

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (CRC)

Applicant Review Panel (ARP) Public Meeting

621 Capitol Mall, 10th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814
Remote via Zoom

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

9:30 A.M.

Reported by:

Peter Petty

APPEARANCES

Members Present:

Ryan Coe, Chair
Angela Dickison, Vice Chair
Ben Belnap, Panel Member

Staff Present:

Christopher Dawson, Panel Counsel
Yvonne Le Tellier, Secretary

Written Comments:

Sonja Diaz, UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute
Kathay Feng, California Common Cause
Carol Moon Goldberg, League of Women Voters of California
Eric Fisher
Jonathan Mehta Stein, California Common Cause
Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and
Appointed Officials

Public Comment:

Jose Martinez
Lori Shellenberger, California Common Cause
Carter James
Ryan Gardner
Jacob Martinez

APPEARANCES

Public Comment:

Hector Hernandez

Julia Marks, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Felicia Williams, City of Pasadena

Tim Wendler

Javier Villasenor

Connie Martinez Zsiebl

John Kopp

Kimberly Colt

Timothy Reynolds

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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 pool of remaining applicants in each of the subpools.

7. Applicant Selection and Reduction of Applicant Pool	11
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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.

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8. Public comment 27

(The Panel may neither discuss nor take action on any matter raised during this public comment period that is not included on this agenda, except to briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, request clarification, or decide whether to place the matter on the agenda for a future meeting (Government Code sections 11125, 11125.7)).

Adjourn 145

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 CHAIR COE: Okay. Good morning. The time
3 being 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 7th, 2020, and a
4 quorum of all three Applicant Review Panelists
5 present, I will call this meeting back to order.

6 As a reminder, for those in the room or on
7 the virtual meeting, silence cell phones and other
8 devices while the meeting is in session. Those of
9 us in the room, if you need to take a call, please
10 step outside in the hallway and take that call.

11 The restrooms are located outside the door
12 to the left.

13 We will need to take a break, at most,
14 every 90 minutes for our transcriptionist and ASL
15 translators.

16 And in case of emergency, please, just
17 follow the directions of the State Auditor's Office
18 staff.

19 So the meeting today, as it is being
20 livestreamed, there exists a possibility that there
21 will be opportunity for public comment today. And
22 to maximize the transparency and public
23 participation in our process, in addition to all of
24 the public comments we have been receiving prior to
25 our meetings, in written form we'll also be taking

1 public comment during our meeting by phone. There
2 will be opportunities to address the Panel
3 regarding applicants in the pool, as well as the
4 process in general.

5 In addition, for each agenda item that
6 requires a vote, the public may provide comment on
7 that particular item. Each time that we bring up
8 an action item, we will inform the viewing audience
9 that it is time to call in if they wish to make a
10 public comment. We then allow at least three
11 minutes for those who wish to comment to join the
12 public comment queue.

13 To make a public comment, please dial
14 (844) 291-6360. Again, that number is (844) 291-
15 6360. After dialing that number, you will speak to
16 an operator. You will be asked to provide either
17 the access code for the meeting, which is 7222059,
18 again, that's 7222059, or you can provide the name
19 of the meeting, which is the Applicant Review Panel
20 meeting.

21 After providing this information the
22 operator will ask you to provide your name. Please
23 note that you're not required to provide your
24 actual name if you do not wish to do so. When the
25 operator asks for your name, you may provide either

1 your own name or a name other than your own. When
2 it is your turn to make a public comment the
3 moderator will introduce you by the name you
4 provided to the operator. Providing a name helps
5 AT&T, which is hosting our public comment process,
6 to ensure that everyone holding for public comment
7 has a chance to submit their comments.

8 Please be assured that our office is not
9 maintaining any list of callers by name. We are
10 only asking for some name so that the call
11 moderator can manage multiple calls simultaneously
12 and can let you know when it's your turn to speak.

13 After providing a name and speaking with
14 the operator, you'll be placed in a listening room
15 which is a virtual waiting room where you will wait
16 until it is your turn to speak. In this room, you
17 will be able to listen to live audio of the
18 meeting. You should mute your computer or
19 livestream audio because the online video and the
20 audio in the listening room will be approximately
21 60 seconds behind the live audio you're listening
22 to on your telephone.

23 Moreover, if you fail to mute your
24 computer livestream audio, it will be extremely
25 difficult for you to follow the meeting and

1 difficult for anyone to hear your comment due to
2 feedback issues. Therefore, once you're waiting in
3 the queue, be alert for when you may be called upon
4 to speak, and please turn down the livestream
5 volume.

6 From the listening room, listen to the
7 meeting and the call moderator. When you decide
8 that you want to make a comment about the agenda
9 action item currently being discussed, press 1,
10 then 0, and you will be placed in the queue to make
11 a public comment about the action item under
12 consideration.

13 When joining the queue to make a public
14 comment, you should hear an automatic recording
15 informing you that you have been placed in the
16 queue. You will not receive any further
17 instruction until the moderator brings you in to
18 make your public comment. The moderator will open
19 your line and introduce you by the name that you
20 provided. Once again, make sure that you have
21 muted any background noise from your computer. We
22 ask that you do not use a speaker phone but,
23 rather, speak directly into your phone.

24 After the moderator introduces you, please
25 state the name you provided to the operator, and

1 then state your comment clearly and concisely.

2 Comments will be limited to two minutes.

3 After you finish making your comment, we
4 will move on to the next caller. At that point,
5 please hang up your phone. If you would like to
6 comment on another agenda item at a later time,
7 please call back when we open up public comment for
8 that item and repeat this process.

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

13 The Chair will ask for comment before
14 every action item. As you listen to the online
15 video stream, you will hear the Chair solicit
16 public comments. That is the time to call in.

17 The process for making a comment will be
18 the same each time, beginning by dialing (844) 291-
19 6360 and following the steps stated above.

20 So yesterday, we settled upon three
21 different tentative groups of 20, one for each
22 political party subgroup.

23 After we recessed yesterday, Counsel and
24 Staff have created new reports listing those
25 applicants and the demographic breakdown of the

1 applicants. And I would like to ask Counsel to
2 distribute those now.

3 MR. DAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 As you said, we have reports listing the
5 20 -- a tentative list of the 20 Democrats to move
6 forward to the legislature, a demographic breakdown
7 of those folks, a tentative list of 20 Republicans
8 to move forward to the legislature, a demographic
9 breakdown of those applicants, a tentative list of
10 20 applicants not affiliated with either major
11 party who will move forward to the legislature, a
12 demographic breakdown of those folks, and finally,
13 an aggregate demographic summary of the 60
14 tentatively selected applicants. And I will pass
15 those out to the Panel Members now.

16 And I would like to note, for those
17 viewing on the livestream, that we will have those
18 posted on the website as soon as practicable.

19 I want to thank our staff, particularly
20 Ms. Le Tellier, with helping me, the
21 technologically challenged lawyer, with the ability
22 to create these reports.

23 As the Chair noted yesterday, when Mr.
24 Belnap was Chair, none of the people on these lists
25 are guaranteed to move forward. Everyone is still

1 in the pool. No one is eliminated from the pool
2 until there is an affirmative unanimous vote of the
3 panel.

4 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Dawson.

5 So in the past, when we've received new
6 reports like this, we've taken a recess to give
7 ourselves a chance to review the reports. I think
8 we should do that this time as well.

9 But before we do, I'm sure that each of us
10 has had an opportunity, either last night or this
11 morning, to review the individual groups of 20, the
12 overall group of 60 last night or this morning, as
13 I mentioned. I'd like to give each of us an
14 opportunity to put forward at least initial
15 thoughts so that we can consider those initial
16 thoughts when we go into recess, before we come
17 back and deliberate further.

18 So my initial thought was on the overall
19 group of 60. And as our goal is to create a group
20 that is broadly representative of all of California
21 as possible, I noticed a couple of things.

22 First, geographically, I thought the
23 representation might have been a little low in the
24 Central Valley and the northern part of the state.
25 I think there are only two applicants south -- in

1 the area south of San Joaquin County and North of
2 L.A. County, and also only two applicants up in the
3 -- north of Placer County. And with these numbers,
4 and then with upcoming legislative cuts and kind of
5 the randomness of the bingo ball selection, there
6 exists the possibility that these regions may not
7 have somebody available to sit on the Commission
8 and represent them. So that's something I think,
9 maybe, we should consider.

10 Secondly, I noted a pretty high number of
11 applicants that were either attorneys or held a
12 doctorate. I think as we're trying to come up with
13 groups that broadly represent all of California, we
14 might want to consider looking for opportunities to
15 add additional perspectives from all our qualified
16 candidates, backgrounds that may not be attorneys
17 or PhDs.

18 So those are my initial thoughts that I'd
19 like the Panel to consider during our recess.

20 Ms. Dickison, do you have any initial
21 thoughts to share that you'd like us to consider in
22 our recess?

23 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I also noted that
24 the northern part of the state didn't have
25 very -- as many applicants, so maybe we should

1 consider that.

2 For the attorneys, while there is a larger
3 number of attorneys on there, not all of them have
4 the same focus and so that would be a consideration
5 that we need to make, looking at that, at the
6 attorneys and what their skill set is and whether
7 or not they're a practicing attorneys. Because
8 some of them are not, so --

9 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

10 Mr. Belnap, initial thoughts?

11 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So I had the same
12 thought on if someone has a J.D., it doesn't mean
13 that they're practicing a particular part of law.
14 In fact, we met many of them who became project
15 managers, became something other than a practicing
16 lawyer, so I think they bring different
17 disciplines.

18 In terms of PhDs, it's the same thought.
19 To me a PhD is not a discipline, it's a variety of
20 disciplines, all of which could add value to the
21 Commission. So me, it just -- that signalizes --
22 signifies effort in a particular field, not a
23 concern of mine.

24 The north, when you say the Northern
25 California, I guess I'm including in that, North

1 Central Valley and Mountain, and adding into that,
2 North Coastal. So I saw the numbers in front of me
3 but, also, last night as I was looking at the pool,
4 20 percent, to me, seemed pretty good for Northern
5 California. I don't share the same concern that we
6 have an underrepresentation there.

7 So that's -- those are my initial
8 thoughts.

9 In terms of process, I would like time to
10 comb over this. I would like -- if we come back
11 and we're satisfied with the average statistics,
12 that's one thing, that's where the group is at.
13 But if we end up wanting to talk about individuals,
14 I could use another recess to pull my materials
15 together. So if we come back and we say, let's
16 look at individuals, then I would need another
17 break in order to pull together materials and get
18 my thoughts together on that.

19 CHAIR COE: Okay. All right. Thank you,
20 Mr. Belnap.

21 So in terms of time to comb over it, what
22 is the thought process from the rest of the Panel
23 in terms of how much time we think the recess
24 should be?

25 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I don't think I need

1 -- I think 15 minutes would be sufficient for me,
2 since I have been looking at the numbers from last
3 night.

4 CHAIR COE: Ms. Dickison?

5 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Fifteen minutes
6 would be sufficient for me as well.

7 CHAIR COE: Okay. So we will recess. And
8 let's say let's return at ten o'clock. That will
9 give us slightly more than 15 minutes. We'll be in
10 recess until 10:00 a.m.

11 (Thereupon the Panel recessed at 9:42 a.m.)

12

13

14 10:00 a.m.

15 CHAIR COE: Okay, it is ten o'clock, so
16 I'll call the meeting back to order.

17 I think we've all had an opportunity to
18 look over the tentative groups of 20 and the
19 overall tentative group of 60. So I'd like to give
20 the Panel Members the opportunity to share their
21 thoughts on steps forward.

22 Ms. Dickison?

23 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So as I was looking
24 at the balance of what's here of the individuals on
25 the list. And just looking at the balance, I do

1 note that there is, you know, the economic status
2 of some of the 125 to 250 is a little higher. But
3 I also note that sometimes with looking for the
4 analytical skills and the skills that we need on
5 the Commission, that sometimes you're going to have
6 people with -- that are accomplished in that
7 manner.

8 The North Coastal has one person. There's
9 only one other person in that area. So when you
10 combine that with the North Central
11 Valley/Mountain, it is 20 percent, which is -- I
12 was fine with that.

13 And the rest of it is -- seems pretty
14 balanced, some ups and downs, some a little higher
15 than others. But overall it seemed reasonably
16 representative to me.

17 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

18 Mr. Belnap?

19 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yeah. Thank you.

20 So I have been looking at economic status.
21 The one thing that complicates that analysis is
22 it's combined household income --

23 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Um-hmm.

24 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: -- so I always found
25 that difficult to weigh as I was trying to analyze

1 that pool.

2 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Yeah.

3 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So when you see the
4 numbers and you say, well, 125,000 to 250,000, you
5 have to understand that that is combined household
6 income, so you're going to have great differences
7 and disparities between a one-income house and a
8 two-income house. So that one's always been a
9 little bit of difficulty in terms of analysis.

10 In the geographic representation, I think
11 it's reasonable, the overall statistics.

12 Mr. Coe, I heard your point on the Inland
13 Empire. I think that could be one or two points
14 higher in terms of percentages. But, I mean, this
15 time around, I think from what I hear, last time
16 around we had a hard time pulling in candidates
17 from the Northern California. I feel like this
18 time around, 20 percent is a very good number.

19 In terms of the gender breakdown, it's
20 almost half and half. That's pretty impressive.

21 The ethnicity breakdown, the thing I've
22 been tracking from the beginning is the candidate
23 pool that we received and the representation
24 existing in that candidate pool through every
25 process, and what I've noted is the representation

1 breakdown has -- or the diversity of that group,
2 really, has only improved. Even with this last cut
3 it's, actually in some areas, dramatically
4 improved, so that's been something that's been on
5 all our minds. So that's obviously our charge and
6 something that was available to us in real time,
7 because of the State Auditor's system, allowed us
8 to, in real time, look at these things. So that
9 was a consideration throughout the entire process
10 and we've only made improvements there.

11 So in terms of my overall inclination, I'm
12 comfortable with the 60 that we've put together.
13 If we do want to talk about individuals again, I'd
14 need more time. But I think we also have to be
15 thinking about the tradeoffs because every person
16 we bring in the pool, someone would have to come
17 out, and there was a reason we put them in. So if
18 you bring someone in to increase ethnic
19 representation, you might decrease geographic.
20 There's tradeoffs that we're balancing the whole
21 time.

22 I'm open to hearing whether or not you
23 guys want to come back and talk about individuals.
24 I think it's about tradeoffs at that point and we'd
25 have to be weighing those, as we have this whole

1 time.

2 So those are my thoughts.

3 CHAIR COE: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
4 Belnap.

5 So initially my thoughts in regards to the
6 north state in particular, I think we have heard
7 through public comment, and I think at least one of
8 our applicants, that the population in the north
9 state doesn't necessarily consider themselves part
10 of Sacramento or the Bay Area or other areas
11 considered Northern California. And so looking at
12 that region as its own region, that's where I think
13 we maybe have some opportunities to discuss more
14 broadly representing that region and all of
15 California overall.

16 So I think, if I'm understanding, you said
17 that you think you're comfortable with the current
18 tentative group of 60; is that correct?

19 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I could be.

20 CHAIR COE: Okay.

21 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: If collectively we
22 want to consider more individuals, I would be
23 particularly attuned to the ethnic representation
24 that we have, and I wouldn't want to do anything in
25 terms of geography or other tradeoffs that makes us

1 less diverse in that area. That's where I'm
2 inclined.

3 CHAIR COE: Understood. Thank you.

4 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts on proceeding
5 forward?

6 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I am tentatively
7 okay with the 60 for the same reason because I
8 think that we have good ethnic diversity in here
9 and I wouldn't want to trade off and reduce that
10 diversity either.

11 And I did look back quickly at the
12 attorneys and there's a variety of skills in that
13 area.

14 CHAIR COE: Certainly. Thank you.

15 So in regard to my observation on the
16 attorneys and the PhDs, I think duly noting the
17 different subject matter expertise that they bring,
18 I think what I'm concerned about is having just the
19 highly educated be in here as I think that we can
20 have a better, broad representation of all of
21 California. And I think there's opportunities on
22 both the fronts that I've discussed this morning to
23 do that.

24 So I think where I'm leaning is I would
25 like to have at least some discussion about some

1 individuals to consider creating a group that is
2 more broadly representative of the entire state, if
3 that is okay with the rest of the Panel?

