

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
Remote via Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

9:31 A.M.

Reported by:
Peter Petty

APPEARANCESAPPLICANT REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS:

Ben Belnap, Chair

Ryan Coe, Vice Chair

Angela Dickison, Panel Member

APPLICANT REVIEW PANEL STAFF

Christopher Dawson, Panel Counsel

Yvonne Le Tellier, Executive Secretary (Via Zoom)

CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

David King, Senior Staff Counsel

ALSO PRESENT

Anna, AT&T Moderator

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

INDEX

	<u>PAGE</u>
Call to Order and Roll Call	4
1. Approval of minutes from March 2, 2020, Panel meeting	10
2. Announcements	12
3. Staff Report - David King, California State Auditor's Office (Office) Legal Counsel - Report on the Office's activities in support of the Panel, including reviewing and forwarding updated application materials, confirming applicant eligibility, and gathering information concerning applicants.	12
4. Applicants found to be ineligible or requesting withdrawal from pool - The Panel will consider and vote to eliminate from the pool applicants who have been determined to be ineligible or who have requested to withdraw from further consideration	18
5. Public Comments on applicants	22
6. Panel Counsel's Report Christopher Dawson, Applicant Review Panel Counsel - Discussion of application review process, including comments received from the public. Summary of Applicant interview process and adjustments made in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Dissemination of reports reflecting panelists' recommendations regarding current applicants and demographics of the poll of remaining applicants in each of the subpools.	24

INDEX (CONT.)

	<u>PAGE</u>
7. Applicant Selection and Reduction of Applicant Pool - Discussion and identification of the 60 most qualified applicants whose names the Panel will submit to legislative leaders. The Panel will vote to reduce the applicant pool by eliminating remaining applicants from further consideration	30
8. Public Comment	--
Adjournment	148

P R O C E E D I N G S

9:31 a.m.

1
2
3 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, I'm going to call this
4 meeting to order. Madam Secretary, if you could please
5 call the roll.

6 MS. LE TELLIER: Good morning. Mr. Belnap?

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, we can hear you.

8 MS. LE TELLIER: Okay, I'll call the roll now.
9 Mr. Belnap?

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Here.

11 MS. LE TELLIER: Mr. Coe?

12 VICE CHAIR COE: Here.

13 MS. LE TELLIER: Mr. Coe?

14 VICE CHAIR COE: Here.

15 MS. LE TELLIER: I couldn't hear him.

16 VICE CHAIR COE: Here.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Did you hear him, Madam Secretary?

18 MS. LE TELLIER: Mr. Coe?

19 VICE CHAIR COE: Here.

20 MS. LE TELLIER: Okay, I hear you now.

21 Ms. Dickison?

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Here.

23 MS. LE TELLIER: We have a quorum.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

25 I'm going to go over the standard ground rules

1 and then go into special instructions for this meeting.
2 For those here in the room and anyone participating
3 remotely, please silence all cell phones and other devices.
4 Take any calls in the hallway or away from your speaker.

5 In case of emergency, follow CSA staff in our
6 regular emergency procedures.

7 Now, I'll go to the special instructions for this
8 meeting. Just to let you know, these are also available on
9 our website and I'll be reading an abbreviated version of
10 them throughout the meeting.

11 To maximize transparency and public participation
12 in our process, and in addition to all public comments we
13 have been receiving prior to our meetings, we will also be
14 taking public comment during our meeting by phone. There
15 will be opportunities to address the Panel regarding
16 applicants in the pool, as well as the process in general.

17 In addition, for each agenda item that requires a
18 vote, the public may provide comment on that particular
19 item. Each time that we will bring up an action item, we
20 will inform the viewing audience it is time to call in if
21 they wish to make a comment. We will then allow at least
22 three minutes for those who wish to comment to join the
23 public comment queue.

24 To make a public comment please dial, and I'm
25 going to repeat this number again, but the number is 844-

1 291-6360. I'll read it again: 844-291-6360. After
2 dialing the number, you will speak to an operator. You'll
3 be asked to provide either the access code for the meeting,
4 which is 7222059, again I repeat, 7222059, or name the
5 meeting which is the Applicant Review Panel meeting. After
6 providing this information, the operator will ask you to
7 provide your name. Please note you are not required to
8 provide your actual name if you do not wish to. When the
9 operator asks for your name, you may either provide your
10 own name or a name other than your own.

11 When it is your turn to make a public comment,
12 the moderator will introduce you by the name you provided
13 to the operator. Providing a name helps AT&T, which is
14 hosting our public comment process, to ensure that everyone
15 holding for a public comment has a chance to submit their
16 comments. Please be assured that our office is not
17 maintaining any list of callers by name. We are only
18 asking for some name so that the call moderator can manage
19 multiple calls simultaneously and can let you know when
20 it's your turn to speak.

21 After providing a name and speaking with the
22 operator, you'll be placed in a listening room, which is a
23 virtual waiting room where you will wait until it is your
24 turn to speak. In this room, you will be able to listen to
25 the live audio of the meeting. You should mute your

1 computer or your live stream audio because the online video
2 and the audio will be approximately 60 seconds behind the
3 live audio that you'll be hearing on the telephone.
4 Moreover, if you fail to mute your computer live stream
5 audio, it will be extremely difficult for you to follow the
6 meeting and difficult to anyone to hear your comment due to
7 feedback issues. Therefore, once you're waiting in the
8 queue be alert for when you may be called upon to speak and
9 please turn down the live stream volume.

10 From the listening room, listen to the meeting
11 and the call moderator. When you decide that you want to
12 make a comment about the agenda action item currently being
13 discussed press 1 then 0 and you will be placed in the
14 queue to make a public comment about the action item under
15 consideration. When joining the queue to make a public
16 comment, you should hear an automatic recording informing
17 you that you have been placed in the queue. You will not
18 receive any further instruction until the moderator brings
19 you in to make your public comment.

20 The moderator will open your line and introduce
21 you by the name you provided to the operator. Once again,
22 make sure that you have muted any background noise from
23 your computer. We also ask that you do not use a
24 speakerphone but rather speak directly into your phone.

25 After the moderator introduces you, please state

1 the name you provided to the operator and then state your
2 comment clearly and concisely. Comments will be limited to
3 two minutes. After you finish making your comment, we will
4 move on to the next caller. At that point please hang up
5 your phone. If you would like to comment on another agenda
6 item at a later time, please call back when we open up
7 public comment for that item and repeat this process.

8 If you are disconnected for any reason, please
9 call back and explain the issue to the operator, then
10 repeat this process and rejoin the public comment queue by
11 pressing 1 0. The Chair will ask for a comment before
12 every action item on the agenda.

13 As you listen to the online video stream, you'll
14 hear the Chair solicit public comments. This is the time
15 to call in. The process for making a comment will be the
16 same at the beginning each time, beginning by dialing, and
17 here I'll give you the number again, 844-291-6360, and
18 following the steps stated above.

19 So, at this time we will be moving on to our
20 first agenda item, which is the approval of minutes from
21 the March 2, 2020 Panel meeting. If you'd like to make a
22 public comment regarding the minutes, you may now dial 844-
23 291-6360 and provide the operator with either the access
24 code for the meeting which is 7222059, or the name of the
25 meeting which is the Applicant Review Panel meeting. Thank

1 you. And again, these instructions are available on our
2 website and I'll be reading an abbreviated version of them
3 throughout this meeting.

4 So, with that we're going to start our discussion
5 of Agenda Item Number 1, Approval of minutes from March 2,
6 2020 Panel meeting. We will not approve those minutes
7 until we've given people at least three minutes to get into
8 the queue if they wish to comment.

9 First, I'm going to ask my -- while we're
10 waiting, I'm going to ask my fellow Panel Members if
11 they've had a chance to review the minutes and if they have
12 any changes. We'll start with Ms. Dickison.

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I have reviewed the
14 minutes and I have no changes.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

16 Mr. Coe?

17 VICE CHAIR COE: I have also reviewed the minutes
18 and I have no changes.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. And I have also reviewed
20 the minutes. I have no changes at this time.

21 We're going to stand at ease for two and a half
22 minutes or so to make that we have any public comment. For
23 those watching the live stream, there are going to be some
24 moments where we need to stand at ease to allow public
25 comment.

1 We do have a moderator from AT&T that is
2 facilitating this meeting. While we're waiting, I'd like
3 to give our moderator a chance to introduce herself.

4 AT&T MODERATOR ANNA: Hi, my name is Anna and
5 I'll be the moderator for today's call.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Moderator, the volume wasn't quite
7 up high enough. Could you introduce yourself again?

8 AT&T MODERATOR ANNA: Hi, my name is Anna and
9 I'll be the moderator for today's conference.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you, Anna, for being here
11 and helping us with this meeting.

12 Moderator, do we have any comments or anyone in
13 the queue at this time?

14 AT&T MODERATOR ANNA: No, we have no comments at
15 this time.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Not seeing this particular
17 agenda item as one that people would publicly comment on,
18 I'm going to move that we approve the minutes from the
19 March 2, 2020 Panel meeting. Do I have a second?

20 VICE CHAIR COE: Second.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. All in favor?

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Aye.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Aye.

24 VICE CHAIR COE: Aye.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, the motion carries.

1 Okay. Agenda Item Number 2 is announcements and
2 I've just read the detailed instructions on how to comment.
3 That was our largest announcement. I want to turn some
4 time over to Mr. Dawson to see if he has any announcements
5 or discussion items?

6 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, I'll be bringing up most
7 of what I have to say during the Panel Counsel Report.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

9 So, just a brief high level overview of where
10 we're at in the process. In previous meetings, probably
11 two or three months ago, we narrowed the applicant pool
12 down to 120. And today, we'll be narrowing that -- today,
13 tomorrow, and maybe into Friday as we put on the agenda,
14 we're going to be narrowing that pool down to the 60 that
15 we'll be turning into the Legislature. So, that's the
16 purpose of today's meeting, which again might run into
17 Thursday, might run into Friday as well.

18 We do have, I believe David King is available for
19 the staff report. We're going to move on to Agenda Item
20 Number 3. Mr. King, can you hear us?

21 MR. KING: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes. Please proceed.

23 MR. KING: Thank you. Good morning, Panel
24 Members. My name is David King, Staff Counsel for the
25 State Auditor's Office.

1 On March 2nd, the Applicant Review Panel began
2 interviewing the 120 Commission applicants it has
3 identified as the most qualified to serve on the Citizen's
4 Redistricting Commission. During this time our office
5 worked with our vendors to provide the technical support
6 needed to ensure that interviews could be seamlessly
7 conducted and broadcast on our website.

8 With the Governor's declaration of a state of
9 emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the issuance
10 of state and local stay-at-home orders in March, our office
11 worked with Panel staff to make the necessary adjustments
12 to allow applicants to interview remotely, if they chose.
13 The first remote interview was conducted on March 18.
14 Beginning on March 25th until the last interview on April
15 23rd, the Panel transitioned to conducting all its
16 remaining interviews remotely. Our office provided the
17 Panel with the support needed to ensure the video and audio
18 quality of these interviews could be maintained.

19 We are happy to report that all the interviews
20 were conducted without difficulty and we thank our staff
21 and contractors who made this transition possible.

22 During the interview period, our office continued
23 to respond to Panel requests for information concerning
24 applicants. Some of these requests required our office to
25 contact the applicant to confirm certain matters, such as

1 an applicant's educational background. Other requests
2 asked to see the social media posts of several applicants.

3 As the Panel may recall, our office submitted
4 background check reports for approximately 330 applicants
5 on February 14th. Reports for several applicants
6 recommended the Panel further explore those applicants'
7 social media posts, but did not include those actual media
8 posts.

9 During the interview phase, the Panel requested
10 to see the social media posts for several applications,
11 which our office provided. We will note that before
12 providing the post to the Panel, we sent the post to the
13 applicants and gave them the opportunity to respond.

14 Finally, our office submitted a report to the
15 Panel concerning an applicant that, based on information
16 provided in her interview, indicated she was ineligible to
17 serve on the Commission.

18 Our office's various reports to the Panel are
19 posted on our website with the applicants' application
20 materials.

21 Our office has also received nine requests to
22 withdraw their application during this phase. A list of
23 those applicants has been submitted to Panel counsel. One
24 reason that promoted several of the withdrawals is a
25 provision of the California Constitution prohibiting

1 commission members from serving in certain public offices
2 or related positions for five or ten years after being
3 appointed to the commission. We reminded applicants of
4 this provision in an April 24th email, requesting the
5 applicants to confirm their willingness to serve in the
6 event they are selected for the Commission. Several
7 applicants submitted withdrawal requests after receiving
8 this email.

9 Our office requires we obtain two confirmations
10 of an applicant's intent to withdraw. For one applicant on
11 the withdrawal list we received only one confirmation.
12 However, this applicant was added to the withdrawal list
13 because he also did not appear at his scheduled interview.

14 We would like to extend our thanks to the
15 withdrawing applicants for their commitment and hard work
16 in participating in the application process.

17 Looking ahead, we anticipate the Panel will
18 reduce the pool of applicants to 60 of those most qualified
19 at the close of this meeting. Afterwards, state law
20 requires our office to submit the list of 60 names, along
21 with their application materials, to legislative leaders no
22 later than May 15th. The legislative leaders may strike up
23 to 24 names and must return the remaining names to our
24 office no later than June 30th. The list of remaining
25 applicants will be posted on our website as soon as

1 practicable.

2 State law also requires the State Auditor to
3 randomly draw the first eight applicant names for the
4 Commission by no later than July 5th in any year ending in
5 zero. This year, July 5th falls on a Sunday. Therefore,
6 to comply with this mandatory deadline, the State Auditor
7 anticipates holding the random drawing to select the first
8 eight Commissioners on July 2nd or 3rd. The event will be
9 publicly accessible either in person or via streaming on
10 our website as permitted by state and local guidelines in
11 place at that time.

12 We have no idea what guidelines will be in place
13 in early July, so it is possible that the entire event may
14 only be attended remotely. Either way, our office will
15 hold the random drawing in early July, shortly after we
16 receive the applicant list back from legislative leaders.

17 The first eight Commission members must select
18 the remaining six members by no later than August 15th.

19 As we approach these dates, we encourage
20 applicants and members of the public to check our website
21 for further details. And we thank the applicants and the
22 public for their patience.

23 Finally, we encourage every applicant remaining
24 in the pool to review their application to ensure that it
25 is accurate, includes all requested information, and

1 reflects any changes that has occurred since their
2 application was first submitted.

3 Applicants whose names are submitted to
4 legislative leaders are asked to stay alert for further
5 communications from our office which may include requests
6 for additional information from legislative leaders or
7 their staff.

8 The State Auditor and her staff wish to express
9 their gratitude to everyone who applied to serve on the
10 Commission and, in particular, the applicants who were able
11 to accommodate changes to the interview process as our
12 office transitioned to video conferencing.

13 We would also like to thank the members of the
14 Panel, counsel, and staff who have devoted so much of their
15 time and energy to reviewing the thousands of applicants we
16 received and interviewing the many applicants within the
17 last two months. On behalf of the State Auditor, we
18 appreciate your hard work during this process.

19 This concludes the State Auditor's Office update
20 to the Applicant Review Panel. Thank you.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you, Mr. King. I want to
22 express our sincere appreciation for the work that you've
23 done, you and your staff, and all of the individuals who've
24 made it possible for us to complete this process.

25 I want to give my fellow Panel Members a chance

1 to make a comment or question to Mr. King, if you'd like.

2 Mr. Coe?

3 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Mr. King, just want to echo what Mr. Belnap had
5 to say, thank you very much for all the support you've
6 provided to the applicants, the public, and the Panel the
7 last several months. Thank you.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, Ms. Dickison.

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to also
10 thank you, Mr. King, and your staff for all the work that
11 you've done in supporting the Applicant Review Panel, and
12 the public, and staff. Thank you.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, we're now going to move on
14 to Agenda Item Number 4. And that agenda item is
15 applicants found to be ineligible or requesting withdrawal
16 from the pool.

17 In a moment we'll be considering and voting on
18 whether or not to eliminate these individuals from the
19 pool. Before we move on to that agenda item and hear from
20 Mr. Dawson, I have a statement to read and it's an
21 abbreviated version of the instructions on how to call in
22 and make a comment.

23 If you would like to make a comment regarding
24 Agenda Item Number 4, please call in now by dialing 844-
25 291-6360. In the next few moments we'll begin taking

1 public comment. And that number again is 844-291-6360.
2 After dialing the number you will speak to an operator.
3 You'll be asked to provide either the access code for the
4 meeting which is 7222059 or the name of the meeting which
5 is the Applicant Review Panel meeting.

6 After providing this information, the operator
7 will ask you to provide your name. Please note that you're
8 not required to provide your actual name. When the
9 operator asks for your name, you may provide a name other
10 than your own. When it is your turn to make a public
11 comment, the moderator will introduce you by the name you
12 have provided to the operator.

13 After speaking with the operator you'll be placed
14 in a listening room. In this room you'll be able to listen
15 to the live audio of the meeting. You should mute your
16 computer audio because the online video and audio will be
17 delayed by approximately 60 seconds. When you decide that
18 you want to make a comment about an action on the agenda,
19 and again we're taking up Agenda Item Number 4, press 1 0
20 and you'll be placed in a queue to make public comment
21 about that action item.

22 After joining the queue to make a public comment,
23 you should hear an automatic recording informing you that
24 you've been placed in the queue. When it is your turn, the
25 moderator will introduce you. State your comment clearly

1 and concisely. Comments will be limited to two minutes.
2 After you've finished making your comment, you'll move on
3 to the next caller. At that point please hang up your
4 phone.

5 If you would like to comment on another agenda
6 item at a later time, please call back when we open up
7 public comment for that item and repeat this process.

8 If you are disconnected for any reason, please
9 call back and explain the issue to the operator, then
10 repeat this process and rejoin the public comment queue by
11 pressing 1 0.

12 And with that, I'll turn the time over to Mr.
13 Dawson.

14 MR. DAWSON: All right, thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Let me distribute to you the list of applicants who have
16 requested withdrawal. And then, I'll read those names into
17 the record.

18 All right. Mr. Chair, the CSA has received this
19 list of nine applicants who have requested withdrawal from
20 the process. I'll read their names and their ID numbers
21 into the record. I'm sorry.

22 Michael Allawos, Applicant ID Number 3410.

23 Robert Carpenter, Applicant ID Number 13567.

24 Please note that Dr. Carpenter submitted a request to
25 withdraw on April 20th, but did not appear for his

1 interview scheduled on April 22nd, and we consider Dr.
2 Carpenter's April 22nd request and nonappearance to meet
3 the office requirement that the withdrawing applicants
4 provide two confirmations affirming their intent to
5 withdraw.

6 Moving on, Manuela Cerruti, Applicant ID Number
7 3387.

8 Keith Eich, Applicant ID Number 721.

9 Stacy Flanigan, Applicant ID Number 1618.

10 Robert Galve, Applicant ID Number 3468.

11 Jeffrey Gee, Applicant ID Number 18670.

12 Anaheeta Kolah, Applicant ID Number 7332.

13 And finally, Susan Rohan, Applicant ID Number
14 9298.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you, Mr. Dawson.

