5 between Citrus Community College and St. Vincent de Paul's,  
6 and the letters attest to his impact on the community and  
7 his initiative to provide services to the homeless  
8 students, and develop a voting district plan for the city  
9 of Glendora.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: So I'm also in favor of Mr.  
11 Allawos, impressed by his experience, what he brings, 20  
12 years as a CEO, a manufacturing company, then moving on to  
13 chief operating officer for California Energy & Power, and  
14 then, in the last few years, serving as councilmember. I  
15 think all those things he brings are going to be valuable,  
16 and the way he describes his other engagements as part of  
17 coalitions of councils throughout the Los Angeles area, I  
18 think, is going to be valuable.

19 I've tried to -- Mr. Coe, as you described the  
20 connecting-the-dots metaphor, I've looked at this from your  
21 perspective, and I understand as I read through that some  
22 dots weren't connected in the application. Putting myself  
23 in your shoes, I know where you're coming from, but I  
24 guess, when I look at the whole thing, and some of the  
25 letters of recommendation that gave me a little more detail

1 on the work experience, that's where I'm at, overall, the  
2 person, not necessarily all the words that weren't  
3 connected. I still think this person should be moved  
4 forward.

5           PANEL MEMBER COE: I appreciate that, Mr. Belnap.  
6 I've taken a look at that, and yes, you're right. I was  
7 going to cite a lot of the same concerns there, in terms of  
8 a lot more inference on his essays than I was hoping for,  
9 and ultimately I landed with -- this is another applicant  
10 from Los Angeles County, where we have a lot of  
11 representation, a lot of applicants to choose from.

12           I ultimately thought that there were applicants  
13 who demonstrated those things more clearly from,  
14 particularly, that geographic region, and ultimately that's  
15 why I ended up not voting favorably. But, as you've  
16 pointed out, he's got a lot of experience that is relevant,  
17 particularly prior redistricting experience with the city  
18 of Glendora.

19           He was also a -- I don't know if anybody  
20 mentioned he was a candidate to be a U.S. ambassador at one  
21 time. He's got strong analytical skills, and a lot of  
22 experience working with and gathering different types of  
23 complicated information to inform decisions. His letters  
24 of rec describe him as "deeply involved in his community."  
25 I wouldn't be opposed to interviewing Mr. Allawos.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

2 So the applicant -- and it's my turn, right?

3 PANEL MEMBER COE: It is your turn.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: I know yesterday I just kept  
5 trying to jump in.

6 The applicant I'd like to put forward for  
7 discussion is Jane Anderson, 20496. So you guys are there.  
8 I'll give you a second if you're not.

9 So Jane Anderson is a structural engineer, and  
10 she has a master's degree from UC Berkeley. In her  
11 description of ability to be impartial, she talked a lot  
12 about workplace decision making. That particular question  
13 wasn't one of the better answers that I had, and I think  
14 you'll note that I had not -- that I had reviewed -- I had  
15 not voted for her previously.

16 But, considering the strength of the analytical  
17 skills, also the appreciation for diversity -- she did  
18 emphasize a lot of volunteer work she's done, a lot of  
19 travel throughout California. So, overall, considering  
20 that one question, the ability to be impartial,  
21 notwithstanding, overall, I believe we should put this  
22 candidate forward.

23 Do you want to go next?

24 PANEL MEMBER COE: Sure. This was a candidate  
25 that was in my 40. I thought she was very well read and

1 well researched, very aware of the history of the Citizens  
2 Redistricting Commission, the current political climate,  
3 and gerrymandering and what can come from it, strong  
4 analytical skills, as you noted, statistical and computer  
5 analysis, computer-assisted drafting programs, has been an  
6 expert witness in legal proceedings, a lot of experience  
7 working with diverse groups of people towards a common  
8 goal, able to differentiate between relevant and irrelevant  
9 information and solve complex problems.

10           The letters of rec were rather glowing, speaks to  
11 her unique ability to assemble and assess facts, prioritize  
12 and synthesize these facts into plans of action, navigating  
13 and mediating disparate groups to ultimately find  
14 resolution.

15           I did have a concern about -- I think it was in  
16 impartiality. It seemed like some of the examples were  
17 more where she sought to make people go along with her  
18 idea, as opposed to setting aside self-interest, but,  
19 ultimately, I would like to interview Ms. Anderson.

20           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would also like to  
21 interview this individual. I removed her as part of my  
22 last go-through, and along the same reasons that were  
23 already stated, that the impartiality, I didn't think,  
24 essay was as strong as it could have been. But her  
25 analytical skills were topnotch. She has board and board

1 meeting experience, and the letters were glowing.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Thank you.

3 So I think it was right about this time we took a  
4 break last time.

5 Mr. Coe, if you have anything, you can go with  
6 that, and maybe take a break, and then reconsider. With  
7 these five that we have remaining, we could take a step  
8 back, take 15 minutes, and decide who we want to put  
9 forward. But, Mr. Coe, if you want to go next, we can take  
10 a break.

11 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. Great. I'd like to  
12 bring forth applicant John Sterni, number 9595. I think  
13 Mr. Sterni adds to the diversity of the pool in a number of  
14 ways. He's a teacher from San Joaquin County, central  
15 valley perspective.

16 He has a lot of experience working with a wide  
17 background of people to meet a common goal, experience  
18 analyzing large and complex data, and on projects with  
19 tight deadlines, and, in fact, worked for NASA and the  
20 Department of Defense on some projects, I believe as a  
21 contractor.

22 He's got experience understanding how to evaluate  
23 and improve processes, which is, I think, going to be  
24 important, an important perspective for the Commission,  
25 considering they've going to have existing boundaries, and

1 how to take an existing thing and improve upon it,  
2 understanding of project management techniques, and he has  
3 experience with ARC-GIS software. And so I would like to  
4 bring Mr. John Sterni forward for consideration.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

6 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I didn't think that the  
7 diversity essay really touched on California's diversity of  
8 the population very well. I did note that he has good  
9 analytical skills, and that he understands sociological and  
10 anthropological aspects of living in a community, but I'd  
11 like to put him to the side for now.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, Mr. Coe, I'm feeling  
13 the same way, although a different part of the essay, the  
14 ability to be impartial, that's the one where I couldn't  
15 get there, and that was probably one of the lower parts of  
16 his essay that probably caused my overall impression to be  
17 lower, and continues to be. I think we should put him  
18 aside. I do think we should come back to him. I'm not a  
19 hard "put him aside" as in "no." I mean, legitimately, I  
20 think we should consider this, and we'll come back out of  
21 the break. So I'm going to put that there.

22 So I would encourage us to, in the break, go  
23 back, see where we're at in terms of the pool that we have  
24 for the 34. I have 34.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: Mr. Chair, can we have the

1 notes -- recite the ones on the list so far? I want to  
2 make sure I've got my notes --

3 CHAIR BELNAP: And just the ones added, correct,  
4 not the --

5 PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes, not the tabled ones, the  
6 ones that have been agreed upon.

7 MR. DAWSON: Okay. If you would just hold on a  
8 second. Let me confer with Ms. Le Tellier, make sure we  
9 are literally on the same page.

10 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay.

11 MR. DAWSON: All right. So the names that the  
12 Panel has added: 19939, Hellen Meade, 1387, Cristy Jewell,  
13 758, Elizabeth Ahlers, 15880, Anthony Coe, 958, Louise  
14 Silacci, 15596, Zena Greenspan, 11312, Russell Yee, 3410,  
15 Michael Allawos, and 20496, Jane Anderson.

16 I have in my notes that we have set aside for  
17 later consideration: 14886, Riley, 6881, Koenig-Sanko, and  
18 9595, Sterni.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: And from a numerical perspective,  
20 although the numbers aren't on the spreadsheet, I believe  
21 we're at 34.

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: That's what I have as  
23 well.

24 MR. DAWSON: That's what I have.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. All right. And when we come

1 back out of the break, I think we can consider whether to  
2 go over, just like we did last time, or we can go up to 40,  
3 but let's come back in and be ready to suggest, looks like,  
4 maybe three more rounds of suggestions and discussions.

5 So let's come back in maybe 20 minutes. So, it  
6 being roughly 10:20, we'll come back at 10:40.

7 (Off the record at 10:19 a.m.)

8 (On the record at 10:40 a.m.)

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. We'll bring this meeting  
10 back to order, and I think where we left off is we have 34  
11 candidates that we've decided to put forward, at least  
12 provisionally, to the 120 for interview.

13 Mr. Coe, you had given the last recommendation,  
14 so, Ms. Dickison, I think it's your turn.

15 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I want to put forth  
16 applicant number 14391, Machniak.

17 PANEL MEMBER COE: What was that name?

18 MS. DELANEY: I think it's Machniak.

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Mr. Machniak has 33 years  
20 with the Department of Defense, U.S. Navy. He acted as an  
21 engineer, scientist, program manager, and supervisor. He  
22 served as an officially trained EEO officer for the U.S.  
23 Navy, learned about people and to appreciate everyone's  
24 point of view while doing that, was a supervisor for 20  
25 years, served as a jury foreman.



1           He showed awareness of diversity, was enhanced by  
2 his experiences as a college recruiter traveling throughout  
3 the state. He likes to read and study papers, interest in  
4 people and opinions, enjoys problem solving, is a career  
5 scientist, a product engineer, and a project manager.

6           The letters all attest to his leadership, ethics,  
7 and his appreciation for diversity, as well as his  
8 character. He's worked with youth, education, and sports.  
9 And so I wanted to put him forward.

10           CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Coe?

11           PANEL MEMBER COE: I also like this applicant.  
12 They were kind of one of the last drops that I made before  
13 I made my 40. They didn't ultimately make my 40, but I had  
14 voted for them previously. I thought he really understands  
15 the need for and the requirements of redistricting.

16           He has experience listening to multiple points of  
17 view and gathering info to inform his decisions, experience  
18 working with diverse groups of people with varying  
19 perspectives, very well read and researched, has  
20 demonstrated the ability to understand dense, complicated  
21 materials, demonstrated strong problem-solving experience.

22           His letters of rec identified his ability to  
23 really understand the big picture and to be a solid  
24 communicator. So I would be in favor of this applicant.

25           CHAIR BELNAP: So I think I might be the lone

1 holdout here for a moment. I'd like to put aside this  
2 candidate for a moment. As I went back to my office and  
3 kind of looked globally at this subpool and where it's  
4 going to affect the overall pool, I'm not sure how this  
5 candidate helps us increase the diversity of our overall  
6 pool, not a strong no, just I'd like to see who else we're  
7 putting forward and then come back to it.

8           Okay. The candidate I'd like to put forward is  
9 applicant 2230, Colmar Devon Figueroa-Moseley. So Mr.  
10 Moseley is an individual who I've rated highly throughout  
11 this process. He has a master's degree and a PhD in  
12 psychology, later on went and got another master's degree  
13 in public health.

14           He's currently a program consultant for the  
15 American Psychological Association's socioeconomic status  
16 related to cancer disparities, and he's also currently a  
17 business owner who owns his own catering business, and he's  
18 been a research assistant in radiation oncology, and a  
19 research scientist for the Department of Public Health.

20           He's also had national, state, and local city  
21 commission involvement. He's served on various boards. He  
22 was a committee member of the National Surgical Strategic  
23 Planning Committee. He's a board member of the Sacramento  
24 Jewish Federation. He's a library ambassador. He's been  
25 involved in local school district curriculum at a local

1 school district.

2 His letters of recommendation emphasize his  
3 personal integrity, his analytical problem-solving skills,  
4 and his community involvement. And then I think Mr.  
5 Moseley brings to our applicant pool elements of diversity  
6 that we should be looking for, comes from the northern part  
7 of California. So, for this reason, I'm putting him  
8 forward.

9 PANEL MEMBER COE: I acknowledge a lot of the  
10 strengths that you put forth, Mr. Belnap, in addition, the  
11 experience on multiple committees, school district and  
12 national-level committees, discussing sensitive subjects,  
13 and has advocated for inclusivity in a lot of those,  
14 experience conducting surveys and gathering data to test a  
15 hypothesis. So the analytical skills are there.

16 He had experience dealing with understanding  
17 dense and technical info, and then writing about it in kind  
18 of layman's terms to inform a wide audience. His letters  
19 of rec praise his communication skills and his creative  
20 mind.

21 I ultimately didn't have him in my 40, because I  
22 noted some gaps in the diversity essay. I was looking for  
23 nothing really different than some of the stuff I've  
24 already mentioned, but it was, for me, a lot of "Worked  
25 with a lot of different people and have been to a lot of

1 different places," but there was no connecting to "Okay.  
2 What did you learn from those folks?," in there was my  
3 concern that kept him out of my 40. I would not, though,  
4 be opposed to interviewing Mr. Figueroa-Moseley.