4 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I'm open to talking
5 about individuals and hearing your suggestions. I
6 would need to get all my materials.

7 CHAIR COE: Yeah.

8 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I know I keep saying
9 that.

10 Where I'm at with the education, in terms
11 of creating diversity of the educational
12 experiences, I don't think that matches -- that's
13 not a required element that we need to be
14 considering. I wouldn't make any tradeoffs where
15 I'm increasing a nice-to-have, which is educational
16 diversity, with a required-to-have. So that's
17 where I'd be -- my own -- as long as we weren't
18 making any tradeoffs that affected the required-to-
19 have-diversity categories, I'd be open to
20 considering what you're saying.

21 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap.
22 Absolutely understand that. I think that there are
23 opportunities that we could discuss in terms of
24 making a more -- a pool that is more broadly
25 representative of all of California within all

1 facets, in my opinion, and I'd like a chance to put
2 those forward --

3 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay.

4 CHAIR COE: -- and see what everybody
5 thinks about it.

6 So I, also, will need to bring my
7 materials in. I think we may need to bring all
8 three groups, so however long we think we need to
9 lug those boxes back in here. Is ten minutes
10 sufficient, do you think?

11 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Ten minutes is
12 sufficient for me.

13 CHAIR COE: Okay. Great.

14 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: For me as well.

15 CHAIR COE: So why don't we recess until
16 10:20 and pick up discussion then.

17 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: All right. Thank
18 you.

19 (Thereupon the Panel recessed at 10:09 a.m.)

20 (Whereupon the Panel reconvened at 10:22 a.m.)

21 CHAIR COE: Okay, being a little after
22 10:20, I'd like to call this meeting back to order.

23 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair --

24 CHAIR COE: Yeah, Mr. Dawson?

25 MR. DAWSON: -- I would like to suggest

1 that at this point, before the Panel goes into the
2 final deliberation on the 60 and whether it makes
3 any adjustments, it might be a good time to take
4 public comment on the applicant pool.

5 CHAIR COE: Okay.

6 MR. DAWSON: We can always return to it.

7 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Sure.

8 MR. DAWSON: I could also suggest is as
9 we're waiting for people to queue up, I could be
10 reading into the record the general comment that
11 we've recieved.

12 OPERATOR: Okay, just if you do have a
13 comment, please press 1-0 at this time. The
14 operator will gather your name. You do not have to
15 give your --

16 CHAIR COE: So if you would like to make a
17 public comment at this time, please call now by
18 dialing

19 (844) 291-6360. In the next few moments, I will
20 begin taking public comment after Counsel has
21 finished reading comments that we have received in
22 written form. And again, the number is (844) 291-
23 6360. After dialing that number, you'll speak to
24 the operator, and you will be asked to either
25 provide an access code for the meeting, which is

1 7222059, or the name of the meeting, which is
2 Applicant Review Panel meeting.

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

11 After speaking with the operator, you will
12 be placed in a listening room. In this room, you
13 will be able to listen to live audio of the
14 meeting. You should mute your computer audio
15 because the online audio -- online video and the
16 audio will be delayed by approximately 60 seconds.

17 When you decide that you want to make a
18 comment about an action item, or if, in this case,
19 just a general comment, press 1, then 0, and you
20 will be placed in the queue to make a public
21 comment.

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

1 introduce you. State your comment clearly and
2 concisely. Comments will be limited to two
3 minutes.

4 After you finish making your comment, we
5 will move on to the next caller. At that point,
6 please hang up the phone. If you'd like to comment
7 on another item at a later time, please call back
8 when we open up public comment for that item and
9 repeat this process. And if you're disconnected
10 for any reason, please call back and explain the
11 issue to the operator, then repeat this process and
12 rejoin the public comment queue by pressing 1, then
13 0.

14 So while we're waiting for folks to queue
15 up who may want to make telephonic public comments,
16 Counsel, if you'd like to read into the record the
17 public comments we're received in written form?

18 MR. DAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 As we did at the prior meeting, the panel
20 has received several written comments. I'll read
21 them into the record. In chronological order, I'll
22 read the subject and the sender.

23 Received April 23rd, 2020 from Sonja Diaz
24 of the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative
25 regarding, "Need for geographic and racial/ethnic

1 parity in representation of Commission.

2 "To whom it may concern, the global pandemic
3 that has put our lives and economy on hold has
4 not slowed down the timeline to select
5 finalists for the California Citizens
6 Redistricting Commission. However, in
7 evaluating the applicant pool with respect to
8 race/ethnicity and geography, the existing pool
9 of -- existing interview pool of 120
10 individuals does not accurately represent the
11 state's diversity or geographic population
12 distribution.

13 "When voters chose to hand the responsibility
14 of creating political boundaries from elected
15 officials to citizens a decade ago, the goal
16 was to ensure that the lines were drawn fairly
17 so that all communities received fair
18 representation and that diverse communities
19 could elect their candidates of choice. The
20 final candidate list ensures representational
21 parity for White residents and other groups but
22 doesn't offer fairness to the state's plurality
23 population. As the list of remaining
24 applicants stands now, Latinos are the only
25 ethnic group that is underrepresented as your

1 Panel moves forward to making a final
2 selection.

3 "Latinos are California's largest ethnic group
4 at 40 percent of the population, yet only
5 represent 17 percent of the candidate pool that
6 your Panel is reviewing before passing along
7 the names of 60 Californians to the State
8 Legislature for the final selection round. It
9 is not enough to choose commissioners from
10 wealthier coastal communities to ensure
11 geographic balance.

12 "It is no coincidence that Latinos, as the only
13 ethnic group underrepresented in the current
14 pool, had zero interviewees from Northern and
15 Southern Los Angeles County, regions that are
16 more than two-thirds Latino.

17 "As an example, the current finalists' list
18 includes residents from affluent Bay Area
19 communities, like Piedmont and El Cerrito,
20 while leaving out less affluent cities, like
21 San Fernando or Commerce, which have
22 substantially larger shares of voting-age
23 citizens.

24 "Currently, applicants from the nine Bay Area
25 counties make up 20 percent of the applicant

1 pool, which is relative to their share of the
2 state population. This is in comparison to the
3 underrepresentation of the state's population
4 core, the five-county Los Angeles Metro Region,
5 which has 38 percent of candidates in the pool,
6 despite representing nearly half of all
7 Californians.

8 "Even more startling is how Sacramento has the
9 same number of interviewees as San Diego, 11,
10 despite being half the size of the state's
11 border county.

12 "California has made clear that accurate
13 representation was a goal in the selection of
14 the final Commissioner panel, and it has done a
15 commendable job in recruiting applicants.

16 Despite these efforts, Latinos still stand to
17 be left out of the historic efforts to end
18 gerrymandering and put in place political
19 boundaries that move the state toward more fair
20 representation. Serious consideration is
21 necessary as it relates to the racial/ethnic
22 and geographic contours of the list of 60 names
23 submitted by your Panel to the State
24 Legislature to ensure important voices are
25 appointed to the final Commission.

1 "I can be reached via email," I'll leave that
2 out, "with questions and additional information
3 regarding this letter. Sincerely, Sonja F.M.
4 Diaz, Executive Director."

5 Received April 24th, 2020 from Kathay
6 Feng, Interim Executive Director of California
7 Common Cause, and Carol Moon Goldberg, President,
8 League of Women Voters of California, regarding,
9 "Geographic diversity of the Citizens Redistricting
10 Commission Finalists.

11 "Dear Members of the Applicant Review Panel,
12 thank you for your commitment to keeping the
13 Citizens Redistricting Commission, CRC,
14 selection progress on track under such
15 challenging circumstances. We appreciate and
16 commend the efforts undertaken by you and your
17 colleagues at the Auditor's Office to quickly
18 transition to an entirely remote and seamless
19 interview process.

20 "As that process concludes, we write to urge
21 you to apply a nuanced view of geographic
22 diversity as you make your decisions about the
23 60 finalists you will move -- you will forward
24 to the legislature next month.

25 "As you are aware and have demonstrated through

1 your thoughtful deliberations, you are charged
2 under Article 21, section (2)(c)(1) of the
3 California Constitution, is to select a pool of
4 finalists that are reasonably representative of
5 the state's diversity.

6 "California Government Code section 8252(a)(1)
7 requires that the State Auditor initiate an
8 application process open to all registered
9 California voters in a manner that promotes a
10 diverse and qualified applicant pool.

11 "How is this diversity defined? At the last
12 step of the selection process the law provides
13 that the final six appointees shall be chosen
14 to ensure the Commission reflects the state's
15 diversity, including but not limited to racial,
16 ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity. We
17 think that achieving diversity in the pool of
18 60 finalists should follow the same principles,
19 looking for candidates who embody and
20 appreciate the state's rich racial, ethnic,
21 geographic, and gender diversity.

22 "There has been some question about how to
23 achieve geographic diversity. As you know, it
24 is one of the several factors the ARP must
25 balance in its evaluation of applicants. As

1 you think about the geographic diversity of the
2 applicant pool, it is important to think beyond
3 simplistic county or regional representation.

4 "We know that a vast majority of Californians
5 live in a handful of large urban counties with
6 60 percent living in Southern California. We
7 ask that you consider representation of
8 geographic diversity even within counties and
9 regions in order to create a representative
10 pool. For instance, a populous county, like
11 Los Angeles, has a broad range of communities.
12 And the perspectives and experiences of people
13 who live in coastal cities may be very
14 different from those who live in the
15 ethnically-diverse suburban valleys and urban
16 neighborhoods.

17 "Layered on top of the representative diversity
18 are the statutory and regulatory requirements
19 that emphasize creating a pool of candidates
20 who demonstrate a deep affection" -- excuse me,
21 "a deep appreciation and understanding of the
22 state's diverse demographics and geography,
23 California Government Code section 8252(d);
24 see, also, Title 2, California Code of
25 Regulations section 60805.

1 "We appreciate the ARP's sensitivity" --

2 OPERATOR: The internet is off.

3 MR. DAWSON: "We appreciate the ARP's
4 sensitivity to an application of this nuance to
5 its deliberations as it determines the 60
6 finalists who best reflect California's and
7 deep diversity. Thank you again for the
8 important and thoughtful work you have done
9 thus far to ensure a transparent, fair, and
10 independent selection and redistricting
11 process.

12 "If you have any questions or need any follow-
13 up, please do not hesitate to contact," and
14 I'll leave that unsaid.

15 "Kathay Feng and Carol Moon Goldberg."

16 From Eric S. Fisher, received Thursday
17 April 30th, regarding, "Article 21 of California's
18 Constitution, section (2)(d).

19 "Did you ask for and receive commitments from
20 your interviewees to conform to the criteria
21 for establishing districts set out in Article
22 21 of California's Constitution section (2)(d)?
23 If not, why not?

24 "I note that the previous Commission failed to
25 conform in several instances, apparently

1 without offering explanations. For example,
2 section (2)(d)(4) regarding the City of
3 Torrance and possibly others, and in the State
4 Senate Districts in Northern California, by
5 stretching them from the Oregon Border to
6 Sacramento, combining rural and urban areas,
7 section (2)(d)(4). In Bakersfield, the
8 Assembly Districts look like a spiral and this,
9 also, resulted in rural and urban areas. A
10 number of other failures can be found. It is
11 essential that the Commission follow the law
12 and it is incumbent on you to try to ensure
13 that they will.

14 Received May 4th, 2020, from the League of
15 Women Voters and California Common Cause, Jonathan
16 Mehta Stein, Executive Director of California
17 Common Cause, and Carol Moon Goldberg, President of
18 the League of Women Voters, regarding, "Potential
19 delay in redistricting timeline.

20 "Dear Members of the Applicant Review Panel,
21 Thank you again for your work to complete the
22 Citizens Redistricting Commission, CRC,
23 selection process. As you know, the Census
24 Bureau has proposed a significant adjustment
25 for the timeline for the 2020 Census and the

1 release of data to the states. We write to
2 suggest you let the remaining applicants know
3 this delay could impact the CRC's timeline in
4 case this effects applicants' ability to serve
5 on the CRC.

6 "If adopted by Congress, the adjusted timeline
7 proposed by the Census Bureau means states may
8 not receive census data until as late as July
9 31st, 2021. Allowing for the time the
10 statewide database will need to clean up the
11 data, the CRC may not have the data it needs to
12 do line drawing until as late August 31st,
13 2021, two weeks after the CRC's original
14 deadline for the completion of its work.

15 Assuming adjustments could be made to the CRC's
16 deadline to allow for the months'-long process
17 for public input and mapping after the release
18 of the redistricting data, this means the CRC's
19 most time sensitive period of work could be
20 Fall instead of Summer 2021.

21 "Applicants may not understand the impact the
22 Census Bureau's delay could have on the CRC's
23 timeline. And it is possible the original
24 timeline factored into an applicant's decision
25 to apply to the CRC.

1 "We therefore urge you to let applicants know
2 prior to sending the list of finalists to the
3 legislature about the possibility of the CRC's
4 labor-intensive period extending well into the
5 Fall of 2021, in case this could impact any
6 applicant's ability to serve on the CRC.

7 "Thank you, again, for your work to ensure a
8 transparent, fair, and independent selection
9 and redistricting process. If you have any
10 questions or need follow-up, please do not
11 hesitate to contact," once again, I'll leave
12 that unsaid.

13 "Sincerely Jonathan Mehta Stein and Carol Moon
14 Goldberg."

15 Received May 5th, 2020, from Arturo
16 Vargas, Chief Executive Officer of the NALEO
17 Educational Fund.

18 "Dear Applicant Review Panel, On behalf of the
19 National Association of Latino Elected and
20 Appointed Officials, NOLEO, Educational Fund, I
21 would like to thank the Applicant Review Panel,
22 ARP, and the Auditor's Office for -- the
23 Auditor's Office staff for the commitment and
24 dedication during the health pandemic in
25 completing the interview process with the 120

1 applicants for the 2020 Citizens Redistricting
2 Commission. We also greatly appreciate the
3 ARP's willingness to institution remote viewing
4 processes to ensure that all applicants could
5 be interviewed in a safe environment.

6 "As the ARP continues to narrow the pool of
7 120 applicants to 60, I urge the ARP to comply
8 with requirements in the Voters First Act that
9 highlight the need for a selection process
10 designed to produce a Commission that reflects
11 California's diversity.

12 "NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading
13 nonprofit organization that facilitates the
14 full participation of Latinos in the American
15 political process, from citizenship to public
16 service. Our board members include
17 Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.
18 NALEO Educational Fund has actively promoted
19 policies to ensure that Latinos can fully
20 participate in the redistricting process and
21 that the resulting maps provide Latinos with
22 fair opportunities for political
23 representation.

24 "As we have previously highlighted, the Voters
25 First Act has several provisions recognizing

1 the importance of the Commission reflecting
2 California's diverse population, including a
3 provision in the California Constitution
4 requiring that the Commission's selection
5 process be designed to produce a Commission
6 that is reasonably representative of this
7 state's diversity.

8 "Section 8252(a)(1) of the Government Code
9 requires that the State Auditor initiate an
10 application process in a manner that promotes a
11 diverse and qualified applicant pool.

12 "In section 8252(d) of the Government Code,
13 when creating the three subpools of 20
14 applicants from which the Commissioners will
15 ultimately be chosen, the ARP must create the
16 pools on the bases of certain applicant
17 qualifications, including an appreciation for
18 California's diverse demographics and
19 geography.

20 "Finally, under section 8252(g) of the
21 Government Code, when the initial eight
22 Commissioners choose the final six from the
23 applicant pool, the six must be chosen to
24 ensure the Commission reflects this state's
25 diversity, including but not limited to racial,

1 ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity.

2 "As the ARP continues to the next phase in
3 selecting the 60 most qualified applicants, I
4 urge the ARP to comply with the requirements in
5 the Voters First Act with respect to the
6 demographic diversity of both the overall
7 applicant pool and political affiliation pools,
8 including the representation of Latinos in
9 these pools.

10 "Latinos are California's largest and fastest
11 growing population group, accounting for nearly
12 40 percent of the state's population. It is
13 critical that there be significant Latino
14 representation in all three groups that
15 comprise the Commission, and then the
16 subsequently empaneled Commission, to truly
17 reflect Latino -- full Latino diversity.