16 I'll now ask the Moderator, do we have anyone in
17 the comment queue?

18 AT&T MODERATOR ANNA: And we have no comments at
19 this time.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

21 I move that we eliminate these individuals that
22 have been listed and also provided to us by Mr. Dawson from
23 further consideration and removed from the pool.

24 Do I have a second?

25 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Second.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: All in favor?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Aye.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Aye.

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Aye.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, motion carries. Thank
6 you.

7 We will now move on to Agenda Item Number 5,
8 which is public comment on applicants. While I give people
9 a chance to get into the comment queue, I'm going to go
10 ahead and read the instructions again for those who are
11 just joining us.

12 If you'd like to make public comment regarding
13 Agenda Item Number 5, which is public comments on
14 applicants, please call in now by dialing 844-291-6360. In
15 the next few moments we'll begin taking public comment, and
16 that number again is 844-291-6360.

17 After dialing the number, you will speak to an
18 operator. You will be asked to provide either the access
19 code for the meeting which is 7222059 name -- 7222059, or
20 the name of the meeting, which is the Applicant Review
21 Panel meeting. After providing this information, the
22 operator will ask you to provide your name. Please note
23 that you are not required to provide your actual name.
24 When the operator asks for your name, you may provide a
25 name other than your own. When it is your turn to make a

1 public comment, the moderator will introduce you by the
2 name you've provided to the operator.

3 After speaking with the operator, you'll be
4 placed in a listening room. In this room you'll be able to
5 listen to live audio of the meeting. You should mute your
6 computer audio because the online video and the audio will
7 be delayed by approximately 60 seconds.

8 When you decide that you want to make a comment
9 about an action item on the agenda, and again we're taking
10 public comments on Agenda Item Number 5, press 1 0, and
11 you'll be placed in a queue to make public comment about
12 that action item.

13 After joining the queue to make a public comment,
14 you should hear an automatic recording informing you that
15 you have been placed in the queue. When it is your turn,
16 the moderator will introduce you. State your comment
17 clearly and concisely. Comments will be limited to two
18 minutes. After you've finished making your comment, we
19 will move on to the next caller. At that point please hang
20 up your phone.

21 If you would like to comment on another agenda
22 item at a later time, please call back when we open up
23 public comment for that item and repeat this process.

24 If you are disconnected for any reason, please
25 call back and explain the issue to the operator, and repeat

1 this process, and rejoin the public comment queue by
2 pressing 1 0.

3 We'll now stand at east for two or three minutes
4 to give people a chance to enter the comment queue.

5 (Pause)

6 CHAIR BELNAP: So, for those watching these
7 proceedings, we're at ease right now because we're waiting
8 for public comment. We recognize that there is
9 approximately a one-minute lag between the live stream and
10 our live proceedings in this room. That's one reason for
11 the delay that we have here is that we want to make sure if
12 there's individuals out there that want to make a comment,
13 that they have the opportunity to do so. But I do believe
14 it's been around three minutes.

15 Moderator, can you let us now, is there anyone in
16 the comment queue?

17 AT&T MODERATOR ANNA: And there is no one in
18 queue.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, we appreciate that.

20 And we'll now turn the time over to Agenda Item
21 Number 6, and we'll turn the time over to Mr. Dawson.

22 MR. DAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to
23 make my Panel Counsel's Report and then I'll distribute
24 some reports to you.

25 The first is a brief recap. I'd like to remind

1 the Panel and the public of how we got here today. At the
2 Panel's February 20 -- excuse me, February 19th to the 21st
3 meeting, the Panel selected 120 applicants for interviews,
4 which were scheduled from March 2nd until April 22nd, four
5 interviews a day, four days a week, for seven and a half
6 weeks, here at CSA headquarters.

7 As you recall, the situation when the Panel
8 started this process was far different than where we are
9 today. As Mr. King noted, on March 18th we began to
10 conduct some interviews remotely. On March 20th to 25th,
11 we briefly put the interviews on hold in order to put
12 arrangements in place to conduct all interviews remotely,
13 with the bare minimum of persons in the interview room in
14 order to protect the health and safety of our staff, our
15 vendors, and most importantly our applicants. We did so
16 following the guidance of the Sacramento County Public
17 Health Officer, the California Department of Public Health,
18 and the Office of the Governor in light of the COVID-19
19 health emergency and restrictions on travel.

20 Once again, we thank the applicants for their
21 flexibility and their willingness to continue this process
22 under constantly changing circumstances. As we said during
23 the interviews, applicants should feel confident that
24 whether you interviewed in person or remotely, the means of
25 your interview did not affect in any way the Panel's

1 consideration and deliberation of your application.

2 In the end, the Panel conducted 117 interviews
3 and adjourned only a single day later than originally
4 planned, which is a testament to the dedication and hard
5 work of all involved. And we would especially like to
6 thank our vendors for their flexibility and their
7 creativity in helping us make that happen.

8 As you can see, we are conducting this meeting
9 remotely as well. Although the Panel is all in this space,
10 other staff, such as our secretary, the ARP assistants, the
11 ASL translators and the court reporter, are all
12 participating remotely.

13 And as we have already seen today, the public is
14 able to address the Panel by telephone for public comment.
15 This is in full compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open
16 Meetings Act, and the Governor's recent executive orders
17 that allow us to proceed while protecting the health of all
18 involved.

19 In addition, the Panel has received written
20 comment, which I've provided to the Panel, and I will be
21 reading them into the record under Agenda Item 8.

22 I would like to remind folks watching the live
23 stream that they can either call in, as Mr. Belnap has
24 instructed, or if they prefer they can submit written
25 comments. And if we receive those comments in time, we

1 will read those into the record as well.

2 As you know, after the interviews concluded, you
3 spent ten days independently reviewing applications,
4 consulting your notes, and watching videos of the
5 applications. You did not communicate with other members
6 of the Panel, in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open
7 Meetings Act.

8 I asked you to finish your review and finish
9 making your selections in the system on Monday. And just
10 like in prior meetings, I've asked the CSA to compile
11 reports, which I will distribute to you, to assist you in
12 your deliberation on the final 60 applicants whose names
13 you will send to the Legislature by May 15th.

14 The reports are organized by partisan subpool.
15 So, for the Democrats, we will have eight Democrats who
16 received three yes votes, and a demographic summary of
17 those Democrats, as well as a list of 31 Democrats who
18 received Zero to 2 yes votes.

19 Of the Republicans, ten Republicans who received
20 three yes votes, and a demographic summary of those folks,
21 plus the remaining 25 Republicans who received either zero,
22 1, or 2 yes votes.

23 Of the Nonaffiliated applicants, there are nine
24 who received three yes votes, and you'll be provided a
25 demographic summary of those folks, plus a list of the 28

1 Nonaffiliated applicants who received zero, 1, or 2 yes
2 votes.

3 And then, finally, I will provide you with an
4 aggregate demographic summary of all the applicants who
5 received at least one yes vote.

6 I'll provide those to you now. Just like in
7 previous meetings, I recommend that you recess in order to
8 have time to review these reports. And you should also
9 agree to come back and be ready to discuss a particular
10 subpool.

11 You will note that you all agreed on ten
12 Republicans, eight Democrats, and nine Nonaffiliated. And
13 I would recommend that you start with the Republican group
14 and follow the procedure that you did last time, which is
15 to go in turns nominating applicants until you reach a list
16 of at least 20.

17 I'd also recommend that after you've built up
18 lists of 20 tentative applicants for each subgroup that the
19 Panel recess. That will give me and the staff the
20 opportunity to create new reports showing the tentative
21 selections, as well as demographic summaries of the
22 subpools, and an aggregate demographic summary of all of
23 the tentative selections.

24 After you've had a chance to review the tentative
25 pools and settle on 20 applicants each, you will then take

1 a vote on each of the final subpools, and then a final vote
2 to eliminate any applicant who is not in the final 60.
3 This follows the pattern that you adopted at the prior
4 meeting, which was an open and transparent process.

5 This concludes my report.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you, Mr. Dawson. Will these
7 reports be available online?

8 MR. DAWSON: Yes, they are. They should be
9 simultaneously uploaded online for members of the public to
10 see.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

12 So, my thought is that we not adopt, but follow
13 our counsel's recommendation to take up the Republican
14 pool. That does make sense, it has the most agreement
15 already.

16 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

17 VICE CHAIR COE: I'm in agreement with that.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Ms. Dickison?

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I am, as well.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I
21 suggest we take a recess and come back at 10:45, which has
22 some similarity to the way we did our interviews, we came
23 back at 10:45 each morning. That would give us 40 minutes
24 to pull our information together.

25 Is that sufficient time, Mr. Coe?

1 VICE CHAIR COE: I think that should be
2 sufficient, yeah.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Forty-five is fine?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, we are going to recess until
6 10:45 a.m.

7 (Off the record at 10:06 a.m.)

8 (On the record at 10:45 a.m.)

9 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, we're going to come
10 back out of recess. As we agreed before recess, we're
11 going to take up the Republican pool. And this is under
12 Agenda Item Number 6. So, this is a discussion of
13 applicants and bringing the number to 20.

14 For those just joining us through the live stream
15 --

16 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair?

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, Mr. Dawson?

18 MR. DAWSON: This is actually Agenda Item 7.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Oh, you're right. Thank you.
20 Agenda Item Number 7.

21 So, for those just joining us, something we
22 agreed on before the break was that we are not going to
23 make any decisions at this moment. Rather, this is a
24 tentative list of 20 individuals that we'll consider as we
25 put together the whole list of 60. We'll vote on those at

1 a later time.

2 So, at this point in time there will be no votes,
3 there's no need for public comment because we're not voting
4 on an item.

5 If you're wondering about public comment, just as
6 a reminder there are instructions on our website. I'm not
7 going to read through them at this time. So, if you look
8 at our website, it will tell you how to make public
9 comment. But again, we're not taking public comment at
10 this time.

11 So, with that the pattern we followed before,
12 Panel Members, we have ten I believe where we had three
13 yeses, so I suggest we set those aside for a moment, and
14 then fill out the remainder of our spreadsheets to get to
15 20. And the process we used last time was Panel Members
16 would put someone forward. We'll discuss them and we'll
17 decide whether to put them in our tentative list or set
18 them aside until later.

19 So, and we decided to last time follow the same
20 pattern on recommendations as we did for Chair. So, I'll
21 go first. I'll set forward a name, and then Mr. Coe, and
22 we'll go basically counter clockwise in this room.

23 So, the person I would like to discuss is Richard
24 Gallegos, number 11427. So, I'll give my fellow Panel
25 Members a chance to pull their notes together. Again, that

1 was Richard Gallegos, number 11427.

2 So, Mr. Gallegos is a Deputy Sheriff. He's also
3 a college instructor and he has an MBA. The thing that
4 impressed me about his interview in particular was he
5 provided clear and concise responses, but the thing that
6 really stuck out to me was important insight into who he
7 is, was his discussion about how he worked full time and
8 also pursued a master's degree and a PhD program, doing all
9 those things. Really focused on learning throughout his
10 life, in addition to meeting his family needs. That showed
11 to me the type of person he is as someone driven that we
12 can count on to fulfill the responsibilities of a
13 Commissioner.

14 So, that's my reasoning for putting forward Mr.
15 Gallegos.

16 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

17 VICE CHAIR COE: Certainly noted the same things
18 you were talking about on the positive front. I actually
19 had trouble following the points he was making in the
20 interview. I didn't think it was particular clear. It was
21 difficult for me to know if he'd answered fully the
22 questions that were posed. I thought there was some
23 trouble communicating ideas.

24 Questions on community of interest, I think there
25 was a bit of a struggle there, a bit of a narrow view of

1 communities of interest in my opinion. Focused on
2 specifically ethnicity, but other things that could bind
3 communities together wasn't discussed either in the
4 application or the interview. And so, for those reasons I
5 would be in favor of putting him aside for now.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

7 Ms. Dickison?

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I agree with Mr. Coe.
9 I also -- so, I agree with Mr. Coe, I also would like to
10 put him aside for the same reasons. I had a little bit of
11 trouble following him in his interview and the points that
12 he was making. I did note that doing those educational
13 things and the lifelong learning was commendable and does
14 show that he would do the job ultimately. But I thought
15 that he was hard to follow in the interview.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, I have him in the set
17 aside group.

18 Mr. Coe, you're up next.

19 VICE CHAIR COE: All right. So, the applicant I
20 would like to bring forward for consideration is Russell
21 Yee, applicant 11312. Mr. Yee's from Alameda County, he's
22 a professor and a pastor there. I thought part of the
23 interview demonstrated he was well read and researched, and
24 keeps up on events relevant to redistricting. He has a lot
25 of experience working with different people to reach a

1 common goal. He has experience in open meetings, board
2 experience. Referred to himself as Republican, but not to
3 a fault. He seems very open minded. In his interview I
4 thought he was very well spoken, very even tempered,
5 appears very self-reflective. He had a solid stated sense
6 of impartiality, I thought, and a keen sense of keeping the
7 Commission from looking biased or hyperpartisanship. He's
8 clearly done his homework as he demonstrated in his
9 application, an again in his interview, on the previous
10 Commission on how the process worked, the challenges that
11 were faced. He understands the environment that this
12 Commission is going to operate in, the specific criteria
13 relevant to it. He's got a keen sense of communities of
14 interest. Importance of gathering perspective, how to
15 engage different communities, the challenge in balancing
16 communities of interest with other criteria, the city and
17 the county boundaries, as Ms. Dickison has asked a lot of
18 times in her interviews. And he's very familiar with the
19 Census data. And I think he adds to the diversity of this
20 pool, considering the ten we currently have. So, I'd like
21 to bring Russell Yee forward for consideration.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

23 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I agree, I was also
24 going to recommend bringing this applicant forward. He
25 talked about he knows how to build trust and draw people

1 out. He had a firm understanding of the mission of the
2 Commission and the work that lay ahead. I also found that,
3 you know, he had an understanding of diversity, he had
4 empathy, and different types of diversity he was looking
5 at, and communities of interest. So, I agree with bringing
6 this applicant forward.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, my
8 thoughts on his interview, and I thought his interview was
9 much better than his application. So, this is an
10 individual whose, in my evaluation of him, growing. And I
11 thought he was sincere. He was very prepared for the
12 interview. That was impressive. So, he seems willing to
13 work hard and to do the work of the Commission. And for
14 those reasons, I'm willing to put him forward in our top,
15 tentative top 20.

16 So, for Madam Secretary, that was Russell Yee,
17 applicant 11312 that we have put in our tentative top 20.

18 All right, Ms. Dickison, you're up.

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to bring
20 forward applicant number 2050, James Mendelson. So, I did
21 recognize that during the interview this applicant might
22 have sounded a little just the facts. However, with this
23 applicant I think he has some real strengths in being a
24 prosecutor of hate crimes and he demonstrated during his
25 profession the ability and the desire to put himself

1 forward in difficult situations in specializing in
2 prosecuting gang related crimes, as he described in his
3 application and as he talked about in his interview.

4 I thought he had a good discussion of empathy and
5 he talked about the ability to analyze dense materials.
6 So, he's a just the facts kind of person, but I felt like
7 he really has the empathy for diverse populations and
8 ensuring that they're treated fairly.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I noted
10 the same things you did about his application, the strength
11 of his application, how as he came through with three
12 votes. But I also noted the same thing you did about the
13 interview. I think he can come off as aggressive to some
14 people. I think that could be problematic in the context
15 of the Commission. So, I think for those reasons, building
16 a team I just didn't see Mr. Mendelson as a productive part
17 of that team. So, that's my reason for feeling that we
18 need to put him in the aside and then see who else we have
19 there.

20 VICE CHAIR COE: I think you both described Mr.
21 Mendelson fully in terms of the positive things that Ms.
22 Dickison talked about and the same concerns that you talked
23 about, Mr. Belnap, is the reason he didn't make my 20. So,
24 I would be in favor of setting him aside for those same
25 reasons.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, the person that I'd
2 like to put forward at this time is David Burdick,
3 applicant ID 73. So, Mr. Burdick is a physicist, with a
4 PhD in physics. He's also had a number of experiences as
5 being a board. I think we all know the strength of his
6 application. We all put him through on that.

7 In the interview what struck me was his ideas.
8 He seemed to be thinking well ahead of this application
9 process and into the Commissioners' role, and had already
10 developed a rough game plan for how they could get through
11 some of the troubles.

12 I think this Commission, because of the situation
13 they're facing has to have people on it that have that type
14 of vision. How can we get through the problems that
15 they're going to have with the Census.

16 Other observations I had on the interview was
17 that I saw confidence, clear thinking, and I really
18 appreciated his focus on the law. He kept coming back to
19 the law. He seemed to have a very impartial attitude and
20 he had thought through and prepared ideas that he presented
21 to us. So, I really could see, I could visualize him as
22 part of a brainstorming group that could come up with ways
23 to overcome the problems that the Commission is going to
24 encounter. So, for those reasons I'm recommending David
25 Burdick.

1 Mr. Coe?

2 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noted
3 also, similar to you, solid understanding of the task
4 facing the Commission, particularly in kind of the unique
5 environment that it's going to be in with the pandemic
6 occurring. He has board experience and experience of
7 public meetings. He's a career scientist and the mind, his
8 mind is I think trained and conditioned to obtain and
9 evaluate varieties of input before making decisions. I
10 thought he demonstrated a solid sense of understanding of
11 the Census data, how the data is used, the limitations that
12 they may face with it.

13 He was well read and researched on the history of
14 the previous Commission environment, and the environment
15 this one will operate in, and he offered some practical
16 solutions to bring it forward. The analytical skills I
17 think are the strong point.

18 He did seem a little gruff in nature and I noted
19 that he may intimidate some in that way. But he did show a
20 sense of humor. And I think he also talked about how well
21 he knows the Central Valley. And based on where we're
22 looking with our current list, some of that perspective is
23 needed. And for those reasons I had him in my 20 and would
24 be in favor of putting him forward right now.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you, Mr. Coe.

1 Ms. Dickison?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, this applicant made
3 it right to my final elimination, so I would be in favor of
4 putting him back in.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, to
6 reiterate, we have application -- applicant ID 73, David
7 Burdick that we are putting forward to our tentative list
8 of 20.

9 VICE CHAIR COE: Is it my turn to bring somebody
10 forward?

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, it is, Mr. Coe.

12 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay, I'm just making sure here.
13 The applicant I would like to bring forward for
14 consideration is Robert Murillo, applicant 5190. And Mr.
15 Murillo is the owner of a bakery in Santa Cruz County. He
16 has a small business perspective that I think we're
17 lacking. He's involved, he attends public meetings of
18 local commissions to make comments and also make proposals.

19 In his interview he talked about how he
20 represents the common citizen, as that's how he referred to
21 himself, and I think that carries some weight for me in
22 terms of trying to ensure that the Commission is broadly
23 representative of all of California. He has a lot of
24 experience in and around California and understanding, you
25 know, as he spoke to his cycling being on the ground, in

1 different places, understanding people, having different
2 perspectives based on where they live. He's got practical
3 experience using maps and data to establish most efficient
4 routes for delivery for his business. And he clearly
5 understands how gerrymandering works, what to look out for,
6 and he had done his research on the environment of
7 redistricting on the previous Commission and on the
8 challenges that may be facing this one coming up. And so,
9 I think he adds to the diversity of the pool in perspective
10 and otherwise, and I'd like to bring him forward for
11 consideration as well.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I was also going to
14 bring forward Mr. Murillo. I also thought that he did show
15 the analytical skills when he was discussing in his
16 interview how he was part of the product development, and
17 how that whole system works, and the real time figuring
18 things out and setting up the different processes.