5           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I won't be opposed to  
6 interviewing him, either. I kept him out of my 40 for some  
7 of the same reasons that Mr. Coe just mentioned, "Been to a  
8 lot of places, met a lot of people," but didn't really  
9 bring that together in the diversity essay for me, and  
10 then, on the impartiality, really didn't pin down the role  
11 that he played in an example, and so it was kind of hard to  
12 see whether he was being impartial or just a part of it.  
13 So that was why I kept him out of my original 40, but we  
14 can bring him in for an interview.

15           CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Thank you.

16           PANEL MEMBER COE: The next applicant I'd like to  
17 bring forward is Mr. Steven Chai, applicant 3289. Mr. Chai  
18 is a teacher in Kern County, and clearly has a clear  
19 understanding of gerrymandering, its history, and its  
20 current state in the United States.

21           He has experience working collaboratively with  
22 people of various backgrounds, including his students and  
23 his colleagues in the faculty. He worked with student  
24 leadership at a school to create an LGBTQ advocacy group on  
25 campus, experienced analyzing large data sets as student

1 data to inform decision making, and I think he has the  
2 overall diversity of the pool, and we'd like to bring him  
3 forward for consideration, please.

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would not be opposed to  
5 bringing Mr. Chai forward. For me, I agree with everything  
6 that you had. For me, the main thing that held me back on  
7 Mr. Chai was that I thought the letters kind of did a  
8 better job at describing some of his qualities than the  
9 essays and his responses. But we can bring him forward for  
10 an interview.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: I think I share the concern  
12 regarding the application itself that you just shared, and  
13 I think that's the same concerns, Mr. Coe, you have with  
14 Koenig-Sanko, and I would be fine moving forward with Chai,  
15 with the understanding that we have concerns regarding the  
16 application, similar to the concerns you had with  
17 Koenig-Sanko. I'd like to see both candidates put forward.

18 PANEL MEMBER COE: Where were we on that? Was I  
19 the only holdout on applicant Koenig-Sanko?

20 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

21 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. This is going to sound  
22 weird, but can I table my own applicant and come back to  
23 that idea?

24 CHAIR BELNAP: Let's do it.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: So 3289 -- that's Chai -- is  
2 tabled for now.

3 So, Ms. Dickison, I think you're up, right?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Uh-huh. I'd like to  
5 bring forward applicant number 15352, Katherine Burns. Ms.  
6 Burns is a teacher, and one of the things she shared in her  
7 impartiality is how she doesn't share her political views  
8 with her students, but instead asks what they think, and  
9 encourages them to form their own opinions. She approaches  
10 situations with an open mind, asks questions, considers  
11 whether other viewpoints may -- considers other viewpoints  
12 when making -- to make good decisions.

13 She focused her diversity more on the influence  
14 of location and resources, and how those can play a role in  
15 one's perspectives, thus, you know, geography can  
16 influence -- the geography influence was the strongest part  
17 of her diversity essay. She believes that culture  
18 relationships and education, et cetera, shape the local  
19 communities and resources -- or shape local communities and  
20 resources.

21 She uses data and other technical information on  
22 a daily basis to evaluate and solve problems. She studies  
23 from multiple sources of evidence when completing her  
24 analysis. In the insurance industry, she's collaborated  
25 with others and used data to recommend changes to reduce

1 accidents, injuries, and property loss.

2 As a teacher, she used data to plan and monitor  
3 student learning. She volunteers at the San Joaquin  
4 academic competitions, the Science Olympiad, and the  
5 letters showed support for this applicant. She is also in  
6 the south central, in San Joaquin.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: I'm already a yes, so I'm not  
8 going to reiterate all the things you just said.

9 Mr. Coe, I think you're already yes.

10 PANEL MEMBER COE: I was already a yes as well.  
11 She was in my top 40.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: So let's put her forward and have  
13 her interview.

14 So the person I'd like to put forward is  
15 applicant 11427, Richard Albert Gallegos. I think, at  
16 various points in time, each of you have recommended Mr.  
17 Gallegos. I've shared that recommendation each time.

18 The thing I find really interesting about him and  
19 that he brings his perspective as a deputy sheriff. I'm  
20 not sure we've talked a lot about law enforcement being in  
21 our pool, but I think that's interesting.

22 He's also an instructor. He has a master's  
23 degree, a MPA in particular. He's a detective, and he  
24 talked a lot about his fieldwork experience working as a  
25 detective, also in his teaching. I really thought he was a

1 good candidate, so I'm going to put him forward for your  
2 consideration.

3 Mr. Coe?

4 PANEL MEMBER COE: I would be in favor of that as  
5 well. I ultimately ended up having him in my 40 for the  
6 Republican pool. I initially didn't have a favorable vote  
7 on him, for a lot of the same reasons that I have stated  
8 already, in terms of lots of people and places, but didn't  
9 connect the dots for me about what he learned from those  
10 people. But I would be in favor of inviting him to  
11 interview.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison?

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would be in favor of  
14 putting him forward, for the same reasons that you  
15 mentioned. I had been a yes on him before. When I got to  
16 selecting my final 40, he was in the mix, and he has all of  
17 the qualifications. So we can put him forward.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

19 PANEL MEMBER COE: The next applicant I'd like to  
20 bring forward is Barbara Gray, applicant 19492. Ms. Gray  
21 is the president of a local healthcare district in San Luis  
22 Obispo County, which is a county currently not represented  
23 in the Republican pool that we have created thus far. She  
24 has board and public hearing experience, understanding of  
25 the Brown Act and other criteria involved.



1           She has the perspective of a healthcare  
2 professional. She's also a registered nurse. I'm not sure  
3 that that -- much like the law enforcement perspective you  
4 brought up on the last applicant, Mr. Belnap, I don't know  
5 that we've talked much about the healthcare professional  
6 perspective.

7           She's got a lot of experience with complicated  
8 data and analysis techniques to drive decision making. A  
9 lot of public comments that were left refer to her  
10 commitment to helping form a better community. So I would  
11 like to bring Ms. Gray forward for consideration.

12           CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison, you want to go?

13           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Go ahead of me. It took  
14 me a minute to find it.

15           CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, Mr. Coe, I didn't rate  
16 her answers on impartiality and appreciation for diversity  
17 as very strong. I think I had to connect the dots. What  
18 I'd like to do -- and I want to hear what Ms. Dickison has  
19 to say, but, for now, what I'd like -- I would say put her  
20 in the set-aside pool, and then look at it. But I want to  
21 see where Ms. Dickison is at.

22           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm with you in putting  
23 her in the set-aside pool, for the same reasons you noted.  
24 I noted that I had not marked her very highly on the  
25 diversity essay, and so I'd like to take another look

1 at it.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I'll put forward  
4 applicant number 20381, Glenn Fukushima, and if I destroy  
5 names, I'm very sorry.

6 He showed the capacity to be impartial. He  
7 evidenced that through his role as a naval officer. He  
8 kind of talked about, on a ship, there's no place for  
9 impartiality (sic). Sailors know right away if you're  
10 going to be fair or not. Other examples he used as  
11 experiences as a teacher and as a property owner and  
12 landlord.

13 He spent 33 years as an elementary school teacher  
14 in the Los Angeles School District, and he talked about  
15 children from different backgrounds, and the particular  
16 challenges they can face if they're the "only," being the  
17 only one that looks like them or the only one that has the  
18 same abilities they have. So I wanted to put him forward.

19 PANEL MEMBER COE: I also am in favor of Mr.  
20 Fukushima. I had him in my 40. I thought he brought a lot  
21 of unique perspective to the pool. He's a teacher, and as  
22 I think you guys have seen, I've been trying to get an  
23 educator in here. I think those folks have been tabled for  
24 now, but he's a teacher currently, but was, as you  
25 mentioned, a former U.S. Navy officer, used to making tough

1 decisions that often involve the safety of others, a clear  
2 understanding of gerrymandering and what it can do to a  
3 population, and the need for inclusive districts.

4           He's got some family history. His family was  
5 interned in World War Two, and has a unique perspective  
6 that comes with that, teacher that values hard work and the  
7 rewards that come with it, and that value that he passes on  
8 to his students. I would be very in favor of interviewing  
9 Mr. Fukushima.

10           CHAIR BELNAP: So, hearing your argument, I'm in  
11 favor of bringing him in for an interview.

12           So, with my turn, I want to do something a little  
13 different. I'm going to bring up a candidate I already  
14 talked about that's in our set-aside pool. I think she's  
15 important, so I'll use a turn on discussing Ms.  
16 Koenig-Sanko. I've already talked about her before, but I  
17 was impressed with her answers regarding impartiality in  
18 particular. She talked about being a teacher for the last  
19 26 years, where 25 different languages are spoken, and I  
20 liked what she said here:

21           "Every day I have to be impartial in a  
22 vast array of situations where I must  
23 show no favoritism. I can never let my  
24 personal feelings affect or drive  
25 situations I find myself in daily. I

1 do have strong feelings about a lot of  
2 things, but being honest and fair and  
3 compromising are attributes that are  
4 just as strong. Each of us is unique  
5 and has our own perspective on  
6 everything. This is because we have  
7 unique life experiences. We must  
8 respect each other's perspective when  
9 working in a group, for the common  
10 good."

11 I like that response. I rated this application  
12 quite high, and I think this person adds to the diversity  
13 of experiences and other elements of diversity to the pool.  
14 So I'm going to recommend them again.

15 PANEL MEMBER COE: So I recognize that this is  
16 geared directly at me. I acknowledge the qualities you  
17 brought forward, and I noted some as well, experience with  
18 teaching diverse groups of students, committee experience,  
19 and working in public meetings such as this, determining  
20 the validity of information, relevant versus irrelevant  
21 info, has taught GIS to her students. Letters of rec call  
22 her a good communicator and a creative critical thinker.

23 In addition to the concerns that I noted before  
24 in terms of demonstration of impartiality and diversity,  
25 one of the reasons that I'm going to -- and I'm bring this

1 up for discussion, not that I'm standing in the way,  
2 necessarily, when I say this, but I think it's a thing  
3 that -- well, I guess this is one the scenarios where maybe  
4 we have more than 40.

5           One thing that I want us to consider if we put  
6 her on this list now is, in addition to the concerns I  
7 already noted, we, I think, have a lot of representation in  
8 Sacramento County, and there may be some other options  
9 there, and I'd like to also consider how many doctorates  
10 are in our pool, and she would be another one. I feel like  
11 there's already quite a few. So, when I say that, let's  
12 add her to the list, and consider these things as we  
13 discuss the 120 tomorrow, in terms of those types of  
14 numbers.

15           CHAIR BELNAP: I appreciate that. I think, as  
16 this process has rolled out -- this is obviously the first  
17 time any of us has done this, and it's very unique in the  
18 sense that we can't talk to each other while we're doing  
19 it. If we could talk to each other while we're doing it,  
20 we could be bouncing -- we could be using each other as  
21 sounding boards.

22           Obviously, we have sounding boards on each side  
23 of us, so we appreciate that, but this process has been  
24 very helpful, and I think, at some level, when I see your  
25 votes, what I'm saying is, that's feedback, and I think, as

1 we trust each other's judgment, it allows us to have a  
2 sounding board in ways that's very difficult in our little  
3 silo.

4           So I think you're up next, Mr. Coe. If you  
5 wanted to look through the set-asides, if you had somebody  
6 that you felt the most strong about, I would be willing to  
7 trust your judgment on that.

8           PANEL MEMBER COE: I know that we discussed  
9 applicant Koenig-Sanko along with another one that we set  
10 aside for me, and that would be 3289, but I also wanted to  
11 discuss another one, if that was okay.

12           CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Sure.

13           PANEL MEMBER COE: So 3289 was Steven Chai, but I  
14 would also like to -- let's see, here. I'd also like to  
15 bring forward the applicant I mentioned last meeting, where  
16 I was the one vote, that I specifically pointed out last  
17 time, and bring him forth for discussion as well. This is  
18 Anthony Leadholm, applicant 21686. I think he adds to the  
19 diversity of this pool.

20           He's from Placer County. He's in an economic  
21 status category where I think we only have one other  
22 applicant, under 35,000, in this pool so far. He was, as I  
23 mentioned last time, most recently, the perspective of a  
24 stay-at-home parent, which I don't think we have  
25 representation for thus far.

1 I thought he was well read and researched. He  
2 has, as I mentioned before, the stay-at-home parent  
3 perspective. He's a former academic counselor, experience  
4 working with a wide variety of people and in a wide variety  
5 of situations.

6 He has a lot of experience volunteering at a  
7 voting precinct, as an inspector and supervisor, has lived  
8 for extended times in various geographic regions in the  
9 state, including the central valley, Sacramento, Los  
10 Angeles, and, currently, Placer.