18 "According to data that we have received from
19 the State Auditor's Office as of April 30th,
20 2020, the overall pool of applicants is 18
21 percent Latino. There are significant
22 disparities with respect to the Latino share of
23 each subpool, with Latinos comprising 25
24 percent of the Democrats, 13 percent of the
25 Republicans, and 15 percent of the applicants

1 not affiliated with either of the major
2 political parties.

3 "In contrast, according to the U.S. Census'
4 American Communities Survey data, 2018 one-year
5 estimate, Latinos comprised 30 percent of
6 California's voting-age citizens. According to
7 data from the state's voter files, as of April
8 1st, 2020, Latinos comprised 27 percent of
9 California's registered voters, they are 32
10 percent of the state's Democrats, 15 percent of
11 the state's Republicans, and 28 percent of
12 those not affiliated with either political
13 party. Thus, by any measure, Latinos are
14 underrepresented in the applicant pool and
15 political affiliation subpools.

16 "Moreover, when considering geographic
17 diversity, we urge the ARP to ensure that there
18 is fair representation of the state's most
19 populous regions and to consider the impact
20 that achieving geographic diversity has on
21 ethnic diversity. For example, more than half,
22 56 percent, of the state's population lives in
23 the regions characterized by the State
24 Auditor's Office as Southern Coastal or Inland
25 Empire. The share of the state's Latino

1 population living in these regions is even
2 higher, 65 percent or nearly two-thirds. Thus,
3 if there was underrepresentation of applicants
4 in these two regions it is likely to negatively
5 affect Latino representation as well.

6 "In light of the foregoing, we urge the ARP to
7 carefully assess the impact of its actions in
8 narrowing the pool to 60 applicants on the
9 demographic and geographic diversity of the
10 pool that is ultimately selected. After each
11 major step it takes in narrowing the pool of
12 applicants, it must assess the impact of its
13 choices on the overall ethnic composition of
14 the applicant pool, the composition of each
15 subpool, and the fair representation of the
16 state's geographic regions before it makes its
17 final decisions.

18 "Considering the disparities between Latino
19 representation in the subpools, it should pay
20 particular attention to the impact of its
21 choices on each individual subpool. A
22 Commission which reflects the ethnic and
23 geographic diversity of California's population
24 will help ensure that Latino -- that qualified
25 Latino civic leaders can share their experience

1 on the Commission and help ensure that the
2 redistricting process is fair to Latinos and
3 other underrepresented Californians. In
4 addition, a diverse Commission helps build the
5 confidence of all Californians in the work of
6 the Commission.

7 "It is for these reasons the Voters First Act
8 requires an applicant selection process that
9 will produce a diverse Commission and we
10 believe the ARP recognizes this important goal.
11 Thus, we urge the ARP to thoughtfully implement
12 the recommendations set forth in this letter as
13 the selection process moves forward.

14 "Please contact," I'll leave that out, "and
15 thank you for your attention to the issues we
16 have raised. Sincerely, Arturo Vargas, Chief
17 Executive Officer."

18 One moment please.

19 From Eric S. Fisher, received May 5th,
20 2020, "Subject: Ensure the Commission follows the
21 Constitution.

22 "It is essential that the Commission follow the
23 law and is incumbent on you to try to ensure
24 that they will. Please ask for and receive
25 commitments from your interviewees to conform

1 to the criteria for establishing districts set
2 out in Article 21 of California's Constitution,
3 section (2)(d). I note that the previous
4 Commission failed to conform in several
5 instances. I have never heard any explanations
6 of these failures, or examples.

7 "Section (2)(d)(4), the City of Torrance was
8 split, and possibly others, and in the State
9 Senate Districts in Northern California were
10 stretched from the Oregon Border to Sacramento,
11 combining rural and urban areas. Section
12 (2)(d)(4), in Bakersfield the Assembly
13 Districts look like a spiral and this also
14 resulted in rural and urban areas. A number of
15 other failures can be found.

16 "Eric S. Fisher."

17 I believe that is substantially similar to
18 the previous one he'd sent earlier.

19 Finally, received from Robert Flack,
20 Thursday, May 7th, 2020, "Subject: Application
21 update procedures and possible prejudice, number
22 7839.

23 "To the Panel, while I recognize that you have
24 been given an enormous challenge, I am
25 disappointed with what appears to be an

1 unfavorable determination. At the hearing on
2 Wednesday, May 6th, 2020, it was revealed that
3 demographic diversity played a substantial role
4 in the Panel's decisions. These demographic
5 factors included gender, ethnicity, income, and
6 residence.

7 "I updated my application with changes to the
8 income and residence fields and, yet, these
9 demographic changes, apparently, were not
10 updated into the main applicant database. The
11 profile published on May 6th reflects the
12 original and not the updated demographics.

13 "A reasonable concern would be that this
14 failure to update the main applicant database
15 would have a prejudicial effect, either overtly
16 or more subtly. While my updates were
17 archived as text comments, their incorporation
18 into the actual decision making process is
19 suspect. Numerical and categorical data are
20 easier to manage than text. Appropriate
21 consideration of these updates as texts would
22 be difficult.

23 "I note that there is a directive to provide
24 written comments no later than May 5th.
25 However, the emphasis on basic demographic

1 factors in the selection process and the
2 failure to fully integrate my application
3 information updates were not revealed until May
4 6th.

5 "I respectfully request that my application be
6 considered in its entirety, including the
7 updates. It is my concern that, given the
8 imperative for geographic and income diversity,
9 there may not have been an inadvertent
10 oversight -- there may have been an inadvertent
11 oversight. Correct information may not have
12 been adequately considered. Given the
13 schedule, it is not too late to make any
14 adjustment that would be proper in the interest
15 of fairness.

16 "Thank you for your consideration.

17 Sincerely, Bob Flack."

18 These are all the written comments that
19 the Panel has received up until this time, Mr.
20 Chair.

21 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you, Counsel.

22 And, certainly, thank you to everybody who
23 provided written comment.

24 Moderator, at this time, do we have
25 anybody in the queue that would like to provide

1 comment via the telephone?

2 MODERATOR: We have a comment from Jose
3 Martinez.

4 Please go ahead.

5 MR. MARTINEZ: Hi. Can everyone hear me?

6 CHAIR COE: We can hear you, Mr. Martinez.

7 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

8 CHAIR COE: Go ahead.

9 MR. MARTINEZ: So I just wanted to say,
10 thank you, Members of the Applicant Review Panel.
11 Your work on the redistricting effort has been very
12 admirable. And I'm appreciative of the opportunity
13 to provide this morning -- provide input this
14 morning.

15 So my concerns lie with a single
16 applicant, Emmanuelle Soichet, who appears to have
17 a number of experiences in her past that raise
18 alarm as to whether the spirit of Prop 11 is being
19 followed in this process. Ms. Soichet has held
20 positions working for Antonio Villaraigosa and Alex
21 Padilla, who are two high-profile partisan elected
22 officials who have expressed interest in running
23 for elected office in the future.

24 While Ms. Soichet's employment history has
25 not eliminated her from consideration, it would be

1 ill advised for the Applicant Review Panel to
2 forward her application to the legislature, given
3 the appearance of partisan employments. And truly
4 independent redistricting is critical to our
5 democracy, which is why the voters enacted
6 prohibitions on partisan figures from serving on
7 the Redistricting Commission.

8 So Ms. Soichet's candidacy for the
9 Commission violates the spirit in which voters
10 enacted Prop 11. And I urge the Applicant Review
11 Panel to reconsider Ms. Soichet's suitability for
12 the Redistricting Commission.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 CHAIR COE: Thank you for your comment,
15 Mr. Martinez.

16 Moderator, do we have any other comments
17 on the line?

18 MODERATOR: We have a comment from Lori
19 Shellenberger.

20 Please go ahead.

21 MS. SHELLENBERGER: Good morning. This is
22 Lori Shellenberger. And I'm speaking on behalf of
23 California Common Cause. And, first of all, I just
24 want to say, I know it's been said many times, but
25 we really do commend you on your impressive work to

1 keep the selection process on track during these
2 incredibly challenging circumstances.

3 And we appreciate you reading the letter
4 that Common Cause submitted, along with the League
5 of Women Voters of California, regarding the
6 nuanced application of the diversity criteria in
7 the selection process. And we commend you on the
8 thoughtfulness with which you have applied those
9 thus far.

10 I just want to, now that -- you know, we
11 submitted that before you reached your, you know,
12 tentative final 60. I'd just like to reemphasize
13 that any swapping out of candidates at this point
14 not be at the expense of another diversity factor.
15 And, in particular, given the dramatic
16 underrepresentation of Latinos in the final pool,
17 that you pay particular attention to that.

18 And also, just to reemphasize the
19 geographic diversity, I know you're considering
20 some under -- what you perceive as potential
21 underrepresentation in more rural and less
22 populated areas, that I would just point the Panel
23 to our letter and that you continue to think about
24 geographic diversity in a much broader sense, given
25 the concentration of the population and the

1 diversity of the geography in the southern part of
2 the state.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

5 Moderator, any further comments?

6 MODERATOR: We have a comment from Carter
7 James.

8 Please go ahead.

9 MR. JAMES: Hi. Yes. I'd just like to
10 commend the Redistricting Commission on the great
11 work they've been doing thus far.

12 As a resident of Tracy, we haven't had
13 great representation in the past. So the selection
14 of Neal Fornaciari going into the next round, I
15 thought, was a great selection.

16 However, I do have concerns about another
17 individual that has made it thus far, Emmanuelle
18 Souchierari [sic]. You know, being in decline to
19 state pool represents something other than working
20 for California state Democrats, you know, people at
21 very high levels, such as Alex Padilla. Her role
22 as a Deputy A.G., it's, you know, it's -- that's
23 clearly not what the decline to state pool is meant
24 to be, working for, you know, lifelong Democrats
25 who are, you know, planning on seeking public

1 office in the future.

2 I just ask that you reconsider her
3 application and think about what it would do to the
4 integrity of this Commission if she was selected.

5 Thank you for your service.

6 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

7 Moderator, next comment please.

8 MODERATOR: Thank you. We have a comment
9 from Ryan Gardner.

10 Please go ahead.

11 MR. GARDNER: Good morning, Panel. I
12 thank you for the opportunity to provide public
13 comment this morning. I wanted to briefly speak
14 about the topic that came up earlier in the Panel's
15 discussion regarding the overrepresentation of
16 attorneys.

17 And while I understand the point made by
18 the Panel about diversity in terms of practice area
19 or focus, I do think it raises alarm that the pool
20 over-represents attorneys because, ideally, the
21 Commission shouldn't be drawing district lines from
22 a legal perspective. It really should be focusing
23 on community interests and what will equate to the
24 most equitable and balanced representation in our
25 legislature and congressional delegation.

1 So I did want to just -- you know, I know
2 the conversation is going to continue with the
3 Panel on that topic. But in looking at the
4 applicant pool, I think it would be helpful to
5 forward a group of applicants with J.D.s or
6 attorney's less represented, and not just because,
7 you know, J.D.s are overrepresented but I think it
8 also presents the potential for conflicts of
9 interest to arise.

10 It sounds like a couple earlier callers
11 had mentioned particular applicants with legal
12 representation conflicts of interest. I know
13 there's a number of applicants in the current pool
14 that have represented local governments, for
15 example. And I would have concerns about previous
16 legal representation from municipalities and the
17 ability for those Commissioners to make impartial
18 decisions when a question comes to their attention
19 about how those specific municipalities would be
20 represented.

21 So I also think Common Cause raised an
22 issue earlier about county-level representation.
23 And Alameda County seems to be overrepresented in
24 the pool of Bay Area applicants. So I also think
25 that that's something that the Panel needs to

1 review as we move forward.

2 But very much appreciate all of your work.

3 And thank you again for the opportunity to give
4 testimony.

5 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

6 Moderator, how many more comments do we
7 have in the queue?

8 MODERATOR: Two more.

9 CHAIR COE: Okay. Great. Thank you.
10 Next comment please.

11 MODERATOR: Thank you. Next, we have a
12 comment from Jacob Martinez.

13 Please go ahead.

14 MR. MARTINEZ: Good morning everyone.
15 Thank you to the State Auditor's Office and the
16 Applicant Review Panel for all your work.

17 It has been nice to be able to easily
18 access applications for the Redistricting
19 Commission and review them online. However, one
20 issue that has come up as I've done that is
21 apparent conflicts of interests with some of the
22 applicants. I understand that all of the
23 applicants have made it this far and satisfied the
24 legal definition for what could constitute a
25 conflict of interest but there are certain

1 applicants that come very close to that line. And
2 I worry about moving their application forward
3 would throw into question the integrity of the
4 whole process, honestly.

5 And particularly, the application of Emma
6 Soichet, it is very clear -- it's very clear to me,
7 and throughout her legal -- proven throughout her
8 legal career, Ms. Soichet has represented numerous
9 clients that would raise alarm about the potential
10 for her to draw fair district lines. Alex Padilla
11 and Antonio Villaraigosa are two figures that
12 should, by all accounts, be considered potential
13 future candidates for partisan office. Ms.
14 Soichet's previous employment with these
15 individuals should be disqualifying of her
16 candidacy. That is not to mention the current
17 clients her firm represents that could be pitted
18 against other municipalities in the redistricting
19 process.

20 There are many qualified and upstanding
21 applicants to consider in this process. I would
22 advise the Panel to seek applicants that have no
23 conflicts of interest by the legal definition, but
24 also just by public appearance.

25 Thank you for your time.

1 CHAIR COE: Thank you for your comment.
2 Next comment please.

3 MODERATOR: Thank you. The next comment
4 is from Hector Hernandez.
5 Please go ahead.

6 MR. HERNANDEZ: Hello. Good morning
7 everyone. I just want to thank the Applicant
8 Review Panel, to start off, for providing us the
9 opportunity to comment.

10 But I just want to start by saying that we
11 have a tremendous amount of talent.

12 MODERATOR: Hector's line did drop.

13 CHAIR COE: Did we lose the caller?

14 MODERATOR: Their line did disconnect.

15 CHAIR COE: So the caller that was just
16 disconnected, if you want to try to reconnect by
17 calling (844) 291-6360, entering the specific
18 meeting by giving the code 7222059, or the name,
19 Applicant Review Panel meeting, and then pressing
20 1, and then 0, we can give you a few minutes to try
21 to get back in.

22 Until then, we will stand at ease.

23 (Pause)

24 CHAIR COE: Moderator, has anybody else
25 connected to the call or into the queue?

1 MODERATOR: There are no questions in
2 queue at this time.

3 CHAIR COE: Okay. We'll go ahead and give
4 the caller who was cut off just a little bit more
5 time to reconnect if he wishes.

6 MODERATOR: And again, if you do have a
7 comment, please press 1, followed by 0.

8 And we do have a few in queue.

9 CHAIR COE: Okay. Go ahead please.

10 MODERATOR: And our first comment comes
11 from Julia Marks.

12 Please go ahead.

13 MS. MARKS: Hi. Can you hear me?

14 CHAIR COE: We can hear you. Go ahead.

15 MS. MARKS: Great. Thank you. My name is
16 Julia Marks. I'm a voting rights attorney with
17 Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law
18 Caucus. Our organization applauds your efforts
19 thus far to create a strong applicant pool,
20 particularly within the disrupting effects of the
21 COVID-19 pandemic.

22 While we know you are weighing the merits
23 of many strong applicants, we do want to emphasize
24 the importance of considering racial and ethnic
25 composition as you select the final pool for review

1 by the legislature. Racial and ethnic minorities
2 have experienced systematic exclusion from many
3 stages of the electoral process in the past. And
4 disparities in participation and access to vote
5 continue to vote continue today.

6 To avoid reproducing the injustices of
7 underrepresentation and disenfranchisement, it is
8 crucial that members of these communities are able
9 to participate in the decision making process that
10 will draw the lines of power in California for the
11 next decade to come.

12 We would like to note that Asian Americans
13 are a sizeable population in California and, also,
14 that they, themselves, are a very diverse group.
15 We appreciate that the tentative pool reflects much
16 of this diversity and hope that such diversity
17 continues, including diversity within and across
18 the Asian American community.

