PUBLIC HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA STATE AUDITOR

BUREAU OF STATE AUDITS

In the Matter of:)
)
Selection Process for the)
Citizens Redistricting Commission)
and the Applicant Review Panel in)
the Implementation of)
the Voters First Act)
)

CAL TRANS BUILDING

4050 TAYLOR STREET

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009

10:00 A.M.

ORIGINAL

Reported by:
Peter Petty

A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

Sharon Reilly, Chief Council to the State Auditor

Margarita Fernandez, Chief of Public Affairs

Steven Russo, Chief of Investigations

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Ralph Pesqueira

Billie Blair

Jeanne Brown, Common Cause

Kathay Feng, California Common Cause

Nancy McCleary, San Diego County League of Women Voters

Robert McDaniel

Ruth Rollins

Lori Saldana, Assemblywoman 76th District, Women's Caucus

John Volkey

Susan Medak

Raymond Lutz

Jim Wright

Bob Prath, AARP

Gordon Bosnign

Bob Keiser

Tona Lepula, Native Hawaiian Pacific Island Communities

David Alvarez

A P P E A R A N C E S (Continued)

Evan McLaughlin, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council

Michelle Krug

Fred Schreiber

Mitz Lee

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: If everybody wants to take a
3 seat, that would be great.
4 On behalf of the State Auditor, I would like to
5 thank you for your participation in today's meeting
6 regarding the implementation of the Voters First Act. As
7 you all are aware, California voters approved this new law
8 in November of 2008.
9 My name is Sharon Reilly, and I'm chief counsel
10 to the State Auditor. And I'll let the other panel
11 members introduce themselves.
12 PANEL MEMBER FERNANDEZ: Good morning. My name
13 is Margarita Fernandez, and I'm the chief of public
14 affairs and also with the State Auditor's office.
15 THE REPORTER: I don't think your mic is on.
16 Share the middle one. That's the only one that amplifies.
17 PANEL MEMBER FERNANDEZ: Okay. Sorry.
18 THE REPORTER: That's okay. You can take it off
19 the stand if you'd like.
20 PANEL MEMBER FERNANDEZ: Good morning. I'm
21 Margarita Fernandez, chief of public affairs with the
22 California State Auditor's office.
23 PANEL MEMBER RUSSO: And I'm Steven Russo. I'm
24 an attorney with the State Auditor's office and I work
25 with the Investigations Division primarily.

1 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. As stated in the
2 meeting notice, this meeting is to solicit comments
3 regarding the processes that should be established for
4 individuals to apply to become members of the Citizens
5 Redistricting Commission and for the selection of the
6 Applicant Review Panel and to assess the applicants and
7 create an applicant pool of 60 qualified members.
8 As you know, there are many provisions in the Act
9 that apply to the redistricting commission itself. We
10 don't have a role in that part of the initiative. Our
11 role is limited to forming the commission itself, so we're
12 here to take comments about that process and not what the
13 redistricting commission itself will be doing once it's
14 formed.
15 The comments that we receive today at this
16 meeting may be considered as the State Auditor develops
17 and establishes processes that are necessary to implement
18 the Act.
19 We are also here to gather information from the
20 public. We're here to listen, not to engage in a debate
21 of law or to discuss the merits of the Act. We may
22 occasionally ask follow-up questions or ask you to clarify
23 your comments so that we may fully understand them. Our
24 purpose here today, as I said before, is to listen to your
25 thoughts and concerns regarding the role the State Auditor

1 plays in the implementation of the Act.
2 Please limit your comments to the provisions of
3 the Act relating to the formation of the commission and
4 the duties of the commission. Once you have provided your
5 comments, unless you are interested in hearing the
6 comments from other interested persons here today or would
7 like to speak again, you don't have to feel obligated to
8 stay. We're going to be posting either transcripts or
9 possibly the recording of this meeting on our website, so
10 you can visit that anytime you'd like, as soon as we get
11 it up and running. And that also is a reminder that this
12 meeting is being recorded.
13 And it looks like, based on the participation we
14 have here today, that we'll be able to go through it
15 without a break; but if for some reason things are running
16 long or more people show up, we might need to take a break
17 here and there.
18 So what we're going to do is probably go row by
19 row and ask for comments.
20 And written comments may be sent to the address
21 on our handout or via email. If you have any written
22 comments that you would like to submit today or you have
23 any questions regarding where to send the written
24 comments, please see the representative from the State
25 Auditor's office right over there; Barbie can help you

with that.

Before beginning your comments, we ask that you state your name for the record. If you would like to be added to our list of interested persons for any future mailings regarding the State Auditor's implementation of the Voters First Act, you may sign up at the back of the -- not at the back, at the side of the room there, but registration is purely voluntary, so you don't have to feel obligated to give us your name.

So with that said, why don't we start with the first row.

Do we have anybody in the first row who would like to make comments? Okay. Please come up here.

MR. PESQUEIRA: Good morning. My name is Ralph Pesqueira. My address is [redacted] I'm here for a couple of things.

For some of you who may know me, I was the chairman of the San Diego City Redistricting, and we were the first volunteer -- citizens volunteer committee.