11 He has experience with large data sets and  
12 evaluating those, specifically with student applications  
13 during his time as an academic counselor. He's worked on  
14 several academic committees, and made collaborative  
15 decisions with other people, and his letters of rec stress  
16 his inclusivity and open-mindedness with others. So I'd  
17 like to bring him forward for consideration one more time.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: So, as we get near to the end and  
19 we have to make choices, I think -- I agree with everything  
20 you just said. Also, there's a comparison going on in my  
21 mind. Just so you know how I would see it, he would be the  
22 highest -- I've evaluated him higher than the other people  
23 in the pool that we've thus far set aside.

24 So I don't know how you have the rest of these  
25 individuals kind of evaluated or sorted, but Leadholm would

1 be one of the higher ones from me. So that's my  
2 comparative analysis. It doesn't get into the details, but  
3 I think you already shared all the details related to this  
4 candidate.

5 Ms. Dickison?

6 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I really (indiscernible)  
7 as well. I wouldn't mind interviewing him. We could  
8 interview him, and then would we still be considering the  
9 five on the side?

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. So we'd go up to -- I don't  
11 know the exact numbers. Let me see. That would be 40.  
12 One, two, three, four, five. There would be 45, just like  
13 yesterday.

14 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. That would be  
15 fine.

16 PANEL MEMBER COE: So we're in favor of adding  
17 Mr. Leadholm to that list, and we'll be at 45.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Adding him to the list of people  
19 we're planning on interview (sic), Leadholm, and then we'll  
20 have five set-asides that we also want shown on our  
21 spreadsheet to keep track of, but showing them in the order  
22 in which we brought them in, meaning don't sort them by  
23 alpha so we lose track of who the five are that we've set  
24 aside.

25 MR. DAWSON: So, just to be clear, these are the



1 entire list of 45, are folks who are tentatively going to  
2 be moved forward for interviews?

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes. Yes.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: And I think there's a hierarchy  
5 for the last five. If we don't make any changes to this  
6 subpool based on our conversation on Friday, these last  
7 five would be the five that we plan on dropping out. I  
8 think that's where we're at.

9 PANEL MEMBER COE: I agree. Are you thinking  
10 that there's no need to make that distinction right now,  
11 and we just make that distinction tomorrow?

12 MR. DAWSON: No, no, no. Well, for the  
13 purposes -- and this is purely to assist the Panel. For  
14 the purposes of listing out folks who you have tentatively  
15 agreed to, we'll move forward for interviews, and, of  
16 course, final decisions will only be made at the end of the  
17 process, but we would also like to -- we are planning to  
18 compile demographic information as well. So we will  
19 include these folks in that as well.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

21 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. Yes.

22 MR. DAWSON: Okay. And each of you, of course,  
23 will know, with your own handwritten notes, who is, as you  
24 say, perhaps, on the bubble.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

1 MR. DAWSON: Yes. So, with that, just give me a  
2 second. We'll stand at ease as we make sure our notes are  
3 complete and accurate.

4 All right. If the chair would like, I will read  
5 back --

6 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

7 MR. DAWSON: -- to the panel the entire list of  
8 45: number 4974, Peter Blando, number 73, David Burdick,  
9 number 1208, David Coher, 5734, Jeff Comerchero, 721, Keith  
10 Eich, 12652, Alicia Fernandez, 1618, Stacy Flanigan, 7806,  
11 Neal Fornaciari, 18670, Jeffrey Gee, 22980, Louise  
12 Gulartie, 1658, Steve Chai, 19974, Wesley Hussy, 5530, Fred  
13 Kosmo, 2050, James Mendelson, 5190, Robert Murillo, 22370,  
14 Genevieve Murphy, 668, Ronald Newton, 21621, Michael  
15 Offutt, 6463, Keith Overbey, 9298, Susan Rohan, 2502,  
16 William Schmidt, 248 -- excuse me -- 24083, Ravinder  
17 Shergill, 21705, Derric Taylor, 6450, James Trovato, 13850,  
18 Karla Van Meter, 19939, Hellen Meade, 1387, Christy Jewell,  
19 758, Elizabeth Ahlers, 15880, Anthony Coe, 958, Louise  
20 Silacci, 15596, Zena Greenspan, 11312, Russell Yee, 3410,  
21 Michael Allawos, 20496, Jane Anderson, 2230, Colmar  
22 Figueroa-Moseley, 15352, Kathleen -- excuse me -- Katherine  
23 Burns, 11427, Richard Gallegos, 20381, Glenn Fukushima,  
24 6681 (sic), Karen Koenig-Sanko, 21686, Anthony Leadholm,  
25 14886, Jeremiah Riley, 9595, John Sterni, 14391, Martin

1 Machniak, 3289, Steven Chai, 19492, Barbara Gray.

2 Does that agree with everyone's list?

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

5 Okay. So, when we come back from recess, we'll  
6 be taking up the Democrats. I suggest we come back at  
7 1:00 o'clock, like we did yesterday, although it looks like  
8 we have more time today, which is nice. So let's go into  
9 recess until 1:00 p.m.

10 (Off the record at 11:19 a.m.)

11 (On the record at 1:02 p.m.)

12 CHAIR BELNAP: I'll call this meeting to order.  
13 Welcome back from lunch. We're going to pick up with the  
14 Democrat pool.

15 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, before we address the  
16 Democrat pool, I have two small items. The first, in the  
17 interests of completeness and accuracy, for one of the  
18 candidates in the earlier pool, I stated her ID number  
19 incorrectly. Ms. Koenig-Sanko's ID number is 6881. I want  
20 to make that clear for the record.

21 Secondly, we have from the CSA side a confirmed  
22 applicant request to withdraw his application. He is a  
23 Democrat. His name is Miguel Arias, applicant number 7097.

24 Ms. Le Tellier, if you would distribute to the  
25 Panel, and also the notice is available at the back. It

1 would be appropriate at this time for the Panel to take a  
2 motion to accept the withdrawal of this applicant.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: So I move we accept the withdrawal  
4 of applicant Miguel Arias, applicant ID 7097.

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Second.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Public comment?

7 Seeing none, all in favor?

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: Aye.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Aye.

10 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Aye.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Thank you.

12 MR. DAWSON: Thank you.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: So I just had a quick comment  
14 before we jumped in. Anyone who has access to the  
15 demographic summary that we distributed yesterday will see  
16 that we have 14 Democrats. We have three favorable  
17 recommendations. Last meeting, we had more than 40 where  
18 we had three favorable.

19 Now, understand that, from the beginning of this  
20 process, from the applications even until now, that pool,  
21 the Democrat pool, has been the largest pool. We received  
22 the most applications from those identifying as Democrats.

23 As we've trimmed down the pool, the Democrat pool  
24 has continued to be the largest, and, as we trim them down,  
25 we continue to have very strong candidates in this pool,

1 and I think there's a variety of different directions you  
2 can go with many qualified candidates, and I think that's  
3 reflected in the fact that we have 14 yeses.

4           That does mean, for this meeting, we're going to  
5 have to add 26, and I think, for myself, I'm going to try  
6 to be brief. When I don't disagree, I'm just going to just  
7 state it very quickly, and not give a lot of reasons behind  
8 it.

9           I think, as we move through 26 versus the 15 we  
10 did earlier, I think we're going to have to look at how  
11 long some of our comments are. If we disagree, we should  
12 certainly be talking about that in detail, as we have, but,  
13 if we're in agreement, I think we should just move it  
14 forward, so we're not belaboring a point.

15           So any other comments or --

16           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I have none.

17           CHAIR BELNAP: None. Okay. All right. So we're  
18 going to hop back into Agenda Item Number 7, looking at the  
19 Democrat pool, and I think we left off with Mr. Coe at the  
20 last applicant pool that we examined.

21           So, Ms. Dickison, I think it would be appropriate  
22 to let you go first.

23           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I want to bring  
24 forward applicant 12437, Robert Reader. Mr. Reader has a  
25 master's degree in counseling. He's had a long career at

1 Bakersfield College in Kern County. He served as a work  
2 experience coordinator.

3 He was a founder of the Martin Luther King,  
4 Junior, Center for Social Change at the college, assistant  
5 track and field coach, PE and health teacher. He also  
6 taught real estate, has been a photographer. He's been  
7 self-employed as a contractor Realtor/appraiser.

8 One thing I noted on Mr. Reader's application. I  
9 was really impressed with his impartiality and his ability  
10 to set aside any views of his own. Specifically, he was  
11 part of a fact-finding committee that was involved in  
12 determining whether or not the USA would participate in the  
13 Olympics in Moscow in 1980.

14 So, because of the human rights violations, they  
15 recommended that the USA not participate. He recognized it  
16 was a very difficult thing to do, and that there was  
17 probably great disappointment to many, many athletes, but  
18 it was the right thing to do.

19 Also, on diversity, he understands the  
20 geographical differences. As a photographer, he's traveled  
21 throughout the state, photographing different areas. We  
22 even had another candidate that looked at Mr. Reader's  
23 application and made a public comment commenting on,  
24 through his photography, you can see his love for the  
25 state.

1           He appreciates the difference in people. There  
2 was a public comment that talks about he works just to  
3 improve the community. He has experience as a real estate  
4 professional. He's been a business owner, an educator, and  
5 a counselor. He actually helped design a shoe for long  
6 jump.

7           The letters just go on and on about his character  
8 and his ability. He has experience in soliciting and  
9 listening to public opinion, and has ability to conduct  
10 research and analyze information.

11           Finally, the last comment on it from another  
12 applicant that went in and read his application, and he  
13 even noted that the applicant's knowledge and understanding  
14 of community issues, zoning ordinances, planning processes,  
15 and law will serve the Commission well, and he further  
16 stated that he hopes Mr. Reader gets an interview.

17           CHAIR BELNAP: Any comments, Mr. Coe?

18           PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes. So this is the applicant  
19 you asked us to take a look at in our last meeting, Ms.  
20 Dickison, that you were the one vote on.

21           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

22           PANEL MEMBER COE: I was initially, in the early  
23 process -- didn't vote favorably because the diversity  
24 essay, to me, didn't connect the dots, but I went back  
25 after you brought him up, and the more I looked at this

1 applicant's application, I started to change my mind.

2 I really started to try and find a spot in my  
3 folio, and I didn't find one, and the reason for that is I  
4 found an applicant from Kern that I liked just a little bit  
5 more. But I am fine with interviewing Mr. Reader. I  
6 thought that he could bring a lot to the Commission.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Thank you.

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: So I'd be in favor of that.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: So, Ms. Dickison, I think I'm  
10 still in the "no" category. This is a group that's very  
11 strong, and I don't see Mr. Reader's application as  
12 demonstrating that strength. I would like to see where  
13 we're at later, further down, and as we keep -- I know I  
14 did -- for the Republicans, I brought up another applicant.

15 That was probably a new thing, and if you want to  
16 bring him back, then we can discuss him, but, for now, I  
17 want to put him in the aside group, and you can feel free  
18 to bring him up the same way I did with the other  
19 candidate.

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. I'll bring up a candidate  
22 that I'm the single vote on, and the person is Elaine Marie  
23 Lewis, applicant number 23353. So Elaine Lewis has a  
24 master's degree and PhD from the University of San Diego.  
25 Since 2008, Doctor Lewis has been a professor teaching risk



1 management, and before that, Doctor Lewis worked for 31  
2 years as the executive director of a nonprofit organization  
3 serving the needs of people with developmental  
4 disabilities.

5 Doctor Lewis' application uses a vast array of  
6 volunteer experiences to demonstrate the ability to be  
7 impartial and to appreciate California's diversity. In  
8 particular, Doctor Lewis has worked across the state to  
9 prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Doctor Lewis also  
10 volunteers at the San Diego LGBTQ Community Center, and  
11 participates in San Diego's rapid response network, as well  
12 as Habitat for Humanity and emergency wildlife  
13 rehabilitation.

14 Finally, I was impressed that, as part of Doctor  
15 Lewis' successful completion of a doctoral program, Doctor  
16 Lewis utilized sophisticated data-gathering techniques to  
17 examine the level of voting participation by clients served  
18 by social service nonprofits.

19 The collection of these demonstrated experiences,  
20 as well as the unique and valuable perspective Doctor Lewis  
21 will bring to the Commission, caused me to put this  
22 candidate forward to my fellow Panel members as someone we  
23 need to interview.

24 Who wants to go first? Ms. Dickison, Mr. Coe?

25 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'll go first.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I'm going to ask to  
3 put her aside for now. The one thing that I had questions  
4 on with her, when I looked at her impartiality essay, she  
5 didn't really get to putting anything aside or, you know,  
6 giving anything up. It was more staying in compliance.  
7 So, for that reason, I didn't find it really compelling.

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: I kind of fell into the same  
9 boat as Ms. Dickison. I have noted some of those gaps, and  
10 not quite finishing the idea of impartiality, and also,  
11 again, on the diversity side of things, in terms of  
12 political representation preferences as stated in the regs,  
13 how people of differing backgrounds may have different  
14 preferences on political representation, and I didn't see  
15 the connection there. I would agree, I think, with Ms.  
16 Dickison on this applicant.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

18 PANEL MEMBER COE: So, keeping with the theme of  
19 bringing applicants where we're the sole vote, I would like  
20 to bring forward applicant Vonya Quarles, number 6169.