19 As the Panel whittles the final pool, we
20 ask that you continue to balance the demographic
21 against geographic diversity and make sure to
22 include numbers of racial and ethnic communities
23 that have historically had fewer opportunities to
24 participate in our state's democracy.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

2 Next caller please.

3 MODERATOR: Our next comment comes from
4 Felicia Williams.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Felicia Williams. I'm a
6 Planning Commissioner in the City of Pasadena. And
7 I just wanted to support the application of
8 Applicant Number 1208, David Coher. We have been
9 sitting on the Planning Commission together for
10 several years. He is very involved in the
11 community. Don't hold the fact that he's an
12 attorney against him. I understand it. But he is
13 beyond that. He actually works in cyber security.
14 We worked for years together at Southern California
15 Edison.

16 Very involved with the community, his
17 kids, the school, and has what I think is very
18 important for a Commissioner, the ability to listen
19 to all different sides as opposed to we can have a
20 mix of advocates, as well as people who listen to
21 all sides, and also can be thoughtful and
22 deliberative and come up with a solution that is a
23 good compromise. I think we need that on the
24 Commission. I think it provides balance.

25 So those are my comments of Applicant

1 Number 1208. And I really appreciate you taking
2 them.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR COE: Thank you very much.

5 Next comment please.

6 MODERATOR: Again, if there are any
7 further comments, please press 1, followed by 0.

8 CHAIR COE: Moderator, are there currently
9 any commenters in the queue?

10 MODERATOR: There are no further comments
11 in the queue.

12 CHAIR COE: Okay. I think at this time,
13 we'll move on to further discussion. Those that
14 are following along and may want to comment, there
15 will be additional opportunities as we move forward
16 for public comment as the meeting moves along.

17 So to return to deliberations, I had noted
18 some observations before we went into recess, and
19 then we received some public comments as additional
20 information to consider.

21 So the candidates that I'd like to bring
22 forward again to discuss are three candidates, one
23 from each political party subpool. And those would
24 be Glenn Fukushima from the Republican pool,
25 Stephanie Beauchaine from the Democratic pool, and

1 Michael Dozier from the pool of those not
2 affiliated with the Republican or Democratic
3 parties.

4 Obviously, as has been discussed, the
5 addition of these applicants would necessitate the
6 removal of one candidate from the tentative list in
7 each pool. I think their inclusion ultimately
8 helps create a group that is more broadly
9 representative of the entire state of California,
10 and so I wanted to bring them forward for further
11 consideration from the Panel and to hear your
12 thoughts.

13 So, Ms. Dickison, well, to the extent that
14 -- well, I guess initial thoughts, and then to the
15 extent that you may need time to put together
16 additional thoughts, via a recess or something like
17 that, we can discuss that as we go. But, Ms.
18 Dickison, initial thoughts?

19 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I guess my question
20 would be what is the proposed tradeoff on those?
21 You're recommending bringing one person forward
22 from each pool, so we would need to eliminate one
23 person from each pool. And so I would need to know
24 what tradeoff you're proposing.

25 CHAIR COE: Right. So, clearly, that

1 would need to be a point of discussion if and when
2 the rest of the Panel wanted to consider this
3 proposal. So we will certainly get to that if
4 that's the way the Panel chooses to go.

5 Mr. Belnap, any initial thoughts?

6 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yeah. I'm going to
7 have to go through them one by one.

8 So since you mentioned Glenn Fukushima
9 first, where I'm at with my evaluation of his
10 application and interview, I don't think there would
11 be a tradeoff, a person that I would have over him,
12 so I don't see a tradeoff on that one.

13 So let me look at the Democrat pool. So
14 where I have Ms. Beauchaine ranked in terms of
15 quality of application and, also, interview
16 results, I don't have another applicant that I can
17 see doing a tradeoff there as well.

18 Let me look up Michael Dozier. I think we
19 discussed Michael Dozier quite a bit yesterday.
20 And I already expressed my thoughts on him. I
21 thought he was a quality applicant, one I think I
22 voted for in the past. He is ranked rather high in
23 my group of individuals that I would consider. I
24 know I didn't vote for him this round. But as you
25 guys talked about, I had the same concern I -- I

1 have the same concern I expressed yesterday which
2 is the demographic makeup of the pool. So I would
3 be interested on that one in hearing, what's the
4 tradeoff, because I do -- I have evaluated his
5 application and interview results quite high. So I
6 would be interested in hearing more on who the
7 tradeoff there would be.

8 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Belnap.

9 So if I understand, you didn't see an
10 applicant you felt like you would want to remove
11 from Republican or Democratic pools, and you'd be
12 interested in discussion on the pool of those not
13 affiliated with Republican or Democrats?

14 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yeah. And I'm fine
15 hearing your suggestion --

16 CHAIR COE: Sure.

17 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: -- in terms of who
18 the tradeoff is. I'm just letting you know where
19 am I more amenable, and it would be in the other
20 pool.

21 CHAIR COE: I understand. Thank you.

22 Ms. Dickison?

23 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So looking at the
24 notes that I have and who I had recommended on the
25 last, I agree with Mr. Belnap. Michael Dozier

1 would be the non-affiliated pool. And just looking
2 at the tradeoffs, one person that I had not given a
3 positive recommendation for, and I'd need to go
4 back and look, would be Ms. Soichet, 1170.

5 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

6 So based on the observations I had made in
7 areas that I was looking to maybe focus on, and in
8 terms of looking for a -- and I'm going to stick
9 with the pool of non-affiliated applicants, since
10 that's what we'd been talking about, I had actually
11 targeted -- well, not targeted, but I had also
12 looked at Ms. Soichet as somebody that I would
13 potentially remove to include Mr. Dozier. So I
14 think I'm in line with you there. And that
15 addresses some of my observations.

16 Mr. Belnap, your thoughts?

17 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So that is a Bay
18 Area for Central Valley switch. So this is
19 geographic logic there.

20 I had a chance, while we were reading the
21 public comments -- or hearing the public comments,
22 to go back and look at Mrs. Soichet's application.
23 One of the things that impressed me was her --
24 actually, I'm going to pull it up here in my notes
25 -- her experiences.

1 So she was an Attorney General Deputy.
2 Actually, I want to make sure I have that right. I
3 want to actually read her employment history
4 because there's more in there than -- so,
5 currently, she's a Deputy City Attorney for the
6 City of Berkeley. Prior to that, she was a Deputy
7 Attorney General for over four years at the
8 California Department of Justice. Prior to that,
9 for about a year, she was a Judicial Law Clerk at
10 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.
11 And prior to that, she was also a Judicial Law
12 Clerk in Tennessee. This is the more recent
13 employment history.

14 I remember from the interview the comments
15 that individuals have brought up. But I look at
16 the recent employment history and I see an
17 individual who can exercise impartiality, has
18 exercised impartiality. I don't see Ms. Soichet as
19 a political wonk or something like that. I didn't
20 get that impression at all from her interview.

21 So I respect the commenters and what they
22 brought forward. But I also respect what I see in
23 her employment history and who she was as a person
24 when we saw her here, so I want to say that first,
25 before we get into any deliberations.

1 I think when we're considering Michael
2 Dozier, I would like to hear multiple options for
3 who we'd be considering. And I would include Ms.
4 Soichet in there. I would have included Ms.
5 Soichet as an option for replacement, even before I
6 heard those commenters today. But I think we need
7 to talk about multiple options for replacement
8 before we deliberate on anyone chang.

9 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap. If you
10 have other options to -- for the Board to discuss,
11 I'd be open to hearing those. As I
12 read --

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I do have one.

14 CHAIR COE: You do? Okay. Good.

15 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I think that's fair
16 for me to say.

17 CHAIR COE: Yeah. Go ahead please.

18 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So the person that I
19 would put in that group of people to consider would
20 be Scott McCarty. Again, this is a regional switch
21 for me, going -- reducing Southern Coastal and
22 increasing the Central Valley.

23 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

24 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts on that
25 proposal?

1 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I had not given Mr.
2 McCarty a positive recommendation either. So
3 that's Soichet, give me a second. So either one of
4 those, I would be agreeable to. However, Ms.
5 Soichet is in Alameda County, in the Bay Area,
6 where there's a large representation, and also
7 falls under the economic status of over 250. But
8 either one of those, I would be agreeable with
9 changing, based on my original recommendations.

10 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

11 I had Mr. McCarty as a very strong
12 candidate that I would hesitate to remove. And so
13 I would stick with my initial proposal of Ms.
14 Soichet, similar to Ms. Dickison, for consideration
15 for that change to the tentative list.

16 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So I think we should
17 put -- I think we should have three alternatives.
18 The more alternatives we're looking at, I think,
19 the better.

20 An individual I spoke highly of yesterday,
21 and I still think very highly of, but I would at
22 least consider in this situation is Stefan Murphy.
23 I do think we have, in terms of geography, we have
24 a number of individuals from Sacramento. I know
25 this is considered North Central and an area we

1 certainly want to have representatives. But of the
2 three candidates that we're talking about --
3 actually, of the -- oh, yeah, of the other three, I
4 would have him slightly below the other three,
5 although he brings something very unique and
6 different to the table that we talked about
7 yesterday.

8 And I just have to say, of all the four
9 candidates here, all of these individuals are
10 amazing people that have done great work. And
11 we're talking about high-quality candidates in a
12 high-quality pool. So that's -- I know that's --
13 this is going to be a tough conversation for anyone
14 to be hearing, particularly if their name is being
15 discussed, but I think highly of all four.

16 So I just wanted to add a third person so
17 that we're considering a broad pool.

18 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap.

19 Ms. Dickison, any thoughts on that
20 proposal from Mr. Belnap?

21 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So when I -- I have
22 looked at how I rated each of these three, I had
23 rated both Mr. McCarty and Mr. Murphy above, higher
24 than Ms. Soichet, originally.

25 Mr. McCarty has demonstrated technical

1 skills and awareness and appreciation for diversity
2 of California's geography.

3 Mr. Murphy, his strength is really in
4 community outreach and working with people, and I
5 think that's an important skill set to have on the
6 Commission.

7 And then given that we do have a large
8 number of attorneys on there, as well, that have
9 that same skill set is Ms. Soichet, would be why
10 I'd lean that way.

11 CHAIR COE: Thank you. I think you summed
12 up my thoughts pretty nicely, Ms. Dickison. And so
13 I think I would still lean for the removal of Ms.
14 Soichet and the addition of Mr. Dozier.

15 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yeah. So I'm not
16 quite where you guys are right now. I do think we
17 should discuss the other two areas because I think
18 we should see if any movements we make on the other
19 pools affect areas of other -- other areas of
20 diversity that we want to consider, because we are
21 swapping out an individual where there's tradeoffs
22 on different fronts.

23 CHAIR COE: Okay. I think Mr. Belnap
24 brought forward a proposal for an applicant,
25 potentially, to remove from the Republican pool.

1 Let me just say, let's switch to that.

2 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Which pool are we
3 talking about?

4 CHAIR COE: Let's switch to the Republican
5 pool --

6 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay.

7 CHAIR COE: -- and discuss that one.

8 So --

9 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Again, I guess
10 my -- I'll reiterate where I'm at with Mr.
11 Fukushima. I didn't have him rated high enough
12 that I would see a switch. That would be the least
13 viable without hearing further thoughts from you.

14 And if I could put someone forward in the
15 Republican pool, and I know I've brought him up
16 multiple times but I'll bring him up again, is
17 Richard Gallegos. I'd like to put his name out
18 there for consideration if we're looking at the
19 Republican pool.

20 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

21 Ms. Dickison, any thoughts on the
22 Republican pool?

23 (Pause)

24 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I don't see -- I
25 didn't have any thoughts on that, no. No tradeoffs

1 -- suggestions for tradeoffs.

2 CHAIR COE: Okay.

3 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So, Mr. Chair, do
4 you have any suggested tradeoffs for us?

5 CHAIR COE: Yeah. The one that I was
6 looking at would have been Ronald Newton as an
7 attorney from San Bernardino County, the inclusion
8 of Glenn Fukushima, which I think that change helps
9 create a group that's more broadly representative
10 of the state of California.

11 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay. For Mr.
12 Gallegos, I had three options that I had rated
13 their application and interview as lower than Mr.
14 Gallegos. The three options I had were Hellen
15 Meade, Anthony Coe, and Russell Yee.

16 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you for putting
17 those forward.

18 Ms. Dickison, do you have any thoughts on
19 the candidates that Mr. Belnap just discussed?

20 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Of those three,
21 Anthony Coe was -- I rated the lowest of those
22 three as far as recommendation.

23 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you. I think
24 where I'm at is I would hesitate to remove the
25 applicants that have been brought forward from the

1 tentative list thus far. So I think if, unless you
2 have further points of discussion or proposals, we
3 have a sense of where we are with thoughts on the
4 Republican pool and the non-affiliated pool.

5 Should we discuss the Democratic pool?

6 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So, Mr. Chair, I did
7 have one person I'd like to put out there for
8 consideration in the Democratic pool. Can I offer
9 it at this point?

10 CHAIR COE: Absolutely. Go ahead please.

11 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay. So the person
12 that I've rated highly -- and this was a very large
13 pool, the Democratic pool was very large, so
14 there's a lot of quality candidates there. Someone
15 I would want us to consider, and I didn't discuss
16 her yesterday, is Sonia Melara. And Ms. Melara is
17 from the Bay Area. I think, over time, that pool
18 has been reduced. I think we're sitting at --
19 maybe it's down to 17 percent now. I'm not exactly
20 -- I don't have those numbers right in front of me
21 but that pool was, at one point, large but has been
22 dwindling.

23 The person I would -- I'll put out two
24 names but I'll list them in order. The person I
25 would switch her out for is William MacPhail. I

1 believe Mr. MacPhail is Southern Coastal. And then
2 a person to talk about as another proposal is Trena
3 Turner.

4 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

5 Ms. Dickison, any thoughts on additional
6 candidates or proposals on the Democratic pool?

7 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I don't have any
8 additional thoughts. I do believe that Mr.
9 MacPhail brings a unique perspective, though, with
10 his geography background, being an immigrant. And
11 he, also, socioeconomically, he is in one of the
12 lower two groupings, so I just wanted to put that
13 out there.

14 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

15 So where I'm at on those, I agree with Ms.
16 Dickison on Mr. MacPhail. And I think both Mr.
17 MacPhail and Ms. Turner are important inclusions in
18 our group. And their removal, again, I think
19 they're important additions. And they also don't
20 address the observations or concerns that I put
21 forth earlier. So I would hesitate to remove them
22 from the pool.

23 This one, this particular pool, as you've
24 noted, very -- a lot of strong candidates in here,
25 tough decisions to make.

1 (Pause)

2 CHAIR COE: I'm not sure I have a proposal
3 for the Democratic pool. If I were to make a
4 proposal and I had to look at, again, the
5 observations I made earlier, and then based on my
6 evaluation of the individual candidates and
7 qualifications, I would go with Mr. Gennaco, as
8 I've stated before, with my concerns about having,
9 in my mind, met the requirements of or demonstrated
10 the requirements or ability to be impartial. So
11 that would be my proposal for this pool if we were
12 to consider changes to the pool.

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So in the -- so that
14 would be replacing Mr. Gennaco with Stephanie
15 Beauchaine?

16 CHAIR COE: That would be my proposal.
17 You brought forward Ms. Melara as another potential
18 candidate as well.

19 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I wouldn't bring
20 forward Ms. Melara as a replacement for Mr.
21 Gennaco. And I don't think I'd be amenable to a
22 replacement of Mr. Gennaco with Ms. Beauchaine.

23 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I agree with Mr.
24 Belnap. I would not be agreeable to replacing Mr.
25 Gennaco with Ms. Beauchaine.

1 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

2 So at this point, we've discussed all
3 three categories or pools. I'd like to get your
4 input on how you'd like to proceed. Do we think we
5 need some type of recess to consider options? Do
6 either of you have proposals or suggestions for the
7 path forward?

8 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So I guess it might
9 be helpful if I kind of rank my suggestions by what
10 do I think is the more important of the two.

11 As I've considered the Republican pool,
12 the Democrat, the other, I think the proposal I
13 made on the Republican pool, I think I would rank
14 slightly higher than the proposal I made under the
15 Democratic pool. So I would be more interested in
16 having Mr. Gallegos switched into the top 20 than
17 Ms. Melara be switched in. I have -- those are
18 different pools, number one, so they're being
19 compared against different applicants.