The questions that we were asked to address here is how do we do an outreach, as I understand, to get citizens. Well, the one thing that we did was made sure that every single newspaper, every single community bulletin was notified. We were assigned a staff; the staff did a phenomenal job of doing that, and we got the

1 word out.
2 Now, before the commission, that was handled by
3 the city clerk's office, which would, I guess, be
4 someplace where you would be in that situation. They went
5 out for applicants by the same procedure. They made sure
6 that it was on television, they made sure it was on radio,
7 talk shows, they made sure that every newspaper, church
8 newspapers, organizational newspapers, anything, they
9 would send out a notice to them and what they were
10 interested in.
11 To ensure a diversity, of course, this becomes
12 very important, because without having access to these
13 papers and having these papers publishing something --
14 now, you can't make them publish it, but, you know, at
15 least you have a record that you sent it to X, Y, Z paper
16 or X, Y, Z bulletin and it was up to them then to publish
17 it. So that's probably the safest way to do it, is to get
18 as much public exposure as you possibly can. And that's
19 true with the selection process. It's got to be done as
20 publicly as possible.
21 And if I may take a moment to just give you my
22 recollection of San Diego, we had four -- the city clerk's
23 office was the primary instigator, so to speak. They
24 selected a panel of retired Superior Court judges that had
25 to be -- as I recall, they had to be in retirement for

1 five years so there appeared to be no political
2 connections whatsoever.
3 And then you went to the city clerk's office
4 and/or had them mail you or fax you or take it off your
5 computer today, the application. It was rather simple, as
6 I recall; it wasn't a long, long page type thing. I
7 think, as I recall, it was a single page, maybe a page and
8 a half, but it basically was your who you are, name, rank.
9 Some of the questions I do remember were things
10 like have you served this city in any capacity as a
11 commissioner or have you been involved in anything that
12 dealt with being in commissions, so that at least there
13 was a -- they knew you had an exposure to the -- to what
14 it's like to sit on a commission, what it's like to be
15 part of a group of people that have a job to do. And
16 that, I think, was somewhat important. They did ask you
17 too if you had any experience on redistricting or were
18 involved in redistricting.
19 And I was just reminded today that one of my
20 commissioners was a professor at one of the UC systems,
21 and he taught classes on redistricting and on that
22 government side of it, and he wrote papers and things like
23 that; so that was very important. So getting just a
24 general idea of who people are and laying that out.
25 And I remember we had to sign a statement that

1 said that -- in our application that said that we would
2 agree not to run for any political election for five years
3 after the commission had finished. So that was another
4 thing that we did sign.
5 But generally they wanted to know if you were an
6 active voter, in other words, if you were somebody that
7 voted at generally all or most of the elections that took
8 place; and that tended to eliminate quite a number of
9 people right there. And they wanted to know, again, as I
10 said earlier, what activity you had and whether or not you
11 had ever run for office, and if so, what. And again, see
12 what political connections you might have.
13 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Can I interrupt you for a
14 moment?
15 MR. PESQUEIRA: Yes, please.
16 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: How did you determine or
17 verify that the individuals were active voters?
18 MR. PESQUEIRA: The voter registration, from what
19 I understood. Now, see, at that point we were not
20 involved in anything, this was all being done by the
21 judges; but Bonnie Stone, who was our representative out
22 of the city clerk's office, did most of that footwork
23 before we even came on board. And so that was handled
24 that way. And she did a very, very good job.
25 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.

1 MR. PESQUEIRA: Are there any other questions?
2 If I could take a second here?
3 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Sure.
4 MR. PESQUEIRA: The independence -- and the
5 little note that I got was that one of the things you
6 wanted to know is selection of the pool of 60 applicants,
7 to make sure that it is diverse; and I think we kind of
8 covered that. I think that one piece of advice, if I may
9 have the liberty of giving you, is that we must underline
10 and emphasize independence, they must be absolutely
11 independent.
12 For example, we had no connection, no
13 communication from any of the council people here in
14 San Diego. And after I was selected chair, I got
15 permission from my commission just to introduce myself and
16 to the city council, and most of them knew me because I
17 had served on city commissions. And but the one thing I
18 told them is that we have absolute authority, we were
19 granted absolute authority and final authority so that no
20 politician could come in and disrupt what we were doing.
21 So I think that was a very important thing.
22 But transparency -- I know this is more difficult
23 with the state, but we were on city television every time
24 we met. And it was kind of interesting because we'd get
25 comments from people saying that you were more interesting

1 than a lot of the other TV programs. We had a large
2 following on television. And we had good turnouts. We
3 met twice in every district in the City of San Diego.
4 Now, I don't know how feasible that will be in
5 the State of California, but I think it's important to
6 open up and to have a -- the public must be confident that
7 you -- that this commission has the authority, they cannot
8 be interfered with by any political entity; and if you do
9 that, I think the public will be behind it. And when the
10 time is finished, there will be little opportunity for
11 anyone to bring any suits against you for -- you know, for
12 not doing things right because you've done everything in
13 front of the public.
14 And so we did that in front of the camera. And
15 when we talked to people -- we went twice to each
16 district, we had nine months -- and each time we went to
17 the districts, fantastic turnout. And I hope that what we
18 do in California will have that same kind of interest from
19 the public.
20 And if there's any other questions, I'd be happy
21 to answer them. Okay. Thank you.
22 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
23 Is there anyone else in the first row who would
24 like to speak? Thank you.
25 DR. BLAIR: Good morning, everyone. I'm