19 So, for that reason and in addition to what Mr.
20 Coe has added, I would like to add him to the list.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I've had
22 him in my top 40. I didn't have him in my top 20. I did
23 think he was very prepared for his interview and to me
24 that's always impression when someone comes into an
25 interview and they've done their homework. And he had

1 obviously done that.

2 I think the reason that I didn't put him in my
3 top 20 is that I thought the weakest part of his
4 application was his statement about appreciation for
5 diversity. And I tried to give him multiple opportunities
6 to strengthen that area, but I didn't hear it in the
7 interview.

8 But based on both of your recommendations and our
9 collective judgment, I would put him forward into the top
10 20, into our tentative top 20.

11 So, Madam Secretary, that was applicant ID 5190,
12 Robert Murillo, putting him forward in our tentative top
13 20.

14 So, Ms. Dickison whenever you're ready.

15 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to put
16 forward applicant number 668, Ronald Newton. And while
17 you're looking at that, Mr. Newton has 36 years as working
18 for Boeing Company. He had responsibilities as a buyer,
19 manager, contract negotiator. He's currently a practicing
20 attorney. He deals with estates and wills. And while
21 that's not part of the work of the Commission, he also has
22 extensive experience on the school board, 25 years, half of
23 that as the president. He's worked on the Parks and
24 Recreation Committee, the City Transportation Committee,
25 City Block Committee. He has multiple decades as a high

1 school football coach and a Little League volunteer.

2 During his interview he talked about recognizing
3 the changes in demographics over the years. And what I
4 really appreciated was how he talked about recognizing the
5 different expectations based on somebody's background that
6 parents may have for their children, and what's important
7 and not important, and having to make adjustments to the
8 way he coaches to benefit those children going forward.

9 He also talked about recognizing the need for
10 people to be -- you know, to feel like they're being heard
11 and I thought that was really important. So, for that
12 reason, I wanted to put him forward.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, on Mr.
14 Newton, I thought he had a strong application. He came
15 through with three yeses between us. And I thought his
16 interview strengthened parts of his application that I
17 found deficient, particularly the ability to be impartial.
18 I think he talked about his experiences as a contract
19 negotiator and I could make the connection on how -- based
20 on what he said, how a contract negotiator needs to have an
21 impartial stance.

22 I also thought through his coaching experience he
23 has the ability to connect with the common man. And as he
24 described his coaching, I also having been on a lot of
25 sports teams, I could see the role that he could play in a

1 group dynamic. And I voted yes for him, so I would be in
2 favor of putting him in the top 20.

3 Mr. Coe?

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think
5 obviously, as you can see, he was a three vote all the way
6 through. He fell out for me. I agree with all of the
7 points that were brought up, everything Ms. Dickison said.
8 I had a similar concern going into the interview on
9 impartiality. That was something I had noted just on
10 review of the application and I thought that his interview
11 also strengthened that, as you mentioned Mr. Belnap.

12 Where I got hung up was I didn't think that the
13 appreciation for diversity was as well demonstrated as some
14 other candidates that we had had in the interviews. And he
15 seemed very Southern California centric. Didn't have,
16 didn't speak to much knowledge of the rest of the state
17 when given an opportunity. And when looking at all the
18 diversity consideration, for those reasons he ended up
19 falling out for me.

20 I'm not opposed to this candidate. But if it's
21 okay with you guys, I would like to put him aside for now
22 and circle back to him.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Uh-hum. I think that's perfectly
24 acceptable. We're going to be looking at all the
25 individuals in the set aside group, so we'll make note of

1 Mr. Newton in our set aside group.

2 So, the person I want to bring forward is
3 applicant 22370, Genevieve Murphy. I'll give you a moment.

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Who brought forward Mr. Newton?

5 CHAIR BELNAP: I'm sorry, what?

6 VICE CHAIR COE: Ms. Dickison brought forward Mr.
7 Newton?

8 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

9 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay. What was that number
10 again? I'm sorry, Mr. Belnap.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: So, it's 22370, Genevieve Murphy.
12 So, Mr. Murphy is an owner of a business, a homecare
13 business, and she has history as a consultant for a very
14 reputable firm, and she's an MBA. All these things we knew
15 from the application and we collectively put her through
16 based on the strength of her application.

17 The interview impressed me even more than the
18 application. My notes were enthusiasm, personable. She
19 had charisma, motivated, and I think she -- if you think of
20 the collective group and you think of the difficulties the
21 Commission's about to experience, having somebody who can
22 inspire others, can inspire people to trust the Commission
23 is the type of person I'd want in that group. And for
24 these reasons I'm putting forward Ms. Murphy for
25 consideration.

1 Yes, Mr. Coe.

2 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Applicant Murphy was one of the last people to fall out of
4 my 20. You know, as this process goes and as you narrow it
5 down, you've got to let go of good people. Considering we
6 had some last minute withdrawals, this is a candidate that
7 would have easily found their way in if I would have been
8 able to make the change in the system after we'd kind of
9 cut it off.

10 I totally agree with you, Mr. Belnap, the
11 charisma it jumped off the screen. And that's remotely on
12 a screen and I can imagine how she's going to inspire
13 people in person. I think it will be even more noticeable.
14 I would be in favor of placing Ms. Murphy on our tentative
15 20 list.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you. Ms. Dickison?

17 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I also was a yes vote for
18 Ms. Murphy and so I would be in favor of adding her back
19 onto the list.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, appreciate it. So, Madam
21 Secretary that was applicant 22370, Genevieve Murphy.
22 We've placed her on our tentative top 20 list.

23 And Mr. Coe, whenever you're ready.

24 VICE CHAIR COE: The applicant I'd like to bring
25 forward for consideration is Hellen Meade, applicant 19939.

1 Ms. Meade is from Shasta County, up in the north part of
2 the state where I think we're low on applicants. She's a
3 coordinator for a crisis pregnancy center, and the former
4 owner and office manager of a small plumbing business,
5 bringing again that -- the small business perspective from
6 that population in California.

7 I thought that she -- well, she has local
8 nonprofit board experience working in collaborative groups.
9 She's lived in both Southern and Northern California and is
10 aware of issues and perspectives in these various regions.
11 A lot of experience gathering and analyzing different types
12 of data.

13 And in her interview I thought that she was very
14 candid. She came across to me as a people person, somebody
15 who is very passionate and capable of quickly learning and
16 taking up any new task in front of her. And I think for
17 those reasons and the addition of I think geographic and
18 economic diversity, I would like to bring her forward for
19 consideration.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Ms.
21 Dickison, your thoughts?

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I agree. I was also
23 going to put her forward for a lot of the same reasons.
24 She's community service driven. She's driven to help those
25 in recovery, the homeless, the disadvantaged, victims of

1 human trafficking. I thought she came across very -- I
2 thought she came across very candid as well. And so, I was
3 going to put her forward as well.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, I hadn't
5 voted for her. I do think geographic diversity is
6 something we need to consider and there is an important
7 element to that that Ms. Meade provides, in addition to the
8 other types of diversity you talked about.

9 My evaluation of her application, as actually we
10 discussed previous, was not very high. In terms of the
11 interview I thought she did better than her application,
12 and particularly in the areas of the ability to be
13 impartial and appreciation of diversity.

14 The part where I still struggle with was the
15 evaluation of the analytical skills. I thought a lot of
16 her answers weren't clear and concise and that's my hang up
17 with Ms. Meade. I do think we do need to take her into
18 consideration with others from that Northern California
19 area. So, what I would suggest we do is put her in the
20 aside group and then return to the group as a whole and see
21 where we're at, if that's okay with you guys.

22 VICE CHAIR COE: By the group as a whole, you
23 mean a tentative group of 60 after we've gone through the
24 other two areas?

25 CHAIR BELNAP: No, I mean just the aside -- our

1 smaller aside group that's here.

2 VICE CHAIR COE: And when you say the group as a
3 whole, you're referring to the Republican group as a whole
4 or the 60 group as a whole?

5 CHAIR BELNAP: I don't know the answer to that.
6 And the reason I say that is I think some of the diversity
7 from Northern California is actually in other groups, some
8 of which I can see from the reports we already have three
9 yeses on. So, it's difficult to cross-analyze when we're
10 only talking about the Republican pool here.

11 But I do think when we deliberate on these
12 asides, we could maybe look at that, where that geographic
13 diversity might be already coming from. So, I would
14 suggest we put her in the asides for now.

15 Ms. Dickison, whenever you're ready.

16 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I wanted to bring forward
17 application number 4974, Mr. Blando. So, this applicant
18 has a BS in electrical engineering. He has an engineering
19 background, a UC Davis business systems analyst for the
20 information and educational technology.

21 He showed an appreciation for the diversity of
22 California's population and demonstrated an understanding
23 an appreciation for the difference during interview
24 discussions.

25 He's familiar with working with data and mapping

1 systems. I thought he came across strong analytically. He
2 has experience dealing with people, working in teams, and
3 public meetings, dealing with issues with emotions running
4 high. He showed empathy. And I thought he demonstrated
5 impartiality and appreciation for diversity. And he had
6 given thought to the data challenges of the Commission.
7 And so, I'd like to put him forward.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Looking
9 here at the votes, I know I'm the one hold out. I have him
10 already higher on my list of individuals to consider, so
11 I'm going to be recommending that we put him in our
12 tentative top 20, but I'll give my reasons why.

13 In his interview what struck me is how calm he
14 was. I think that's going to be necessary in some of the
15 public hearings. And I think he was calm because he's had
16 experiences with difficult board meetings. His experiences
17 at UC Davis were likely difficult. He came across as a
18 professional and I did like his ideas. So, for those
19 reasons I would put him forward in the tentative list of
20 top 20.

21 Mr. Coe.

22 VICE CHAIR COE: I don't believe I have much to
23 add. I am in favor of having him in the tentative top 20.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, Madam
25 Secretary, that's candidate ID 4974, Peter Blando. We have

1 put him in our tentative top 20 in the Republican pool.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: So, the person I would put forward
3 at this time is candidate ID 19974, Wesley Hussey. So, Mr.
4 Hussey is a college professor. He has a PhD in political
5 science. And he's well versed in statistical methods. He
6 teaches it, he engages it in research. We all knew that
7 from the application and he had three yeses for a time.

8 The interview, for me, was better than the
9 application. He came across as well informed, well spoken,
10 and what really impressed me is he seemed very balanced in
11 his views. And then, he interjected humor and he was
12 personable. I think he would be a great fit in that
13 Commissioner group and he would keep the process moving it
14 forward by understanding it, but also using his humor and
15 his personality to make the group gel and move forward.
16 So, for those reasons I'm putting him forward.

17 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

18 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap. I agree
19 with you on Mr. Hussey, he was in my top 20. He's very
20 savvy on the topic, he can speak clearly and knowledgably
21 on this topic of redistricting. I did also note his
22 ability to interject a sense of humor into the proceedings,
23 which I think can be -- or is going to be a helpful thing
24 with the Commission under tight deadlines, and maybe even
25 tighter now based on delays in Census and so on. And so,

1 keeping things light on the team can be very helpful.

2 Lots of relevant analytical ability, a proven
3 ability and experience to work with people of very
4 different perspectives. And he noted, I think that he was
5 a finalist ten years ago and he thought something that was
6 interesting is that he had to check the box that he was
7 Northern California, but he actually had spent way more of
8 his life in Southern California. So, I think that's an
9 additional perspective that he's been living up in Northern
10 California for a while. But he also has a lot of
11 perspective and experience from living in Southern
12 California and an understanding of both those regions. And
13 so, I would be in agreement with putting him forward.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

15 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

16 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would not be opposed to
17 putting him forward. He was -- he made it right to the --
18 he was one of the last ones that I removed. I thought he
19 was a strong candidate. It was just when I was looking at
20 the diversity of geography, it seemed like there was quite
21 a few people from the Sacramento region. But I wouldn't
22 mind putting him back in forward.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, Madam
24 Secretary to reiterate, candidate 19974, Wesley Hussey,
25 will be put in our tentative top 20 for the Republican

1 pool.

2 And Mr. Coe, whenever you're ready.

3 VICE CHAIR COE: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, just give
4 me one moment.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Oh, that's fine.

6 VICE CHAIR COE: So, I would like to bring up --
7 I would like to bring up for consideration Anthony Coe,
8 applicant 15880. This is an applicant where I think I
9 believe there was a single vote, but I think he brings a
10 lot of unique things to -- that we don't have a lot of in
11 our applicant pool. Certainly, yes, the diversity on a
12 number of fronts, but also perspective wise. Mr. Coe is
13 currently a security guard, but a retired postal service
14 worker of 31 years. And the perspectives of that
15 population of California I think is important to have here.
16 And due to, you know, kind of the randomness of the ping
17 pong balls and how it all works, I think it's important we
18 ensure that we have enough coverage to ensure that there's
19 an opportunity for perspectives like this to come into
20 play.

21 But he appeared to me to be very personable, can
22 relate to people. He has used Census data to inform his
23 decisions. He understands taking feedback seriously for
24 the overall benefit of the end goal. He talked about using
25 maps in an analytical way to develop efficient mail

1 delivery routes using zip codes. And so, he's got
2 practical experience working through problem solving on
3 that front using maps. And I thought that he would -- he
4 also has experience working with diverse groups to reach
5 agreements. He's demonstrated an ability to have an open
6 mind and listen to different perspectives. He had a clear
7 understanding of communities of interest in my mind.

8 And for those reasons and the diversity
9 considerations I would like to bring Anthony Coe forward
10 for consideration.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. Ms. Dickison,
12 your thoughts?

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I would not be
14 opposed to bringing Mr. Coe back on. He again was one that
15 came all the way to the end for me and then his analytical
16 skills were just not as strong as someone else I was
17 looking at that's along with him.

18 But he does bring diversity in a number of ways,
19 economically, and regionally, educationally, too, I
20 believe. In addition to what Mr. Coe mentioned, you know,
21 he also started or works with the Missing Children
22 organization. It sounded like they kind of started that
23 up. He also, he still works to protect the name in that
24 company. He seems to have some real hands on experience of
25 learning how to use analytical skills, not just -- not just

1 educational, more hands on learning of that type of thing.

2 So, I would not be opposed to adding him back on.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, I think I
4 expressed this the last time we talked about Mr. Coe's
5 application, as I thought it was deficient in some areas.
6 I did think his interview was better than the application.
7 And a lot of my questions, what I wanted to do is give him
8 an opportunity to shore up portions of his application and
9 be able to demonstrate the ability to be impartial,
10 demonstrate the appreciation of diversity. And my notes
11 was, my thoughts at the time was he was giving good
12 answers, but not providing the experiences or describing
13 those experiences in a way that demonstrated that he had
14 done these things before.

15 On the analytical side a lot of my questions
16 were, you know, walk us through the process of how you did
17 these analyses and I couldn't follow that process. It
18 wasn't linked or particularly logical.

19 So, for those reasons I still had concerns in the
20 relevant analytical skills area and I believe we should put
21 him in the set aside group and then talk about that group
22 collectively.

23 So, let's see, Ms. Dickison, you are up.

24 VICE CHAIR COE: Mr. Chair?

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes?

1 VICE CHAIR COE: A question. The cumulative
2 total of aside and tentatively added to the list is over 20
3 now. When we were picking the 120 for the groups of 40 to
4 interview, we had agreed upon some number that we were
5 going to settle on --

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes.

7 VICE CHAIR COE: -- and I was wondering if there
8 was a need for a discussion of how we're going to handle
9 that this time around.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: I think we should discuss that.
11 We should probably let Ms. Dickison go because she went
12 last. So, we should let her --

13 VICE CHAIR COE: Absolutely.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: -- put one more person forward and
15 then we should talk about how many more people do we want
16 to put forward before we come back to the asides.

17 VICE CHAIR COE: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chair.

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I want to put forward
20 applicant number 958, Ms. Silacci. Ms. Silacci is an
21 educator in the correctional system. She teaches college
22 prep courses or college courses for inmates that are
23 probably never getting out. She's also worked as a
24 planning commissioner. She understands her rural
25 neighbors. Her strength is in impartiality and compassion

1 that she has for her incarcerated students. She showed the
2 ability to kind of go above and beyond in getting the books
3 for them to make sure that they got it. She's dedicated to
4 her community. She has some insight into different
5 backgrounds and perspectives through working with her
6 students.

7 And so, for that reason I'd like to bring her
8 forward.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I think I
10 voted for Ms. Silacci at different points in time. I
11 thought her application was better than the interview. So,
12 I'll talk mostly about the interview and what my concerns
13 are. One of the things I was looking for was clear and
14 concise answers and I felt like Ms. Silacci would meander
15 sometimes to her answer and then sometimes miss large
16 portions of the question. So, that was not -- that was an
17 observation I had that was not in her favor.

18 On the positive side I thought she -- she comes
19 across as a very real person, a very nice person. And I
20 can see how she could -- she can interact with people and
21 she's obviously done that in her career with a variety of
22 diverse groups.

23 The part that troubled me on that front was I
24 don't think in the interview she was as careful with her
25 words as a Commissioner would need to be. And it probably

1 works well in an environment where you need to gain the
2 trust of inmates and whatnot, but it might not work well in
3 a public hearing. Those were my notes and my concerns.

4 I don't -- again, I said I'm on the fence, so I'd
5 rather hear from Mr. Coe before I indicate where I'm at.
6 So, Mr. Coe.

7 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had
8 similar concerns to yours. In addition to that, I thought
9 that sometimes she failed to answer questions fully or at
10 all, mostly due to brevity and a lack of elaboration to
11 sufficiently answer the question in my mind.

12 She also expressed concerns about taking the lead
13 on things and relying on others. And I wasn't sure about
14 that. One thing I'm noting -- so, generally speaking, I
15 would agree with Mr. Belnap. One thing I'm noting, though,
16 is that of the people that we've added to our list and the
17 people we've set aside there's a discrepancy male to
18 female.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Uh-hum.

20 VICE CHAIR COE: We have added five males to the
21 list and four to the tentative list, and only discussed
22 two. I think that's a thing we're going to need to
23 consider moving forward. But I would agree with you to put
24 her on the set aside for now.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, let's write

1 that.

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Thank you.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: So, we put Louise Silacci on the
4 tentative list.

5 And I think, as Mr. Coe suggested, before we
6 proceed we should look at our numbers. So, I have 16 in
7 our tentative list with one, two, three, four, five, six in
8 the set aside. So, at this point I think it would be good
9 if we want around again and you can bring someone -- I
10 think we could bring someone forward that we haven't talked
11 about or we could reiterate somebody in the set aside list,
12 and give ourselves an option of reiterating somebody that
13 you feel is important. I think that would give us an
14 indication of where each other's at in terms of the set
15 aside group. If there's somebody that you think is more
16 important to bring forward, than someone else. So, if we,
17 I guess, limit ourselves to one and we do round robin,
18 either from the set aside list or I guess, and I think we
19 did it last time, we pulled from the other list that we
20 hadn't talked about, at least in one time.