20 CHAIR COE: Right.

21 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: But that marginal
22 difference for Mr. Gallegos is higher than the
23 marginal difference than I see in terms of Ms.
24 Melara and the other two candidates that I've put
25 forward.

1 So if that helps at all, where my mind is
2 at, I wanted to share that.

3 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap.

4 Ms. Dickison, your thoughts?

5 VICE CHAIR DICKINSON: Of those in the
6 Republican pool, so I would be amenable to
7 discussing Mr. Gallegos, and Anthony, Mr. Coe.

8 CHAIR COE: So I think to sum up the
9 discussion and to kind of narrow us into a path
10 forward, I'd like to summarize what I think I'm
11 hearing to make sure everybody's -- we're on the
12 same page.

13 It sounds like on the Democratic pool,
14 there doesn't appear to be a lot of collective
15 agreement and potential movement; is that fair to
16 say?

17 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: That's fair to say.

18 CHAIR COE: Okay. Should we set that one
19 aside for now?

20 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I would say I have a
21 marginal interest in it but it's not as high as my
22 interest in the Republican pool and my amenableness
23 in the other pool to a potential switch there.

24 CHAIR COE: Understood. Okay.

25 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, I would just note

1 that the Panel will need to take a break at 11:50.

2 That will be the 90 minutes, so --

3 CHAIR COE: Okay.

4 MR. DAWSON: -- for your consideration.

5 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Dawson. We'll
6 definitely keep that in mind.

7 So in regards to the other two, the one
8 that appears to have -- to be in, I think, in the
9 three of our minds were more amenable to movement
10 potentially in the other, the non-affiliated group.

11 As I look at the Republican pool, I have
12 less desire to remove other candidates for those
13 that have been proposed thus far. So I think I
14 would be, I guess, out of the three pools most
15 amenable to discussing the pool of those not
16 affiliated with the Republican or Democratic Party.

17 I'd be willing to hear the thoughts of
18 both of you.

19 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So I think if we're
20 going to make one switch, I think there should be
21 multiple switches, multiple movements in our group.
22 I think that's where my mind is at.

23 In the other pool, I think -- again, I
24 always thought highly of Mr. Dozier. And, despite
25 the comments today, I still think very highly of

1 Ms. Soichet. There are reasons to make that switch
2 based on geography, based on skill set, but I would
3 be interested in having not just one switch but,
4 particularly, in the Republican area, a switch
5 there as well.

6 CHAIR COE: Ms. Dickison, any additional
7 thoughts?

8 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: As I was -- as I
9 just mentioned, I would be amenable to discussing a
10 switch in the Republican with Mr. Gallegos and Mr.
11 Coe. I had scored Ms. Meade and the others that
12 you mentioned --

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Mr. Yee.

14 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: -- much higher --

15 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I think it was
16 Mr. Yee was --

17 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: -- Mr. Yee much
18 higher than Mr. Coe.

19 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you for your
20 thoughts.

21 So where I'm at on those proposals that I
22 brought forward is it's my opinion that the pool,
23 with the applicants discussed for additional
24 removal, does not get stronger or address the
25 issues or concerns I brought up earlier. So I

1 would hesitate to change our tentative pool based
2 on, I think, the things we've discussed.

3 I think we can -- if we only made one
4 switch -- I know you've discussed needing to make
5 multiples -- but if we made one switch that could
6 kind of go towards addressing the concerns that I
7 had mentioned, I think that the removal of Ms.
8 Soichet and the addition of Michael Dozier would
9 help create a group that's more broadly
10 representative of California. And I think that's
11 where I'm at in regards to potential movement.

12 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: And I think I feel
13 equally about the suggestion of switching out Mr.
14 Gallegos and Mr. Coe. Looking at the breakdown, I
15 think that switch would make more sense
16 geographically and for other considerations.

17 (Pause)

18 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I am in agreement on
19 that.

20 CHAIR COE: Yeah. I'm -- I hesitate to
21 move from what we currently have to make that
22 switch.

23 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: And I think in terms
24 of the pool of 60, I said it before we broke, I
25 think I was willing to keep it as is. That was

1 always on the table in my mind. The individuals
2 that I put forward are people I wanted to discuss
3 again. I appreciate the opportunity to do so. So
4 I'm willing to go forward with the 60, the 20/20/20
5 that we have as well.

6 CHAIR COE: Okay. Ms. Dickison, your
7 thoughts?

8 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I am willing to go
9 forward with the 60. I will say that originally,
10 and throughout the process, I have scored Mr.
11 Dozier higher than Mrs. Soichet, throughout the
12 process. And for that reason, I would prefer that
13 switch. But if the collective group chooses to go
14 forward, then --

15 CHAIR COE: Thank you. I think at this
16 point, in terms of the switches, the potential
17 switches that we've discussed, that would be also
18 the one that I would be open to actually doing. I
19 think, also, with respect to the collective
20 judgment of the Panel, I could also be amenable to
21 keeping the groups as is.

22 But I think, as we've narrowed this down
23 and discussed options, I would agree with Ms.
24 Dickison on that potential switch of adding Mr.
25 Dozier and removing Ms. Soichet.

1 Since we're nearing a required break for
2 the ASL and Court Reporter and the rest of our
3 contractors, shall we recess until after lunch,
4 think some of these things over, come back and have
5 some final discussions, does that sound okay with
6 everybody?

7 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yeah, it does with
8 me. I would appreciate that.

9 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I agree.

10 CHAIR COE: Okay. Is an hour, one o'clock
11 -- okay, so let's return at one o'clock. So we'll
12 be in recess until 1:00 p.m.

13 (Thereupon the Panel recessed at 11:41 a.m.)

14 (Whereupon the Panel reconvened at 1:00 p.m.)

15 CHAIR COE: Okay, the time being 1:00
16 p.m., I'd like to call this meeting out of recess.

17 Just to reiterate, those that may be
18 watching and want to make a public comment, I think
19 there's going to be opportunities here in the
20 future, in a little while. So those that want to
21 make a comment, please stay with us and pay
22 attention for when we ask people to queue up for
23 the telephone comments.

24 So I think we're going to continue along
25 with agenda item seven and our discussions that we

1 were having before the recess.

2 But before we get into those discussions I
3 want to go back and I think, based on my
4 understanding, in the collective judgment of the
5 Panel, I think where I understood we left off is
6 that I think that the 20 tentative Republican list
7 and the 20 tentative Democrat list, collectively we
8 were, I think, comfortable leaving them as is; is
9 that fair to say?

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Did you say
11 Republican?

12 CHAIR COE: Republican.

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: No.

14 CHAIR COE: No. Okay. Democrat list?

15 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Potentially.

16 CHAIR COE: Okay. Okay. So just to
17 reiterate, the concerns that I noted this morning
18 that prompted the discussion in terms of the
19 representation in some geographic areas and the
20 number of doctorate or PhD candidates in the pool.
21 And I think where, in terms of the not-affiliated
22 pool, as Ms. Dickison and I had discussed the swap
23 of Ms. Soichet for Mr. Dozier, I think this is an
24 important move for us to make.

25 I think Mr. Dozier's intimate knowledge

1 and understanding of communities of interest in the
2 Central Valley and Fresno due to his years' of
3 emersion and immersion and economic development
4 efforts there, he's very closely connected to the
5 region and the communities in that area.

6 And I think in totality, when considering
7 everything, you know, the concerns I voiced today,
8 the individual applicants, what they bring to the
9 table, the group of 20 in this pool and the broad
10 group of the tentative 60, also considering some
11 public comments we received today, I believe this
12 represents a good path forward that ultimately
13 makes our pool of 60 more reasonably representative
14 of all of California.

15 So I'd like to get -- I'd like to put that
16 out there again and get the Panel's thoughts.

17 Ms. Dickison, would you like to start?

18 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So I am agreeable
19 with that switch for a lot of the reasons you just
20 stated, geographically. And I had originally and
21 throughout, I have given a positive recommendation
22 to Mr. Dozier and not to Ms. Soichet. Mr. Dozier
23 does have that regional experience that I think is
24 very important. And there's, for a number of
25 reasons, geographically, economically, he more

1 evens out the pool.

2 CHAIR COE: Okay. Mr. Belnap?

3 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So, Mr. Chair, which
4 regional switch -- how does that effect our
5 regions, the switch of Mr. Dozier for Ms. Soichet?

6 CHAIR COE: In a regional level, I'm not
7 entirely sure. What I know is that Ms. Soichet is
8 part of Alameda County and Mr. Dozier is Fresno
9 County.

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So that's Bay Area
11 for --

12 CHAIR COE: Central Valley region.

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: -- South Central
14 Valley.

15 CHAIR COE: South Central Valley.

16 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: South Central
17 Valley. All right. Thank you.

18 So the suggestion I had in your Republican
19 pool was a change from -- putting Mr. Gallegos in
20 and Mr. Coe out. I believe that's an Inland Empire
21 switch for, again, South Central Valley to be
22 increased. And it does look like there's only five
23 candidates in South Central. However, the switch
24 in the Republican pool would also increase that
25 area in South Central. Inland Empire has roughly

1 12 percent. South Central has eight percent.

2 So from a regional perspective, I see that
3 switch as also beneficial in improving the
4 geographic diversity. Also, from a quality of
5 application, quality of interview, overall skill
6 set, I see that switch as better for the overall
7 group.

8 CHAIR COE: So, Ms. Dickison?

9 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So I agree that
10 regionally that switch makes -- is more
11 representative. However, I wouldn't agree on the
12 quality of application and interview on that. But
13 they're really close for me, both of them, and so I
14 would have been amendable to discussing making that
15 switch because it would increase the representation
16 of California --

17 CHAIR COE: Thank you. So --

18 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: -- in some of the
19 other areas.

20 CHAIR COE: Oh, I'm sorry.

21 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Yeah.

22 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

23 So as I've stated before, I don't lean in
24 favor of that switch. I don't think that makes our
25 overall pool stronger. I think there's a lot of

1 other things we're losing by making that switch.
2 And as I said before, the proposals brought forward
3 on the Republican, current Republican pool, I would
4 lean in favor of not altering that pool based on
5 the proposals that have been forward thus far.

6 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Are you open to
7 another proposal in the Republican pool?

8 CHAIR COE: Certainly. Let's have all
9 discussions that are necessary.

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So the two others I
11 brought forward this morning was Russell Yee and
12 Hellen Meade. From a geographic perspective, Mr.
13 Yee is from the Bay Area. He was from the North
14 Central Valley and Mountain region, which right now
15 we have standing at 18 percent, with Southern
16 Central Valley and Mountain at 8 percent.

17 CHAIR COE: Your proposal is --

18 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Either of those --

19 CHAIR COE: -- what with this?

20 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: -- two individuals.

21 CHAIR COE: For an addition of which
22 applicant?

23 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Mr. Gallegos.

24 CHAIR COE: Ms. Dickison, do you have any
25 thoughts on the proposal put forth?

1 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So I had ranked Mr.
2 Yee as a pretty strong applicant. He came across
3 as someone that knows how to build trust and draw
4 people out. He would be good working with -- in
5 the public. He showed a lot of empathy.

6 (Pause)

7 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I just felt that Mr.
8 Yee is a much stronger candidate than Mr. Gallegos.

9 CHAIR COE: And how about Ms. Meade?

10 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Ms. Meade brings a
11 very different perspective, I felt. And she also
12 has -- she's in the lower socioeconomic group. She
13 also has worked with her community a lot.

14 So what else do I have on this?

15 She brings a small business perspective.
16 She's done event coordinating. She's a single mom.
17 She's worked with different types of -- different
18 groups of people. I thought that she brought a
19 very different perspective to the pool, and so I
20 would prefer to keep her in the pool for that
21 reason.

22 CHAIR COE: Yeah. I'm in agreement with
23 Ms. Dickison on that. I think both Mr. Yee and Ms.
24 Meade are important inclusions in this for all the
25 reasons you mentioned. I think we're losing unique

1 perspectives and skills that -- with the removal
2 from there.

3 And I also agree with her that I think a
4 stronger application and interview on both Ms.
5 Meade and Mr. Yee than Mr. Gallegos.

6 (Pause)

7 CHAIR COE: Mr. Belnap, any additional
8 thoughts?

9 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I think after we've
10 had a chance to create the tentative selection of
11 60, recessed, had a chance to sleep on it, and also
12 seeing the statistics today, and hearing some of
13 the public comments that have been read into the
14 record, I think it would be a missed opportunity if
15 the only change we make is to bring Mr. Dozier into
16 the pool.

17 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I agree and
18 understand. So that's why I would be amenable to
19 adding Mr. Gallegos and removing Mr. Coe and doing
20 the -- adding Mr. Dozier and removing Ms. Soichet.

21 CHAIR COE: So I don't think I hear -- so
22 I hear what you're saying about it. I don't think
23 I agree that there's a missed opportunity. I think
24 there's, in my mind, a reasonable and logical path
25 forward that could help create a group that is

1 broader representative of California by making the
2 one switch. I don't think the additional switch
3 and dropping out any of the candidates that have
4 been discussed, I don't think that makes our group
5 collectively stronger than what we have already.

6 (Pause)

7 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: So, Mr. Chair, if I
8 may, may I have the floor?

9 CHAIR COE: Absolutely. Sure.

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay. Thank you.
11 So I want to come back to my reasons for suggesting
12 the switch between Mr. Gallegos and Mr. Coe. I
13 think they both offer a unique perspective that
14 could be of value to the Commission. Mr. Gallegos
15 and Mr. Coe have different life stories. Both are
16 incredibly valuable.

17 Mr. Gallegos, I was impressed with his
18 constant desire to learn and, even while working
19 full-time as a law enforcement officer, to obtain
20 degrees. I don't -- to me, advanced degrees, I
21 don't count that -- I would never count that
22 against somebody. There's just not a reason to. I
23 see that as somebody went to the effort of
24 obtaining education. And that effort, to me,
25 symbolizes something.

1 So also from the perspective of geography,
2 Mr. Gallegos comes from a pool that only has eight
3 percent representation. Mr. Coe comes from a pool
4 that has nearly 12 percent. So there's a
5 geographical difference there.

6 In regards to Mr. Coe, I think he has a
7 great heart and great desires. But from his
8 interview, I didn't see that he had the ability to
9 contribute on the analytical side. Because when I
10 asked him those questions about the analysis that
11 he's done in the past, I didn't get very good
12 answers, I didn't get a logical flow, and that's
13 what I was looking for.

14 With Mr. Gallegos, I recognize some
15 delivery flaws in his interview. But overall, when
16 I look at the two applications in terms of strength
17 and in terms of what they've done, I would rank Mr.
18 Gallegos higher as to what he's done in his life.
19 Both have unique perspectives they could bring.

20 In terms of the demographic makeup of our
21 pool, Mr. Gallegos would increase the percentage in
22 an area that, maybe, is underrepresented. And Mr.
23 Coe is not overrepresented but is well represented.

24 So that's my -- those are the reason
25 behind my suggested switch.

1 CHAIR COE: Thank you for sharing that,
2 Mr. Belnap. I think we're just in disagreement on
3 the evaluation of the two candidates you mentioned.
4 I had trouble following the points being made by
5 Mr. Gallegos in a similar way that you talk about
6 with Mr. Coe. I wasn't exactly following all the
7 points. So I think we have similar concerns for
8 different candidates.

9 A couple of things I think we also need to
10 be sensitive to is one of the public comments that
11 we received today that have -- some of which have
12 been in line with similar concerns I voiced. And,
13 also, somebody's ability to get an advanced degree
14 is not solely based on effort but also opportunity.
15 And that's a thing we need to be sensitive to as we
16 try to smooth this out and make a group that is
17 broadly representative of all of California.

18 And so I still stick with, since we
19 already have an agreed upon tentative 20 that
20 includes Mr. Coe, I would still go back to I think
21 the pool overall and individually, the Republican
22 pool is stronger as is.

23 Ms. Dickison, any thoughts?

24 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So the reasons that
25 I would be amendable to the switch are all the

1 reasons that Mr. Belnap has stated as far as the
2 makeup of the pool.

3 For these two candidates, they were very
4 even for me in their -- both in their applications
5 and in their interview. And so that is one of the
6 reasons that I would be amenable to the change.

7 And I do recognize that the switch would
8 increase, demographically, a group that is less
9 represented, so --

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Mr. Chair, can I
11 offer a thought?