1 Dr. Billie Blair. I'm an organizational psychologist and
2 also CEO, president of a firm that is Management
3 Consultants in Los Angeles. I live locally and make that
4 commute every so often.
5 At any rate, I would -- my advice would be to
6 ensure that there are -- that this panel is carefully
7 selected for an ability to work well together. And I know
8 that that's part of what you're involved in with the
9 selection process, but I can't emphasize that too clearly,
10 that people come onto the panel with an interest in
11 working with all diligence toward the end and that they
12 almost be willing to set aside political interests. And I
13 call that politically neutral. And I know that I'm very
14 well aware of the structure that's planned for the
15 committee, but I would ask that you consider thinking
16 about people that are part of that group, that can set
17 aside personal or political interests and work for the
18 good of the state. I think that would be very refreshing,
19 perhaps something -- perhaps a first in a long while in
20 the state.
21 I have had a lot of experience in all those kinds
22 of things, and I can tell you that when the interest is
23 the process and the end point, things work very well; and
24 also when there are people amongst the group that can
25 facilitate those processes in a significant way, then that

1 works well as well.
2 So my advice would be that the process be open,
3 as you are certainly planning to have it, that it be as
4 transparent as is possible; that is, that it be
5 transparent, that that be an end goal, and that people be
6 selected for not only their -- the requirements of the
7 panel, the five republicans, five democrats and so on, but
8 that they also be selected for what they can bring to a
9 working group.
10 So those are my comments. I'll be happy to
11 answer any questions.
12 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you. Thank you very
13 much.
14 Assemblymember Saldana has just joined us and --
15 would you like to speak now?
16 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: I'd like to hear the
17 comments before I -- (unintelligible, beyond range of
18 microphone).
19 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Is there anybody else
20 in the first row who would like to speak? Okay. Why
21 don't we move to the second row.
22 MS. BROWN: Good morning. I'm Jeannie Brown, the
23 San Diego organizer for Common Cause. As you know, Common
24 Cause worked hard, along with other groups, including the
25 League of Women Voters and AARP, to pass Prop 11; and we

1 feel it's our responsibility to oversee and help in any
2 way we can with the process of choosing the California
3 redistricting commission.
4 We hope that this will be an independent
5 citizens' commission, remembering that independent does
6 not mean uninformed. We hope that the people chosen for
7 this commission will be similar to those chosen for
8 San Diego's redistricting commission. They were
9 concerned, involved citizens; their only vested interest
10 being that they wanted the best for California.
11 Common Cause wants to make sure that the
12 diversity of the committee and the protection of the
13 communities that was promised with the passage of Prop 11
14 will occur. In order for that to happen, we want to make
15 sure that all of San Diego's communities have
16 representation at each step during this process to take
17 notes and provide input when needed. When the process is
18 open, transparent, and well-publicized to a wide range of
19 communities, then we know that the citizens will
20 participate responsibly in this democratic process.
21 I want to thank the State Auditor's office for
22 beginning the process with outreach to communities across
23 the state. It bodes well for the rest of the process.
24 I'd like to talk about a little -- a few of the
25 steps. One question I have is will there be any further

1 meetings prior to the application process? If they could,
2 we've had some input from people that would like it to be
3 on the weekends or in the evening where people that are
4 working could attend. Are there other ways to input
5 information to the Auditor's office for those who couldn't
6 make it today? So perhaps on the internet, and if that
7 information could get out to the public.
8 For the application form, I would suggest that
9 there be questions directing at obtaining information that
10 would disqualify those listed in the initiative such as
11 lobbyists, legislators, and leaders of political parties,
12 and their staff and families, and a place for the
13 applicant to sign a statement saying that the facts are
14 true under penalty of perjury. So make sure that those
15 people are disqualified, the ones that are intended to --
16 who have the vested interest.
17 I suggest that there be questions regarding the
18 applicant's knowledge of the community, evidence of
19 organizational skills and/or academic skills. Active
20 membership in a number of organizations that serve a
21 diverse group of people would give some indication. I
22 would like to see some questions involving their history
23 in California, where they've lived, where they've worked
24 and traveled. I assume that there would be questions
25 about their occupation and employment, the applicant's

1 political party, and how long they've been registered as
2 such, of course, would be necessary.
3 Also, I am assuming there will be an interview
4 process, and I hope that those would be conducted at
5 various locations around the state or that the state pay
6 for expenses, if that's necessary, for the applicant to
7 come to Sacramento.
8 There are many individuals that would be good
9 commissioners who would find it difficult to pay their own
10 expenses to come to Sacramento.
11 Outreach is a very important part. One of the
12 reasons that the commission was created with 14 members
13 was to reflect the diversity of this beautiful state we
14 have. We hope there's diversity in ethnicity, age,
15 geography, and political parties. In order to reach out
16 to as many people as possible, the media should be
17 expected to get the word out. Public service
18 announcements or news stories about the commission will
19 help explaining that we want wide variety of applicants.
20 I am not too worried about getting enough
21 democrats and republicans to sign up, but there needs to
22 be a lot of outreach to the others to make sure that
23 they're going to hear about that.
24 Since we need to have at least 20 on -- we need
25 to have 20 on the panel, on the commission or the group of