21 So, are you guys fine with proceeding that way?
22 Go ahead, Mr. Coe.

23 VICE CHAIR COE: I think so. I just want to
24 clarify. You're talking about going around, each of us,
25 one more time and on that front.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah. And pulling either from the
2 set aside list or from the list that we haven't talked
3 about yet.

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Understood. Yes, I am in
5 agreement with that.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Mr. Dickison?

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I am as well.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. So, I know Ms.
9 Dickison just talked, so it would be my turn. Give me a
10 second. I want to make sure that there isn't anyone that
11 -- so, I do have a person that I've evaluated quite highly
12 on his application, also his interview. I'm going to hold
13 that for now because I do believe that the person I brought
14 up first, Richard Gallegos would be, in my view, from a
15 representation and diversity perspective important. Also,
16 the law enforcement perspective, I think he's going to be
17 good. I think he's dealt with the public every day and I
18 think he'd be good in that respect.

19 So, the person I would ask you to consider is
20 Richard Gallegos. I guess we didn't decide whether or not
21 we want a round robin and talk about each person. Let's do
22 that.

23 Mr. Coe, your thoughts on Mr. Gallegos?

24 VICE CHAIR COE: I guess I'm in the same place as
25 before. I didn't -- I didn't think there was a

1 demonstration of impartiality or appreciation for diversity
2 on the application. I don't think it got better in the
3 interview. And then you add what I talked about before
4 about having trouble following the points he was making,
5 trouble communicating ideas. I'm still in a place where I
6 think we have better applicants overall.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah. And you're up next. Oh,
8 wait, Ms. Dickison, please.

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I agree with Mr. Coe.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah.

11 VICE CHAIR COE: I guess for many of the same
12 reasons that I just talked about in terms of gender
13 diversity, I want to bring up Hellen Meade again, applicant
14 19939. I think on multiple fronts, economically, gender,
15 geographically she adds to the diversity in this pool that
16 we're lacking and really need. So, I'd like to bring --
17 I'd like to consider her again.

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I agree, Mr. Coe. And
19 she also would add diversity in the education level as she
20 only as an associate's degree, I believe.

21 VICE CHAIR COE: Right.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. That leaves me as the
23 one hold out. And I think as I've tried to express along,
24 I think there's a collective judgment that we need to
25 respect and I respect the collective judgment. So, let's

1 move her forward to the tentative list of 20.

2 So, let's reiterate that for Madam Secretary.

3 Let me find her real fast. So, Madam Secretary that is
4 Hellen Meade, 19939. We've put her on the tentative list
5 of top 20 in the Republican pool.

6 Okay, Ms. Dickison.

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would also like to put
8 someone from the set aside pile forward. I would like to
9 put forward applicant number 668, Mr. Ronald Newton for the
10 same reasons that I had said before. I think as a coach
11 and someone that's worked with children, and also worked in
12 his community he would bring a good perspective to the
13 Commission.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: I've already expressed my thoughts
15 on Mr. Newton that I'm in favor of him. So, we'll turn the
16 time over to Mr. Coe.

17 VICE CHAIR COE: I don't have any new thoughts to
18 add. I thought he was a good candidate and he fell out of
19 my top 20 for the reasons I already mentioned. But as you
20 discussed, Mr. Belnap, collective judgment falling into
21 play here, I would be okay with adding him to our list.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, let me
23 find him on my sheet here. So, Madam Secretary that was
24 application ID 668, Ronald Newton that we've added to our
25 tentative list of 20 Republicans.

1 All right, so I have that we're at 18, so we'll
2 continue. The person I'd like to bring forward and I think
3 I haven't discussed him, yet, and I think I would be remiss
4 if I didn't discuss him is Fred Kosmo, 5530.

5 So, Mr. Kosmo is an attorney. He served on the
6 San Diego Redistricting Commission. He is from San Diego
7 County, which would be southern coastal, which is well
8 represented, I understand. But he grew up in the San
9 Gabriel Valley on a farm, so he does have that connection
10 to agriculture. I think he has the ability to connect with
11 people from those regions.

12 The thing that impressed me -- his application
13 for me was impressive, it was topnotch. The interview,
14 things I noted was he had good answers and he had solid
15 ideas. He seemed to have a deep understanding of the
16 Commissioners' work and he impressed me with his maturity
17 and his ability to be measured in the way he spoke, in the
18 way he evaluated situations. You know, and despite his
19 credentials, which are high, he seemed very down to earth
20 and likeable.

21 So, for those reasons I'd put Fred Kosmo forward
22 for your consideration.

23 Mr. Coe?

24 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, Mr.
25 Kosmo I noted is a polished speaker, he speaks very well,

1 would be solid in that respect in terms of public meetings.
2 He's got clearly relevant experience and knowledge of
3 redistricting, having served on the 2010 San Diego
4 Redistricting Commission, other commission, board
5 experience. He's kind of run this marathon before.

6 My hang ups that kept him out of my 20 were from
7 the interview I ultimately ended up thinking that the
8 previous service on the San Diego City Redistricting
9 Commission might actually be a negative in this case. He
10 seemed to have many preconceived notions about how things
11 will work or what this Commission will do as a result of
12 how the San Diego Commission handled things. So, I noted
13 that as a concern about how this could go over with 13
14 other members of the Commission.

15 I also thought that he struggled with questions
16 regarding appreciation for diversity which was something I
17 thought was a shortcoming in the application. He focused
18 almost entirely on geographic diversity, people in
19 different areas, a little bit on socioeconomic diversity,
20 but really nothing about anything else culturally or
21 otherwise in both the application or the interview, when
22 given opportunities.

23 So, I would -- I don't know if this was a thing
24 we discussed, but still adding to the aside pile, but
25 that's where I think I would be on Mr. Cosmo.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. Ms. Dickison?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I was back and forth
3 on this applicant, actually, for a lot of the same reasons
4 both of you noted. I also thought that his answers and his
5 reference to the San Diego redistricting, he had kind of
6 already figured it out, which kind of set me back a little
7 bit. And then, being from Southern California, too. So,
8 I'd say set him to the side for now and see.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, Mr. Coe, you
10 are up.

11 VICE CHAIR COE: All right, so I'm going to bring
12 forward somebody we haven't talked about yet. And that
13 would be Glenn Fukushima, applicant 20381. And Mr.
14 Fukushima is currently a teacher. He is from L.A. County
15 and he's been a teacher for many years. And that is a
16 perspective I think is important to have on this Commission
17 that of educators, and I don't think there are too many.
18 And this is elementary school level, in particular.

19 He's a former U.S. Navy officer, as he discussed
20 in his application and his interview, and gave some
21 examples of having to make tough decisions. I think he has
22 a clear understanding of gerrymandering and its ills, and
23 the need for inclusive districts.

24 When he talked about his career as a teacher,
25 it's clear he's a teacher who values hard work and the

1 rewards that come with that, that hard work. He has some
2 redistricting experience with drawing tract lines for his
3 school district.

4 And I thought in his interview he showed that he
5 was very even keeled, did not appear to be somebody who's
6 going to be easily riled up, and would be an even keeled
7 personality on the Commission. But also one final thing, a
8 very unique perspective to bring to this, he talked about
9 it a little bit in his interview and in his application, a
10 unique perspective on representation and on freedom based
11 on the experience of his family having been interned during
12 World War II.

13 So, for those reasons and some adding to the
14 diversity of the pool, I would like to bring Glenn
15 Fukushima forward for consideration.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Ms.
17 Dickison, your thoughts?

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: For this applicant, I
19 wouldn't be opposed to adding this applicant for a lot of
20 the reasons that Mr. Coe mentioned. I liked when he was
21 discussing having to select the principal for the school
22 and the process that they went through and having to, you
23 know, set relationships aside or whatnot.

24 And he also seemed to be calm during his
25 interview. So, I wouldn't be -- I would not be opposed to

1 putting him forward.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I did
3 note that he was calm in his interview and that's a
4 benefit. But I was looking for clear and concise responses
5 where people understood the question, broke down the
6 question, and provided sufficient answers to those
7 questions. And that was the thing I found lacking with Mr.
8 Fukushima. I didn't get the sense that a public hearing, a
9 public meeting would be a -- a high pressure public meeting
10 would be a place where he would thrive.

11 So, for those reasons I would put him in the
12 aside pool.

13 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay, thank you.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison?

15 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to put 958,
16 Ms. Silacci, forward again.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Do you want to say anymore or --

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I was thinking and moving
21 the papers. For all the reasons I mentioned before but I
22 heard and understood the concern that both of you voiced on
23 the use of maybe certain phrases or whatnot. But I think
24 maybe with training or even in a different environment she
25 would understand how to use those phrases or use phrases

1 appropriately. But I think her background in working with
2 different diverse groups, and complicated or high stress
3 situations would be a benefit to the Commission.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. And I have voted for her in
5 the past and I understand Mr. Coe's comment about making
6 sure that we have a good representative group here. So,
7 I'd probably be in favor of bringing her to the top 20, but
8 I am interested in hearing Mr. Coe's thoughts.

9 VICE CHAIR COE: I think ultimately I still have
10 some reservations, as discussed before. I certainly
11 recognize the addition to diversity, I just -- I'm hesitant
12 as we sit here right now to move her forward.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, we do have -- we do
14 have a hard end at 12:15. That would be an hour and a
15 half. So, we've got a few more minutes. I suggest we see
16 if we can get to 20 and, if not, we can come back out of
17 the break.

18 The person I would put forward is James Trovato,
19 6450, applicant ID 6450, James Trovato. So, while you're
20 getting your papers I'll just give a little background.
21 Mr. Trovato is Information Technology Chief at PG&E. He is
22 also, in terms of the community he's a referee and I
23 believe a coach. He's had extensive experience with IT.

24 So, the thing that impressed me that really
25 helped me see his role in this Commission is understanding

1 of information technology and his understanding of
2 information technology projects, how to manage those and
3 how to interact with the consultants. I do think at least
4 one person on the Commission should have that kind of
5 background because the work of the Commission is going to
6 be intense, and more intense now because of the time
7 constraints they're going to be under. So, having someone
8 like that on the Commission would be very valuable,
9 somebody who really understands information technology and
10 information technology projects in particular.

11 So, for those reasons I'm putting forward Mr.
12 Trovato for your consideration.

13 Mr. Coe?

14 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have
15 Mr. Trovato in my top 20. I thought that he -- from his
16 application what stuck out to me is many years of
17 experience solving large and complex problems using data.
18 Experience in gathering input from many different
19 stakeholders in those efforts, as well.

20 From his interview I thought he was a really
21 solid speaker. And what came across is there was a clear
22 passion for this work and a lot of confidence. I think he
23 really understands that people are the driving force of
24 this effort, and the need to really understand their needs
25 and their desires.

1 I thought he had a keen understanding of various
2 sources of information to make good informed decisions. He
3 brings technical ideas to the table that could really help
4 this Commission. I think he would be the only person we
5 brought forward from Placer County as well. I would be in
6 favor of Mr. Trovato.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I would be in favor
9 of putting Mr. Trovato forward. He was on the list of
10 individuals that I would agree to if they came forward,
11 automatically, so --

12 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

13 So, Madam Secretary, that was application ID
14 6450, James Trovato that we've put forward on our tentative
15 list of top 20 Republicans.

16 Mr. Coe, whenever you're ready it's your turn.

17 VICE CHAIR COE: So, when I look at the list of
18 now I think 19, if that's the right correct -- the correct
19 number, I think we really need to use this last spot to
20 increase the diversity of this pool. And I don't have
21 anybody new to bring forward. So, I think the set aside
22 list, I guess that leaves me with two people that I brought
23 up, Anthony Coe and Glenn Fukushima. I know this isn't the
24 way we've been doing it, but do we want to discuss that or
25 would you like me to bring one forward, Mr. Chair?

1 CHAIR BELNAP: You want to put forward two
2 people?

3 VICE CHAIR COE: No, I'll bring forward. I would
4 like to bring forward Anthony Coe to consider again for all
5 the reasons mentioned and to increase the diversity of the
6 pool.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. And just a question for
8 you, Mr. Coe. As you evaluate the two, do you have -- are
9 you putting forward Mr. Coe over Mr. Fukushima because
10 that's -- were you putting forward two because you see them
11 as roughly equal, just kind of they add a different element
12 to the pool?

13 VICE CHAIR COE: More so the second one.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay.

15 VICE CHAIR COE: In an effort to, yeah, increase
16 diversity and representation in this pool I would like to
17 consider Mr. Coe --

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah.

19 VICE CHAIR COE: -- again for that purpose, for
20 this 20th spot.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Ms.
22 Dickison, your thoughts?

23 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would not be opposed to
24 adding Mr. Coe, as I discussed earlier.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. I'm still where I have been

1 and I would like to hear who Ms. Dickison would want to put
2 forward as an alternative before I'm willing to put in my
3 agreement on that number 20.

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay, thank you.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: So, Ms. Dickison, we'll turn the
6 time over to you. You can pull someone from the group that
7 we haven't discussed or as you're looking over the aside
8 group if there's a person you want to put forward.

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, looking at the -- I
10 don't have a new one to bring forward. But looking at the
11 aside group I would agree with Mr. Coe.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, that puts me in the position
13 of looking at the collective judgment here. Mr. applicant
14 Coe wouldn't be my top out of this group and I don't feel
15 the need to bring forward someone else, so we don't need to
16 do that.

17 I would have Ms. Silacci or Mr. Gallegos over Mr.
18 Coe. I understand you have both talked about Mr. Gallegos.
19 But I would lean towards Ms. Silacci over Mr. Coe.

20 Mr. Coe, your thoughts on that?

21 VICE CHAIR COE: I don't know that I have any new
22 thoughts.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Right.

24 VICE CHAIR COE: Other than I think there are
25 other candidates I would prefer to discuss before we got to

1 candidate Silacci again.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah. Ms. Dickison, your thought
3 on who would you prefer over Mr. Silacci or Applicant Coe?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: My thoughts are that Ms.
5 Silacci has a different type of perspective working in the
6 prison system. But Mr. Coe brings a different perspective
7 given his work as a postal worker, and dealing with
8 different people, and working as a shop steward. And then,
9 also, developing a company to look for missing children and
10 that kind of thing so --

11 CHAIR BELNAP: So, which one would you prefer?
12 That will help me.

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'm going to go with Mr.
14 Coe.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, I will defer to the
16 collective judgment then and I suggest we bring in Anthony
17 Coe, and let me get his number, into the top 20. So, Madam
18 Secretary, applicant ID 15880, Anthony Coe, we've put into
19 the top 20.

20 And by my count that brings us to 20. Again,
21 these are not final determinations. We're going to be
22 looking at the group of 60 as a whole, after we've had the
23 opportunity to go through the Democratic pool and the Other
24 pool.

25 MR. DAWSON: So, Mr. Chair, if you --

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, go ahead, Mr. Dawson.

2 MR. DAWSON: Are you ready for me to announce a
3 tentative pool?

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Yes, please. You're going to read
5 them?

6 MR. DAWSON: Yes. And Madam Secretary, I want
7 you to check my work as I read through these. Please speak
8 up if I misspeak.

9 So, our tentative list of 20 Republicans,
10 applicant ID number 20496, Jane Andersen; 15352, Katherine
11 Burns; 5734, Jeff Comerchero; 12652, Alicia Fernandez;
12 2230, Colmar Figueroa-Moseley; 7806, Neal Fornaciari;
13 22980, Louise Gulartie; 24083, Ravinder Shergill; 21705,
14 Derric Taylor; 13850, Karla Van Meter; 11312, Russell Yee;
15 73, David Burdick; 5190, Robert Murillo; 22370, Genevieve
16 Murphy; 4974, Peter Blando; 19974, Wesley Hussey; 19939,
17 Hellen Meade; 668, Ronald Newton; 6450 James Trovato; and
18 15880, Anthony Coe.

19 Are we all in agreement that that is the list of
20 20 Republicans that will be moving forward?

21 CHAIR BELNAP: That's what I have.

22 VICE CHAIR COE: That agrees with my list,
23 Counsel.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison?

25 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: That's what I have as

1 well.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Madam Secretary, we
3 couldn't quite hear you. Is that the information you have?

4 MS. LE TELLIER: That is the information that I
5 have as well.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

7 We're going to be going into a lunch break now.
8 I suggest we come back at 1:15 p.m., which is similar to
9 what we did with the interviews.

10 Mr. Dawson, what was the recommendation on which
11 pool we should pick up when we come back out of recess?

12 MR. DAWSON: I did not have a particular
13 recommendation on the second pool. If I recall correctly,
14 the -- you had agreement on nine nonaffiliated.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: Which is --

16 MR. DAWSON: If you're following the pattern of
17 the --

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah, that's slightly more than --

19 MR. DAWSON: -- most initial agreement, then I
20 think that might be -- might be the way you want to go.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: Right. And that was slightly more
22 than the eight we had for Democrats.

23 MR. DAWSON: Correct.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: So, we've kind of followed the
25 pattern. We've picked up the ones where we had the most

1 agreement. So, do we agree to come back out of the break
2 and work on the nonaffiliated? Mr. Coe?

3 VICE CHAIR COE: That's fine with me.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison?

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I agree.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: All right. Then, we're going to
7 go into recess and we'll be back at 1:15 p.m.

8 (Off the record at 12:09 p.m.)

9 (On the record at 1:15 p.m.)

10 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, I'll call this meeting
11 back to order. For those just joining us, we decided
12 before we went to break to take up consideration on the
13 Other pool, those not affiliated with the Democratic Party
14 or the Republican Party. This morning we've already
15 discussed the Republican pool, so we did reach initial
16 determinations on our top 20 for the Republicans.

17 Also, for those just joining us this is a public
18 meeting and there is a mechanism to make public comment,
19 although we're not accepting public comment at this time.
20 We don't have a motion in front of us to approve anything.
21 There will be opportunities for that under Agenda Item 7 as
22 we move forward in the process, and also under Agenda Item
23 Number 8. Our agenda is available on our website and so
24 are the instructions on how to make a public comment.

25 So, with that I think we'll hop into Agenda Item

1 Number 7. So, I believe we will proceed as we had this
2 morning. We have nine individuals, candidates who received
3 three favorable recommendations and I suggest we set them
4 aside for now. They'll be part of the top 20 unless we
5 make a decision otherwise. And we move on to filling that
6 out to the rest, 11 more individuals to fill that out to
7 20.

8 And using the approach we did this morning, where
9 we make recommendations, I will start with my first
10 candidate, which is Victoria Tamoush is the person I'm
11 recommending that we discuss. Her applicant ID is 27048,
12 Victoria Tamoush.

13 Okay, so some background on Victoria Tamoush.
14 She's a Deputy Labor Commissioner. She also has extensive
15 experience as a mediator and a hearing officer. I was
16 impressed with her application and I was equally impressed
17 with her interview. Some of the observations I had from
18 her interview, my first observation was passion. She was
19 passionate about protecting diverse groups.

20 Her story about her forming a group to protect a
21 group of Muslims that were being berated by protestors
22 still sticks in my mind. That was amazing to hear that
23 story. And told us the type of person she is by that
24 story.

25 And I think something that's inherent with her is

1 she recognizes the inherent worth of each person and she is
2 able to explain that in a way that inspired me to be a
3 better person. Her hate crime work with Interfaith
4 Ministries was amazing and brave. So, those are the
5 reasons that I have put forward Victoria Tamoush for
6 consideration.