12 CHAIR COE: Sure.

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Thank you. So I get
14 what you're saying about some degrees can come from
15 a place of privilege and opportunity. His did not.
16 His life story is different. He didn't come from a
17 place of privilege. His efforts in education were
18 hard won, working full-time to support his family
19 and getting educated. So that -- there, to me, is
20 a key difference between your statement and his
21 reality.

22 CHAIR COE: So I think there may have been
23 a misunderstanding. I don't think I've
24 ever -- are you referring to Mr. Gallegos? I don't
25 think I've ever said anything that would indicate

1 I'm holding his educational background against him
2 --

3 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Right.

4 CHAIR COE: -- as a candidate. I
5 don't -- I never mentioned that. I mentioned other
6 concerns in terms of that.

7 My comment was more directed towards the
8 broad pool of trying to make it smooth, you know,
9 more representative of the population.

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Um-hmm.

11 CHAIR COE: Not everybody in the
12 population has the same opportunities, and that
13 that was my thought. It was not --

14 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay.

15 CHAIR COE: -- in reference to this
16 particular candidate. My concerns were other.
17 Specifically, to the regulations, I didn't think
18 that there was a demonstration of appreciation for
19 diversity or impartiality. And as I mentioned
20 before, I had trouble following a lot of the points
21 that were made. And I wasn't sure if all the
22 questions were answered in totality.

23 Those were my concerns. And, ultimately,
24 I think that every candidate on our current
25 tentative list of 20, collectively, is a stronger

1 group than making a change.

2 (Pause)

3 CHAIR COE: So I'm sorting -- as I'm
4 sorting through all this in my mind, Mr. Belnap,
5 your proposals were in conjunction with changes,
6 potentially, in the non-affiliated group; is that
7 right?

8 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: What was the
9 question?

10 CHAIR COE: Your proposal was in the
11 Republican Party. You had mentioned one change as
12 being a missed opportunity. So my understanding to
13 that was --

14 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: No. I --

15 CHAIR COE: -- that this proposal was in
16 conjunction with another proposal in the non-
17 affiliated group, if I understand that right.

18 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: No. I think if the
19 only change we make is to bring Mr. Dozier into the
20 pool, I think we've missed an opportunity.

21 CHAIR COE: Would you feel the same way if
22 the only change that was made was the change
23 discussed in the Republican Party?

24 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: No. And it's
25 because of the difference in representation, that

1 the two changes, two proposals there, there's a
2 difference there. Under Mr. Gallegos, we always
3 talked -- we already talked about there's a group
4 that's, potentially, less represented. I think
5 that's well said. And that, to me, is important.

6 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: May I speak, Mr.
7 Chair?

8 CHAIR COE: Yeah. Absolutely.

9 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: So I agree with Mr.
10 Belnap on this part. Making the changes to both of
11 the pools that we've discussed actually makes it
12 more representative of California by increasing the
13 demographic representation of one pool. And then,
14 also, it also changes the geographic
15 representation. And it also changes the economic
16 status representation. So I think with those three
17 changes, making both of those changes will change
18 all three of those areas to the -- to more better
19 represent California.

20 CHAIR COE: So just to be clear, can you
21 state those changes, just so we're tracking along?

22 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Okay. So that would
23 be -- all right.

24 So the first would be to add -- I can
25 never pronounce his name, so I apologize --

1 Gallegos?

2 CHAIR COE: Gallegos.

3 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Gallegos. Thank
4 you. And I do apologize. I am awful with names.
5 So adding him and removing Mr. Coe.

6 And then adding Mr. Dozier and removing
7 Ms. Soichet.

8 CHAIR COE: Mr. Belnap, tracking that
9 proposal, your thoughts on that?

10 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I'm fine with that
11 proposal. I guess I still want to say that I
12 appreciate the strength of Ms. Soichet. I do
13 think, you know, there's been a lot of comments
14 made. I went back, looked at the application,
15 looked at the interview. I would not want her to
16 feel that we've removed her from the pool because
17 of that concern. There are a number of other
18 reasons to do so and, Mr. Coe, you've listed those.
19 So before we make any decision, I would want to
20 make sure that she knew our thoughts on the quality
21 of her application.

22 But that said, I would be amendable to
23 that, those two changes.

24 CHAIR COE: Understood. Thank you. And,
25 certainly, we're at a stage of this process where

1 there's a lot of quality applicants and a lot of
2 tough decisions to be made. And I think Ms.
3 Soichet was -- had received three favorable votes
4 coming into this meeting. So, clearly, the value
5 and the quality that she brought is recognized by
6 the Panel as a whole, I think.

7 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Just to correct, for
8 the record, she had two favorable votes coming into
9 this.

10 CHAIR COE: Oh, it was two?

11 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Yes.

12 CHAIR COE: Okay.

13 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I had not --

14 CHAIR COE: Two favorable votes?

15 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: -- changed my
16 position.

17 CHAIR COE: Understood. Thank you for
18 correcting me, Ms. Dickison.

19 Okay, so just so I'm getting my thoughts
20 straight, and for the record, and Madam Secretary
21 is following along and is keeping tabs, the
22 Democrat subpool of 20, is it correct to say that
23 we think we're done discussing that or are we going
24 back?

25 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Assuming that we go

1 forward with the two changes, I would agree with
2 that. There was that one person, Ms. Melara, who I
3 respect greatly that I had mentioned but she wasn't
4 as high a priority in terms of bringing in.

5 Again, every candidate -- it's hard to
6 talk about candidates in a public forum. We
7 appreciate everything they've done to get to this
8 point. But I would be willing to keep that pool as
9 is with these other two changes.

10 And I think it was the only one that had a
11 suggestion there. So if I'm fine, I think that
12 pool is set.

13 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Um-hmm.

14 CHAIR COE: Ms. Dickison, your thoughts on
15 that?

16 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I agree.

17 CHAIR COE: Okay.

18 MR. DAWSON: Okay. So, Mr. Chair, just so
19 that we're tracking, the tentative list of 20
20 Democrats will remain as is?

21 CHAIR COE: For purposes of the discussion
22 at the moment, I think that's correct, Counsel.

23 MR. DAWSON: Okay.

24 CHAIR COE: So we've had a lot of
25 discussion. I think where we're at now is I've

1 discussed which candidates, in terms of the ones in
2 the Republican Party we've been discussing, we're
3 stronger. And out of respect for the collective
4 judgment of the Panel, I will agree to go ahead
5 with the changes that we've talked about and have
6 been proposed on that front. So that would have
7 been one change in the Republican Party and one
8 change in the non-affiliated pool.

9 So tracking along that so that I am --
10 Madam Secretary is tracking, and everybody else as
11 well, the discussion has led to the Panel
12 determining to -- from our tentative list of 20,
13 remove Applicant Anthony Coe, Applicant I.D. 15880,
14 and add Applicant Richard Gallegos, Applicant
15 11427. Is that correct with everybody's
16 understanding?

17 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yes.

18 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Yes.

19 CHAIR COE: Okay. In regards to the pool
20 of applicants not affiliated with either the
21 Republican or Democratic Parties, the discussion
22 has led to the proposal of the removal of Applicant
23 Emmanuelle Soichet, Applicant 1170, and the
24 addition of Applicant Michael Dozier, Applicant
25 1643. Does that track with the understanding of

1 the Panel?

2 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: That's what I have.

3 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: That's what I have
4 as well.

5 CHAIR COE: Okay.

6 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, just so I have it,
7 what was the I.D. number for Mr. Gallegos on the
8 list of Republicans?

9 CHAIR COE: Mr. Gallegos' I.D. Number is
10 11427.

11 MR. DAWSON: So, Mr. Chair, if I might
12 suggest, it might be an opportune time to again
13 open the public comment up to the pool in general
14 before we put forward the list.

15 CHAIR COE: Certainly, Counsel. Thank
16 you.

17 So we can go ahead and do that, open up
18 the lines. If this is accurate, I think we have
19 some folks in the queue that would like to comment.

20 Those of you that may be following along
21 and not in the queue, I'll reiterate again, the
22 contact information in order to do so, if you want
23 to make a public comment, please call in now by
24 dialing

25 (844) 291-6360. Again, that number is (844) 291-

1 6360. You'll have to give an access code to an
2 operator to get into this particular meeting and
3 that access code is 7222059, or you can give the
4 name of the meeting, which is Applicant Review
5 Panel meeting. And once you are in -- that will
6 get you into the virtual listening room. And to be
7 added to the queue to make a comment, you will need
8 to then push 1, then 0.

9 So, Moderator, do we have any commenters
10 in the queue at this time?

11 MODERATOR: And we do. And our first
12 comment comes from Tim Wendler.

13 Please go ahead.

14 MR. WENDLER: Yes. Thank you. I'm Tim
15 Wendler. And I would like to speak on behalf of
16 Applicant 1208, David Coher. I serve with him on
17 the Planning Commission in Pasadena. And I have
18 found him to be a very levelheaded person who
19 listens to public and staff input very carefully
20 and weighs that input and reaches a conclusion that
21 makes sense based on all of that input. And so for
22 those reasons, as someone who's a strong listener,
23 and I would highly recommend him.

24 And I would also comment that he is a
25 Republican and I am a Democrat, so I guess that

1 says something, that I have that kind of respect
2 for him, even though we may come to political
3 issues from a different point of view at times.

4 So that concludes my comments.

5 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you very much.

6 Moderator, do we have any additional
7 comments?

8 MODERATOR: If there are any additional
9 comments, please press 1, followed by 0.

10 And we have no additional comments in the
11 queue.

12 CHAIR COE: Should we stand at ease,
13 Counsel, and give people an opportunity to call in?

14 MR. DAWSON: That would be appropriate,
15 yes.

16 CHAIR COE: Okay. Why don't we stand at
17 ease for a few minutes to allow any additional
18 callers to get in the queue and to provide comment?

19 (Pause)

20 CHAIR COE: Okay, Moderator, do we have
21 anybody in the queue for comment?

22 MODERATOR: And again, if you've just
23 joined, if you would like to make a comment, please
24 press 1, followed by 0. And we do.

25 Javier Villasenor, please go ahead.

1 MR. VILLASENOR: Hi. My name is Javier
2 Villasenor. I wanted to speak on behalf of
3 Applicant Number 1208, Mr. David Coher. And,
4 basically, I want -- just wanted to say that Mr.
5 David Coher, I've worked with him for several years
6 in multiple platforms. I'm an educator, and also a
7 business owner here in the Los Angeles area.

8 And what I've found from David is that
9 he's a very hardworking public servant. He comes
10 from a diverse community. And he also brings a
11 different perspective into the conversations that
12 we have, but also understands the different
13 perspectives and the needs of the community,
14 especially from a diverse community.

15 So I'm pleased to kind of provide these
16 comments to your folks that you have there, so
17 hopefully this will kind of give you some kind of
18 perspective of how he's worked within his
19 community.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you for your
22 comment.

23 Any additional members of the public in
24 the queue to make a comment?

25 MODERATOR: And again, if you've just

1 joined, please press 1-0 to make a comment.

2 And we have a comment from Connie
3 Martinez.

4 Please go ahead.

5 MS. MARTINEZ ZSIEBI: Yes. Good
6 afternoon. Thank you for taking my call. My name
7 is Connie Martinez Zsiebl. And I am calling on
8 Applicant Number 1208, David Coher. I have
9 listened to the other comments on David Coher and I
10 have a little bit different perspective.

11 I met him when he was at Long Beach City
12 College and he was an intern for Congressman Horn.
13 I was his District Director. And, yes, David is a
14 White lawyer. He might not look very diverse. But
15 I know that his father is Chicano. And his Jewish
16 mom died when he was eight years old and she was a
17 drug addict. And his dad did not want to raise
18 him. And David was a fortunate child to have his
19 Jewish grandparents raise him.

20 Believe me, he does not come from a
21 privileged background. He is very diverse. He is
22 married to a young Muslim American woman who
23 happens to be Catholic. His best friends are
24 Mexicans who started as taco stand owners and are
25 now economically prosperous. To me, this

1 definitely makes him a very diverse individual who
2 rose to his current state in life through hard
3 work.

4 As a Mexican grandmother, myself, proud to
5 be an American, and proud to be a Republican, I
6 promise you that his maturity, his sensitivity, his
7 ability to govern his emotions, and his all-around
8 ability to discern right from wrong and diversity,
9 he will be a dividend, a great dividend and
10 addition to your Commission.

11 And I appreciate that you gave me this
12 opportunity. Thank you.

13 CHAIR COE: Thank you for your comment.

14 Next caller please.

15 MODERATOR: And our next comment comes
16 from John Kopp.

17 Please go ahead.

18 MR. KOPP: Yeah. John Kopp, if you want
19 to pronounce it correctly. But I just wanted to
20 take a brief moment to commend the Applicant Review
21 Panel and the entire Auditor's Office for keeping
22 Vonya Quarles as one of the candidates on the -- it
23 happens to be the Democratic panel. But I listened
24 to her interview and the most striking words were
25 that she listens. She's a good listener. I'm sure

1 she will listen to the other members on the Panel.

2 And of all of the candidates that I've
3 looked at, she has absolutely the most remarkable,
4 unusual history and has overcome the obstacles that
5 she's faced in life and is basically paying it
6 forward. And she would be an absolute asset to the
7 Citizens Redistricting Commission.

8 That's really all. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR COE: Thank you for your comment.

10 Do we have any additional people in the
11 queue to make a comment?

12 MODERATOR: Again, if you've just joined
13 and you would like to make a comment, please press
14 1, followed by 0.

15 And we have a comment from Kimberly Colt.
16 One moment please.

17 Your line is open, Kimberly, for comment.

18 MS. COLT: Thank you. My name is
19 Kimberly. And I would like to join the chorus of
20 people commending all of the applicants, and also
21 the Review Panel.

22 My comment is a little bit about
23 discomfort that I felt watching the horse trading
24 of some of the last candidates and would propose
25 that the Panel consider thinking about it more

1 holistically. And I believe that you are trying to
2 do that but it seems very ad hoc. And I wonder if
3 there is a way of thinking through exactly what
4 distributions or diversity or qualities or
5 characteristics you're trying to achieve in the
6 reasonable representation. Because it seems like
7 the ad hoc-ness is allowing somethings to come
8 forward, and if they have an advocate at that
9 moment, to go forward, but then other things drop
10 out.

11 And so I've been very impressed with the
12 meeting so far. But I think these last few hours
13 have shown a little bit of a struggle in how you're
14 getting around. And I don't think the horse
15 trading is doing you any services. But maybe
16 thinking through, not targets, not quotas, but
17 exactly trying to systematize it a bit would help
18 public trust.

19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIR COE: Thank you for your comment.

21 Any additional comments in the queue?

22 MODERATOR: And again, if you have a
23 comment, please press 1, followed by 0.

24 And there are no more comments in the
25 queue.

1 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

2 At this time, I think I'd like to propose
3 a brief recess so that we can take one last look at
4 the information, kind of the changes we've made,
5 the proposals we've discussed, also consider the
6 public comments that we've just listened to and
7 reconvene here about two o'clock.

8 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Okay.

9 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Okay.

10 CHAIR COE: Okay. So we will
11 reconvene -- be in recess until 2:00 p.m.

12 (Thereupon the Panel recessed at 1:47 p.m.)

13 (Whereupon the Panel reconvened at 2:00 p.m.)

14 CHAIR COE: Okay, I'd like to call this
15 meeting out of recess and back to order please.

16 So I think where we ended up is we left
17 and we had agreement on three tentative lists. Is
18 everybody in agreement with that based on our
19 discussion before the recess?

20 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Yes, I am.

21 CHAIR COE: Okay.

22 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Yes, I am.

23 CHAIR COE: Great. So I think -- well,
24 does anybody have any final thoughts or that they
25 wanted to bring forward after the recess, before we

1 start making motions, on particular groups?

2 Mr. Belnap?

3 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: There's a number of
4 applicants that I really admire and we never got a
5 chance to talk about them. Some of them are in the
6 three-yes group, so you feel privileged not to have
7 been talked about, but we haven't had an
8 opportunity to say positive things, but it's a
9 really strong group, those ones that had gotten the
10 three yeses. So no discussion from us, we're not
11 on the record talking about them that much, but
12 very qualified individuals.

13 And then some of the individuals that we
14 didn't bring up and discuss, still, great
15 applicants. I think the quality of our -- the
16 applicants was stellar.