1 60, then we need to have much more than that applying.
2 Have meetings at these -- having meetings at
3 these five locations is wonderful. And again, I thank the
4 Auditor's office for planning these, but how will you be
5 doing research to those in the rural areas of our state
6 such as the Imperial valley, Humboldt County,
7 San Bernardino, Riverside area, and Bakersfield? It's
8 important that their concerns are included in this
9 commission.
10 May I also suggest that one way to outreach, the
11 League of Women Voters of California is having their state
12 convention the weekend of May 15th, 16th, and 17th. There
13 are a lot of groups, like AARP, and other, you know, city
14 organizations and so on that have their conventions during
15 the state. A meeting or workshops at those conventions
16 would be an excellent way for this, like, spring,
17 summertime to get the word out.
18 Let's see. And please use the internet and
19 public access TV to inform Californians of the process for
20 choosing the committee and then later the process of the
21 redistricting. The media should be keeping people
22 informed all along the way. And the commission's work
23 should be aired on public access TV or something similar.
24 Okay? Thank you.
25 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.

1 MS. FENG: My name is Kathay Feng, and I'm the
2 Executive Director of California Common Cause. I'm going
3 to keep my comments short since I've had an opportunity to
4 speak to the State Auditor's panel during the Sacramento
5 hearings; but just very quickly, I had a chance to talk
6 more extensively with Ralph Pesqueira, and I think a lot
7 of his insights are really illuminating as far as filling
8 in the details of how the selection process might work.
9 And I just wanted to add one more piece, because I know
10 that this was something we had a question about.
11 During the San Diego process, before they got to
12 their group of finalists, which I would say the analogy is
13 before we get to the pool of 60 applicants that you hand
14 over to the legislature to do their strikes, that they had
15 actually gone through all of the applications and then
16 they brought all of the applicants to one spot, and the
17 judges in a panel sat and interviewed them in front of
18 each other and also any public who wanted to attend. That
19 was very interesting to me, that it wasn't kind of a
20 closed-door session, it was in front of whoever wanted to
21 watch. And that process, then they said we're going to
22 make a decision by the end of today; and I guess they went
23 back, had a discussion, and then announced their final
24 choices for who was going to be on the San Diego
25 Redistricting Commission.

1 I think that there should be some thinking about,
2 as you get to that final pool of 60, how you narrow down
3 those lines and what kind of public process you have for
4 getting to those 60 names. And I know we've suggested
5 additionally before you get to the 60, that's a good time
6 to do the additional vetting that you need to make sure
7 that when somebody says that they're a regular voter, that
8 they really are, when somebody says they are not
9 disqualified because of any number of reasons, that
10 checking with other statewide databases, that that's
11 possible.
12 The other quick thing was that at the end of the
13 Sacramento hearings, there was some discussion about how
14 to make sure the step where eight of the commissioners of
15 the fourteen are randomly chosen, is it truly random, and,
16 you know, that there hasn't been any manipulation of the
17 results; and we just wanted to formally put on the record
18 that there are at least three processes conducted by the
19 state or local entities that you could look to for
20 something that's already been done.
21 So the FPPC has a process where they choose who
22 gets audited. And so they literally bring out, I think,
23 like a bingo ball machine that throws the balls in, and
24 they show that there's nothing in this sleeve and nothing
25 in this sleeve, and then they put the bingo balls in one

1 by one, and then they pull them out. The Secretary of
2 State has a similar process. And then at the local level,
3 a lot of county registrars have to decide what the random
4 order of candidate names is going to be; and so a lot of
5 the counties have a similar type of process.
6 So to the extent that something's already been
7 created, you don't need to recreate that, and it would be
8 good to consult with those agencies.
9 Thank you.
10 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
11 Is there anyone else in the second row who would
12 like to speak?
13 MS. McCLEARY: Good morning. I'm glad we all got
14 here without having to get into a big boat.
15 I'm Nancy McCleary, a co-president of the League
16 of Women Voters of San Diego County. And I am here on
17 behalf of the league of the county. And it's composed by
18 the League of Women Voters of East County, the League of
19 Women Voters of North Coast, the League of Women Voters of
20 Escondido, and the League of Women Voters of San Diego.
21 We're all over the place.
22 And I want to thank you for the opportunity to
23 express comments on processes that need to be established
24 to implement true redistricting reform in California.
25 As you know, as has been mentioned, the

1 California League of Women Voters was one of the
2 organizations that endorsed Prop 11 and advocated on
3 behalf of its passage.
4 In order for the Bureau of State Audits to create
5 an open and comprehensive process for recruiting voters
6 seeking to apply for the Citizens Redistricting
7 Commission, we believe that there should be an extensive
8 outreach to local communities publicizing the process so
9 everybody is aware of what's going on. There should be an
10 application form that covers a wide range of skills and
11 experience beyond the obvious categories, such as
12 academic, analyzed data, and an involvement that they've
13 had in local or state issues, and the service that they
14 have had in local or state commissions. And in addition,
15 the application should list any service that could
16 potentially result in disqualification under the Voters
17 First Act. A careful screening process of the
18 applications must be prepared in order to ensure that
19 there is no conflict of interest of the applicant.
20 Transparency and the selection of the commission
21 is very important to the public. The State Auditor will
22 need to adopt policies that will allow the public to
23 easily follow the application. Screening and selection of
24 the commission -- which Jeannie was talking about too --
25 the public must feel assured that the selection process