7 Mr. Coe?

8 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm in
9 absolute agreement with you on this. That example you
10 gave, it stuck with me as well. I didn't -- I'm not sure
11 that we got a better example of ability to be impartial or
12 appreciation for diversity more than somebody who would
13 literally act as a human shield to protect other people,
14 even those that she may not agree with.

15 I'm absolutely in favor for all the reasons you
16 said of bringing forward Ms. Tamoush into our 20.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Ms.
18 Dickison?

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I am in favor of adding
20 Ms. Tamoush. So, I had that she cares about people and
21 ensuring that individuals have the ability to practice
22 their own beliefs and cultures, involved in groups that
23 worked toward ensuring people are able to practice their
24 faith even when they're different from hers. And a strong
25 recognition of and appreciation for people of differing

1 backgrounds.

2 She was one of the last ones I removed from my
3 list of 20, so I'm in favor of putting her on the list.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, Madam
5 Secretary that was applicant ID 27048, Victoria Tamoush
6 that we put on the list of not affiliated with either
7 party. This is a tentative list that we will approve at a
8 later time in the meeting.

9 Mr. Coe, you're up.

10 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like
11 to bring forward Dr. Jagoree Roy, 25950 is the applicant
12 ID. And Dr. Roy's a molecular biologist, a research
13 associate at Stanford University. She has many years
14 serving her community within a focus on gender equality,
15 years of applied research in analytical skills in her role
16 as a molecular biologist. Showed leadership qualities and
17 team player both in her application and in discussions we
18 had in the interview. Was energetic and a good public
19 speaker. I found her to be very genial and well spoken.
20 Highly skilled, passionate, an in-depth understanding of
21 communities of interest, exceptional analytical skills. I
22 thought she was ultimately a very well rounded individual
23 whose experience and perspective would be a huge attribute
24 and help on this Commission.

25 So, Dr. Jagoree Roy is who I'd like to bring

1 forward.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you. Ms. Dickison, if you
3 could share your thoughts?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: She was also one that I
5 removed at the very end. I like this applicant. I thought
6 she demonstrated the skills to be a successful
7 Commissioner. I did note that I thought her skills might
8 be similar to some of the others in the pool and that was
9 one of the reasons that I had taken her off at the end.
10 However, I would not be opposed to adding her back on.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I had
12 similar comments. I was impressed with her application. I
13 was equally impressed with her interview. I thought she
14 was professional. She spoke logically and very clearly. I
15 understood her points. And I think she does bring a data
16 perspective to the group and I do think we have individuals
17 with that perspective, although collectively I think that
18 the data perspective is a expertise that the Commission
19 needs in abundance. So, I can see the redundancy, but I
20 also see the value in having quite a few individuals from
21 that perspective. So, for those reasons I would also put
22 her on our top 20.

23 So, Madam Secretary, to reiterate, we're putting
24 candidate 25950, Jagoree Roy on our top 20 of those not
25 affiliated with either party at this time.

1 Ms. Dickison, the time is yours.

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes. I would like to add
3 applicant number 1778, Ms. Williams Slaughter. Ms.
4 Slaughter has a background in mechanical engineering and
5 civil engineering. She has over four years' experience as
6 the Director of Public Works for the City of Carson. She's
7 served as an adjunct professor, assistant vice principal,
8 both at CSU Long Beach. She has advanced math and
9 educational skills, as well as business qualifications for
10 organization and administration.

11 And I thought during her interview she really
12 demonstrated a calmness and ability to speak and really get
13 her point across really well, real thoughtful demeanor.
14 So, for that reason I wanted to put her through.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I note
16 that Ms. Williams Slaughter is a Public Works Director. I
17 think that experience of working with staff, of being in
18 charge of an administration perspective, I think that will
19 be important on the Commission. I did vote yes for her.

20 I thought in her interview she demonstrated that
21 she's professional, prepared, and one thing that came
22 across in her interview is how much she likes to help
23 people. And she has that desire to be of service in
24 California. So, that's the reason I voted yes for her and
25 I would be happy to put her on the top 20.

1 Mr. Coe?

2 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noted
3 that also she was well-spoken, not an intimidating
4 presence, but a powerful one in a non-intimidating way. I
5 clearly, as you see, didn't vote for her and the reason for
6 that was I thought that there was -- she struggled a little
7 bit with the concept of communities of interest when we
8 asked.

9 I also disagree a little bit, Mr. Belnap, with
10 some aspects of preparedness that was coming across in the
11 interview. I thought that she didn't appear as well
12 prepared as some others. Particularly, a question that I
13 asked almost every applicant about what they would struggle
14 with, and she seemed -- she said she didn't understand
15 enough about the Commission to come up with something that
16 she would struggle with. And then she followed, also said
17 that she wasn't concerned about the quality of the Census
18 data in light of the pandemic. And those two things
19 ultimately caused me to not include her in my 20. So, I
20 would put forth those ideas for consideration and ask that
21 she be put in the aside list.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Okay, the person I want to
23 put forward is applicant 17733, Isra Ahmad. So, while
24 you're pulling up your application materials, I'll give
25 some background.

1 Ms. Ahmad is a Health Planning Specialist for
2 Santa Clara County, I believe. She has a master's in
3 public health. She's also volunteered in elections and
4 with the California Youth Advocacy Network.

5 The thing that impressed me about her -- well,
6 number one, her application was already impressive to me.
7 I thought the area that I was of most concern going into
8 the interview as ability to be impartial. I don't believe
9 the essay was particularly good. But throughout the
10 interview process I felt like I gave her opportunities to
11 show her ability to be impartial and I feel like she did
12 that to an extent that improved my perception of her
13 ability to be impartial throughout that interview.

14 Overall the interview I thought she was prepared,
15 and she was calm, she was poised, she showed passion. I
16 liked the way she explained things logically and there was
17 a humility to her that I think will be of benefit in a
18 group environment. Her answers were measured and she made
19 necessary qualifications. So, for those reasons I want to
20 put forward Isra Ahmad for your consideration.

21 Mr. Coe.

22 VICE CHAIR COE: I liked this applicant and you
23 can see that she didn't make my top 20, but it was one of
24 those difficult decisions where you can't keep everybody
25 that you like. I thought that she speaks very well, she

1 came across very genuine to me in the ways -- many of the
2 ways you spoke about. She can speak several languages, as
3 well, which is something that could potentially benefit the
4 Commission in its outreach efforts. I think she had a
5 solid understanding of the world that this Commission will
6 operate in and that she prepares herself well. She really
7 demonstrated for me an understanding of cultural influences
8 that can affect preferences and needs. And she spoke of
9 some of her grandmother's experiences that I think are a
10 unique perspective to bring to this Commission.

11 The kind of deciding factor that ended up having
12 me move her out was I thought she missed a few
13 opportunities on the impartiality thing that was also where
14 I was looking in the interview, based on the application
15 materials. I thought that she missed some opportunities
16 there, but not enough for me to stand in the way of adding
17 her to the 20.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

19 Ms. Dickison?

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I also voted yes on
21 Ms. Ahmad. Like both of you, I do share that I thought her
22 impartiality, both in her essay, and then I did have a few
23 concerns during the interview. But ultimately, I thought
24 she was -- she did demonstrate the ability and so I had
25 voted for her before and would say to put her forward.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

2 So, Madam Secretary, applicant ID 17733, Isra
3 Ahmad, we've put on our top 20 list for those not
4 affiliated with the Democratic or Republican Party.

5 And Mr. Coe, you're next.

6 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay, the next candidate I would
7 like to bring forward is Mr. Scott McCarty, applicant
8 16088. Mr. McCarty's a retired Naval Officer. He was a
9 fighter pilot, former fighter pilot and NASA astronaut
10 finalist from Ventura County. I thought his application
11 was fantastic. It has demonstrated excellent analytical
12 skills, organizational skills on top of that, provided
13 examples of building teams. Being a strong team member,
14 both as a leader of a time and somebody who was not
15 necessarily the designated leader of a team being a good
16 member of the team in either role, and building consensus.
17 A lot of experience with maps, and mapping, and GIS.

18 In his interview I found him to be very well
19 spoken, dignified, and thoughtful, easy to follow his
20 points. A really good communicator, I thought. He has a
21 solid understanding of communities of interest, what binds
22 people into a community of interest and how you may need to
23 engage communities of interest differently to be effective.

24 I mentioned already he's an accomplished team
25 member, a demonstrated strong team member, extensive

1 experience with the mapping, very strong analytically. He
2 mentioned his experiences as a fighter pilot taught him to
3 assimilate a lot of information in a very short period of
4 time. So, I would like to bring forward Mr. Scott McCarty
5 for consideration.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. Ms. Dickison,
7 your thoughts?

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, this is one that I
9 had -- that I was okay with moving forward if he was
10 brought up. He was one of the last ones I removed on the
11 -- in my final cut. And I had noted that he had strong
12 technical skills, and awareness and appreciation for the
13 diversity, including the geography of California. And so,
14 I would be okay with moving him forward.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. Some of my
16 observations -- I already voted yes on him, so I also will
17 be recommending that we put him forward. The thing that
18 impressed me about his interview is his varied experiences
19 from the military, and also working in the pharmaceutical
20 industry, and then also a board. And then, as I tried to
21 see him, where he fit into the Commission's group and their
22 skill set, it seemed like he could fill so many different
23 roles. And I think he even stated that himself. So, I
24 think he brings a lot of value to the group.

25 So, I think with three yeses, Madam Secretary,

1 for application ID 16088, Scott McCarty, we'd put him in
2 the top 20 of those not affiliated with either party.

3 And then, Ms. Dickison, whenever you're ready.

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to bring forward
5 applicant 21649, Ms. Tran. Ms. Tran is a Senior Planner in
6 the Planning Department for the City -- oh, sorry. Ms.
7 Tran is a Senior Planner in the Planning Department for the
8 City and County of San Francisco. She also works as a
9 volunteer board member for the San Francisco City Guides.

10 She has experience evaluating processes and she's
11 worked with data, Census data, maps, and computer modeling.
12 And I found that Ms. Tran has experience also in GIS
13 mapping, and applying legal standards, so I wanted to move
14 her forward.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I voted
16 yes on Ms. Tran and I've been watching this application.
17 There were elements that I thought that she needed to shore
18 up, an under-appreciation for diversity. I thought she did
19 that in her interview. I was impressed with some of her
20 experiences, with her ability to talk to the public, but
21 also from a city planning perspective and GIS perspective
22 she brings that to the table.

23 My observations on her interview, she seemed to
24 be committed, dedicated, and a reliable person. I think
25 she'd be a good member of this team and for those reasons I

1 would put her in the top 20 as well.

2 Mr. Coe.

3 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I found
4 this applicant is a solid speaker, appears very friendly
5 and could make people feel at ease, and she has experience
6 talking to strangers as a tour guide in San Francisco,
7 which would benefit this Commission in terms of outreach to
8 the communities. She has significant experience working
9 with data. And a decent sense of how to engage or find
10 communities of interest.

11 She also has a good sense of voting rights and
12 how important they are. She gave an example of her parents
13 having left living under a government that did not value
14 these things. And ultimately, as you see, she was one of
15 those kind of last few that came out of mine. I thought,
16 similar to a previous applicant, there were some missed
17 opportunities in terms of impartiality on that.

18 But I don't think it's enough for me to keep her
19 out of the top 20.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, Madam
21 Secretary, Applicant ID 21649, Tam Tran, we've put her in
22 the top 20 for the Nonaffiliated group.

23 So, I'm contemplating here. I've got a -- I
24 think there's a number of applicants, we've got six
25 remaining. I think we still have some strong applicants in

1 this pool. I do think we do need to consider
2 representation as we move forward. And so, I'm going to
3 talk about a person -- I'll bring up Vincent Sheu first,
4 applicant ID 17669.

5 So, while you guys are pulling your materials
6 together, Mr. Sheu has a JD, but he also has a master's in
7 computer science, both from Stanford. His background has
8 both legal and data. It seems to marry the two interests
9 of this Commission as well.

10 My observations from the interview was that he
11 was a very smart, smart person. He had experiences that
12 demonstrate vast and impressive educational experiences and
13 success. I think there were some negatives, but I could
14 look past those. I think he spoke a little fast at times
15 and it was hard to hear. And I don't think he's had as
16 many of the work experiences that other candidates have
17 had, and I do think that has to do with his youth. But I
18 see the Commission as a place where we want some youth and
19 we cannot discount the fact that someone has not run
20 through their whole career, yet, so they don't have all
21 those experiences.

22 So, for those reasons, I'm putting forward Mr.
23 Sheu for your consideration.

24 And Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

25 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap. I found

1 Mr. Sheu -- I voted for him, so I'm in favor of putting him
2 forward. I found him to be very well spoken and
3 personable. His analytical skills were just topnotch, I
4 think, in a number of different disciplines, as you
5 mentioned. He had some pretty in-depth insights into what
6 makes people tick, I think. A solid understanding of how
7 different communities may react to this Commission. He
8 seemed very self-aware, knows when he may not be the best
9 person for a particular job, and a real solid understanding
10 of the idea of fairness when many complicated things are in
11 play.

12 He provided some practical solutions for creating
13 an inclusive and welcoming environment and showed a solid
14 understanding of the legal scrutiny that the Commission
15 will operate under, the importance of representation, and I
16 think he would be a solid member of this Commission.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Ms.
18 Dickison, your thoughts?

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, Mr. Sheu was on my
20 list until just about a week ago. And I thought he was a
21 good candidate. I didn't really have -- I didn't have
22 anything negative on him, he was just one that I cut as I
23 was going through because I didn't think he was as strong
24 as some of the others.

25 However, given your comments, yes, he hasn't

1 worked all the way through his career yet, and we do need
2 people similar to that, like that on the Commission. So, I
3 would not be opposed to putting him through.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

5 Madam Secretary, candidate ID 17669, Vincent
6 Sheu, we have put on our top 20 individuals not affiliated
7 with either party.

8 And Mr. Coe, whenever you're ready.

9 VICE CHAIR COE: I'd like to bring forward Dr.
10 Teresa Liang, applicant 1161. So, Dr. Liang is a patent
11 agent. She's a trained scientist and is very analytical,
12 methodical and objective, as demonstrated I think in her
13 application. She appeared to me to be very culturally
14 aware, understands differences among groups and how to make
15 them feel welcome and comfortable. She had a very
16 personable and thoughtful, and very analytically inclined.
17 That would certainly be I think the strength she would
18 bring. I think she referred to herself as a data junky on
19 that. I think she would be a solid member of this
20 Commission.

21 One thing I did notice, she did say that she
22 finds speaking to people tiring. And obviously, that's a
23 big part of the work of the Commission so that's something
24 to consider. But I would still like to bring her forward
25 for consideration on this top 20.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. Ms.
2 Dickison, your thoughts?

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: She was also one of my --
4 on the list that I had marked to allow to -- or to allow to
5 process forward if she was brought up. Her talking about
6 tiring as she's speaking to people was one of the reasons
7 that I didn't make the recommendation for her, and that was
8 at the very end. And so, I would not be opposed to putting
9 her forward.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I had
11 already voted yes on her so I'll save the comments and just
12 move her forward.

13 So, Madam Secretary, candidate 1161, Teresa Liang
14 we have put on our top 20 for those not affiliated with the
15 Democratic or Republican Party.

16 So, Ms. Dickison, when you're ready the time is
17 yours.

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Thank you. I would like
19 to put forward applicant number 1643, Mr. Michael Dozier.
20 Mr. Dozier is an economic development professional. He is
21 the former Community and Economic Development Executive
22 Director at Cal State Fresno. And he also was the
23 Community and Economic Developer Director at the City of
24 Clovis. He also has experience with the California
25 Partnership for San Joaquin Valley. He demonstrated a

1 strong skill set and appreciation for diversity in his
2 interview. He has a variety of experiences that I thought
3 went toward protecting voting rights in other countries and
4 in the U.S., but mainly in other countries. A long history
5 in economic development in the Central Valley, so he has
6 insight into that region. He also has insight in -- seemed
7 to have insights into communities of interest and certain
8 regional issues. So, I thought he would bring a benefit,
9 you know, a benefit of various experiences. So, I wanted
10 to bring him forward.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I
12 didn't vote yes on Mr. Dozier at this time. In previous
13 iterations I think I might have been the only vote for Mr.
14 Dozier, so certainly I appreciate the qualifications he
15 brings.

16 The thing that came out of the interview was the
17 experience level he has with the Central Valley. That was
18 the thing that impressed me most. And he was also
19 professional and he was poised.

20 The issue for me is I think we need to look at
21 Mr. Dozier and other candidates, and then representation
22 across the pool. So, although I believe he's a strong
23 candidate, I think I would put him in the aside pool for
24 now so that we can make a comparison between -- as we get
25 to the end, how many spots do we have left and to make sure

1 we have good representation from a variety of different
2 groups. So, that's my feeling on putting him in the aside
3 pool for now.

4 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

5 VICE CHAIR COE: So, this candidate made my top
6 20 and I tend to agree with Ms. Dickison on this one. As
7 you both noted, keen knowledge of the Central Valley is an
8 important perspective to have and I think a perspective
9 that might be lacking. He had a good sense of team
10 building a consensus, and being prepared as a collective
11 whole. A good sense of how to identify partisans that
12 might try to influence the Commission. That was mentioned
13 in his interview. He seemed very grounded and had a lot of
14 reasonable approaches to things and his personality seems
15 easygoing, which builds into that team building and
16 consensus earlier. And as was mentioned by Ms. Dickison, a
17 solid understanding of economic conditions that can affect
18 communities, particularly communities in that Central
19 Valley. And that perspective I thought was very important
20 to have here.

21 So, my position was in favor of putting him into
22 the top 20.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, I think I'll
24 reconsider my position when we come back to the aside pool.
25 You can see my level of interest in the candidate is still

1 quite high, but I do think we need to consider other
2 applicants as we move forward.

3 And I'm up next, I believe. The candidate I want
4 to put forward is 9854, Steven Boilard. And I'll give you
5 a moment to pull up his information.

6 So, just some background on Mr. Boilard. He had
7 many years at the California Legislative Analyst's Office,
8 as the Director of Higher Ed. He then moved over and
9 became the Executive Director of the California Studies
10 Program, which is a fellowship program through Sac State.

11 And I guess I'll give some of my notes from the
12 interview because I thought he was researched, he
13 researched before he came to the interview, he was prepared
14 and well spoken.

15 The reason I'm putting him forward is his
16 experience with the California Legislature. His contacts
17 in the situation we're in right now would be a positive.
18 It's likely that the Commission is going to need to work
19 with the Legislature. I think most of the time in our
20 questions we were making sure there was a hands off between
21 the two, and I do think he's independent and not tied to,
22 you know, any particular Legislature. But having contacts
23 in an environment where they need to work with the
24 Legislature on deadlines could be very important. And
25 that's why I thought Mr. Boilard's experience level would

1 be something to bring to the group and possibly quite
2 useful, and that's why I'm putting him forward.