21 Ms. Quarles, to me, was a truly unique applicant  
22 out of the entire pool of 2,000 complete applications that  
23 we started with. Not only does she have prior  
24 redistricting experience within the city of Corona, and  
25 board experience, and has participated in fellowships

1 related to social justice, including helping children in  
2 foster care, her story really spoke to me as something that  
3 could be a truly unique perspective on this Commission.

4           She's a former incarcerated felon that  
5 successfully rehabilitated herself. After serving time in  
6 prison for narcotics violations, she went on to graduate  
7 from college and law school, become a community  
8 representative and advocate in Riverside County, and she's  
9 now a parent and a grandparent, and is also a founder and  
10 executive director of Starting Over, Incorporated, a  
11 reentry program for people leaving prison and working to  
12 rebuild their lives. She is that "R" in "CVCR."

13           I think this may have been discussed even in our  
14 trainings, that kind of an easily overlooked community of  
15 interest is people who are trying to start over, who have  
16 served time, and who are trying to get back out there and  
17 turn their lives around. As a community of interest, it  
18 may be easily overlooked, and I think Ms. Quarles is a  
19 uniquely qualified person to be able to represent and bring  
20 that perspective of that community to the Commission.  
21 She's got just a lot of things here that make me feel  
22 strongly that we should interview her.

23           In addition to what I've already mentioned, she  
24 works to foster positive community change. She's a savvy  
25 organizational leader, a lot of experience with outreach, a

1 passionate advocate for the rights and health of  
2 communities, experienced public speaking, and does a lot to  
3 help people rebuild their lives. She's dedicated her life  
4 to that, after, you know, ending up in the place that she  
5 ended up in her younger years. So, for that reason, I'd  
6 really like to consider bringing Vonya Quarles here for an  
7 interview.

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm okay with adding her.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Coe, after hearing you speak  
10 about it, you have changed my mind, and I'll say from a  
11 different angle, I feel the same way about Ms. Elaine  
12 Lewis, or Doctor Lewis. So I'll just note that. I'm going  
13 to vote Ms. Quarles through, but I have that same  
14 perspective on the previous candidate.

15 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. DAWSON: So, then, we have agreement on Ms.  
17 Vonya Quarles and Doctor Lewis?

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

19 MR. DAWSON: Thank you.

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I wanted to bring forward  
21 applicant 3485, Larry Lee.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Can you say that name again?

23 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Larry Lee, L-E-E.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: Lee. Yes. I think we're ready.

25 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. I wanted to bring

1 Mr. Lee forward. So he's a research attorney, has been for  
2 35 years. He works on civil and criminal cases. His  
3 impartiality -- I thought his impartiality essay did a good  
4 job at explaining, you know, the meaning of impartiality to  
5 him, and he demonstrated that through work as a research  
6 attorney with the California Supreme Court.

7           The letters talk about his impartiality and  
8 ability to work with others. He's taught law. He's  
9 evaluated statistical evidence and scientific evidence. He  
10 uses Socratic method. He served on the faculty academics  
11 standards committee. That's it.

12           CHAIR BELNAP: I'm a solid yes on this one, so  
13 I'll turn the time over to Mr. Coe.

14           PANEL MEMBER COE: I noted some of the same gaps  
15 that I've already mentioned in terms of impartiality and  
16 diversity for this applicant. There's a lot of good  
17 qualities that he brings as well, so I'd be happy to  
18 interview him.

19           CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

20           Okay. So the candidate I would like to discuss  
21 next is 1639, J. Craig Fong. So Mr. Fong is an attorney  
22 who focuses on immigration law. He's also on the Pacific  
23 Bell advisory board, and is a teacher.

24           He also, in his description of his ability to be  
25 impartial, talked about his experience as an attorney, but

1 also as an ordained monk, and under his description of  
2 appreciation for diversity, he talked about his work for  
3 nonprofits for legal advocacy, and also for his outreach  
4 regarding immigration law. I saw him as a solid candidate,  
5 someone who would be a great commissioner, and I put him  
6 forward for your consideration.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm a solid yes on this  
8 one as well, for the same reasons. I was going to bring  
9 him up as well. He's a director of the API American Legal  
10 Center, the Downtown Immigration Advocates, or was. He  
11 does outreach for the amnesty program. He has leadership  
12 roles in multiple advocacy organizations.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: And I would add that the region  
14 he's from, Inland Empire, is not one we're currently  
15 overrepresented in. So I know he shares the quality of  
16 being a lawyer with other candidates, but that is a skill  
17 set we're going to need in a good handful of our Commission  
18 members.

19 PANEL MEMBER COE: This applicant didn't make my  
20 top 40, but I have a lot more positive to say than  
21 concerns, and anything I noted as something that kept him  
22 out is not something I couldn't ask about in an interview.  
23 So I would be happy to interview Mr. Fong.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: So the next applicant I would

1 like to bring forward for consideration is Ina Bendich,  
2 10150. Ms. Bendich was a consultant and a restorative  
3 justice trainer, educator, in Alameda County.

4           Some of the things that she really demonstrated  
5 in her application were a skilled listener and mediator,  
6 seems like a rather driven and energetic individual,  
7 innovative community programs developer, enables youth to  
8 become engaged in civic life and government opportunities,  
9 has some examples of bringing people together to serve a  
10 common good.

11           She's known to be prepared, in some of these  
12 letters of rec, prepared, fair, inclusive, and open, and  
13 has shown an ability to lead large projects that utilize  
14 statistical data, maps, and complicated analysis, and those  
15 are the reasons I'd like to bring Ina Bendich forward for  
16 consideration.

17           CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you, Mr. Coe. I think last  
18 time I was the one holdout, and this time I voted for her.  
19 For all the reasons that you just mentioned, I changed my  
20 vote to a yes.

21           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would be a yes on her.  
22 I liked her, and I had a positive recommendation for her  
23 the last two times. She just didn't make it to the 40 I  
24 chose.

25           I'd like to bring forward 2824, Irma Cooper.

1 Ms. Cooper was a military commander. She served  
2 in the nursing -- she was part of nursing, and she talked  
3 in her impartiality essay about a time in Kuwait when they  
4 had to move support, and it really shows her ability to be  
5 able to make hard decisions under pressure, and look for  
6 solutions, and not concentrate on, you know, what may not  
7 be going right, and impartiality in that.

8 She's also very active. She's a member of the  
9 NAACP (sic). She's applied voting information, looked up  
10 voting behaviors within her community. She's served on  
11 several teams, ranging from being a team leader to a  
12 presenter. She's collected data and analyzed it, conducted  
13 research to improve clinical outcomes. She currently, you  
14 know, volunteers with nonprofit veterans, nursing, and  
15 civil rights organizations.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: I'm already yes, and I still feel  
17 the same way. So I'll pass it on.

18 PANEL MEMBER COE: So, once again, I find myself  
19 as the lone holdout here. Kind of the biggest gap that I  
20 noticed was, the diversity essay didn't say much or  
21 anything about geographic diversity, and, as I've stated  
22 several times in the regs, that stood out to me as a big  
23 missing link there. If you guys wouldn't mind, I would  
24 like to put her aside for now.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. That's 2824.



1           So, Mr. Coe, I know you and I have some of these  
2 that we agree on, so I'm going to bring up one of them  
3 first, so you're not feeling constantly cornered.

4           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Right.

5           CHAIR BELNAP: Someone I've rated highly is this  
6 candidate, 20032, Cynthia A. Kroll. Ms. Kroll's  
7 accomplishments are many, so I'm going to hit the  
8 highlights here. She's the chief economist at the UC  
9 Berkeley Research Center. She's the director there. She's  
10 got a master's degree and a doctoral degree in regional  
11 planning.

12           The list goes on. She works at the Stanford  
13 Research Institute, the Bay Area Government Metropolitan  
14 Association, California Office of Economic Policy,  
15 Planning, and Research. Her accomplishments are many, and  
16 I found her answer for ability to be impartial was  
17 topnotch, and her analytical skills are very high, and for  
18 those reasons, I put forward Cynthia Kroll for your  
19 consideration.

20           PANEL MEMBER COE: I'm in total agreement with  
21 Mr. Belnap on this candidate.

22           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: We can put her through  
23 for an interview. I was yes on her last time. She didn't  
24 make it to the 40 I selected.

25           CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

1           PANEL MEMBER COE: The candidate I'd like to  
2 bring forward now is actually one that didn't make my top  
3 40, but I think made yours, both of yours. I really like  
4 this candidate, Bapu Vaitla, 4607.

5           CHAIR BELNAP: Could you say the last name again?

6           PANEL MEMBER COE: Vaitla, V-A-I-T-L-A.

7           CHAIR BELNAP: All right.

8           PANEL MEMBER COE: Mr. Vaitla is from Yolo  
9 County. He's a scientist and researcher there. He studies  
10 politics and political participation as they relate to  
11 addressing human problems. He's done extensive research,  
12 and has shown many analytical skills throughout the years.  
13 He has a lot of diverse experiences assessing social,  
14 economic, and political systems, policies and structures,  
15 and I think he would be valuable to this Commission's work.

16           He's also demonstrated a lot of excellent  
17 communication and listening skills, and working with  
18 others, and I was always -- I think I voted in favor of  
19 this applicant all the way to the end here, and it was just  
20 kind of one of those ones where we had so many good  
21 candidates I had to let some people, some really good  
22 people, go, but I'd like to bring back him in for  
23 consideration.

24           CHAIR BELNAP: Total agreement here.

25           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Same here.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to bring forward  
3 applicant number 17925, Pilar Diaz. Ms. Diaz has been an  
4 employee of the Census Bureau, is a partnership specialist.  
5 What that is, is she partnerships in bringing organizations  
6 together to help get out the count. So she has experience  
7 with census data. She also educates, engages, and  
8 encourages participation. Her outreach is focused on the  
9 native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. She's  
10 gained an understanding of the different communities  
11 through her work.

12 I thought that her impartiality gave a good  
13 example of not letting emotion drive her decisions, and  
14 also ensuring there was access for everyone to provide  
15 input. She's put forward an understanding of the needs of  
16 rural communities. She's a member of the Parks Commission.  
17 She works with contractors on RFP processes and contracts.  
18 She's a director of corporate engagement for the Boys and  
19 Girls Club, a board member of Blue Sky Center. So I'd like  
20 to put her forward.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So this is a person that I  
22 was not a yes on earlier, and then I saw both of your  
23 votes, I think, previously, looked at the application  
24 again, and it's one of those instances where I felt like I  
25 had been a little too harsh in a few areas. Considering

1 your votes as feedback, I have her as a yes now, so I'd be  
2 fine moving her forward.

3 PANEL MEMBER COE: I'm in agreement. She was a  
4 yes for me twice over, and then again just on the 40. I  
5 didn't quite get in there, but I think she's a strong  
6 candidate.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: It's my turn, right?

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: I do believe so, yes, sir.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. I want to put forward  
10 candidate 11802, Michael John Gennaco. So one of the  
11 things I liked about Mr. Gennaco is, not only did he have  
12 strong analytical skills, some of them were directly  
13 related to the issue the Commission will be examining.

14 Mr. Gennaco has a JD, and he began his career as  
15 a trial attorney in the voting section of the U.S.  
16 Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. There he  
17 enforced and conducted investigations to uphold the Voting  
18 Rights Act. He's also been the Assistant U.S. Attorney and  
19 Chief of Civil Rights Section. He's prosecuted violations  
20 of civil rights, including hate crimes and human  
21 trafficking.

22 He has a current law practice dedicated to expert  
23 civilian oversight and policy practices, and he's hired by  
24 local governments to conduct sensitive investigations. In  
25 his application, he also described how he's active in his

1 local community. He was appointed to be the monitor for  
2 the Stockton Unified School District Police Department. He  
3 attends town halls and forums.

4 He participates in various nonprofits, on their  
5 boards, including the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and  
6 Trafficking. I thought his impartiality essay was  
7 fantastic, because he drew on his time in the voting  
8 section of the U.S. Department of Justice, which deals with  
9 these issues, in particular.

10 He also had great letters of recommendation.  
11 People that wrote the letters were impressed with his  
12 approach to cases and investigations, and they said he  
13 exercised exceptional judgment and integrity, and he's  
14 committed to thorough investigation of the evidence and  
15 putting forward recommendations grounded in facts and the  
16 law. For these reasons, I put forward Mr. Gennaco for your  
17 consideration.