1 has -- has been implemented in a completely open manner.
2 That's their transparency. The use of all forms of
3 communication, including the press, the radio, television,
4 and the various tools available on the internet must be
5 maximized.
6 League of Women Voters of San Diego County
7 pledges to assist the State Auditor in making suggestions
8 in reality in our county.
9 Thank you.
10 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
11 Is there anybody else on the second row that
12 would like to speak?
13 MR. McDANIEL: Good morning. My name is Robert
14 McDaniel. I reside at [redacted]
15 California.
16 I'd like to thank the folks from the State
17 Auditor's office. I did a certain amount of research
18 before coming here, and in what I've read, I think that --
19 for myself anyway, I think many, many folks can trust the
20 State Auditor to do a fair and impartial job at this. And
21 I guess my point here is to -- to present my view that the
22 people of California in passing Proposition 11 made a
23 statement that they don't want professional redistrictors
24 to do this job. And that right now as we sit, the pool of
25 people eligible to do this job for the citizens commission

1 is all registered voters in the State of California who
2 have not donated $2,000 to a candidate, who have not done
3 certain things. The exclusion, the hurdle is quite low
4 right now.
5 I'd like to encourage the commission -- the
6 Auditor's office, in setting up the application process,
7 to recognize the demographics and the diversity of the
8 State of California and to set up the system on a basis of
9 inclusion as opposed to exclusion. For instance, some of
10 the folks that have spoken already in the San Diego
11 process where retired judges with more than five years out
12 of office, that, to me, is going to make them more likely
13 to be 69 years old than 19 years old, yet the 19-year-old
14 is a valid, registered voter. And in the last election
15 cycle we saw many, many of them put their hearts and souls
16 into the process.
17 I'd just like to make sure that when someone --
18 when the commission sets those hurdles that someone must
19 jump over to express an interest in being a part of the
20 commission, that we do include everyone as much as
21 possible, that being a professional redistrictor might not
22 be the greatest qualification for being on this citizens
23 panel.
24 Thank you.
25 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.

1 Is there anyone else in the second row who would
2 like to speak?
3 MS. ROLLINS: My name is Ruth Rollins -- (address
4 removed at the request of Ms. Rollins).
5 I just have a question that came up listening to
6 some of these comments. We know how you get republicans
7 and we know how you get the democrats, but are these other
8 parties that -- you know, like the Green Party, the
9 American Independent, et cetera, will they be considered
10 as the independents or are they excluded from the process?
11 That's my total question.
12 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Thank you. That's
13 something we'll take into consideration.
14 Assemblymember Saldana, would you like to speak
15 now?
16 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: Sure. Thank you, and
17 good morning to everyone. I'm Speaker Pro Tem, Lori
18 Saldana. I represent the 76th District, which is where we
19 are right now, in the Assembly. I'm also chair of the
20 Legislative Women's Caucus, and we will be preparing
21 formal comments to submit on behalf of the caucus in time
22 for the final meeting in San Francisco.
23 The Women's Caucus is made up of elected women in
24 both the state and the Senate, and we have -- we're the
25 only bipartisan caucus; we have republican and democratic

1 women. There are currently 33 women in the caucus, but
2 our numbers have been declining in recent years. And one
3 of the concerns is that after the last redistricting,
4 there were women that were serving that would have on the
5 natural been good candidates for the Senate, but because
6 of the redistricting process, they were drawn out of the
7 districts that they would have competed for.
8 Our focus at the caucus is working on women and
9 children's quality of life in the state. With the passage
10 of Prop 11, we recognize we have an opportunity to improve
11 the representation of women in politics. But as many of
12 you know, women make up a larger population of the -- a
13 larger percentage of the population in general, and yet
14 we're underrepresented in elected office at every level.
15 The need to recruit women to serve on this commission is
16 important, because what I have found is women often wait
17 to run for office until they are encouraged, and I would
18 think that would be the case on the commission as well;
19 that women may need a little more encouragement to step up
20 and apply to serve on a commission that would be part of
21 the redistricting process.
22 Right now we only have 28 percent of elected
23 officials, women in the legislature, even though we have
24 over 50 percent of the state population. So clearly there
25 is a gender imbalance taking place. And my colleagues and

1 I have discussed the need for balanced representation on
2 this commission. And in your final selection we would
3 expect that you would have at least 50 percent women,
4 because that would, in fact, represent the population at
5 large.
6 Also, I'm working on introducing a resolution
7 asking the federal government to direct the Department of
8 Commerce to release gender data, the same time they
9 release data on race. Under the Voting Rights Act, that
10 is supposed to be taken into account, as far as race on
11 redistricting, but gender is not part of that. And we
12 will ask that they change that practice.
13 Women don't live evenly throughout the state.
14 They're often in areas where the cost of living is lower;
15 they tend to be more represented in urban communities. So
16 again, that's something that needs to be taken into
17 account. 40 percent of adult women now are living in
18 households without a man. Many women are single parents;
19 they're responsible for children and facing the time and
20 exhibiting constraints of those types of situations. So
21 we really do think that that's -- the class of women needs
22 to be looked at differently when you're making your
23 decisions about the panel.
24 And it's imperative the Department of Commerce
25 provide the data on gender at the same time the data on