3 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap. I found
5 Mr. Boilard to be very well spoken and poised, and kind of
6 had a quiet leadership ability about him. He brought, I
7 thought, an air of openness and trust. Just listening to
8 him talk he clearly enjoys meeting people and hearing their
9 stories. And he actually mentioned something, an idea that
10 he used in his career, which was the concept of go and see.
11 You know, don't read about it, don't watch TV about it, go
12 and see for yourself. And that's a key concept for this
13 Commission, I think.

14 You know, data tells some of the story, but not
15 all of the story, so they need to go to communities is what
16 he mentioned. I think he understands the need to recruit
17 people of diverse backgrounds and he's done this, done work
18 in this area before.

19 He was one of the, you know, people that kind of
20 fell out at the end for me. And ultimately what got me
21 there was a lot of his answers were -- I thought lacked
22 specificity and some things they were pretty high level on
23 things like community of interest, and how to get people to
24 feel comfortable giving their perspectives. And that's
25 ultimately what kept him out for me. But I wouldn't be

1 opposed to adding Mr. Boilard to our list.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you Mr. Coe.

3 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I also had given this
5 candidate a positive recommendation. Similarly, I thought
6 he has knowledge of the legislative process and they may
7 need that going forward. But working with the LAO, he also
8 has knowledge of being independent. So, and then he has
9 the necessary analytical skills as well. So, for that
10 reason I would say to put him forward as well.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

12 Madam Secretary, applicant ID 9854, Steven
13 Boilard we put on our top 20 of those not affiliated with
14 either party.

15 All right, Mr. Coe when you're ready.

16 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The next
17 applicant I would like to bring forward for consideration
18 is Ms. Dorothy Hines, applicant 19734. Ms. Hines is a
19 retired Program Director for Motorola, from San Luis Obispo
20 County. She has a lot of experience being in large
21 projects, including gathering perspectives from multiple
22 parties. Board and commission experience involving
23 receiving a high volume of public comments. And she got --
24 and speaking of public comments, she got a lot of public
25 comments praising her dedication, attention to detail,

1 ability to work with others, and her willingness to get
2 involved.

3 In her interview she was clearly knowledgeable
4 about this subject matter regarding the redistricting and
5 the Commission, and she's given it much thought. She had a
6 lot of practical solutions to Commission, potential
7 Commission problems. And she showed for me obvious
8 leadership abilities. She was at the same time, though,
9 personable, well spoken.

10 Her theology background, she had an interesting
11 perspective on identifying bias in people that are
12 considered experts. She has a diverse set of life
13 experiences, important perspectives to bring a solid
14 understanding of communities of interest, and is in a
15 county I don't think we have any other applicants in. So,
16 I'd like to bring Ms. Dorothy Hines forward for
17 consideration.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. Ms. Dickison,
19 your thoughts?

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I thought she was a
21 good candidate, but I thought she shared some qualities
22 with other candidates in the applicant pool. And so, that
23 was the main reason that I had not put her forward. I'd
24 like to put her in the aside for that reason, to compare
25 her to the other candidates that are left in the pool.

1 CHAIR BELNAP: So, I'm in the same boat as Ms.
2 Dickison. But I do want to agree with Mr. Coe there's
3 things about her, particularly her life story, her
4 upbringing in road construction, I thought that was
5 excellent and demonstrated her ability to interact with
6 people. I also really liked her discussion of being
7 sometimes the only female in the room in a male dominated
8 industry. I thought that was excellent. I thought she was
9 professional and poised and I get the sense that she's
10 tough as nails. So, I like her. I do think we need to
11 look at her along with some others because I do have --
12 there's people in the aside already, but also some people
13 we haven't mentioned yet that I think we need to look at
14 collectively as we fill up these final three spots.

15 VICE CHAIR COE: Okay, thank you.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, Ms. Dickison, whenever
17 you're ready.

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to bring up
19 applicant 27711, Christopher Castaneda. So, Mr. Castaneda
20 is an educational technologist at Pfizer College. Sorry,
21 excuse me.

22 I thought that -- he has a background in
23 political science studies and a master's degree in
24 communications. And so, I wanted to put him forward.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, my

1 thoughts on Mr. Castaneda, I know at one point in time, at
2 least one iteration I did vote for him. I hadn't voted for
3 him this time. The interview for me, there were portions
4 of it that didn't give me confidence that Mr. Castaneda
5 would do well in a public hearing setting. And then, I was
6 looking for depth in certain experiences, analytical
7 skills, depth in appreciation for diversity and I didn't
8 get that from the application, but he also didn't add it in
9 the interview. So, those were my two things that worried
10 me was just operating in a public hearing and also not
11 seeing the depth of experiences that other candidates have
12 been able to demonstrate.

13 So, for those reasons I would want to put Mr.
14 Castaneda in the aside pool for now.

15 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

16 VICE CHAIR COE: So, I thought this candidate had
17 a really strong application. He's well versed in political
18 science and the importance of legal standards. He's got
19 over 20 years in the field of technology, software, and
20 hardware. He's adept at maps and mapping technology, Esri,
21 ArcGIS.

22 His interview, I thought he had a clear sense of
23 the environment this Commission's going to operate in, a
24 keen sense of communities of interests and differing
25 priorities, among those communities how to engage different

1 communities. He appeared to me to be self-aware, considers
2 inherent bias in himself and in others ensuring these
3 biases don't affect his decision making.

4 Ultimately, he didn't end up in my 20. I did
5 note the same concern about public hearing settings and how
6 he might fare there. And that, among other reasons as I
7 was trying to smooth out my pool. I would be in favor, Mr.
8 Belnap, of putting him in the aside pile as well.

9 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

10 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Thank you.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: So, we are down to three spots and
12 we have four in the asides. I still have a few more people
13 I'd like to bring up. Maybe we could go one more time
14 around and then reconsider the aside pool.

15 I really have two individuals that I'd like to
16 discuss. Well, I'll go with my gut here. I want to talk
17 about Stefan Murphy, applicant ID 20535.

18 So, Mr. Murphy -- as you're pulling your
19 materials, I'll just give some background. Mr. Murphy is a
20 marketing manager. He is -- his back story is a lot more
21 in banking than necessarily marketing manager. He does
22 live in Sacramento, but his experiences in banking were in
23 an agricultural area around Lake Tahoe, so he has had a lot
24 of experiences in the north.

25 The thing about Mr. Murphy that impressed me is I

1 think he's a very good speaker. He's a salesman in all the
2 best ways. He kind of won me over throughout that
3 interview. And sometimes salesman as a negative
4 connotation, but you kind of need somebody like that in
5 every group, somebody that can sell an idea. And,
6 certainly, the Citizens Redistricting is an idea and
7 sometimes it has to be defended. And I think someone like
8 Mr. Murphy can do that in a public setting. So, that's why
9 I'm putting forward Mr. Murphy for your consideration.

10 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
11 Murphy was in my top 20. I thought he was a solid
12 candidate. His interview I think won me over. Similarly
13 to you, Mr. Belnap, I thought he spoke clearly and from the
14 heart. He was a very genuine and friendly individual. He
15 also talked about his experience having lived in rural
16 Northern California growing up. Obviously, currently
17 Sacramento, but experiences in rural Northern California as
18 well, and that perspective.

19 He had really good insight on the different
20 concerns of communities that are not his own, or people
21 that are part of his community but are culturally different
22 than him. Demonstrated an ability and desire to understand
23 the concerns and perspectives of people of various
24 backgrounds. I thought he had a solid understanding of
25 communities of interest, how to find, how to engage the

1 communities. He clearly understands the importance of
2 community input and the need to be present, engaged, and an
3 active listening to ensure community members feel heard.

4 In addition he does have on the analytical side
5 experience analyzing data, and perspectives, that kind of
6 hard and soft information in a real world redistricting
7 environment. He participated in city redistricting as
8 something he spoke about. And I think he would be a solid
9 member of the Commission especially in the areas of
10 outreach to communities of interest.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

12 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

13 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, he was on my list
14 until the end. I thought that his real strength would be
15 in community outreach and working with people. Taking what
16 you were talking about with the interview style, the
17 salesman, so I thought he spoke really well, but toward the
18 end of his interview I think it was maybe the salesman
19 piece where I was like, hey, I'm not so sure about the
20 delivery on that. But he did speak really well.

21 I did note that he does have the analytical
22 skills, but I thought that there might be -- might need to
23 make sure there's people on the Commission with strong data
24 analysis that would be able to serve with him. So, those
25 are the reasons that I did not include him. But I would

1 not be opposed to moving him forward.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

3 So, Madam Secretary, we're moving forward
4 applicant ID 20535, Stefan Murphy.

5 All right, Mr. Coe, when you're ready.

6 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 I would like to bring up applicant Emmanuelle
8 Soichet, 1170 is the applicant ID. Ms. Soichet is an
9 attorney from Alameda County that currently represents
10 public agencies. She was a former speech writer for the
11 Mayor of Los Angeles. And the communication skills, along
12 with kind of public affairs experience that come along with
13 that, I think it would be an important addition to this
14 Commission.

15 In her interview, I found her to be very
16 personable, enthusiastic, and committed to the task. She
17 was informed, very informed and aware of the last
18 Commission, the things that they faced, the things that
19 they found. She was -- I found her to be very analytical,
20 capable of a deep dive into a lot of information. She had
21 a solid understanding of communities of interest and how
22 important representation is to people. And she has a lot
23 of experience and familiarity with the Brown Act and the
24 Bagley-Keene, which again are very pertinent to the work of
25 this Commission.

1 So, I'd like to bring forward Emmanuelle Soichet
2 for consideration.

3 VICE CHAIR COE: All right, thank you.

4 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would not be opposed to
6 moving her forward. She was on my list, but I removed her
7 because I felt like there were others in the pool that had
8 similar, maybe not in this exact pool, but that had similar
9 skill sets. And so, that was one of the reasons that I did
10 not move her forward. But I would not be opposed to moving
11 her forward. I thought she was a great candidate.

12 She's worked on voting rights issues for the
13 Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, so I thought that was
14 really well.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I had also
16 voted yes, so I'll save my thoughts here.

17 Madam Secretary, applicant ID 1170, Emmanuelle
18 Soichet.

19 VICE CHAIR COE: Soichet.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: Soichet. You said it perfectly,
21 Mr. Coe, and I butchered it. Emmanuelle Soichet we're
22 putting forward on the top 20 of those not affiliated with
23 either party.

24 And Ms. Dickison, you have one more
25 recommendation and then I think we should look back at the

1 -- look at whoever you put forward, and also look at our
2 aside list as well.

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I don't have anyone
4 new to put forward. I'd like to put 1778 forward again.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you. And that's -- that is
6 the person from the aside list that I would also suggest we
7 bring forward. I'll make that recommendation as well.

8 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, could you say the name,
9 please, I missed that.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: It is ID 1778, Ms. Williams
11 Slaughter.

12 MR. DAWSON: Thank you.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

14 VICE CHAIR COE: I don't have any new thoughts.
15 But I understand where you guys are and I will be in favor
16 of moving the candidate forward into the 20.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

18 So, Madam Secretary, applicant ID 1778, I don't
19 know her first name, Ms. Williams Slaughter -- I'll get her
20 name.

21 VICE CHAIR COE: I believe it's Maria.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Maria. Maria Williams Slaughter
23 that we're putting forward in the top 20 for those not
24 affiliated.

25 And then, Mr. Dawson, whenever you're ready if

1 you could please read the names?

2 MR. DAWSON: All right. Madam Secretary, please
3 check my work. If you notice I misspeak, please jump in
4 and correct me.

5 So, our tentative list of 20 applicants not
6 affiliated with either party. Applicant ID 22971, Linda
7 Akutagawa; applicant ID 1513, Gurinder Aujla; number 8704,
8 Jonathan Birk; number 16526, Manuel Gonzalez; number 16977,
9 Antonio Le Mons; number 10721, Eddie Morgan; number 20616,
10 Deborah Seiler; number 10419, Henry Serra; number 12677,
11 Pedro Toledo; number 27048, Victoria Tamoush; number 25950,
12 Jagoree Roy; number 17733, Isra Ahmad; number 16088, Scott
13 McCarty; number 21649, Tam Tran; number 17669, Vincent
14 Sheu; number 1161, Teresa Liang; number 9854, Steven
15 Boilard; number 20535, Stefan Murphy; number 1170,
16 Emmanuelle Soichet; number 1778, Maria Williams Slaughter.

17 Madam Secretary, does that jibe with what you
18 have? Madam Secretary, are you on?

19 CHAIR BELNAP: We can't hear you, yet.

20 VICE CHAIR COE: I think she might be muted
21 perhaps.

22 CHAIR BELNAP: Madam Secretary, can you give us a
23 thumbs up if you -- Madam Secretary, we can't hear you, but
24 if you just can give us a thumbs up if that reconciles with
25 the information you have?

1 Yeah, she just gave us the thumbs up, okay.

2 MR. DAWSON: All right, we have an affirmative
3 response from the Secretary.

4 Does the Panel agree with the list of --

5 VICE CHAIR COE: That matches -- yeah, that
6 matches what I have, Counsel.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: The same.

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: It matches what I have as
9 well.

10 MR. DAWSON: All right, very good. Thank you.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

12 So, we're going to go into recess now. We have
13 options. I suggest we go ahead and take a half-hour break
14 because this is proceeding rather well. So, if we wanted
15 to come back together at 2:45, is that acceptable to
16 everybody?

17 VICE CHAIR COE: That works for me.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, so we're going to go into
19 recess until 2:45 p.m.

20 (Off the record at 2:15 p.m.)

21 (On the record at 2:47 p.m.)

22 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, we're going to come
23 back out of recess. For those of us -- those of you just
24 joining the meeting, we've already taken up consideration
25 on two pools. This morning we've already discussed the

1 Republican pool and narrowed it down to a tentative list.
2 We also just, before we went out to recess, did the same
3 thing for the group that's not affiliated with the
4 Republican Party or the Democratic Party, again getting to
5 a tentative list. And now, we're about to take up the
6 Democratic pool.

7 I want to reiterate and we talked about it this
8 morning, but these are only a tentative list. Once we get
9 to the end, we're going to analyze the 60 as a group and
10 most likely tomorrow we're going to be making final
11 decisions.

12 So, there is a mechanism to make public comment,
13 but as I reiterated before, we're not taking public comment
14 at this time because we're not taking an action item. You
15 will see on our website that there are instructions for
16 making public comment. Again, we're not taking public
17 comment right at this time but we will in the future when
18 we get ready to make decisions as part of Agenda Item
19 Number 7. And also, as part of Agenda Item Number 8.

20 I also want to reiterate we continue to have
21 written -- the option of written comments that our legal
22 counsel receives and he will be reading those into the
23 record when that time comes.

24 So, with that let's jump into the Democratic
25 pool. So, following the same pattern that we've been

1 following, I'll start. And we have eight individuals who
2 have three yeses, so my suggestion is and what we've
3 already done is put those aside for a moment and work on
4 the remaining 12.

5 The first person that I want to talk about is Mr.
6 Michael Gennaco, that's applicant ID 11802. And as my
7 fellow Panel Members are pulling together their
8 information, I'll read some background about Mr. Gennaco.

9 Mr. Gennaco is a lawyer. He began his career as
10 a trial attorney in the voting section of the U.S.
11 Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, where he
12 enforced and conducted investigations to uphold the Voting
13 Rights Act. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of
14 Civil Rights Section, where he prosecuted violations of
15 civil rights including hate crimes and human trafficking.

16 He's currently in a law practice where he
17 provides expert advice on police practices and he's hired
18 by local governments to conduct sensitive investigations.

19 One thing I noted about Mr. Gennaco that I didn't
20 necessarily understand from his application was that, yes,
21 he hails from Los Angeles, but that his experiences
22 throughout California, working with law enforcement, has
23 taken him into a number of different areas, and he's had
24 many experiences both in public meetings and in private
25 meetings with people throughout California.

1 What I was impressed with in his interview as the
2 depth of his knowledge. I think this Commission is going
3 to be faced with unique challenges, probably a tight
4 timeline. They're going to need this level of expertise
5 and I think Mr. Gennaco brings it.

6 With his qualifications, I have to admit I was
7 expecting somebody that was not quite as humble as he was
8 in person. He actually, he showed humility. He seemed
9 like a person that would demonstrate empathy to others.
10 Really, I wasn't expecting that from his qualifications. I
11 thought he might have an elevated sense of worth given
12 that, but I didn't get that from him at all. I think he'll
13 work very well as a group. And even though he has a depth
14 of knowledge, I think he'll be very respectful of other
15 people's opinions.

16 So, for those reasons I'm putting forward Mr.
17 Gennaco for your consideration.

18 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

19 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
20 Gennaco certainly has very strong analytical skills and
21 experiences that we've discussed previously. I thought in
22 his interview he was very well spoken, had polished
23 presentation skills, and demonstrated a solid understanding
24 for the Commission work, the environment that it will
25 operate in, and communities of interest.

1 As I mentioned in our cut down to 120, I had some
2 pretty big gaps in terms of demonstration of the
3 requirements under the regulations, specifically
4 impartiality. I mentioned before there wasn't much to that
5 essay, I think it was only four sentences long. I wasn't
6 getting a demonstration from that, so that was really where
7 I was focused on the interview. And I didn't think that it
8 bridged the gap for me. There wasn't really an example of
9 setting aside his self-interest in the interview or in the
10 application.

11 The examples given in the interview were
12 decisions he'd made -- he made decisions to keep his
13 credibility intact, which I think is in somebody's self-
14 interest. And there was another example about having done
15 good work on a project, which in turn got additional work
16 on another project, which I'm not seeing how that's setting
17 aside self-interest, either. So, that gap remains for me
18 on impartiality. And that's the biggest gap for me.

19 Diversity I also didn't think was -- appreciation
20 for diversity was demonstrated as well as others, although
21 the gap isn't as big for me. So, that's where I'm at on
22 the applicant.

23 I did note that a concern that's kind of the
24 opposite of your observation that he's been in a position
25 where he's used to being in charge and having kind of the

1 final say. And I'm not sure how he will react to being one
2 of 14 equals. There was a moment in the interview where he
3 was -- I asked a follow-up question after Counsel, and he
4 was dismissive of my question. It went back to something
5 Counsel had asked about. And so, I was concerned how that
6 would apply, potentially, to the group dynamic. So, that's
7 where I was on Mr. Gennaco.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

9 Ms. Dickison?

10 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Thank you. I also gave
11 this applicant a favorable recommendation. I thought that
12 his breadth of knowledge was incredible and would be a huge
13 asset to the Commission given the deadlines and the
14 timelines that it's going to have to deal with.

15 I thought that his interview went a lot better
16 than what I expected after reading the application. As you
17 mentioned, Mr. Belnap, you kind of thought that he was
18 humble for somebody with his experience, and not
19 dismissive. In the application, I kind of felt like the
20 application was so short and concise that it was kind of
21 dismissive, but I thought that he filled that in for me a
22 little bit, so I gave him a favorable recommendation.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. Mr. Coe, I failed to ask,
24 do you want to put him in -- you're saying let's put him in
25 the set aside, that's where your thoughts are?

1 VICE CHAIR COE: At this stage of the game I
2 think that's where I would lean and --

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Yeah.