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, hearing you talk  
19 about him, I can see what you saw, and I saw some of those  
20 things as well. I think, for me, the hardest part was I  
21 didn't think that, in the essays, he drew those conclusions  
22 for me as well. So that's kind of -- and I have notes here  
23 about, you know, that I believe this candidate could be  
24 really strong, but he needed more descriptions in those  
25 essays, for me.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: So where are you at overall?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would let him go  
3 through.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: A lot of what Ms. Dickison  
7 said mirrors how I felt about it. There's no doubt this is  
8 a rather distinguished individual with a strong resume,  
9 graduated from Dartmouth University and Stanford, former  
10 U.S. Attorney, Assistant U.S. Attorney, familiarity and  
11 experience with enforcing the Voting Rights Act, but I had  
12 the same gaps in the essays. There wasn't a lot there.

13 It relied heavily on implications that I think  
14 maybe the strong resume was going to speak to a lot of  
15 things, but they weren't clearly demonstrated as well as  
16 some others. On both impartiality and diversity, for me,  
17 there was no mention at all of geographic diversity, and so  
18 there was a lot of inference there for me, and I would be  
19 in agreement with Ms. Dickison.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: To bring him forward for an  
21 interview?

22 PANEL MEMBER COE: I'm sorry. I thought you --

23 CHAIR BELNAP: That's what she said, yes.

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes. I would bring him  
25 forward for an interview --

1 PANEL MEMBER COE: For an interview. Okay.

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: -- based on the resume.

3 PANEL MEMBER COE: I see.

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: And there are things we  
5 fleshed out.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: I misunderstood. Okay.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: So, since you're given me a little  
8 bit of pause here, so the thing about -- I understand that  
9 the application is something we need to evaluate, and the  
10 quality of it, and certainly, when somebody doesn't answer  
11 a question very well, that brings our overall rating of  
12 that evaluation -- or that application -- down.

13 But ultimately what carried it for me is who he  
14 is as a person, not his ability to write a good  
15 application. I mean, that's part of it. I'm certainly  
16 examining that. But what he has done is remarkable, and  
17 particularly that is so applicable to the work of the  
18 Commission. I wish he would have described it better, but  
19 the work he's done in the voting rights section is so  
20 applicable that I would love to see him come forward for an  
21 interview.

22 PANEL MEMBER COE: Mr. Belnap, if you wouldn't  
23 mind tabling this one for now, and maybe bringing him up  
24 again, as we did in the past, perhaps after a recess later  
25 on, I'll go back and take another look at this application.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. And I guess I should say,  
2 if at any time we want to take a recess, let me know. I  
3 don't think we can go all the way to the same number, 35,  
4 we did for the others, to get there. We're going to have  
5 to take a break earlier than that. I still have candidates  
6 I feel comfortable talking about, but, if we get to that  
7 point, just say, "Let's take a break."

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: Sure.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: So I think you're up, Mr. Coe.

10 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. I'd like to bring  
11 forward Laura Elizabeth Gomez, applicant 21439. Ms. Gomez  
12 is a law professor at UCLA who teaches courses applicable  
13 to redistricting, including constitutional law, civil  
14 rights, civil procedure, demonstrated to be a consensus  
15 builder and collaborator, and she seems to have ideal legal  
16 and social science background and training for this type of  
17 work, has since dedicated her life to causes that foster  
18 inclusivity, and has a lot of experience as a lecturer and  
19 public speaker, and for those reasons, I'd like to bring  
20 her forward for your consideration.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: I agree.

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I agree.

23 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. Thank you.

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to bring forward  
25 applicant number 9562, Sonia Melara. Ms. Melara has some



1 redistricting experience. She served on the San Francisco  
2 redistricting task force in 2012. She has experience with  
3 data statistics. She served on multiple boards, and the  
4 police commission.

5 She's worked with the board of directors of the  
6 California Association of Supervised Visitation Services to  
7 help ensure passage of a law to mandate training for  
8 supervised visit professionals. The letters discuss her  
9 work as a police commissioner, and implementing reform  
10 during a tough period in San Francisco, and so I'd like to  
11 put her forward.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: I'm already in agreement with  
13 that, that recommendation.

14 PANEL MEMBER COE: I was previously a favorable  
15 vote, and then, again, with the creation of 40, she was  
16 squeezed out, but I'm also favorable of bringing her  
17 forward for an interview.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. The candidate I'd like to  
19 put forward is Lisa Shaffer, number 640. So I think, at  
20 one point in time, we were all three yeses on Ms. Shaffer.  
21 I seem to be the lone holdout now in terms of a yes, and  
22 the reason for that is just the quality of the application,  
23 the quality of the skills. I understand she's southern  
24 coastal, and we have plenty from southern coastal, but I  
25 just want to read through what is so impressive about her

1 application and resume.

2 She is a PhD and an MBA. She is currently a  
3 coordinator for seven nonprofit organizations comprising  
4 the Encinitas Environmental Education Collaborative. She  
5 has experience with research, environmental science, and  
6 policy programs for NASA and for the National Oceanic and  
7 Atmospheric Administration. She also has experience  
8 managing NASA's international relationships, in  
9 collaboration with the space agencies.

10 As far as appreciation for diversity, she's  
11 working for the Scripps Oceanic Institute, working on  
12 climate impact assessments of the state as impact on  
13 economic interests like agricultural. She's teaching  
14 courses for UC San Diego in regards to ethics and social  
15 responsibility and organizational leadership, and she  
16 participates in League of California Cities conferences.

17 She also has local involvement in committee  
18 memberships. She's a board member to several nonprofit  
19 groups. She was a member of the city council for four  
20 years, representing citizens in setting policy and budgets.  
21 She serves on committees with the San Diego Association of  
22 Governments. Her letters of rec are glowing, and emphasize  
23 her integrity and her public sector management experience.  
24 For these reasons, I put forward Lisa Shaffer.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: I thought this was another

1 strong candidate that ultimately didn't make my pool of 40  
2 that I put forward, but everything you said, very  
3 impressive. I'd be happy to interview her.

4 One thing I just want to note is, I don't have a  
5 number, but I feel like we're getting a lot of PhDs and  
6 attorneys in this, and I think we need to be careful not to  
7 populate the whole thing with, you know, two groups like  
8 that, and get some more perspectives in there. But I would  
9 be happy to interview Ms. Shaffer.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: I think PhD in itself, it can be  
11 in different fields, but I understand what you're saying  
12 about those who are following a particular discipline.

13 PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes.

14 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I was also a yes on this  
15 candidate before. We can move her forward.

16 PANEL MEMBER COE: I'd like to bring forward  
17 applicant Michael Rancer, applicant 360, for consideration.  
18 I believe that we were, at one time or another, three  
19 favorable votes on this applicant. He's a retired  
20 university budget manager from Alameda County who has prior  
21 congressional redistricting map experience back in 1981.

22 I thought he hit all the right notes on the  
23 appreciation for diversity, ability to be impartial, and  
24 analytical skills. He's a rather distinguished public  
25 servant with a strong fiscal management background, 30

1 years in public service, and he's really focused on  
2 community service, even now, in his retirement, and I would  
3 like to bring him forward for your consideration.

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I was already a yes on  
5 this one.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: This was a -- I think I'm right  
7 now a no, and this was one of the later decisions in the  
8 process I made as I looked at the pool overall. Given that  
9 we're going to do that Friday, I think we should put him  
10 forward to an interview, get him on the list. I think, as  
11 we look at the overall applicant pool, we'll have to make  
12 some tough decisions to make sure we have a good  
13 representation. So I put him forward to interview.

14 So I personally am feeling like we could use a  
15 break to kind of reorder our notes, see what applicants you  
16 want to put forward, gather ourselves. Yes. We were  
17 already at almost an hour, anyway. So why don't we take  
18 another 20-minute break. So that would bring us back at  
19 2:15.

20 (Off the record at 1:55 p.m.)

21 (On the record at 2:18 p.m.)

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. We're going to reconvene  
23 and take up where we left off.

24 Ms. Dickison, I believe you're up. I'll give you  
25 a second.

1           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. I want to bring  
2 forward applicant number 7656, Trena Turner. I think this  
3 applicant brings something different to the pool. Her real  
4 strength is in people. She's a coalition builder. She  
5 concentrates on making sure everybody is included.

6           She fights for justice for diverse groups. She's  
7 the executive director of a faith-based organization.  
8 She's worked with Californians for Safety and Justice to  
9 pass Prop 47. Let's see. She served the Lincoln High  
10 School African-American Parent Advisory Committee. She  
11 received community honors from NAACP and Amelia Ann Adams  
12 Whole Life Center Bridge Award.

13           She was selected one of 12 delegates that  
14 represented social justice organizations in Barcelona,  
15 Spain. She was selected as a delegate to attend the World  
16 Meeting of Popular Movements hosted by Pope Francis. I'd  
17 like to bring her forward. I really like the fact that  
18 she's a coalition builder. I think that that's going to be  
19 very important to the Commission.

20           CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Thank you. So I haven't  
21 been a yes recommendation on this candidate throughout the  
22 process. The area of greatest concern for me is in the  
23 demonstration of the ability to be impartial. I didn't see  
24 demonstration of the ability to set aside personal views in  
25 the advancement of some of the common cause. That's one

1 area.

2           The other area is, I didn't see a high level of  
3 analytical skills compared to other candidates to  
4 counterbalance the lower score in the impartial (sic). So  
5 I personally would set this candidate aside for now. I  
6 would like to hear what Mr. Coe has to say before I make my  
7 final determination.

8           PANEL MEMBER COE: This is an applicant that  
9 didn't ultimately make my top 40, but it was somebody that  
10 I had voted favorably for in the past. I thought she was  
11 really strong.

12           One thing that really stood out to me was, she  
13 makes it clear how aware she is of how decisions affect  
14 people, and looks to include perspectives in decision  
15 making, and if that isn't what the Commission is doing, I  
16 don't know what is. I think that's very applicable. She's  
17 involved in many causes dedicated to helping others, and  
18 especially groups that maybe have been disenfranchised in  
19 the past. I would be in favor of interviewing Ms. Turner.

20           CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Hearing both of you  
21 talk about this candidate, I'll be in favor of interviewing  
22 her as well.

23           So the candidate I would like to discuss and  
24 recommend for your consideration is Judith Davis Francis,  
25 number 27746, 27746. So Ms. Francis is a U.S. diplomat.

1 She demonstrated her strong analytical skills and ability  
2 to be impartial through her 24 years of experience with the  
3 U.S. Department of State as a foreign service officer. She  
4 oversaw the building of new embassies. She conducted  
5 analysis with budgets and government regulations.

6 She oversaw political, social, religious, and  
7 ethnic personnel at eight different U.S. embassies. She  
8 has an MBA and a JD. She also worked as a high school  
9 teacher for 13 years, teaching both French and Spanish.  
10 She's an active volunteer with Habitat For Humanity and the  
11 Friendship Force L.A., and a committee to understand other  
12 cultures through personal interaction.

13 The letters of rec call her out as an  
14 intelligent, dependable person. She can address complex  
15 issues involving culture, politics, and national interest  
16 as a diplomat, unbiased sense of fairness, and a wealth of  
17 international experiences and appreciation for the  
18 diversity of different cultures. For those reasons, I put  
19 forward Judith Davis Francis.

20 Mr. Coe, do you want to go first?

21 PANEL MEMBER COE: I had Ms. Davis Francis  
22 evaluated pretty highly. She didn't end up making my 40, a  
23 lot of representation in L.A., another attorney. I think  
24 these had factors in her not making my 40. Out of the,  
25 what is it -- what do we have, 26?

1 CHAIR BELNAP: We are at 26, yes.

2 PANEL MEMBER COE: She would be the sixth  
3 applicant from Los Angeles County. I wouldn't be opposed  
4 to interviewing Ms. David Francis. We should keep in mind  
5 how many -- that we're not overrepresenting that region.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: I understand that she has a JD,  
7 but, in practice, what her career is, is a U.S. diplomat.  
8 I don't think she's practicing law, necessarily, in the  
9 same field that others have. So I don't think we're  
10 bringing in -- for instance, a person with a JD doesn't  
11 mean that they're a practicing lawyer.

12 PANEL MEMBER COE: There's definitely a unique  
13 perspective that she brings to the table, for sure, and,  
14 like I said, I had her evaluated favorably, and wouldn't be  
15 opposed to interviewing her.

16 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I wouldn't be opposed to  
17 interviewing her.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

19 PANEL MEMBER COE: So I'm going to bring forward  
20 a candidate that I was one vote, but, in looking at where  
21 we're at, specifically geographically, I think, you know,  
22 18 of the -- or 13 or 14 of the candidates we brought forth  
23 so far are all -- they're in three counties in Southern  
24 California, and so I'd like to bring forward Stephanie  
25 Beauchaine, 23559, as an applicant from Humboldt County, in



1 the north part of the state.