1 race is provided to make sure we have fair representation.
2 Gender data is released well past the time when district
3 lines are drawn typically, and we're missing opportunities
4 to address the needs of more than half the population when
5 that delay occurs.
6 We have some real opportunities here. Kathay was
7 mentioning earlier, Kathay Feng was saying how San Diego
8 has been a very good model for redistricting in the past.
9 And I serve on the elections of the redistricting
10 committee in the Assembly as the only woman on that
11 committee. When we've had hearings in the past on
12 redistricting, I've acknowledged San Diego's process. It
13 was one of the most popular television programs locally.
14 People tuned in to the public access channel. And I don't
15 see any reason why the commission's process shouldn't also
16 be televised statewide so people can really get a sense of
17 what is involved in making these determinations.
18 It should be transparent; it should be timely.
19 People shouldn't be left to wonder what decisions are
20 being made behind closed doors.
21 And also what you find in San Diego is in the
22 city council we have a good gender balance. We also
23 changed from city-wide elections at the city council to
24 district elections. And I think the smaller you -- my
25 idea of redistricting actually was to create a farm team

1 based on the San Diego model around the state so that
2 within the next redistricting period we would have people
3 that went through an experience at the local level and
4 would have better skills to bring to a statewide
5 experience, but that proposal didn't succeed, this one
6 did.
7 But I think if I look at San Diego City Council,
8 you do see some pretty good representation. You see a
9 diversity. We've had gay men and women serve on the
10 council, we've seen men of African-American and Latino
11 background, but we have never in the history of the City
12 of San Diego, despite us being the seventh largest city,
13 elected a woman of color to the San Diego City Council. I
14 don't know if people are aware of that. We've had one
15 woman appointed, but we've never elected a woman of color
16 to the City Council of San Diego, and that is clearly out
17 of touch with the representation or with the demographics
18 of our population.
19 If we look at our county supervisors, then we're
20 in a whole other ball game. And they draw their own
21 districts. And that has been the concern. And I
22 understand we have in our county, which is now more
23 democrats registered to vote than republicans, we have
24 five white republican supervisors. So clearly, looking at
25 the demographics of our county, the representation is out

1 of balance.
2 So the State of California has a real opportunity
3 here. We have a diversity in this state that is
4 matched -- that reflects the entire world. And that is
5 taken into account under the Voting Rights Act; however,
6 gender balance has never been. And so as chair of the
7 Women's Caucus, I'm here, and we will submit more detailed
8 comments, as I said, to ensure that this commission
9 reflects accurately the gender balance in California, to
10 make sure that women can improve upon the less than
11 30-percent representation we have now at the state level.
12 We know government changes when more women are
13 involved; we know that the priorities and the budget
14 reflects those changes; we see more funding go to health
15 care, to go to services that are desperately needed,
16 especially now when unemployment is approaching ten
17 percent. So I think there are a lot of benefits from
18 having more women in higher office. And so I'm going to
19 be strictly partisan when it comes to representing women
20 right now and say please make sure that you have at least
21 50 percent women on the commission when you have
22 established their numbers.
23 Thank you.
24 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
25 Assemblymember Saldana, this gentleman has a

1 question for you, if you wouldn't mind.
2 MR. PESQUEIRA: Pleasure to see you. My name is
3 Ralph Pesqueira, and I was the chair of the commission
4 here. And one thing that -- I like what you're talking
5 about here -- but remember, we've got to start early.
6 There is a computer program that has to come out in time
7 for this redistricting that lists all of these things. So
8 we're going to have to write into that program the gender
9 equity. And otherwise when the commission is looking at
10 the program and looking at all of the various districts
11 and trying to move them around to get them to be equal or
12 pretty close to equal, that's going to be a factor, is the
13 gender equity. So that will be very, very important to
14 make sure that's in the program so that they'll have that
15 to work with.
16 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: And if you can share
17 those timelines with my office, then I'll be sure that we
18 get information just as quickly as possible. The
19 Department of Commerce can help with that. We may have
20 other ways to come up with that information that's a
21 little faster.
22 MR. PESQUEIRA: I think the program comes from
23 the census, but I've forgotten who writes the program.
24 But I think it's a federal type of a thing. So it might
25 be something for you to look into just to guarantee. It

1 takes a long time to rewrite a program. And if we want to
2 have this ready for 2011 --
3 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: Well, I used to teach
4 information technology, so I understand the constraints of
5 that, but I don't think that we should let technology get
6 in the way of simple fairness. And we have ways of
7 knowing what the numbers of women in the state are. And
8 so I think we can work around all those challenges.
9 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Thank you.
10 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: Thank you.
11 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: I think we got everybody in
12 the second row who wanted to speak. Was there anybody
13 left? Okay.
14 Oh, and I just have one comment. I want to
15 remind everybody that this is being recorded and it's
16 going to be made public and there really isn't any reason
17 why you need to state your home address. So just keep
18 that in mind when you're introducing yourself.
19 MR. VOLKEY: John Volkey, San Diego. Been active
20 with a number of groups that have already spoken,
21 including Common Cause, League of Women Voters. But in
22 gauging San Diego and the progressive San Diego
23 Foundation, I want to undergird some of the things already
24 that have been said, and particularly the whole matter of
25 diversity.