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

6 So, Mr. Coe, whenever you're ready.

7 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would
8 like to bring up applicant Denisse Godoy, applicant 14729.
9 Ms. Godoy is an attorney from Riverside County. I think
10 she said she specializes in hearings regarding deportation.
11 She had direct relevant experience, I think, in the
12 redistricting process having participated in the 2010
13 district process in Riverside -- redistricting process in
14 Riverside. She's got experience facilitating public
15 meetings, analyzing statewide voting patterns of diverse
16 groups of different geographical settings to identify
17 preferences of different populations. Was a skill
18 presenter, I though, very well spoken, knowledgeable of
19 relevant topics, answered questions very thoroughly. Had a
20 unique combination of perspectives. That of an immigrant,
21 somebody who grew up in Southern California, educated in
22 Northern California, has family in the Central Valley and
23 the Central Coast. A lot of perspectives that she's
24 gathering there. Previous experience in redistricting
25 efforts, identifying, understanding, and engaging

1 communities of interests. Practical experience, taking
2 both hard and soft data into consideration to create
3 district maps. And I thought she was one of the most well
4 rounded and prepared applicants in our pool.

5 So, I would like to bring Denisse Godoy forward
6 for consideration.

7 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

8 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, Ms. Godoy was on my
10 list up until the end. And I agreed with everything you
11 mentioned. I thought she has all the experience and
12 everything that was needed. The reason that I didn't give
13 her a positive recommendation was that there were others in
14 the pool that had some of the same skill sets. But they
15 haven't all made that through yet, either. So, I would not
16 be opposed to putting her forward.

17 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. And I also voted to put her
18 forward, so I'll save my comments.

19 Madam Secretary, applicant ID 14729, Denisse
20 Godoy, we're putting in our top 20 Democrats for our
21 tentative list.

22 Okay, Ms. Dickison, I think you're up.

23 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes. So, I'd like to put
24 forward applicant number 21439. It's Ms. Laura Gomez. Ms.
25 Gomez is a professor of law at the University of

1 California. She's also been a professor of law at a
2 university in Mexico. She's an expert on voting rights,
3 immigrant -- she has an immigrant family. She brings a
4 perspective of a single parent with a disabled child, and
5 has navigated the opportunities around her to find
6 professional success. She came across as a great
7 communicator. She has the legal expertise. That
8 perspective of a single parent raising a disabled child and
9 making those hard decisions is not a perspective that I
10 think we have a lot of on this Commission. And I thought
11 it would be beneficial, coupled with her expertise in
12 voting rights. So, I wanted to put her forward.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. I think we've
14 all voted for Ms. Gomez at various points in time and I did
15 vote for her as part of my top 20 in this round. My
16 reasons for doing so was a strong application, but the
17 interview I thought was topnotch. I think she provided
18 clear and concise responses. They were logical. She was
19 confident, prepared. I thought she had a good blend of
20 analytical skills. I like that she has data experience,
21 but also legal, and she has I think the ability to interact
22 with the public.

23 I think the only negative I had from the
24 interview was she didn't have a lot of experiences with
25 public interaction. Although from the interview, having

1 talked to her, having seen her respond, I think she would
2 still do well in that situation. So, that's why I voted
3 yes for her.

4 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

5 VICE CHAIR COE: So, Dr. Gomez is a really solid
6 candidate for sure. A lot of perspectives that are
7 important to bring, as Ms. Dickison mentioned. Very well
8 spoken and knowledgeable of subject matter pertinent to
9 this effort of the Commission. Experience working under
10 scrutiny and needing to ensure legitimacy of the process to
11 defend decisions made, that's important for this as well.
12 Very aware of communities of interest and need to reach
13 out, including here different communities. Very familiar
14 with the Voting Rights Act and had solid, practical
15 suggestions for putting forth how to engage the communities
16 of interest across the state.

17 As you can see, she didn't make my top 20. There
18 are a couple of reasons for that. One is in an effort to
19 try and have as representative a pool as I could, and we
20 have a lot of people from Los Angeles, a lot of people in a
21 higher socioeconomic background, a lot of attorneys, a lot
22 of PhDs, she's both of them. As I was putting it together,
23 I didn't feel I could get as broadly representative a group
24 with her included on that front. So, that was one. And
25 the other one is the impartiality I wasn't certain as well

1 demonstrated as some others.

2 But needless to say that's why she ended up not
3 in my 20. I don't know that I want to stand in the way of
4 putting her forward to think of the 20 based on the input
5 from the two of you.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, Madam
7 Secretary, applicant ID 21439, Laura Gomez we've put in our
8 top 20 Democrats for future consideration.

9 All right, the person I want to bring forward at
10 this time is applicant ID 20032, Dr. Cynthia Kroll. So,
11 while you're pulling together your information I'll give
12 some background on Dr. Kroll.

13 She has both a master's and a doctorate degree in
14 city and regional planning. And I believe she's retired
15 now. I don't have that in front of me right now. But she
16 was the UC Berkeley Director of staff research. She also
17 worked for the California Office of Economic Policy
18 Analysis and Research.

19 She talked about, in her interview, her
20 experience with the Bay Area Government and the
21 Metropolitan Commission, and worked on their planning
22 efforts. I was impressed in the interview. I thought she
23 was calm, professional, and she had a depth of experiences,
24 particularly in the analytical area.

25 The skill set she brings from a city planning --

1 from a city and regional planning commission, her
2 experience with maps and that type of analysis seemed
3 perfect for the Commission. So, for those reasons I'm
4 putting forward Dr. Cynthia Kroll for your consideration.

5 Mr. Coe?

6 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dr. Kroll
7 made my top 20. I think she'd be a solid candidate. She's
8 an expert on subject matter heavily applicable to the
9 Commission, as you've discussed. She's got a very even
10 keeled demeanor and had a lot of analytical experience.
11 She came across very distinguished and commands respect,
12 but not in an off-putting way. Clearly very good on the
13 analytical side and can explain complicated concepts to
14 people, to the layperson. And her professional experience
15 and practically speaking has demonstrated these analytical
16 skills on numerous occasions. And I think she'd be a great
17 fit.

18 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

19 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, this was one of the
21 candidates that I had marked that I would be okay with
22 moving forward should she come up.

23 The reason I didn't move her forward was when I
24 was balancing out for representation throughout California,
25 she's in the Bay Area and she's of the higher socioeconomic

1 groups, and so that was one of the factors as I weeded out
2 to my top 20.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, Madam
4 Secretary, we're putting on the top 20 list applicant ID
5 20032, Cynthia Kroll.

6 And Mr. Coe, the time is yours.

7 VICE CHAIR COE: So, I'd like to bring up
8 applicant 17925, Maria Pilar Diaz. Ms. Diaz is currently a
9 partnership specialist with the United States Census
10 Bureau, I believe conducting outreach and awareness for
11 participation in the Census, which brings with it skills
12 and knowledge that's extremely pertinent to the effort of
13 this Commission.

14 She has board experience on a parks and rec
15 commission in Los Angeles. She's held many public meetings
16 and testimony. She also brings a unique perspective as one
17 of an immigrant. Experience analyzing and weighing facts
18 in order to make difficult decisions in working with people
19 of different backgrounds.

20 In her interview she spoke very well. She was
21 clearly well prepared, clearly dedicated to communities and
22 improving communities which mirrors information that was on
23 the letters of recommendation that were part of her
24 application. I saw in those her focus on the needs of
25 communities, her openness to alternate solutions. So, I

1 saw that in the interview as well.

2 She really understands the history of many
3 different diverse groups in California and she referred to
4 the hidden layers of the communities of interest and how
5 those things could come to interact with engaging them, and
6 the different ways you may have to go about doing that.
7 She's very aware of the different types of issues that
8 could keep some communities of interest from responding to
9 inquiries from bodies like the Commission, and had
10 practical solutions for reaching out and getting
11 communities to engage the Redistricting Commission.

12 She has, as I mentioned, much work experience on
13 boards, commissions, and working with and on behalf of
14 various communities, and has an excellent understanding of
15 Census data, the nuances, and the uses of it. And she was
16 clearly very passionate and energetic about this effort.
17 And I imagine that carries forward with all the efforts
18 that she goes through. But I think she would be a really,
19 really solid candidate on this Commission. So, I'd like to
20 discuss Maria Pilar Diaz, please.

21 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

22 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

23 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I agree with
24 everything Mr. Coe mentioned. She has knowledge of
25 regional issues, networking experience with community

1 engagement, so I'd move her forward.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, I'm the lone
3 vote here that hasn't recommended her. I've always thought
4 of her as a strong candidate in a very strong pool. So,
5 she had not made my top 20.

6 I did feel like from the interview, the note I
7 had, and it's meaningful to me is that she has heart. She
8 just seems motivated, she seems service oriented. Seems
9 like the type of person we want on the Commission.

10 I had, I think I had a little bit different
11 observation, Mr. Coe, on some of her communication. It
12 wasn't as clear to me. And that's where I had marked her
13 down in the interview. But hearing your guys' thoughts and
14 exercising the judgment collectively, I would recommend
15 putting her forward in the top 20.

16 So, Madam Secretary, applicant ID 17925, Pilar
17 Diaz we have put onto the top 20 list for the Democratic
18 pool.

19 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I would like to put
20 forward applicant number 330, William MacPhail. Mr.
21 MacPhail is the Facilities Planner for the San Diego
22 Unified School District and he has other relevant
23 experiences as well. He's a Supervising Facility Planner
24 for instructional facilities and he's also a demographer
25 and he has experience in geography.

1 Mr. MacPhail is an immigrant from Scotland, so he
2 has that perspective.

3 He also is aware of gerrymandering and the issues
4 that it can bring as he witnessed that in Scotland. And
5 so, I'd like to put him forward.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. So, I have a
7 similar comment about Mr. MacPhail. I think he's a strong
8 candidate in a strong pool of people around him that have
9 analytical skills that are equal to his. So, the reason I
10 didn't vote for Mr. MacPhail is I thought we had other
11 candidates that had equal analytical skills, brought the
12 data aspect to the table, but also brought other aspects
13 beyond just the data to the table. So, that's why I didn't
14 vote for Mr. MacPhail.

15 I hear, I know both of you voted for him, but I
16 would want to consider him the aside pool and see where
17 we're at in terms of the group as a whole, and see what we
18 might need to add to the group. So, that's my thoughts.

19 Mr. Coe?

20 VICE CHAIR COE: So, obviously, as you mentioned
21 voted -- he made my top 20. I agree with Ms. Dickison on
22 this. I think -- I hear what you're saying in terms of
23 similar skill set. I think where we became a different --
24 or he differentiated himself in a good way, in terms of he
25 doesn't -- where he's not just more of the same of some

1 other candidates was he has degrees in geography, where
2 they focus in demographics as part of that degree. I don't
3 think anybody else has that level of study on that, and
4 that's hugely pertinent to the work that the Commission's
5 going to be doing with that Census data. And through that
6 work he's got a lot of experience with Census data. And
7 his analytical skills are clearly very pertinent. He also
8 has a lot of experience with computer mapping software
9 which, again, kind of puts him above some other people
10 analytically in my mind.

11 He had previous redistricting experience in San
12 Diego Unified, experience gathering community input, being
13 sensitive to the needs of various communities in that
14 effort. He was very well spoken and personable. So, I
15 thought that he was a good candidate for the top 20.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, I'm still an aside
17 there, so we can put him there and can return back to him.

18 The person I want to bring up is applicant ID
19 8032, Rebecca Cenicerros. So, while you're pulling together
20 your information on Ms. Cenicerros, I'll give some
21 background. She is an attorney, a Deputy County Counsel.
22 She was a Federal Judicial Clerk and she was Deputy County
23 Counsel for the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

24 In her interview my thoughts on her was she was
25 very dignified and professional. She spoke with passion

1 and enthusiasm. I thought she gave a great example of
2 impartiality where she talked about I think it was an
3 injured baby, and how difficult it was to provide legal
4 advice that went counter to giving assistance to that
5 family. She did demonstrate empathy and understanding and
6 I thought she gave some great answers throughout her
7 interview. So, for those reasons I'm putting forward
8 Rebecca Cenicerros for your consideration.

9 Mr. Coe?

10 VICE CHAIR COE: Mr. Chair, I think you summed up
11 Ms. Cenicerros very well for me. She was in my top 20. I'm
12 in favor of putting her forward. I found her to be very
13 distinguished, and well spoken, in addition to all of the
14 things that you mentioned. So, I would be in favor of
15 moving Ms. Cenicerros into the top 20.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

17 Ms. Dickison?

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would be in favor of
19 moving her forward, similar to another candidate that there
20 was a large concentration in the central area. But she's
21 not in the Bay Area so, yes, I would be okay with moving
22 her forward.

23 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

24 Mr. Coe, I think you're up.

25 VICE CHAIR COE: So, the applicant that I'd like

1 to bring forward for consideration is Ms. Trena Turner,
2 applicant 7656. Ms. Turner is currently the Executive
3 Director for Faith in the Valley in the San Joaquin County.
4 I believe she mentioned it was specifically Stockton. She
5 has a lot of experience working with people of different
6 opinions to reach a common goal. And what really came off
7 to me in both her application and her interview was she
8 appears to genuinely value listening to others, and is
9 aware of how decisions affect people, and looks to include
10 perspectives from as many people as she can in decision
11 making, which is a vital, vital part of the work of the
12 Commission.

13 She's involved in many causes dedicated to
14 helping others, dedicated to public service. Very
15 personable and open, well spoken, exudes care for other
16 people and would make people feel very comfortable, and
17 would be very vital to the outreach efforts of the
18 Commission. Could make people feel like they want to speak
19 to the Commission as opposed to anything that could make
20 them -- for those people that may be already a little bit
21 nervous, she could make them feel comfortable coming
22 forward. She has a demonstrated ability in her experience
23 to engage people in many different environments and
24 improving the lives of community members. She was well
25 versed on people of different backgrounds and has a

1 sensitivity to those. And I would like to bring forward
2 Trena Turner for consideration.

3 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I also gave this
5 applicant a positive recommendation and I was going to
6 bring her forward. Her profession's dedicated to
7 appreciation and support of, you know, different people in
8 different cultures. She's a small business owner. I had
9 that she's a coalition builder and she's all about
10 inclusivity. And I thought that she would be able to
11 really connect with individuals and draw them in. So, I
12 would want to move her forward.

13 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, I have
14 a similar response where I think Ms. Turner is a strong
15 candidate in a strong pool, surrounded by applicants who
16 had demonstrated similar things.

17 The thing that impressed me about her interview
18 -- and her application for me has not been that strong, but
19 her interview really improved my understanding of her. I
20 thought she was emotionally mature, confident in herself,
21 open to others, and she just had a bright personality.
22 That I think, as Mr. Coe said, would draw people in.

23 My concerns were in the analytical area that
24 other candidates, who also could draw candidates in had
25 done more on the analytical side than what Ms. Turner had

1 demonstrated. That said, you know, my gut's saying move
2 her forward. So, I will vote to put her in the top 20 as
3 well.

4 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Madam Secretary, candidate ID
6 7656, Trena Turner we have put in the top 20.

7 All right, Ms. Dickison, whenever you're ready.

8 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yes, I'd like to bring
9 forward applicant number 10150, Ina Bendich. Ms. Bendich
10 works for Vallejo City Unified School District. She's a
11 restorative justice trainer. She also has strong
12 analytical experience in mapping and research writing. And
13 she talked about some of her restorative justice training,
14 or restorative justice groups in getting students to come
15 into the circle. Just her way of delivery, along with her
16 analytical skills I thought that she would be of benefit to
17 the Commission in public outreach and also building group
18 rapport within the Commission itself.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. Looking at the
20 history here I think we've all voted for her at various
21 times, and I did so this last time. And I don't know if I
22 did originally, probably because I just didn't appreciate
23 or understand yet this restorative justice, and the depth
24 of skill that goes into that work. I didn't understand
25 that until she came for the interview and walked us through

1 how that process works, and I came to a great appreciation
2 for what she does, and also for the personal
3 characteristics that she demonstrated. It's one of the
4 higher scores for appreciation of diversity that I had.
5 So, I think she brings a lot to the table, particularly in
6 the public outreach area. And so, for those reasons I
7 would want to bring her into the top 20.

8 VICE CHAIR COE: So, I noted the positive things
9 that you did as well and really enjoyed speaking with her
10 in the interview. I think she's got a lot of positive
11 energy that could benefit the team of the Commission.
12 She's clearly committed to listening and hearing concerns
13 of people and the importance of civility I think she talked
14 about, and hearing people out.

15 Ultimately, what kept her from adding her to my
16 20 was I thought she struggled a little bit with the
17 discussion of communities of interest. And she spoke a lot
18 about her work experience but didn't tie it back for me to
19 how it's relevant to the work of the Commission. And so,
20 for those reasons that's what kept me from putting her in
21 my top 20 in this group. But I understand the perspectives
22 of my colleagues and I would be okay with putting her
23 forward.

24 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

25 So, Madam Secretary, candidate ID 10150, Ina

1 Bendich we have put forward in our top 20 list of
2 Democrats, at least for our initial determination.

3 And Ms. Dickison, you made that recommendation,
4 right?

5 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I did.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, so I'm up. So, the person I
7 want to bring forward is Herman DeBose, candidate ID 15631.
8 Herman DeBose, candidate 15631. So, the background on Mr.
9 DeBose is he is a CSU professor with a background in social
10 work. He has a PhD and also a master's in social work. He
11 taught for multiple years in college. I believe he's
12 retired now. And he also has had membership on multiple
13 boards and commissions. Too many to even list and name.

14 When he was here, in his interview I thought he
15 speaks with passion and enthusiasm. I think he fits in
16 well with others. I think he'll have -- he has a bit of
17 humor to him that I think will endear him to others. He
18 kind of owns the room and owns his space and those around
19 him he seems to want to lift up everywhere he goes. That
20 was my observations when he was here in the interview and
21 even as he was interacting with people here.

22 So, for those reasons I'm putting forward Herman
23 DeBose for your consideration.

24 Mr. Coe?

25 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.

1 DeBose was in my top 20. I thought he was a good
2 candidate. I thought it was very -- in addition to things
3 you mentioned, like you said a confident speaker, had a
4 really solid perspective on keeping the process of the
5 Redistricting Commission, I think the phrase he used was
6 above board, making sure everything is transparent and
7 clear to all parties involved. I think he has a strength
8 in engaging people, having conversation and obtaining input
9 as you I think pointed out. I thought he had a good
10 perspective on different people and how people's
11 backgrounds, what it can mean to different people. I
12 thought he had a solid understanding in that light of
13 communities of interest and had a long term vision and
14 understanding of how choices can affect people for a long
15 time.

16 There were some things I wanted to point out. I
17 agree with what you said on drawing people in and you said
18 owns his space. And a concern I'd noted about it was could
19 it overpower at times, potentially. And some answers to
20 the questions went off on kind of off-topic tangents, where
21 I was having trouble following a couple of times. But
22 again, those concerns were not enough to keep me from
23 putting him forward into my top 20. But I wanted to put
24 them out there for consideration.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

1 Ms. Dickison?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, this is one of the
3 candidates that I said I would be okay with moving forward
4 if he was brought up. One of the reasons I didn't bring
5 him forward was he was toward the end of my process, but
6 there were times that I thought he kind of went off on a
7 tangent on some of the responses. But I thought he was --
8 he came off as very approachable, insightful. He could
9 laugh at himself. I could easily see how people could
10 really relate to him. And so, for that reason I would be
11 okay with moving him forward.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

13 Madam Secretary, applicant ID 15631, Herman
14 DeBose we put in our top 20 list of Democrats.

15 Okay, Mr. Coe the time is yours.

16 VICE CHAIR COE: So, the applicant that I would
17 like to bring forward is Mr. Jeffrey Chang, applicant 3590.
18 Mr. Chang is an attorney from Placer County. He has
19 experience as a board member in different capacities.
20 Based on his application he demonstrated he was well versed
21 in procedural prudence for decision making bodies and is
22 able to navigate complex issues.