2 Ms. Beauchaine brings a small business owner's  
3 perspective to our pool. She has previous public sector  
4 experience, having served in municipal government for a  
5 time. She has experience developing public policy. She  
6 has successfully led projects in community development,  
7 economic development, and planning and annexation, and I  
8 thought that, you know, she thoroughly demonstrated the  
9 three key areas in impartiality, appreciation for  
10 diversity, and analytical skills, and brings a north-state  
11 perspective from Humboldt County, and so, for those  
12 reasons, I'd like to put Stephanie Beauchaine forward for  
13 your consideration.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: So, Mr. Coe, I hear what you're  
15 saying regarding the region, the regional representation we  
16 have. I do think other pools have individuals from  
17 Northern California. I don't remember if we have them from  
18 Humboldt in particular. Do you have that in front of you?

19 PANEL MEMBER COE: I don't.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

21 PANEL MEMBER COE: I think there is at least one  
22 from Humboldt County, but I don't have the information in  
23 front of me at the time.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: So I didn't have her application  
25 rated that high, particularly under the appreciation for

1 diversity category. I want to -- at maybe the next break,  
2 I want to go look at the question I just asked ourselves  
3 and myself, is to figure out where we're at in terms of  
4 Humboldt and that area. So I want to hear what Ms.  
5 Dickison has to say first, but I would initially say I'd  
6 put her in the aside column.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to put her  
8 in the aside column. I don't think we have anyone else  
9 from Humboldt. I'm bringing someone forward from Humboldt  
10 as well, but I'd like to go back and evaluate that area,  
11 and the candidates that we do have in that area.

12 PANEL MEMBER COE: In addition to the geographic  
13 diversity, I want to point out the small business owner's  
14 perspective that's brought here. I don't think we have a  
15 lot of that, as I've mentioned, a lot of attorneys and PhDs  
16 being brought forward. This is somebody who would  
17 represent a different perspective there, in addition to her  
18 geographic diversity. So I just wanted to put that out  
19 there as something to consider as well.

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: And Mr. Riley also has  
21 small business perspective as well.

22 PANEL MEMBER COE: Great. So we'll put her on  
23 the aside for now.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: You just mentioned a candidate. I  
25 want to make sure I'm tracking who you're talking about.

1 Was that from this morning or from this afternoon?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: This afternoon. It was  
3 the first one I brought forth. I'm sorry. Mr. Reader.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Reader. Okay. Thank you. So  
5 that's who you're talking about. Okay.

6 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I want to bring forward  
7 applicant 17280, Beth Hermann. I found that Ms. Hermann --  
8 she doesn't have an advanced degree. She has an AA degree  
9 in legal assistancy and art and paralegal studies.

10 I give her pretty high ratings on impartiality  
11 and appreciation for diversity. She has a different type  
12 of experiences than we see. She can interpret Spanish as  
13 well. Let's see. Sorry. She volunteers for the Center  
14 for AIDS services. She interned at the Eureka courthouse  
15 to help people fill out information for restraining orders.  
16 She's done extensive home care work.

17 She's currently a commissioner for the city of  
18 Eureka as part of the Energy Commission of Eureka. Her  
19 letters of recommendation talk about her ability to analyze  
20 information and her ability to hold groups together. They  
21 said she's a volunteer in the community, with a diverse  
22 group of organizations. She volunteers her time at polls  
23 in November to serve the community.

24 She's constantly striving to bring more voices to  
25 the conversation, to show the diversity of the membership.

1 She has research ability to find pertinent information when  
2 she's researching information. She's always been concerned  
3 about promoting inclusiveness and acceptance of diverse  
4 cultures and perspectives, and that's coming out of her  
5 letters of recommendation. So I'd like to put her forward.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: So I like the way we're able to  
7 bring two candidates forward from a region that's probably  
8 underrepresented. I would like a chance to review the two  
9 together. I understand what you guys are saying about the  
10 small business and associate's degree. To me, there's two  
11 pools. There's a required type of diversity and  
12 representation that we must consider, and then there's  
13 "like to haves."

14 The required types of diversity we have to  
15 consider, to me, is more important than the -- for  
16 instance, the diversity in education level, to me, that  
17 could be something we consider, but doesn't rise to the  
18 level of the type of diversity we're required to consider.

19 So, for me, I want to examine both of these,  
20 because regional representation is required, and both of  
21 these individuals are from Humboldt, and I think we need to  
22 consider that from that perspective. So I would put this  
23 person aside for the moment, and then come back to them.

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Where are you at on this one, Mr.

1 Coe?

2 PANEL MEMBER COE: On the applicant, I voted  
3 favorably in the past. Ultimately, I think one of the  
4 things that ended up having her not make my top 40 was an  
5 example that she gave in the impartiality essay that had  
6 her shying away from something because of the difficulty,  
7 and it made me wonder if that was the type of mind set that  
8 we were looking for. I wouldn't be opposed to interviewing  
9 Ms. Hermann.

10 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So I think I'm still where  
12 I was at when I spoke earlier. I think we should look at  
13 this one in conjunction with others. All right.

14 Ms. Dickison, you just went, right?

15 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: So it's my turn. Okay. The  
17 candidate I'd like to put forward is 7332, Anaheeta Z.  
18 Kolah. So Ms. Kolah is a mediator, and she's an attorney  
19 in the San Diego area. Looking at her analytical skills  
20 and her volunteer work, I saw that it's quite high.

21 Her work in the San Diego small claims court as a  
22 mediator and arbitrator helped me to see her ability to be  
23 impartial as strong. Also, being the founder of two legal  
24 clinics, where she assists underrepresented groups with  
25 legal advocacy issues was another reason I thought this

1 person was a good candidate. So I put her forward for your  
2 consideration.

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm okay with  
4 interviewing this candidate. I was a yes for her. She was  
5 in the 40.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: I actually had her on my list  
7 to bring forward at some point, so I would be in favor as  
8 well.

9 It's my turn, right?

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, it is.

11 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. I'm going to bring  
12 forward kind of a unique candidate, in the sense of, I  
13 think the current vote count is zero, but I wanted to bring  
14 this person back in for consideration, Akram AbouKhalil,  
15 applicant 6978. He's a pharmacist from Contra Costa. He's  
16 got board experience on the Lebanese Collegiate Network, as  
17 president of that association.

18 He has demonstrated leadership skills and  
19 experience as a public speaker. He has experience running  
20 nonprofit organizations, had a keen sense of communities of  
21 interest and how to identify them, and he had a solid  
22 understanding of the political climate and gerrymandering,  
23 and the need for redistricting. So I'd like to bring Mr.  
24 AbouKhalil forward for further consideration.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: So may I ask, what changed between

1 now and the original time we voted?

2 PANEL MEMBER COE: I was looking -- it was a  
3 perspective thing. I thought he brought a perspective that  
4 was unique, and not as common in the pool, and the more I  
5 read his information, it sounded -- he's somebody who's  
6 well read in the subject matter for which the Commission is  
7 going to be, you know, participating, and adds to the  
8 diversity of perspectives in the pool.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

10 PANEL MEMBER COE: Like I said, it doesn't look  
11 like he made anybody's top 40, so I get that it's unique in  
12 that sense, but I wanted to bring him forward to talk about  
13 him again, and everybody look at him one more time.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: So where I was at on this  
15 candidate -- and I hadn't voted yes on him before. I think  
16 he always fell slightly below the pool that I was voting  
17 yes on. I never had any major concerns regarding his  
18 analytical skills, his ability to be impartial, or  
19 appreciation for diversity. So I feel like I've always  
20 kind of been on the middle, and it's always been just  
21 slightly over the "no" line for me.

22 So I'm interested in hearing what Ms. Dickison  
23 has to say.

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I had been a yes for this  
25 candidate. He just didn't make my list of 40. He seemed

1 to -- let's see. He oversees nonprofits, significant  
2 volunteer activities. The letters and public comments are  
3 very supportive. He provided an example of not inviting a  
4 certain public speaker of his choice when he wanted to.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: We're at number 28 right now. I  
6 know we can't keep putting people in the aside pool,  
7 because eventually we're going to have a very deep, large  
8 aside pool. So that is in the top of my mind, but I didn't  
9 have this candidate as close to my top 40 group as other  
10 candidates that are currently in our aside pool. So I'd  
11 like to see them -- I would vote for now to keep him in the  
12 aside pool, but I think I've expressed where I think he's  
13 at in terms of the strength of the application.

14 Ms. Dickison, I don't know if we heard where you  
15 are at in terms of overall --

16 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to put him in  
17 the side pool so I can take another look at him.

18 I would like to put forth applicant 4364, Margo  
19 Morales. She's a member of the Parks and Rec Commission.  
20 She's an L.A. County executive manager. She handles  
21 employee grievances and Skelly hearings. Her letters speak  
22 to her impartiality. She's the administrative deputy at  
23 L.A. County Department of Mental Health Services. She  
24 shows her analytical skills through that. She's worked  
25 with case litigation matters. She has board experience,



1 Ethnic Commission.

2 She's on the Ethnic Commission of Long Beach, and  
3 her letters spoke to her ability to be impartial. She  
4 recognized that not all tools work for every neighborhood  
5 as part of her mental health work, and that tools needed to  
6 meet the person, culturally, and noted that cultural  
7 barriers can prevent one from seeking services, and so  
8 having that kind of perspective, I thought, would be good  
9 on the Commission. She served on the board of Fair Housing  
10 Foundation to eliminate discrimination in housing as well.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: I was already a yes, and I  
12 continue to be a yes on this candidate.

13 PANEL MEMBER COE: This is a person I voted in  
14 favor before, but just didn't make my top 40, and it was  
15 actually on my list of people to discuss with you today.  
16 So it seems we're all in agreement there.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. I have someone here that  
18 we've -- first I'll just say the number, so you can find  
19 it, 3590, Jeffrey Chang. So the three of us had voted yes  
20 on him before. I know what's going to be going through Mr.  
21 Coe's mind as I say his profession, which is an attorney,  
22 and we do have quite a few that we put forward.

23 Again, I think the skill is relevant. The  
24 Commission collectively needs a handful of attorneys,  
25 because it is a heavy legal analysis. I like his

1 discussion about working on employee benefits law. I think  
2 employee benefits law -- in employee law, you're dealing  
3 with the intimate details of people's lives. That piece of  
4 it, maybe he's a different type of attorney than others  
5 we've had. I do think, from a regional perspective, coming  
6 from Placer, he's an important candidate, from a regional  
7 perspective, and I know where you're going.

8 I know that comment about -- we put forward  
9 probably five or six attorneys just in the last half-hour,  
10 but he's a person who represents an area that we don't have  
11 a lot of candidates from, and he's a very good candidate.  
12 So I'd put him forward for your consideration.

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So what are you thinking,  
14 Mr. Coe? I would be okay with putting him forward. He's  
15 an attorney benefit -- he works with attorney benefits, but  
16 it's also retirement plans, and that's very complex,  
17 data-driven work. So he's definitely going to have the --  
18 I remember reading his essay. He really has the analytical  
19 skills and the ability to crunch the data.

20 PANEL MEMBER COE: From a qualification  
21 standpoint, obviously, I had voted favorably for this  
22 candidate in the past. I think, you know, what squeezed  
23 him out of my 40 was what I felt was overrepresentation of  
24 attorneys, and I don't have the number. I don't know if  
25 any of the note takers do. But the number, to me, feels

1 more than a handful, and I really feel like we need to get  
2 a handle on what that is, because it feels like there's an  
3 overabundance to me.

4           Again, from a candidate perspective, I think he's  
5 a good candidate. That's my primary concern at this  
6 juncture, but I wouldn't at this point stand in the way of  
7 putting him on our list to interview.

8           CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

9           By the way, for the record, we have nothing  
10 against attorneys. We appreciate our attorneys, especially  
11 those in the room. You've been very supportive. Okay.

12           PANEL MEMBER COE: So, hot on the heels of my  
13 saying we need to watch how many PhDs we put in the pool,  
14 I'm going to bring forward Linda Trapp, 2399. Ms. Trapp  
15 is, I believe, the only applicant from Calaveras County  
16 remaining in the applicant pool.

17           She has very diverse experiences. She's a  
18 semiretired consultant, educator, and artist, so the  
19 perspective there is broad and diverse. She's a certified  
20 speaking professional. She's demonstrated strong conflict  
21 resolution skills, vast and well-rounded experience with  
22 socioeconomic issues, both domestic and abroad.

23           Some of the letters have identified her as  
24 somebody who is known to consider all viewpoints  
25 objectively when interacting with diverse groups from all

1 areas, has worked actively to advance civil rights locally  
2 and nationally, and she's a published writer as well. So  
3 I'd like to bring forth Linda Trapp for consideration.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: So, Ms. Dickison, I think you were  
5 a yes vote in previous iterations. I have not been. So  
6 why don't you go first, and I'll go last.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. I like this  
8 applicant. I rated her pretty highly. She's a management  
9 consultant, dean of students. She's a cross-cultural  
10 counselor. She taught ethnic and women's studies. She  
11 worked for the Forest Service at one point, and so she  
12 understands rural as well as city. She does team-building  
13 exercises and conflict resolution retreats. She also has  
14 acted as an expert witness. I would put her forward to  
15 interview.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Coe, so Calaveras County is in  
17 the southern central valley and mountain region. Do you  
18 have that statistic in front of you in terms of where we're  
19 at as a region?