1 What was just said about the board of supervisors
2 was earlier true for our State Assembly and State Senate.
3 It's improved a little bit, but the gerrymandering that
4 takes place without something like redistricting is
5 terrible. There's no question that we reach out beyond
6 the normal channels through the regular political parties,
7 democrats and republicans too, people where they live,
8 community associations, civic associations, to reach
9 people who don't normally take the time and the interest
10 to be as involved in this as they could. A lot of people,
11 because they work, just figure they can't be here, like
12 today.
13 And it was mentioned that if people are together
14 in Sacramento, that provisions be made for their
15 compensation to be there. If that's known, I think more
16 people will pay attention to this and take some civic
17 responsibility, particularly if they've had some local and
18 state experience on some level before. You do want a
19 certain level of competency, but we're not trying to make
20 this an academic project where someone has to have a Ph.D.
21 in redistricting to be involved. Some of us have been
22 involved with redistricting for a long time like that, but
23 it doesn't mean that those are the only ones that need to
24 be engaged here.
25 The transparency and the accountability that's

1 been emphasized by the person with the League of Women
2 Voters, person with Common Cause, they're very important;
3 that people really know what's going on and making use of
4 the television, the internet, and various ways in which
5 the general public can learn about this process is very,
6 very important.
7 And I congratulate you for having us here today.
8 And thank you.
9 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
10 Yes? Oh, you haven't had a chance to speak yet.
11 Yes, certainly.
12 MS. MEDAK: Hi. My name is Susan Medak. I have
13 not been on any of these kinds of committees. I just have
14 to throw in my two cents, and that is you -- I'd like to
15 have on the application what is required of someone being
16 on the panel in terms of how many times you want them to
17 meet, certain week of the month or day, and just what's
18 going to be expected of them.
19 The other thing is, you know, we're in the
20 information age, and I hear you talking about the
21 computer, telecommunication. Is that a way for people,
22 where they don't have to travel so much and can talk to
23 each other; and if you can't do it at home through your
24 computer, would it be possible to maybe go to the public
25 television station.

1 And I'd like to thank all the really informed
2 people and their suggestions, because I think making this
3 transparent and accessible to every Californian is really
4 important. And I'm really excited about this; I think
5 this is a great opportunity for our state. And I really
6 love this state.
7 Thank you.
8 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
9 Okay. Let's move to the third row. Is there
10 anyone in -- yes, okay.
11 MR. LUTZ: Yes. My name is Raymond Lutz. I live
12 in the east county. And I actually ran for office in the
13 last election, the 77th Assembly District, which amazingly
14 extends from the north border of San Diego County to the
15 south, to the east, and almost makes it to the ocean.
16 It's a really ridiculous district.
17 I am recording the meeting here, video recording
18 it, and it's going to be on CitizensOversight.org. I'm a
19 bit disappointed that this meeting is not being video
20 recorded and placed on the internet; and it should be, and
21 all meetings of this kind should be. These are far too
22 important to be treated as just a local meeting for those
23 people who happen to be able to get off work for the day
24 or go and work at a meeting on maybe a holiday, which I
25 was supposed to be on holiday.

1 One thing that isn't mentioned in the list of
2 requirements that I saw is that these people be somewhat
3 geographically distributed across the state. I don't want
4 to see everybody from L.A. or the bay area doing this.
5 Also, I'd like to see it somewhat evenly distributed so
6 that these people know the communities in their area.
7 They talk about compactness in the list of how these
8 districts are to be composed. But sometimes compactness
9 is not really the right result if the communities are
10 along, say, thoroughfares, like, you know, as you go out
11 toward Julian, for example -- Julian is not in the 77th
12 District, but Borrego is. So you kind of skip one to go
13 to the next one.
14 Somebody up in the bay area may not know that
15 Julian is on the way to Borrego or something like that.
16 It's just -- the way they've come out, ridiculous so far.
17 I don't know how they really came up with the district
18 that I ran for.
19 The other thing, and this is -- I know there was
20 an issue about the gender, and I think there was -- two
21 people were talking about gender. One was gender on the
22 panel. And it sounded like there was gender -- trying to
23 make the districts even with gender. So maybe there's two
24 things there that people are both talking about gender are
25 not quite thinking about the same thing.

1 And I'm not sure if both have the same level of
2 requirement, but certainly on the panel we should try to
3 have a gender balance and, as I said, this geographic
4 balance.
5 One more comment I want to make, and this has
6 nothing to do with the actual selection process, but in
7 the actual operation of the panel -- I know, it's outside
8 the scope, please forgive me -- I'd like to see them
9 operate mostly on a consensus basis and not just a
10 majority vote. I don't want to see the thing teetering on
11 one vote that they went for it this way and then everybody
12 in the area says, well, you know, we're not happy with the
13 results. So that's not what they put in; they put it on
14 the majority vote basis in the way that the group is going
15 to operate. And I think that's just a -- that's going to
16 result in possible anguish among the community.
17 Thank you.
18 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
19 Do we have anybody else in the third row who
20 would like to speak? Okay.
21 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning. I'm Jim Wright. I'm
22 a voter from San Jose. If I can make a point, please.
23 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Sure.
24 MR. WRIGHT: Outreach is failing. I would not
25 have been aware of any of these meetings if I had not sent

1 a note to the Auditor's office requesting that I be put on
2 the mailing list. I have seen nothing on TV, nothing on
3 the internet, nothing on the radio. I don't take a
4 newspaper. Okay? Something needs to happen.
5 Could I suggest that one indicator that you might
6 have is your mailing list, your email list. The interest
7 here is people who intend to apply to become
8 commissioners. Would it be worthwhile -- making work for
9 Barbara of course -- to segregate the email list to
10 identify people who are intending or wish to apply to be
11 commissioners from all of the other people that may be on
12 that list? They're the ones you're principally interested
13 in; that's the population you need to increase. Okay?
14 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
15 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you very much.
16 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
17 Is there anyone else in the third row who would
18 like to speak? No?
19 How about the fourth row? Yes.
20 MR. PRATH: Morning. Thanks for being here. I'm
21 Bob Prath. I'm on the Executive Council for AARP, and I
22 live here in San Diego in Lakeside. And on behalf of AARP
23 and the more than 3.4 million members, we urge the Bureau
24 of State Audits to engage in a broad outreach to the
25 state's diverse populations.