23 I thought he was very well spoken and personable.
24 He was precise and crisp on topics, on relevant topics and
25 in responses to questions. I thought he had really good

1 perspectives on team building, on process planning, and
2 offered many practical solutions that the Commission can
3 consider. He really understands the environment. Again, I
4 think that's -- I've said that several times, I think it's
5 important that these applicants understand the environment
6 that this Commission is going to operate in. And he had a
7 real keen sense of how to ensure public trust. He had a
8 keen sense, again, of how the pandemic could create new
9 problems for the Commission. And he was well prepared.
10 He's done his homework and he's read up on redistricting in
11 the previous Commission and the things that they faced. He
12 showed a really solid understanding of communities of
13 interest, the challenges that come along with engaging them
14 and getting them to give input.

15 He's familiar with the Brown Act, Bagley-Keene
16 and the formality of public meetings. And he enjoys public
17 presentations and seeks out opportunities. And as I think
18 about the folks that we've put forward, some of them may be
19 less comfortable with being the speaker of the group, but I
20 think that's a strength and a thing that he could bring to
21 the Commission in terms of presenting, among all those
22 other skills.

23 I'd like to bring forward Mr. Jeffrey Chang for
24 consideration.

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

1 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

2 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: He was on my list of
3 candidates to bring forward. And so, for all the reasons
4 just mentioned I'd like to go ahead and move him forward.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. He didn't make
6 my top 20, but he was on my list of those that I would
7 welcome input from my colleagues.

8 I do note that it is odd how over time things
9 have changed, because I think I was the single vote on Mr.
10 Chang that brought him through the process. So, now I am
11 going to vote for him and put him on the top 20.

12 So, Madam Secretary, applicant ID 3590, Jeffrey
13 Chang we've put on our top 20 list of Democrats to
14 consider.

15 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: So, Ms. Dickison, whenever you're
17 ready.

18 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I'd like to bring forward
19 applicant number 360, Michael -- I'm sorry -- yes, Michael
20 Rancer. Mr. Rancer is or was a Budget Director for the
21 University of California Office of the President. He's
22 retired now. He also worked for the Santa Clara Valley
23 Transportation Authority as a Budget Director. He was also
24 a previous staffer that was involved in redistricting in
25 the 1980s, which is one of the reasons he mentioned in his

1 interview that he got out of that type of work and went
2 into working for local government instead.

3 He has the experience to know what gerrymandering
4 looks like and wants to ensure that that doesn't happen
5 again. I thought during his interview that his responses
6 appeared heartfelt and he seemed to have a real honest
7 desire to ensure that redistricting is done appropriately
8 going forward. So, he has the analytical skills to do this
9 as well. So, I wanted to put him forward.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I think Mr.
11 Rancer is a strong candidate in a strong candidate pool,
12 someone that we should consider as we near the end here.
13 He wasn't in my top 20 for reasons of just trying to make
14 sure we have good representation of geographic, ethnic,
15 gender. So, for those reasons I think we should consider
16 Mr. Rancer along with others from the aside pool.

17 Mr. Coe?

18 VICE CHAIR COE: Understanding that we're going
19 to put him in the aside pool, just for the record he was in
20 my top 20. I found him to be very professional and with a
21 calm demeanor. Very savvy on subject matter relevant to
22 the Commission. He had a solid sense of appreciation for
23 diversity demonstrated by personal experiences.

24 As Ms. Dickison pointed out, what really grabbed
25 me is he had a -- clearly dedicated to ensuring that

1 gerrymandering is not a thing that occurs any longer.
2 Clearly knows what the Commission's mission in and what it
3 needs to do. He's well-read and researched in that area.
4 He understands and is keenly aware of potential political
5 influences that could try to seep into the process. And
6 what came across to me is he really values input from the
7 community, on top of the things Ms. Dickison said.

8 So, just for the record, I'm in favor of that,
9 too, noting that we're putting him in the aside pile for
10 now.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. So, we've
12 all had an equal number of people to put forward. What I
13 suggest now is we put more people forward for the aside
14 pool. Right now I think we have three people -- three
15 spots in our top 20, but we only have three people in the
16 aside pool.

17 Now, if there's an individual that one of you
18 puts forward that we both all agree on, we can put them in
19 there. But I think we should come here to the end and
20 start adding individuals that we have not yet discussed
21 that we want to discuss as at least part of the aside pool,
22 if not put them in the top 20.

23 So, with that the person I want us to consider is
24 applicant 1851, Carlos Barron. So, as my colleagues pull
25 together their materials, Mr. Barron is a college

1 professor. He also worked with the L.A. Board of
2 Education. He was a K-12 teacher as well and worked on the
3 L.A. Arts Commission. He's bilingual. And he was for a
4 period of time a Director of the Mexican American Education
5 Commission, with the Office of State Superintendent.

6 The things that impressed me with Mr. Barron in
7 his interview was his experience level, his bilingual
8 skills and appreciation for diversity. I thought he was
9 smart, but very relatable, and he had a lot of wisdom.

10 On the negatives, I couldn't hear all or
11 understand all of his words or his comments. I had a hard
12 time following it sometimes. And that was a detraction
13 from the interview but not so much that it changed my
14 overall impression of him.

15 For those reasons, I would put forward for your
16 consideration Carlos Barron.

17 Mr. Coe?

18 VICE CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thought
19 Mr. Barron had distinctly unique experiences and
20 perspectives he could bring, and an awareness of the
21 different backgrounds and experiences that are in the
22 state. And I think that speaking to people and learning
23 their interests would be his strong suit based on that
24 interview.

25 What ultimately kept me from putting him forward

1 was I wasn't sure that appreciation for diversity or
2 impartiality were as well demonstrated as some other
3 applicants. So, for that reason I would be in favor of
4 adding this applicant to the aside pool.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

6 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

7 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would be interested in
8 adding this applicant to the aside pool. Similar to you, I
9 did have some trouble understanding some of his responses.
10 But I think he does bring some unique perspectives.
11 Learning to read at 13 and going on to become a very
12 educated man is one perspective. And his desire to teach
13 at the elementary school level, so that that's where you
14 can make a difference and help people as they come up. So,
15 I would like to put him in the aside pool for now.

16 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

17 Mr. Coe, whenever you're ready.

18 VICE CHAIR COE: I would like to bring forward
19 for consideration Ms. Stephanie Beauchaine, applicant
20 23559. And Ms. Beauchaine is a finance consultant from
21 Humboldt County who brings the perspective of a small
22 business owner, both her own and I believe her husband's, a
23 restaurant owner, or they own a restaurant in Humboldt
24 County.

25 She's got a lot of public sector experience

1 having served in municipal government in financial
2 consultant roles. And I thought that her interview went
3 really well, she was well spoken and friendly, committed to
4 representing and helping communities. Has experience in
5 community input and using it to make decisions. And this
6 input, she demonstrated, actually changed her mind on a
7 course of action, which was the elimination of a police
8 department that her husband worked for.

9 She has solid understanding of redistricting, has
10 done her homework on the previous Commission, and has some
11 experience in local redistricting when a client, a city of
12 hers switched to district based.

13 A really good understanding of communities of
14 interest, what can bind people into a community of
15 interest, and had a lot of experience working with and on
16 behalf of people of different backgrounds. And just
17 geographically speaking wanted to make sure that the north
18 state had representation, and voices, and wanted to bring
19 forth Stephanie Beauchaine for consideration.

20 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

21 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

22 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would be good with
23 moving Ms. Beauchaine forward. She was one of the ones
24 that I had marked to move forward if she came up. I
25 eliminated her at the very end of my process. She does

1 bring the diversity for the North Coastal Region. I think
2 we have one other candidate in the whole pool that has
3 that. So, for that reason, I agree with putting her on the
4 list.

5 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. So, I think we should
6 consider Ms. Beauchaine as part of the aside pool. I do
7 understand that she is from the North Coastal Region. And
8 right now, I don't think it's from this pool, we have an
9 individual that was in our top 20 I think in the Other,
10 from the same area, from that North Coastal Region.

11 I don't think she had the level of experiences
12 that other candidates had. In particular, in appreciation
13 for diversity or ability to be impartial. So, I don't
14 think on the positive side she was professional and she
15 seemed very driven and motivated. So, I think there are
16 some positive things and she does bring that geographic
17 diversity. But I think we need to consider that along with
18 other candidates and what they bring.

19 So, Ms. Dickison, the time is now yours.

20 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I would like to bring
21 forward applicant number 1472, David Freedman. Currently,
22 Mr. Freedman is a Sustainability Commissioner for the City
23 of Palm Springs. He's also a retired attorney. He
24 specializes in French and U.S. business law. He has
25 redistricting experience as a member of the public. He

1 helped draw one of the maps when they redistricted during
2 the Palm Springs redistricting.

3 I thought during his interview he was well spoken
4 and positive. He has mapping experience as well. So, I'd
5 like to put him forward.

6 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you. My thoughts on
7 Mr. Freedman is he is well qualified. I think he was a
8 three votes for the majority of time he was -- probably all
9 the time he was coming through, so the application was high
10 quality.

11 I'm the single no vote there and I do think we
12 need to consider his application along with others. We've
13 got -- if we were to put him in the aside pool that would
14 be six individuals to pick from for the three spots we
15 have. And I think we're getting down to making choices.
16 And that was my issue why he didn't make it in my top ten,
17 not that he doesn't have a lot of experience with
18 redistricting, with data, it's just a matter of choices in
19 terms of overall representation of the pool.

20 So, for those reasons I would want to put him in
21 the aside pool so we can consider him with the other folks.

22 Mr. Coe, your thoughts?

23 VICE CHAIR COE: Well, as you pointed out I voted
24 in favor of Mr. Freedman in my top 20. I thought he was
25 very well spoken and very knowledgeable. He clearly knows

1 his stuff on the subject matter. He could speak
2 knowledgeably about redistricting and relevant information
3 for a long time I think, without running out of knowledge
4 on the subject. He has a lot of good experience to offer,
5 both legal and redistricting experience including mapping.
6 He's clearly very eager and passionate about the work and
7 had a solid understanding of communities of interest, and
8 the need and importance of identifying and considering the
9 concerns of those communities.

10 So, I understand we're going to put him in the
11 aside pile, but I was a positive vote on Mr. Freedman.

12 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay, thank you.

13 So, now I think it would be worth having us look
14 at those six individuals that we've set aside and discuss
15 who would we individually want to bring forward. Whether
16 we get to 20 before we leave, that's neither here nor there
17 for me, but I think at least having a discussion about them
18 would be of value.

19 I guess, I know we've gone round robin. If there
20 is another person when it comes to your turn that you want
21 to add to the pool, I guess that's fine, but I personally
22 think we should be looking at these six.

23 So, I'll talk about the person in that pool that
24 I consider at the highest quality, which is Mr. Gennaco.
25 And the reason for that is if the eight randomly selected

1 Commissioners were thinking of who to add to the pool, what
2 six, and who could they bring in that would help them do
3 this work, I think Mr. Gennaco would be right up there at
4 the top of the list because he has so much experience with
5 voting rights, it's so applicable.

6 I think his application had deficiencies, you
7 both pointed out, but not his demonstrated experiences.
8 What he's done in his life is the very thing that we need
9 on this Commission. I think we'd be remiss not to have him
10 in the top 20 because I think he should be available to be
11 picked by those eight, to be in that remaining six. And
12 those are my reasons for wanting Michael Gennaco to go
13 first -- to go forward.

14 So, Mr. Coe, you can comment on Mr. Gennaco or
15 talk about someone else that you think is -- whatever you
16 want to do, talk about someone you think is critical to get
17 forward into the top 20.

18 VICE CHAIR COE: I think I'm going to circle back
19 to Mr. MacPhail, William MacPhail as a candidate we need to
20 consider. I'm not sure I have much else to say on him, but
21 I think that in addition to having clearly demonstrated in
22 my mind the three qualities required by the regulations,
23 his degrees in geography, with the focus on demographics,
24 and his experience with computer mapping software, and
25 previous redistricting experience make him stand out for me

1 amongst the crowd in the aside pool.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: Thank you.

3 So, Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

4 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: So, I was a positive vote
5 for Mr. Gennaco and I was also a positive vote for Mr.
6 MacPhail. But I would also like to put forward Mr.
7 Freedman.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Freedman.

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: Yeah, his passion for the
10 redistricting and his experience as an attorney, and his
11 knowledge during his interview that he demonstrated I think
12 would make him a strong candidate. And it would probably
13 be good to have multiple candidates with those strong skill
14 sets.

15 CHAIR BELNAP: Uh-hum.

16 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: For the eight to select,
17 should there not be -- those candidates not be selected
18 randomly.

19 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you.

20 So, I guess maybe we should give ourselves an
21 opportunity to do some final thoughts and maybe round out
22 to 20 if we desire.

23 MR. DAWSON: And Mr. Chair, I would note that
24 also there is nothing preventing the Panel from taking more
25 than 20. I know that had done so in the previous pools,

1 but that does not set any kind of precedent. So, the Panel
2 should feel free to move forward with the candidates it
3 feels is strong.

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Right. And take them into
5 consideration to tomorrow's deliberation.

6 MR. DAWSON: yeah, absolutely. Everybody in the
7 pool remains in the pool, whether you've discussed them and
8 put them forward on the 20 tentative list. So, I just
9 would like to have the Panel keep that in mind.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: Absolutely. And I think also with
11 the Republican 20 that we talked about this morning, the
12 Other pool, we got to a tentative list. But as we analyze
13 the 60 we can -- it could easily be where we need to pull
14 somebody out and put somebody in. And that will be a
15 difficult choice, I know that. But that is an option that
16 we've allowed ourselves by the way we've set this up. So,
17 I appreciate your comments, Mr. Dawson.

18 So, in terms of rounding this up, I would be fine
19 with Mr. MacPhail and Mr. Freedman, if you guys are fine
20 with Mr. Gennaco, at least for our list. That would be my
21 proposal to you. And I know we can change it as we look at
22 the overall statistics.

23 But Mr. Coe, what are your thoughts on that
24 proposal?

25 VICE CHAIR COE: So, clearly, I was in favor of

1 Mr. Freedman, I put forward Mr. MacPhail. Well, this time.
2 Maybe the first time it was somebody else. But on those
3 fronts.

4 On Mr. Gennaco, I think I've voiced my concerns
5 about impartiality not being demonstrated in my mind. But
6 out of respect for the collective judgment of the Panel, I
7 can be amenable to that proposal.

8 CHAIR BELNAP: Ms. Dickison?

9 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: I was a positive vote on
10 all three of these individuals.

11 CHAIR BELNAP: Okay. All right, thank you.

12 So, Madam Secretary, to keep things clear I'm
13 going to read off the ID numbers, if I can pull them up.

14 So, we have applicant ID 11802, Michael Gennaco;
15 and we have applicant 330, William MacPhail; and we have
16 applicant ID 1472, David Freedman. Those three we've put
17 in our tentative list of 20 Democrats for us to further
18 consider.

19 I believe we also, all three of us have made
20 notes, as well as legal counsel of individuals that we've
21 put in the aside pile. Although, as Mr. Dawson has pointed
22 out, we've not eliminated anyone from the pool. So, I
23 guess anyone that was in our 120 that hasn't otherwise
24 withdrawn from the process is still fair game as we analyze
25 the reports that Mr. Dawson's going to prepare.

1 Can you talk about that process?

2 MR. DAWSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. So, as we've done
3 in previous meetings, moving forward with these tentative
4 lists the staff and I will compile them, we will provide
5 the Panel and the public with demographic summaries of each
6 of the subpools of the 20 tentative selected, as well as an
7 overall demographic summary. This will assist the Panel in
8 making its decisions tomorrow.

9 And as the Chair has noted and bears repeating,
10 nothing is final until the final vote and no applicant is
11 eliminated until that final vote. And, of course, the
12 public will have the opportunity to make a comment, both
13 telephonically and written.

14 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. And again,
15 if you're just joining us, there is a deliberate mechanism
16 to make public comment. We just haven't needed to avail
17 ourselves of it this afternoon. On our website there are
18 detailed instructions about how to make public comment.
19 And that will be applicable tomorrow as we make these
20 decisions.

21 There is also Agenda Item Number 8, which is
22 public comment. So, there is a process. You haven't seen
23 it yet because we haven't been making decisions to vote on,
24 so there wasn't a public comment aspect yet. You will see
25 that tomorrow.

1 So, with that, Mr. Dawson.

2 MR. DAWSON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, are you ready for
3 me to read the --

4 CHAIR BELNAP: Oh, yes, please. Yes, please.

5 MR. DAWSON: I'll read into the record the list
6 of 20 Democrats who are tentatively selected to move
7 forward.

8 Once again, Madam Secretary, if you'll check my
9 work, especially since I left my glasses in my office.

10 Applicant ID number 6467, Karina Camacho;
11 applicant ID number 3710, J. Ray Kennedy; number 4364,
12 Margo Morales; number 6169, Vonya Quarles; number 7164,
13 Sara Sadhwani; number 1602, Patricia Sinay; number 4607,
14 Bapu Vaitla; number 15239, Angela Vazquez; number 14729,
15 Denisse Godoy; number 21439, Laura Gomez; number 20032,
16 Cynthia Kroll; number 17925, Maria Pilar Diaz; number 8032,
17 Rebecca Cenicerros; number 7656, Trena Turner; number 10150,
18 Ina Bendich; number 15631, Herman DeBose; number 3590,
19 Jeffrey Chang; number 11802, Michael Gennaco; number 330,
20 William MacPhail; and number 1472, David Freedman.

21 Madam Secretary, does my list agree with yours?

22 MS. LE TELLIER: Yes, it does.

23 MR. DAWSON: Panel, does my list agree with
24 yours?

25 CHAIR BELNAP: Mr. Coe?

1 VICE CHAIR COE: It agrees with mine.

2 CHAIR BELNAP: And yours?

3 PANEL MEMBER DICKISON: It agrees with mine as
4 well.

5 MR. DAWSON: All right, thank you. So, I would
6 recommend, Mr. Chair that the Panel go into recess so that
7 you'll be able to consider these overnight. You will give
8 the staff and I the opportunity to make these reports and
9 then tomorrow you can finish your consideration.

10 CHAIR BELNAP: All right, thank you. I
11 appreciate your efforts, Mr. Dawson. Madam Secretary,
12 thank you as well.

13 We're going to go into recess now and we're going
14 to come back out of recess tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

15 (Thereupon, the Applicant Review Panel meeting
16 recessed at 3:58 p.m.)

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

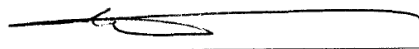
25

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 21st day of May, 2020.



PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public

TRANSCRIBER'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 transcribed by me, a certified transcriber.

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 21st day of May, 2020.



Barbara Little
Certified Transcriber
AAERT No. CET**D-520