17 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I want to echo what
19 Mr. Belnap said. I found that the quality of the
20 applicants was stellar. There are a lot of
21 applicants that we didn't even talk about at all
22 today. And they were great applicants. And even
23 those that may not have moved forward are really
24 great applicants.

25 This was a really strong group and so

1 these are really difficult decisions. And so I
2 just want to say, thank you to all of them for
3 taking the time to do the application and for going
4 through the process.

5 CHAIR COE: Thank you both for sharing
6 your thoughts. I don't have a lot to add. This
7 was a tremendously talented pool of people. And it
8 was a lot of hard work, leading to a lot of
9 difficult decisions that we had to make. And I
10 think the fact that it was difficult is a testament
11 to the quality of the people that applied. And so
12 I would like to echo what you guys said and to
13 thank everybody who came forward to apply.

14 I think we're getting close to making some
15 motions. And for those, the members of the public,
16 that are watching along on a livestream and are
17 interested in making a comment on those motions,
18 note that there are several upcoming opportunities
19 to do so. We're getting ready to make these
20 motions and so I wanted to give people a heads-up
21 to start getting into the queue if they want to.
22 The number, again, is (844) 291-6360, and the
23 meeting access code is 7222059, or you can give the
24 name of the Applicant Review -- give the name of
25 the meeting, which is Applicant Review Panel

1 meeting.

2 Mr. Dawson, could you please read for us
3 into the record the grouping of 20 Democratic
4 applicants that we have tentatively settled on
5 please?

6 MR. DAWSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 This will be list of 20 Democrats that the Panel
8 has agreed to move forward to the legislature.
9 Once again, I'll ask the Secretary and all Panel
10 Members to listen carefully to make sure that I
11 properly identify the folks on this list.

12 Number 6467, Carina Camacho.

13 Number 3710, J. Ray Kennedy.

14 Number 4364, Margo Morales.

15 Number 6169, Vonya Quarles.

16 Number 7164, Sara Sadhwani.

17 Number 1602, Patricia Sinay.

18 Number 4607, Bapu Vaitla.

19 Number 15239, Angela Vasquez.

20 Number 14729, Denisse Godoy.

21 Number 21439, Laura Gomez.

22 Number 20032, Cynthia Kroll.

23 Number 17925, Maria Pilar Diaz.

24 Number 8032, Rebecca Ceniceros.

25 Number 7656, Trena Turner.

1 Number 10150, Ina Bendich.

2 Number 15631, Herman DeBose.

3 Number 3590, Jeffrey Chang.

4 Number 11802, Michael Gennaco.

5 Number 330, William MacPhail.

6 And, finally, Number 1472, David Freedman.

7 Madam Secretary, does my list agree with
8 yours?

9 MS. LE TELLIER: Yes, it does.

10 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, does my list agree
11 with the Panel's?

12 CHAIR COE: It agrees with my list,
13 Counsel.

14 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: It agrees with my
15 list.

16 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: It agrees.

17 CHAIR COE: Great. Seeing that there is
18 agreement, I would like to make a motion that the
19 20 Democratic applicants as reflected on the list
20 just read by Counsel be moved forward to the
21 legislature for consideration. Any second on that?

22 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: I second.

23 CHAIR COE: Thank you. At this time,
24 there is an opportunity for public comment on the
25 motion just made. We will stand at ease for three

1 minutes to allow people to get in the queue. And,
2 again, I will provide the contact information. If
3 you want to make a public comment the number is
4 (844) 291-6360, (844) 291-6360. The access code
5 for the meeting is 7222059, or you can give the
6 name of the meeting, which is Applicant Review
7 Panel meeting. And we will stand at ease for three
8 minutes to allow people to queue up to provide a
9 comment, again, on the motion just made.

10 (Pause)

11 CHAIR COE: Okay, Moderator, do we have
12 anybody in the queue that would like to make a
13 comment on the motion in front of us?

14 MODERATOR: Again, if you'd like to make a
15 comment, please press 1, followed by 0.

16 And we have no one in queue.

17 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

18 I'd like to restate the motion, just for
19 clarity, that the 20 Democratic applicants as
20 reflected in the list that was read into the record
21 by Counsel be moved forward to the legislature. We
22 have received a second from Ms. Dickison.

23 So all in favor?

24 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Aye.

25 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Aye.

1 CHAIR COE: Aye. The motion carries.
2 Thank you.

3 Mr. Dawson, at this time could you read
4 into the record the names of the 20 Republican
5 candidates that we tentatively agreed upon?

6 MR. DAWSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 Number 20496, Jane Andersen.

8 Number 15352, Katherine Burns.

9 Number 5734, Jeff Comerchero.

10 Number 12652, Alicia Fernandez.

11 Number 2230, Colmar Figueroa-Moseley.

12 Number 7806, Neal Fornaciari.

13 Number 22980, Louise Gulartie.

14 Number 24083, Ravinder Shergill.

15 Number 21705, Derric Taylor.

16 Number 13850, Karla Van Meter.

17 Number 11312, Russell Yee.

18 Number 73, David Burdick.

19 Number 5190, Robert Murillo.

20 Number 22370, Genevieve Murphy.

21 Number 4974, Peter Blando.

22 Number 19974, Wesley Hussey.

23 Number 19939, Hellen Meade.

24 Number 668, Ronald Newton.

25 Number 6450, James Trovato.

1 Number 11427, Richard Gallegos.

2 Madam Secretary, does my list comport with
3 yours?

4 MS. LE TELLIER: Yes, it does.

5 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, does my list
6 comport with yours and the Panel's?

7 CHAIR COE: It does, Counsel.

8 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: It does.

9 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: It does.

10 CHAIR COE: Okay. So I then would like to
11 make a motion that the 20 Republican applicants as
12 reflected on the list just read by Counsel be moved
13 forward to the legislature. Any second?

14 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I second that
15 motion.

16 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap.

17 So at this time, there is an opportunity
18 for public comment on the motion to move forward
19 these 20 Republican applicants to the legislature.
20 And we will stand at ease to allow people to queue
21 into the room to make public comment. I will give
22 you the number again, (844) 291-6360, and the
23 access code, 7222059, or provide the name of the
24 meeting, which is Applicant Review Panel meeting.
25 And we will stand at ease for approximately three

1 minutes.

2 (Pause)

3 CHAIR COE: Okay, Moderator, do we have
4 anybody in the queue that would like to make a
5 comment on the motion in front of us?

6 MODERATOR: We have no one in queue. And
7 we have no one in queue for comments.

8 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

9 Seeing as there's no public comment, I
10 will reiterate the motion, is to move the 20
11 Republican applicants as reflected on the list read
12 into the record by Counsel and move that list of
13 applicants forward to the legislature. We received
14 a second from Mr. Belnap.

15 So all in favor?

16 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Aye.

17 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Aye.

18 CHAIR COE: Aye. The motion carries.

19 So, Mr. Dawson, at this time can you
20 please read into the record the names of the 20
21 individuals in the party not affiliated with either
22 the Republican or Democratic Parties that we have
23 tentatively agreed on?

24 MR. DAWSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 Number 22971, Linda Akutagawa.

1 Number 1513, Gurinder Aujla.
2 Number 8704, Jonathan Birk.
3 Number 16526, Manuel Gonzalez.
4 Number 16977, Antonia Le Mons.
5 Number 10721, Eddie Morgan.
6 Number 20616, Deborah Seiler.
7 Number 10419, Henry Serra.
8 Number 12677, Pedro Toledo.
9 Number 27048, Victoria Vicki Tomoush.
10 Number 25950 Jagoree Roy.
11 Number 17733, Isra Ahmad.
12 Number 16088, Scott McCarty.
13 Number 21649, Tam Tran.
14 Number 17669, Vincent Sheu.
15 Number 1161, Teresa Liang.
16 Number 9854, Steven Boilard.
17 Number 20535, Stefan Murphy.
18 Number 1778, Maria Williams Slaughter.
19 And, finally, Number 1643, Michael Dozier.
20 Madam Secretary, does my list match yours?
21 MS. LE TELLIER: Yes, it does.
22 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair, does my list match
23 yours and the Panel's?
24 CHAIR COE: It does.
25 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: It does.

1 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: It does.

2 CHAIR COE: Okay, seeing as we're all in
3 agreement, I would like to make a motion that the
4 20 members of the pool not affiliated with either
5 the Republican or Democratic Party as reflected on
6 the list just read by Counsel be moved forward to
7 the legislature. Any second?

8 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Second.

9 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

10 At this time, there's an opportunity for
11 public comment. So as we've done, we will stand at
12 ease to allow any members of the public who would
13 like to comment on this particular motion, I will
14 give you the number one more time, it is (844) 291-
15 6360, and the access code for the meeting is
16 7222059, or you can provide the name, which is
17 Applicant Review Panel meeting. And once you do
18 that, you will need to press 1, then 0, to enter
19 the queue to make a comment. So will be standing
20 at ease for approximately three minutes to allow
21 members of the public to line up and comment.

22 (Pause)

23 CHAIR COE: Ms. Moderator, do we have
24 anybody in the queue that would like to make a
25 comment on this motion?

1 MODERATOR: We do not have anyone in queue
2 at this time.

3 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

4 Seeing as there is no public comment on
5 the motion, I will reiterate, the motion was to
6 move the 20 applicants not affiliated with either
7 the Republican or Democratic Parties as reflected
8 on the list that was previously read by Counsel to
9 forward to the legislature. I received a second.

10 So all in favor?

11 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Aye.

12 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Aye.

13 CHAIR COE: Aye. The motion carries.

14 So I would like to make one final motion
15 considering the other three that have already been
16 made, and that is that all other applicants,
17 regardless of political affiliation, will be -- all
18 remaining applicants, regardless of political
19 affiliation, not on the three lists that we just
20 read into the record will be eliminated from
21 further consideration.

22 Any second?

23 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Second.

24 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

25 So again, there is an opportunity for this

1 motion for public comment. The number (844) 291-
2 6360. The access code 7222059, or you can give the
3 name of the meeting, which is Applicant Review
4 Panel meeting. And then once you have done that,
5 press 1, then 0 to enter the queue to make a
6 comment on this motion. We will stand at ease for
7 approximately three minutes.

8 (Pause)

9 CHAIR COE: Okay, Moderator, do we have
10 anybody on the line in the queue that would like to
11 make a comment on this motion?

12 MODERATOR: And one moment please. And
13 there is no one in the queue.

14 CHAIR COE: Okay. Thank you.

15 Seeing as there is no public comment, I
16 will reiterate the motion, and that motion was that
17 all other applicants, regardless of political
18 affiliation, if they were not on one of the three
19 lists as reflected on the three lists read by
20 Counsel will be eliminated for further
21 consideration. We received a second.

22 So all in favor?

23 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Aye.

24 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Aye.

25 CHAIR COE: Aye. The motion carries.

1 Thank you.

2 So at this time, I think we're going to
3 move on to agenda item eight, general public
4 comment on any matter. So, again, if you would
5 like to make a comment at this time, you can call
6 (844) 291-6360. The access code is 7222059, or you
7 can provide the name of the meeting, which is
8 Applicant Review Panel meeting. And once you do
9 that, you will need to press 1, then 0 to get into
10 the queue.

11 I think we have somebody in the queue
12 currently; is that right?

13 MODERATOR: That is correct. We have a
14 comment from Timothy Reynolds.

15 Please go ahead.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: Hi. My comment is to the
17 one that you just voted on and I didn't get -- I
18 don't know if I got in the queue in time or not.
19 But I was just wanting to understand that -- so the
20 list, like, you're looking at eliminating everybody
21 else that hadn't been. But what if somebody drops
22 out and you don't have enough to make the final,
23 will you -- I mean, to make up your final Panel,
24 how do you pick people at that point?

25 CHAIR COE: Thank you for your comment.

1 Mr. Dawson?

2 MR. DAWSON: Yes, Mr. Reynolds, I can
3 answer your question.

4 The Voters First Act specifies that the
5 voters -- the Applicant Review Panel will send a
6 maximum of 20 each, and that's what we've done.
7 There are provisions for the legislature to
8 eliminate other folks as well. So those remaining
9 applicants will be brought back to the California
10 State Auditor's Office for selection in a random
11 process, which will take place the first week of
12 July.

13 I hope that answers your question.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay.

15 MR. DAWSON: Thank you.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you.

17 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

18 Do we have any additional public comment
19 at this time, Moderator?

20 MODERATOR: Again, if you'd like to make a
21 comment, please press 1, followed by 0.

22 And we have no one currently in the queue.

23 CHAIR COE: I think we should stand at
24 ease for another minute or two and allow anybody
25 else an opportunity to get into the queue. The

1 number one more time, (844) 291-6360. The access
2 code, 7222059, or you can provide the name of the
3 meeting, which is Applicant Review Panel meeting,
4 and then you'll need to press 1, then 0 to enter
5 the queue. So we will provide a couple more
6 minutes for folks to queue in and provide a
7 comment.

8 (Pause)

9 CHAIR COE: Ms. Moderator, do we have any
10 additional commenters in the queue?

11 MODERATOR: And there is no one in queue
12 at this time.

13 CHAIR COE: Okay, seeing as there is no
14 further public comment, I think we've reached the
15 end of our agendized business for this meeting.

16 I think at this time, before we adjourn,
17 I'd like to give the opportunity for Counsel and
18 Members of the Panel to provide a closing
19 statement, and I'd like to start with Counsel.

20 Mr. Dawson?

21 MR. DAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 This has been an amazing process that has
23 taken turns that I don't think that any of us could
24 have foreseen.

25 I want to thank my Secretary, Yvonne Le

1 Tellier, CSA staff, including my counterpart as CSA
2 Counsel, David King, and my Chief Counsel,
3 Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway.

4 I also want to thank our vendors,
5 particularly video services. Their flexibility,
6 their creativity, their can-do attitude allowed us
7 to be able to make the transition to remote
8 interviews in a way that was seamless, in a way
9 that allowed us to move forward with very little
10 loss of time, which we were able to make up.

11 And I especially want to thank the Panel.
12 Mr. Chair, Mr. Belnap, Ms. Dickison, your
13 dedication, your preparation, your attention to
14 detail for thousands and thousands of applications
15 that you have been reviewing for nearly nine
16 months, and to read them as we narrowed the pool to
17 this, as Ms. Dickison said, a very, very strong
18 group of 60 applicants, which I know that any one
19 of those -- and I certainly don't get a vote. But
20 I was here for each of the interviews and can say,
21 unequivocally, that the applicants that you are
22 moving forward to the legislature will be able to
23 do the job. They will be able to draw the lines in
24 a way that is fair. It's a group of really
25 extraordinary Californians.

1 And I want to thank you for being
2 unflappable in the face of the circumstances that
3 we faced. We had a situation none of us could ever
4 had expected. We had an immovable deadline. And,
5 frankly, working with you has made me proud of this
6 office, proud of you, proud to be a Californian, so
7 thank you.

8 CHAIR COE: Thank you very much, Mr.
9 Dawson.

10 Ms. Dickison, any closing thoughts you'd
11 like to provide?

12 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Yes. I would like
13 to thank CSA and the staff for all the assistance
14 and the support that they provided throughout the
15 process. And they've been so flexible, working to
16 ensure that the applicants received answers to all
17 their questions. We heard that from a number of
18 applicants that the process for them was seamless,
19 and their questions got answered as they were going
20 through the process. And then for the other
21 support that they provided to us in providing the
22 information that we requested, and the contractors
23 for working with us and getting everything set up.

24 And then to the applicants, all of the
25 applicants, for spending all the time that was

1 needed to put their applications together. It was
2 a really strong pool. And I'm proud of the pool
3 that we've put forward.

4 I'd also like to thank my Assistant, Mary
5 Delaney. She's been very helpful.

6 So -- and my fellow Panel Members. It's
7 been a pleasure working with you.

8 And, Mr. Dawson, thank you very much.

9 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Ms. Dickison.

10 CHAIR COE: Mr. Belnap, your thoughts?

11 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: I apologize right
12 now because there's no chance I can get through
13 this without being emotional. Just -- it's already
14 started.

15 You know, as I looked over on our final
16 vote, I saw we looked at each and said aye, and
17 then some emotion starts, so that's going to
18 happen.