20 PANEL MEMBER COE: As a region, I do not.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: No.

22 PANEL MEMBER COE: As of our break, we had a  
23 couple of counties in the Bay Area. We had Yolo,  
24 Sacramento, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, L.A., Riverside, and  
25 San Diego. Since then, we've added Alameda, San Joaquin,

1 which I believe is the same region as Calaveras, and  
2 Placer.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: I think we should put her forward  
4 to an interview.

5 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. Thank you.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Who raised the last candidate?

7 PANEL MEMBER COE: I did.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: You did. Okay.

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to put forward  
10 applicant 6166, Brian Stecher.

11 PANEL MEMBER COE: Can you say that last name  
12 again?

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Stecher, I believe,  
14 S-T-E-C-H-E-R.

15 This candidate has strong analytical skills, and  
16 also his ability to be impartial would be very strong. He  
17 spent 30 years at Rand doing impartial analysis, kind of  
18 includes a different point of view. He has a BS and an MS  
19 in math, and a PhD in research methods. He showed strong  
20 analytical skills. His letters talk about his  
21 qualifications. Let's see.

22 He recognizes that demographic characteristics  
23 can influence a person's desire for elective  
24 representation. He's had careers as a teacher, a testing  
25 expert, and an educational research (sic), and come in

1 contact with people with various backgrounds that has  
2 engrained that into him. He's worked as a volunteer  
3 referee for 16 years with the American Youth Soccer  
4 Organization, and he believes that California's diversity  
5 is one of its strengths.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: I'm in agreement.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to put him  
8 forward.

9 PANEL MEMBER COE: Excuse me. Pardon me. I'm in  
10 agreement with this one.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

12 PANEL MEMBER COE: I think we were, at one point  
13 time, a three-member vote on this candidate as well.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: We had three yeses before, and I  
15 believe this is one of those same situations you guys  
16 referred to where, as we look at the pool, and try to  
17 balance out and make sure there's representation across all  
18 the different groups, he dropped out for me.

19 That concern, in my mind, is still there, that  
20 we've got to make sure we have enough spots so that  
21 everyone can see someone on the Commission that they feel  
22 represents them, at least at some level, at some category.  
23 So I'll make a note in my mind.

24 I think we should put him forward to an interview  
25 Friday, when we analyze our pool. This is one -- if we

1 need to make adjustments, this is one, probably the first  
2 one, I'll be saying, "Hey. I don't see how this candidate  
3 is adding to the representation of our pool." So I'm  
4 voting to put them forward to an interview.

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So that was to put him  
6 forward to an interview?

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, we all did.

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: So why don't we -- I'll provide  
10 another recommendation, and then, Mr. Coe, if you want to  
11 do another one. I'm feeling like a break, maybe, after  
12 that.

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: So, for my person to put forward,  
15 I am going to bring up a candidate that we've already  
16 discussed, and it's someone in our side pool, Elaine Marie  
17 Lewis, and it's number 23353. So Doctor Lewis has  
18 incredible qualifications, and I've always discussed those,  
19 so there's no point in me rehashing that.

20 I think Doctor Lewis represents a level of gender  
21 diversity that we need to be looking for, so that each  
22 person -- so that everyone in California can see a  
23 commissioner, at least see this 120, and feel like they're  
24 being represented. So I put her forward.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: I understand where you're

1 coming from, Mr. Belnap. I would be in favor of inviting  
2 her for an interview.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Thank you.

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would as well.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: I would like to bring forward  
7 applicant David Fung, applicant 2074. Mr. Fung is an  
8 engineer and planning commissioner in Santa Clara County.  
9 He cited in his application many volunteer activities, a  
10 focus on enhanced public discourse and deeper engagement.

11 He was on a planning commission of Parks and  
12 Recreation, part of League of Women Voters Citizens  
13 Oversight Committee. With that experience came experience  
14 sitting in public meetings and gathering perspectives of  
15 other stakeholders.

16 The way he described the planning commission, it  
17 seemed similar in nature to the Citizens Redistricting  
18 Commission, in terms of having to understand and digest  
19 complex information and work within legal guidelines, get  
20 expert and public input before making decisions. All of  
21 that is applicable to the Commission.

22 He clearly understands concepts related to  
23 redistricting, gerrymandering, and so forth, a clear  
24 understanding of that in his essays. He's an experienced  
25 problem solver, with experience using complex data and



1 information, identifying relevant versus irrelevant data,  
2 and also using geographic and demographic data to inform  
3 decisions.

4 His letters of rec state that he provides a wise  
5 and thoughtful input, considers all sides. He's evenhanded  
6 and dedicated to bettering the community. So I would like  
7 to bring applicant David Fung forward for consideration.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: I'm in favor.

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm in favor putting him  
10 before -- seeing him for an interview. I'm not giving him  
11 a favorable recommendation as of yet. My biggest drawback  
12 on him was in impartiality. I felt that his narrative only  
13 cited the rules and the responsibilities of those rules,  
14 but really didn't give any examples, and so I never felt  
15 like he really satisfied that for me, but we can work that  
16 out in the interview.

17 PANEL MEMBER COE: Thank you.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So that brings us,  
19 numerically speaking, to 34. Does everyone have 34? Okay.

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: I also have on my asides -- I'm  
22 just going to read their name. We have Reader, Cooper,  
23 Gennaco. I'm going to butcher this.

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Do you have the numbers,  
25 Mr. Belnap?

1 CHAIR BELNAP: What's that?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Do you have the numbers?

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Sure. So, starting from the  
4 beginning, 12437, Reader, 2824, Cooper, 11802, Gennaco,  
5 23559, Beauchaine.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: Beauchaine.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Beauchaine. Okay. 17280,  
8 Hermann, 7978 (sic), AbouKhalil.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Six, nine, seven?

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Six, nine, seven -- no. Six,  
11 nine, seven, eight.

12 MR. DAWSON: Six, nine, seven, eight.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, 6978. Yes.

14 All right. So, when we come back -- I think 20  
15 minutes has been working well for us. So why don't we come  
16 back at 3:30.

17 (Off the record at 3:07 p.m.)

18 (On the record at 3:30 p.m.)

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. We'll bring this meeting  
20 back into order. We're going to pick up where we left off.  
21 We'll just start the timer, here.

22 Okay. I believe Mr. Coe was the last person to  
23 recommend somebody. So, Ms. Dickison, it's your turn.

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to bring up  
25 Mr. Reader again, 12437. I won't repeat everything I

1 repeated before. I went back and looked, and we only have  
2 one other candidate that's in Kern County, or actually in  
3 that region, and, based on everything I mentioned before, I  
4 think that we should -- I'd like to bring him in for an  
5 interview.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. It's no.

7 Mr. Coe, where are you at on that?

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: When it was initially brought  
9 up earlier, I explained that it was one of my initial --  
10 wasn't one of my initial favorable votes, but after it was  
11 brought up at the last meeting as somebody Ms. Dickison  
12 wanted us to look at, I kept trying to find an opportunity  
13 for this applicant, and grew to have more appreciation for  
14 what they put forward, and so I would be in favor of  
15 inviting Mr. Reader for an interview.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. I am, too.

17 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Thank you.

18 Okay. So this isn't going to be popular. I know  
19 that the theme here has been that we're asking for too many  
20 attorneys to be put forward into this pool, but I had Ms.  
21 Greer Bosworth, 9258, rated rather highly, and I'd like to  
22 talk about her.

23 So I thought Ms. Bosworth's application showed  
24 strong analytical skills and ability to be impartial. She  
25 has a JD. She also has a master's in public

1 administration, 30 years interpreting and applying  
2 California law. She currently oversees and manages  
3 environmental employment, contractual and intellectual  
4 property and litigation matters.

5 She's a hearing officer, evaluating prior record  
6 and behavior of incarcerated persons to determine parole.  
7 She's a counsel for the Independent Commission on the LAPD  
8 Use of Excessive Force. She's special advisor to the Board  
9 of Police Commissions on Civil Disorder in L.A., where  
10 she's gathered data, organized, and participated in public  
11 meetings.

12 She's the first African-American president of the  
13 Women Lawyers Association of L.A., and the oldest and  
14 largest -- which is the oldest and largest local women's  
15 bar association in the country, and she also has quite a  
16 bit of volunteer work with the homeless and assisted living  
17 facilities, church community services, and Legal Aid  
18 Foundation.

19 Her letters of recommendation talk about her  
20 impeccable character, her willingness to listen first, her  
21 attention to detail and respect for others, her strong  
22 communication skills, and she's a consensus builder who  
23 finds common ground to solve complex problems. For these  
24 reasons, I put forward Ms. Greer Bosworth for  
25 consideration.

1           PANEL MEMBER COE: I wouldn't be opposed to  
2 interviewing Ms. Bosworth. She initially was somebody that  
3 I had evaluated favorably.

4           One of the things that stood out to me a lot  
5 about a lot of applicants that had this background, and Ms.  
6 Bosworth included, and that is, volunteer experiences in  
7 their spare time with organizations that center around  
8 helping other people, and I think that's a mind set that's  
9 going to be very important for the people that sit on this  
10 Commission, because they should be -- they're going to need  
11 to be considering how their decisions affect a large number  
12 of people, and that stood out to me, along with the letters  
13 of rec referring to her as a consensus builder, as you  
14 mentioned, the great attention to detail, compassion for  
15 the community. I would be in favor of interviewing Ms.  
16 Bosworth.

17           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I will be in favor of  
18 interviewing her, based on what both of you have brought  
19 forward. My holdback on her was that I didn't think she  
20 provided adequate detail in her diversity essay, or very  
21 much detail in her analytical essay. So I would have liked  
22 to see more effort in those areas --

23           PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay. I was going to say --

24           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: -- in the application.

25           PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes. Excuse me. I was just

1 going to say, on the diversity side of things, I also noted  
2 some of the same things that you're talking about, and it  
3 was part of why she didn't end up in my 40, but I would be  
4 amenable to having her here for an interview.

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Okay. I would as well.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: I would like to bring forward  
7 for consideration Ms. Jennifer Pae, applicant 19085. Ms.  
8 Pae is from San Diego. She is in her local area a leader  
9 in civic engagement and voting rights campaigns. She's a  
10 national, state, and local community organizer and  
11 advocate.

12 She has some local redistricting experience,  
13 including data analysis and map drawing and identifying  
14 communities of interest for the purpose of redistricting.  
15 She has extensive outreach experience, and demonstrated  
16 excellent problem-solving skills, and brings with her a  
17 perspective that I think would be valuable to the  
18 Commission, and would like to bring her forward for  
19 consideration.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: I would be in favor of bringing  
21 her forward for an interview.

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would as well.

23 PANEL MEMBER COE: Thank you

24 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So I would like to bring  
25 forward Ms. Hermann again, 17280. As I discussed before,

1 she is a paralegal. She has a degree in paralegal studies,  
2 an AA degree in paralegal studies, and her letters and  
3 comments do talk about her analytical abilities and her  
4 research abilities, her desire to make sure that  
5 communities are inclusive and everybody is heard. They  
6 talk about her volunteer activities in that area as well,  
7 and I'd like to have her in for an interview.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: So I agree that we do need to have  
9 that regional representation. We have two candidates I the  
10 side pool from Humboldt. I was leaning to candidate 23559,  
11 which is Beauchaine. That's where I'm at right now, just  
12 looking at the two, if I had to pick between the two from  
13 Humboldt. I'm interested in seeing how Mr. Coe orders the  
14 two. Maybe they both can go in, but I want to know, where  
15 are we at relative to each other?

16 PANEL MEMBER COE: Well, I brought forward Ms.  
17 Beauchaine, so I would have her as somebody that I would  
18 prefer to see over the other candidate, but I think I also  
19 said that I wouldn't be opposed to Ms. Hermann for an  
20 interview, either.

21 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: My thoughts on that is  
22 also that we don't have anyone else from that, from the  
23 northern coastal, in either one of the other two pools  
24 right now.

25 PANEL MEMBER COE: That's good for

1 (indiscernible). You said, in the nonaffiliated and in the  
2 Republican pool, there's nobody that was up there?

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: No.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: In the region or in Humboldt?

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: In the region.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: So we did get one applicant  
7 from Shasta County, I think, this morning, but that's  
8 different -- is that a different region, because it's not  
9 coastal, not a north coastal?

10 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I think it's north  
11 central.

12 PANEL MEMBER COE: North central. Okay. So it  
13 is a different region.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. I think there's people  
15 in our aside pool that I've rated higher in terms of the  
16 quality of the application. I recognize that one of these  
17 individuals need to go forward, and I commit to doing that  
18 before the end of this process, but what I'd like to see is  
19 where this -- before we get to number 40, I think we should  
20 come back to it, but I'd like to see what the rest of the  
21 pool looks like.

22 Who put forward AbouKhalil?

23 PANEL MEMBER COE: AbouKhalil. I brought him  
24 forward, and he didn't make any one of our 40, but I  
25 brought him forward to consider again.



1 CHAIR BELNAP: And who brought forward Cooper?  
2 Angela, is that you?

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I brought forward Cooper.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think you did.

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: So, for Hermann, you're suggesting  
7 I'm not quite there yet. I hear you. I know where we need  
8 to be, but I want to see what else we've got. So we're at  
9 37. This will be number 38.

10 I've already talked about my feelings about Mr.  
11 Gennaco, so I know we're going to come back to him, so I  
12 don't want to bring him up again, but the last candidate  
13 that I'll likely put forward before I think we should be  
14 looking at the aside pool is 1851, CC Barron.

15 So I think I've been the lone vote on this one  
16 for probably the time that we've been voting. He has  
17 strong analytical skills and appreciation for diversity.  
18 He has a master's in education, bilingual, elementary  
19 teacher and college professor, a director of  
20 Mexican-American Education Commission, local involvement,  
21 and community leader.

22 This candidate has demonstrated dedication to  
23 cause and efforts to improve residents' lives. He's  
24 involved in local organizations that seek resolution to  
25 issues in the community associated with language and

1 underrepresentation of government policies.

2           In the LAUSD, he worked in the Office of  
3 Instruction, writing curriculum, training teachers on  
4 working with language-minority students. He works at the  
5 L.A. County Office of Education and Commission. Some of  
6 these are past experiences. He worked as the commissioner  
7 of the L.A. County Arts Commission, commissioner of Natural  
8 History Museum.

9           Then the letters of recommendation for this  
10 candidate talked about the candidate's integrity,  
11 commitment to social justice, fair and ethical treatment of  
12 all people, and that the candidate provides thoughtful  
13 resolutions and has acute analytical skills. So I put this  
14 candidate forward for your consideration.

15           PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would be okay with  
16 interviewing him. He was borderline for me.

17           PANEL MEMBER COE: I had noted some gaps in  
18 impartiality and diversity. There wasn't a real example  
19 there of putting aside self-interest. The diversity was --  
20 there was no mention of geography, geographic diversity and  
21 how that could affect political representation preferences,  
22 in there, and that's what led me to not vote favorably on  
23 this applicant, that and a lot of representation in Los  
24 Angeles with applicants I thought demonstrated those things  
25 better.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: You want to put him in the aside  
2 for now?

3 PANEL MEMBER COE: I'm also conscious of the  
4 aside pile, like you earlier mentioned, because it's  
5 getting pretty big.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. So, Mr. Coe, if I could jump  
7 in.

8 PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes. Sure.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: You know, if you want to put him  
10 in the aside pile, that's fine. Ultimately I think, as we  
11 look at the pool of 120, there's elements of representation  
12 in terms of ethnicity that is very important here, that I  
13 think we should consider as the applicant pool as a whole.  
14 That's one reason I want to get him -- make sure he's on  
15 our radar as we move into Friday.

16 I'm not saying that his application -- or this  
17 individual's application was, you know, rated top, the  
18 highest, so I share some of your concerns, but I did feel  
19 like he had the analytical skills, and that it was a good  
20 application. I do think this person is worth considering  
21 from the collective pool in making sure we have good  
22 representation perspective. That's where I'm coming from  
23 on that.

24 PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes, I hear what you're  
25 saying, and I, right before you shared your thoughts, was

1 leaning towards favorably saying we should have an  
2 opportunity to speak with this person in an interview.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: If you want to go there, go ahead.

4 PANEL MEMBER COE: I won't -- yes. I will go in  
5 favor of that course of action.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Thank you.

7 So I guess sometimes it's hard for us to get our  
8 words out. So, if we've misspoke in talking about certain  
9 candidates, I apologize. Individuals that identify as  
10 nonbinary, I don't know which pronoun to use. Sometimes,  
11 just naturally, whatever the person's name looks like, I  
12 just default to that.

13 I'm not trying to offend anyone. I'm doing the  
14 best I can. I don't have that information in front of me  
15 about what their preferred pronoun is. So I think you've  
16 all heard us make a few mistakes. I've heard myself do it,  
17 and if a candidate is me watching, I apologize. Nothing of  
18 that was intentional at all.

19 PANEL MEMBER COE: I'd like to bring forward for  
20 discussion Mr. Dodie Katague, applicant 21612. Mr. Katague  
21 is a retired county prosecutor for Solano County. He has a  
22 keen ability to identify communities of interest and  
23 understand regional diversity. He has a lot of experience  
24 public speaking, and had excellent written communication  
25 skills. His experiences led him to be rather tech-savvy.

1 He's worked with GIS. He has a bachelor's degree in  
2 geography.

3 He's demonstrated excellent listening skills, and  
4 his job, obviously, as a former county prosecutor, brings  
5 with him the ability to really derive relevant information  
6 from testimony, which is going to be important as the  
7 Commission travels the state and listens to the people in  
8 the local areas in gathering their perspective before any  
9 lines are drawn. So I'd like to bring Mr. Katague forward  
10 for consideration.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: So I noted many of the same things  
12 you did, Mr. Coe, and I know that, Angela, you had voted  
13 for him before.

14 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I have.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: Now that we get down here to the  
16 bottom, I'm doing a lot more comparisons in my mind, and I  
17 would rate Mr. Gennaco -- and both attorneys, but Mr.  
18 Gennaco's experience as more relevant and directly on  
19 point, having worked on voter rights issues, having  
20 investigated voter rights issues, both of them very  
21 qualified individuals, both of them adding diversity to the  
22 pool, but one having direct experience regarding the  
23 analysis that the Commission has to do. So I'm not saying  
24 which way I'm going on that, but I'd like to hear what Ms.  
25 Dickison has to say.

1 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I agree with you, Mr.  
2 Belnap. I rated -- what was the name?

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Gennaco?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes, Mr. Gennaco. I  
5 rated his application higher than this. I wouldn't be  
6 opposed to putting this person on the list.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. Should we put them as an  
8 aside?

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: As an aside.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: And we'd be able to analyze that  
11 as we -- what is the first name?

12 PANEL MEMBER COE: Dodie.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: Dodie. Okay. So I suggest -- we  
14 have two slots left. I suggest we -- and we have one, two,  
15 three, four, five, six people in our aside list. I suggest  
16 we could stop there, unless you guys had any candidates you  
17 wanted to bring forward.

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I have no more.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, before we leave, we do  
20 have those two slots this morning with the Republicans. We  
21 were able to get it to 40, and then clearly show that  
22 breakpoint of who our bottom five were, who were our five  
23 asides. Do we want to try to get there at this point, or  
24 do we want to just put this list in there in this order,  
25 and kind of analyze it on Friday?

1 PANEL MEMBER COE: So I understand your question,  
2 are you asking for the Democrat pool that we're discussing  
3 now?

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Do we want to get to the point --

5 PANEL MEMBER COE: Do we want to try to fill  
6 these two spots here with the 40?

7 CHAIR BELNAP: I suggest, if we do that, we're  
8 only pulling from the aside pool, is what I'm thinking, and  
9 we could get to the level of -- we could get to 40, and  
10 then show clearly who are people that would go -- we would  
11 not -- we would vote no on, should we not make any changes  
12 on Friday. Otherwise, they would all be here with two  
13 slots open, in no particular order. Do we want to try to  
14 get to 40?

15 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm fine just listing  
16 them as they are, and then looking at it as a whole.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

18 PANEL MEMBER COE: So, in that scenario, we'd  
19 be -- we have 45 nonaffiliated, 45 Republican, and this  
20 would leave us with 44 Democrats, if my count is right.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. So, yes, we've got 44.

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: And tomorrow we'd need to  
23 eliminate four Democrats and five of each of the other  
24 groups.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. And we'd be agreeing to fill

1 those last two spots with whatever discussion from the  
2 folks that we have in front of us, this aside list. I  
3 mean, that's a fine stopping point for me, if that's what  
4 you guys want to do.

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I think we would be  
6 agreeing to look at the pool and see if there's people we  
7 should be -- anyone else that should be removed, to allow  
8 them to move on. So, yes, it would be looking at the pool  
9 as a whole, because they're all -- none of them are in for  
10 sure until we vote.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Right.

12 MR. DAWSON: So, then, if I understand, you were  
13 talking about a total tentative list of 44 Democratic  
14 applicants. Is that correct? Okay. Give me a second.  
15 Let's stand at ease. We'll make sure our list is correct.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: While they continue to add those  
17 up and make sure, double-check, I want to make sure one  
18 more time with my Panel members. There was no one else you  
19 wanted to put forward? Did I cut us off too early?

20 PANEL MEMBER COE: Did you have anybody MS.  
21 Dickison?

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I don't.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Do you?

24 PANEL MEMBER COE: Maybe.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Maybe? Okay. Yes, because they



1 can continue their work.

2 PANEL MEMBER COE: I think they're taking notes,  
3 though. If we started talking --

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. They are double-checking to  
5 make sure. We can always add one. If you have a  
6 candidate, you can add one.

7 So, while you guys were double-checking your  
8 notes, I checked with the Panel members to make sure they  
9 didn't have another person they wanted to put forward. I  
10 wasn't sure if I cut that off too soon or whatnot. So Mr.  
11 Coe was still thinking about that, so there might be one  
12 more person to tack on, and I'll let Mr. Coe talk about it.

13 PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes, if we could talk about  
14 one more applicant, Yvonne Peggy Toy, applicant 28170, and  
15 Ms. Toy is program director at UCLA Center for Health and  
16 Policy Research. She possesses an extensive experience  
17 with the state's diverse communities of interest in public  
18 policies and public health.

19 She's got experience using census data, which is  
20 an important data set to the Commission's efforts, and  
21 she's used that data to perform complex analysis, and has a  
22 working knowledge of mapping, using that information.

23 She's shown demonstrated skills as a presenter, a  
24 capable facilitator and collaborator, and works to perform  
25 outreach, and I would like to bring her forward for

1 consideration before we stop bringing people forward.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. All right. Thank you.

3 Appreciate you adding that person. I vote to put her on  
4 the aside list, so that we can consider her along with the  
5 other candidates.

6 PANEL MEMBER COE: Okay.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I do as well.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: So, then, with that addition, we  
9 are ready to read in the candidates we'll be considering  
10 tomorrow.

11 MR. DAWSON: Okay. The tentative list of  
12 Democrats who are tentatively selected for an interview:  
13 6467, Karina Camacho, 8032, Rebecca Cenicerros, 15631,  
14 Herman Debose, 1472, David Freedman, 14729, Denisse Godoy,  
15 3710, J. Ray Kennedy, 1852, Rhonda Kravitz, 10871, Renee  
16 Lias, 330, William Macphail, 1845, Cheryl McDonald, 6269,  
17 John Rolph, 7164, Sarah Sadhwani, 1602, Patricia Sinay,  
18 15239, Angela Vasquez, 6169, Vonya Quarles, 3485, Larry  
19 Lee, 1639, J. Craig Fong, 10150, Ina Bendich, 20032,  
20 Cynthia Kroll, 4607, Bapu Vaitla, 17925, Maria Pilar Diaz,  
21 21439, Laura Gomez, 19562, Sonia Melara, 640, Lisa Shaffer,  
22 360, Michael Rancer, 7656, Trena Turner, 27746, Judith  
23 Francis, 7332, Anaheeta Kolah, 4364, Margo Morales, 3590,  
24 Jeffrey Chang, 2399, Linda Trapp, 6166, Brian Stecher,  
25 23353, Elaine Lewis, .

1           Want to make sure I have the number right. Okay:  
2 2074, David Fung, 12437, Robert Reader, 9258, Greer  
3 Bosworth, 19085, Jennifer Pae, 1851, CC Barron, 2824, Irma  
4 Cooper, 11802, Michael Gennaco, 23559, Stephanie  
5 Beauchaine, 17280, Beth Hermann, 6978, Akram AbouKhalil,  
6 21612, Dodie Katague -- I'm sorry if I mispronounced  
7 that -- and then, finally, 28170, Yvonne Toy.

8           Does that agree with everyone's list?

9           PANEL MEMBER COE: Yes.

10          CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

11          PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

12          CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. We're going to move into  
13 recess. We'll back tomorrow morning, 9:30, and we'll pick  
14 up. Thank you.

15                 (Thereupon, the Applicant Review Panel meeting  
16 was recessed at 4:05 p.m.)

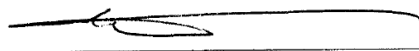
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**REPORTER' S CERTIFICATE**

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 10th day of April, 2020.



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PETER PETTY  
CER\*\*D-493  
Notary Public

**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER**

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.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



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MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT\*\*367

April 10, 2020