19 I want to thank our applicants. I have
20 been enriched by reading your life synopsis, your
21 experiences in your applications, and also
22 interacting with you in the interviews. I feel
23 like I'm a changed person having heard some of the
24 concepts you have taught us and explained, but also
25 just your life and your dedication to service. I

1 am forever changed by interacting with you.

2 I want to thank our legal experts,
3 professionals. Mr. Dawson, Mr. King, and Stephanie
4 Ramirez-Ridgeway have been very helpful.

5 CSA staff, there's many behind the scenes.
6 I don't want to name any one person because it's
7 just not fair. There are so many that have done
8 such amazing work. We've had a few secretaries,
9 including Yvonne, I can't say your last name, I
10 apologize, Le Tellier, and also Shauna Pellman, two
11 people that have been with us through the process.
12 I really appreciate them, including the technical
13 staff that have made this possible. I think Mr.
14 Dawson did a great job already expressing that
15 appreciation, how you made this all possible.

16 I want to thank Britani Keszler, my
17 Assistant through this process. I couldn't have
18 done this without you, Britani.

19 All right, so we're going to power through
20 this.

21 And I want to thank the State Auditor for
22 making resources available to us. And it's not
23 just about the resources. That's fairly
24 superficial. I think her professionalism and
25 dedication, it permeates this organization. So we

1 have been the recipients of that culture. We've
2 been here long enough to experience that. So to
3 the extent that we've operated with professionalism
4 and dedication, I think she deserves some credit
5 for her influence on this organization and on us.

6 And, finally, and I'm going to have a hard
7 time getting through this, I want to thank my
8 fellow Panel Members. I've observed you sitting
9 this -- you know, looking very closely at you,
10 maybe it was closer during the non-social
11 distancing times, in very stressful situations.
12 And you were, as Mr. Dawson said, unflappable.
13 You've done remarkably well. We've engaged in
14 productive conflict and successful compromise that
15 was, at times, uncomfortable, I think as somebody
16 might have said in a comment, but I think was
17 absolutely necessary to get to the point we're at.
18 And I will forever share a bond with you, having
19 gone through this experience, so I love you both.

20 And that's all I've got to say.

21 CHAIR COE: Thank you, Mr. Belnap, Ms.
22 Dickison, Mr. Dawson, for your thoughts.

23 This has been one heck of a mountain to
24 climb; right? And when I think back to a year ago,
25 I think nearly to the day, I think it was May 9th

1 last year when we were selected for the roles on
2 the Applicant Review Panel. And this day was kind
3 of a -- and the goal was kind of a distant mountain
4 looming ominously in front of us. And last summer,
5 when we moved into our new office, we really got
6 going and we kind of stood at the base of that
7 mountain looking ever upwards towards the goal on
8 the summit.

9 And I don't know about either of you guys,
10 but I remember feeling rather apprehensive, unsure
11 of myself, as I started this process and took the
12 first steps on the path to that summit. I found
13 myself grappling with questions, like am I the
14 right person for this? Can I do it successfully?
15 How do you avoid making that one big mistake? It
16 was not unlike what I would imagine the feeling
17 that actual mountain climbers have when they're
18 standing at the base of Mount Everest and
19 contemplating the task in front of them because I
20 think the significance and the importance of this
21 job wasn't lost on any of us.

22 The people of California were counting on
23 us to get this right. And it was a difficult path,
24 daunting at times, and mentally taxing pretty much
25 all the time, but we kept inching forward. And

1 today the Applicant Review Panel stands atop the
2 summit of the mountain that it's been climbing
3 since last year.

4 But just like those actual mountain
5 climbers that reach the summit of Mount Everest, we
6 did not do this on our own. We were assisted,
7 counseled, guided, motivated, and inspired by many
8 other people that, despite being less visible to
9 the public, were just as vital to the success of
10 this effort as the three of us on this Panel. And
11 I'll try not to be too longwinded as I know I'm
12 sometimes apt to do with all of my mountain
13 climbing allegory and things of that nature. But I
14 feel that it's important to take a moment to
15 recognize as many of these people as I can before
16 we close. So I hope that you will indulge me for a
17 few minutes while I do so.

18 I want to start with my family for all of
19 their support during this process, specifically my
20 wife, Brooke. As you can imagine, playing this role
21 came with additional time requirements, some weird
22 schedules. And even when I was at home, I was
23 often times lost in thought, contemplating
24 something at work, how I would handle a given
25 situation, preparing for one of these public

1 meetings, or just generally pondering the immense
2 responsibility that I had been entrusted with.

3 And there were times when I felt
4 overwhelmed, unsure of how to meet my
5 responsibilities here with the Panel, and as well
6 as my responsibilities at home to my wife and two
7 our six- and four-year-old daughters. But in those
8 times, my wife Brooke was as solid as they come,
9 telling me repeatedly, "We'll figure it out." so I
10 thank her for her support, for everything she did
11 to take on more of the parenting duties when I was
12 unable to do my share, and for always, always
13 believing in me.

14 Here in the office, I want to recognize,
15 start by recognizing our I.T. Unit, Jeremy Evans,
16 Arianna Keith, Leon Baradat, Steve Baker. They
17 started working on this way before we did,
18 designing a custom system for us to review
19 applications, as well as working on the website,
20 the public and the applicants' reviews to get
21 information or to work on their applications.

22 They also had to deal with all of our,
23 "Hey, I can't get this thing to work," complaints,
24 which I'm sure gets old really quick. But they
25 always responded promptly and professionally to get

1 whatever that thing was working again. And we're
2 very fortunate to have such a smart, dedicated
3 Information Technology staff in this organization
4 and I thank them for their efforts during the
5 Panel's work.

6 I'd like to also recognize the Panel's
7 Executive Secretary, Yvonne Le Tellier. I think I
8 said that right. She kept us organized and informed
9 and made sure we always had supplies and things
10 that we needed. And she also, I believe, played a
11 huge part in coordinating with our many
12 contractors, helping ensure everyone was set up and
13 ready to go for public meetings, putting together
14 meeting minutes and the demographic reports that
15 have been distributed throughout the meetings.

16 And from a personal standpoint, Yvonne was
17 instrumental in working out some kinks to get me a
18 parking pass in the building, I think faster than
19 normally would occur, when I decided, at the drop
20 of a hat, to stop taking public transit into work
21 when the pandemic started to take hold. And since
22 that pandemic has taken hold, we've missed having
23 Yvonne around the office, but she's continued to
24 coordinate and follow-up on issues from home. And I
25 thank you her for all of her hard work and

1 dedication.

2 I want to acknowledge and thank you the
3 people on the other side of the wall from us, the
4 folks from the California State Auditor's Office,
5 setting up a contact point for the public and for
6 the applicants. Dan Claypool, David King, Ryan
7 Grossi, Kurtis Nakamura, Chris Papanian, Shauna
8 Pellman, Raul Villanueva, I'm sure I'm probably
9 missing some names and I apologize for that, these
10 are the people that you all speak to or interact
11 with when you call or email the office with
12 inquires about the redistricting process.

13 And as we've heard several times from our
14 applicants, either during their interviews or in
15 public comments during meetings, the job that they
16 have done has nothing short of stellar and of the
17 highest regard. So thank you for all the support
18 you've provided to the public, the applicants, and
19 to the Panel these past several months.

20 I would like to recognize, also, the
21 efforts taken by the State Auditor's Office before
22 we were selected. I alluded to this during our
23 first meeting, I think, but many people in this
24 organization worked very hard to canvas this state
25 and bring awareness to this process and encourage

1 people to apply, way before the Applicant Review
2 Panel was even selected.

3 These people include, and again, I'm sure
4 I'm missing some folks, so I apologize, Margarita
5 Fernandez, the Chief of Public Affairs for the
6 State Auditor's Office, Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway,
7 our Chief Legal for the State Auditor's Office, and
8 the State Auditor herself, Elaine Howle. I know
9 they spent a lot of time traveling, conducting many
10 interviews on the radio, television, and print. I
11 think there was at least one podcast in there as
12 well. They really set the tone for this entire
13 thing before the three of us even knew we were
14 going to be a part of it. And being able to
15 observe them and the rest of the leadership of this
16 office has really influenced me as a professional
17 and as a person. And I will always look to carry
18 myself as a leader by the example they have
19 provided.

20 My Assistant, Olivia Lawrence, if I could
21 choose just one person to be locked in a room with
22 for nine to ten months straight -- well, I mean,
23 for my own personal well-being, since this is on
24 the record and she's probably watching it, probably
25 would have to say, my wife. But Olivia would

1 definitely be a close second.

2 When I first heard that we were going to
3 have an assistant and we were going to be relegated
4 to a closed-door office for the entirety of this
5 process with them, I'll admit I was a bit nervous
6 who I would end up with. I even asked Mr. Dawson
7 if we could have input on who our assistant was, if
8 we could be involved in the interviews, and the
9 answer was, gently, "No." But Mr. Dawson assured
10 me that the right fit is very important to those
11 making the decision.

12 I was skeptical. I didn't know who was
13 making the decision. And my guess is, you know,
14 maybe they didn't know me personally very well, so
15 I thought it could have been a shot in the dark,
16 but it really couldn't have worked out better for
17 me. Whoever did end up making that call is
18 deserving of a raise or promotion or some kind of
19 praise that is appropriate under State of
20 California Employment Guidelines because they
21 nailed it.

22 I could not have asked for a better
23 assistant than Olivia Lawrence. She and I have
24 been in an absolute lockstep from the very
25 beginning. And the value she brought to this

1 process was invaluable and should not go unnoticed.
2 She has worn so many hats during this process, from
3 keeping me organized, to always making sure I had
4 the right information, to providing thoughts and
5 perspectives that I may not have considered myself,
6 to playing the role of armchair psychologist when
7 it may have been a tough day.

8 So, Olivia, your loyalty, your
9 perspective, and your counsel has meant more to me
10 than you'll ever know. And I sincerely thank you
11 for being my right hand during this journey.

12 Our Counsel, Mr. Chris Dawson, he's never
13 said anything like this to me but I get the sense
14 he may have gotten a little more than he bargained
15 for when he signed up for this assignment. His
16 name card over there says, "ARP Counsel" and, I
17 believe, to most members of the public, that's what
18 he is. He's the person that provides the Panel
19 with legal advice. And while this is definitely
20 true, throughout the course of this effort, Mr.
21 Dawson was more than an attorney. He was a
22 manager, a coordinator, a leader, and often times a
23 confidant. He endured all of our endless
24 questions. And sometimes he endured our
25 frustrations as well.

1 And as Mr. Belnap mentioned at the close
2 of our previous meeting, Mr. Dawson is as steady as
3 they come. Whether not much is going on and it's
4 an easy day, or under immense pressure, Mr. Dawson
5 was a consistent and reassuring force for the
6 members of the Panel. And when the world changed,
7 what seemed like overnight, in the face of this
8 pandemic, Mr. Dawson worked tirelessly to adapt to
9 ensure the safety of everyone, the applicants, the
10 Panel, our staff, and our contractors, and he did
11 all of this with as even a demeanor as I've ever
12 seen someone operate.

13 So many people that know me know that I'm
14 a little bit of a comic book nerd. And there's a
15 quote from the Batman film, the Dark Knight, in
16 which Batman is referred to as "The hero that
17 Gotham deserves but not the one it needs right
18 now." Well, I don't know if we deserved him, but
19 Mr. Dawson was and continues to be the hero that we
20 needed on this project.

21 So, Counsel, I thank you very much for
22 everything you've done for us professionally and
23 personally during this effort.

24 To my fellow Panelists, Ms. Dickison and
25 Mr. Belnap, as I tried to compose these thoughts

1 and I got to this section, I find myself at a bit
2 of a loss for words which is, I'm sure, surprising
3 to anybody paying attention right now, considering
4 I've been talking for so long. But despite being
5 segregated away from each other in separate offices
6 and prohibited from speaking about Panel business
7 outside of these meetings, I think we still somehow
8 shared this experience quite intimately.

9 As only the three of us really know what
10 it was like to sit here in these chairs and to read
11 every word of those applications, some of them
12 many, many times over, to prepare for and conduct
13 nearly 120 interviews and to carry the future of
14 the citizens of California on our shoulders. This
15 is certainly not something I think we ever thought
16 we would be doing when we became auditors for this
17 office.

18 But you both rose to meet the challenge,
19 unwaveringly committed to the utmost
20 professionalism, and to representing the people of
21 California in the best way possible. We may not
22 have agreed at times but, as Mr. Belnap mentioned
23 during one of our previous meetings, I do believe
24 that the three of us have collectively done this
25 job better than any one of us could have done

1 alone.

2 Thank you for your resilience, for the
3 thoughtfulness you brought to this work, for
4 constantly representing our Panel, our office, and
5 our state with the absolute highest level of
6 professionalism. I'm immensely proud that I was
7 able to play just a small part in the success of
8 this effort with the two of you.

9 Finally, I'd like to offer one last word
10 of thanks of the citizens of California that
11 applied to be on this Commission. I think, as
12 we've all said many times before, the talent in
13 this state is an amazing thing to behold. And
14 we've had the privilege these past few months to
15 experience some of that talent firsthand. Our
16 applicants have so much to offer this state and to
17 this world. So I encourage all of you, those that
18 made our final list of 60 and those that did not,
19 to find your niche. Find the place that your
20 talent can be utilized to its fullest to improve
21 the lives of those you can see and even those who
22 may not see.

23 I think on that note, I'd like to leave
24 you with a quote. I believe I started this process
25 with a quote in my opening statement, and I rather

1 enjoy quotes. I think that the right one spoken by
2 the right people at the right time can resonate in
3 ways that can be a powerful motivator. This one is
4 from our 32nd President of the United States,
5 Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and he said,

6 "If civilization is to survive, we must
7 cultivate the science of human relationships,
8 the ability of all peoples of all kinds to live
9 together and work together in the same world at
10 peace."

11 And this quote, I believe, embodies the
12 spirit of the process we have just completed, the
13 spirit that the effort -- of the effort the
14 Commission will soon undertake, and the spirit of
15 the continuous journey of humankind.

16 So the 14 people that will sit on this
17 Commission, and the 60 people whose names will be
18 provided to the legislature, and the 117 people
19 that we interviewed, and the 342 people that made
20 the second round of cuts, and the 686 that made the
21 first round, the just over 2,000 that completed
22 complete applications, out of the 20,724 people
23 that submitted initial applications, and even to
24 the nearly 40 million people that live in
25 California and, indeed, to the 327 million people

1 living in America, and even the seven-and-a-half
2 billion people on this planet, go forth and do
3 good. Reject entrenchment of mind and encourage
4 cooperation and compromise. Turn away from petty
5 conflict and strife. Embrace the ingenuity of the
6 human mind and the human spirit, the same human
7 spirit that created wonders, like the steam engine,
8 the automobile and the airplane, that allowed human
9 beings to leave this planet, walk around on the
10 moon, and return safely, that eradicated old
11 diseases and stood up unflinchingly in the face of
12 a new one.

13 Our potential, human potential, really is
14 limitless. And if we all do just a little bit of
15 good for the betterment of those around us, as this
16 Commission will do, we get closer and closer to
17 reaching that potential, and that is how we will
18 make this state, this nation, and this world better
19 for all of us.

20 So thank you all so very much.

21 I think we have reached the end of this
22 meeting. So with that, this meeting, the final
23 meeting of the Applicant Review Panel --

24 MR. DAWSON: Mr. Chair --

25 CHAIR COE: I'm sorry.

1 MR. DAWSON: -- you'll have to make a
2 motion.

3 CHAIR COE: I have to make a motion to
4 close a meeting, motion to adjourn. I would like
5 to make a motion to adjourn this meeting. Do I
6 have a second?

7 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Second.

8 CHAIR COE: Thank you.

9 Do we have to vote?

10 MR. DAWSON: You can agree.

11 CHAIR COE: Okay, so we all agree to vote?

12 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Agree.

13 PANEL MEMBER BELNAP: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR DICKISON: Aye.

15 CHAIR COE: Aye. Okay, the motion
16 carries, final motion, so this, the final meeting
17 of the Applicant Review Panel, is adjourned.

18 (Thereupon the Applicant Review Panel adjourned at
19 2:55 p.m.)

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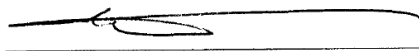
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REPORTER' S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 21st day of May, 2020.



PETER PETTY
CER**D-493
Notary Public

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

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



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

May 21, 2020