1 And along with my colleagues in Common Cause and
2 the League of Women Voters, we were among those that went
3 out and talked to the public about this proposition. And
4 I guarantee you one of the things that we promised them
5 was diversity. And they keyed in on that and they
6 recognized the difference between the diversity of
7 California and the diversity of our state legislature.
8 And so they hope this diversity is reflected in this
9 committee of -- citizens committee, and that it was -- the
10 process was open ensured.
11 And that's another thing. I agree with my
12 colleagues on the issue of transparency. I know that's a
13 tough issue, but again, what -- the difference -- the key
14 difference was we promised voters was that, as opposed to
15 the current procedure that occurs behind locked doors in
16 secret, this would be open to them and that would be a key
17 difference. So the transparency with which the assistance
18 committee is selected is extremely, extremely important as
19 a promise the voters kept.
20 I thought that this was your camera over here.
21 For 120 bucks you can go to Costco and buy a flip. My
22 grandkids do. And you could record one hour and put it on
23 YouTube. And so I think there's a lot to be done there
24 because we promised a transparent process. And in this
25 day and age, I don't think it's something we try to do,

1 it's something that's doable. We need to get some
2 teenagers on the panel, and they'll show us how to do
3 this. So transparency is one of our key issues, of
4 course.
5 And as one of the authors of Prop 11, AARP stands
6 ready to reach out to our members to help you with this
7 outreach process. We already have, and we'll continue to
8 do that. And we'll soon be submitting some formal,
9 more-detailed comments, which we won't bore everybody
10 here, about the process.
11 But thank you for coming down here today on this
12 rainy day and hearing this testimony.
13 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Thank you.
14 Is there anyone else in the fourth row that would
15 like to comment? How about the fifth row? Anybody else
16 in the room that would like to comment?
17 Okay. We're going to -- yes.
18 MR. BOSNIGN: I have a question, more or less,
19 not just a comment.
20 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Sure. Come on up. That's
21 fine. We might not be able to answer it at this point,
22 but what we do want to hear is what questions are out
23 there so that we can consider how we will address them as
24 we move forward with this process.
25 MR. BOSNIGN: Good morning. I'm Gordon Bosnign

1 from El Cajon.
2 My question is who was the one that came up with
3 the machinery, so to speak, of making this commission? I
4 was all in favor of it at election time till I read it and
5 then became very -- I don't know what word you would
6 use -- I was not happy with it, and I voted against it
7 because of that one reason, because it's -- as it had
8 been, it was -- redistricting was done by the republican
9 and democratic party chiefs. Now we're supposed to
10 improve on that system. Yet when I go through the
11 initiative, it ends up that you have four people from the
12 republican party, four people from the democrats, and four
13 people from independents you might say.
14 I don't see where we're improving the system,
15 because those four independents are going to be fighting
16 either one of the other parties. If anybody can enlighten
17 me as to how this came about instead of being an open,
18 independent commission?
19 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Well, our office was put
20 into the initiative, so we weren't involved in drafting
21 it; so I really can't speak to that question, but in --
22 also, what we're looking for is help in answering
23 questions on how to implement the initiative now that it's
24 been passed.
25 So I'm not really in a position to respond to

1 your question, but we appreciate your comment.
2 MR. BOSNIGN: Will the commission be able to do
3 any changing?
4 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: That's another thing that
5 we're in the process of looking at all those things. So
6 as the regulatory process moves forward, if you follow
7 that, I think it will answer a lot of your questions.
8 MR. BOSNIGN: Okay. Thank you.
9 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
10 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?
11 Yes, thank you.
12 MR. KEISER: I wasn't going to comment, but I
13 will now. I'm Bob Keiser. I am with AARP. I'm speaking
14 for myself, not the AARP at this point. I hope my views
15 do not conflict with those of the AARP.
16 Under the law, I mean, the proposition is -- it's
17 already passed.
18 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Right.
19 MR. KEISER: Okay. And I guess there will be
20 five republicans, there will be five democrats, there will
21 be four of neither the majority nor the minority party. I
22 would just urge in the selection process that it be a
23 simple review process, we look for people that are
24 qualified. They could be qualified -- they could have
25 worked on a public body or a private group, but got

1 something done. And they need some experience that could
2 be recorded so you know they would get something done,
3 because we have to -- we want an output from this
4 commission. Then they would be fair, whether they are a
5 republican or a democrat, that they have a record of
6 fairness. I don't know how you ask that and determine
7 that in the review process, but look for that, that they
8 be fair-minded.
9 And particularly the people -- I'm not just
10 concerned about the republicans or the democratic members,
11 but the -- those who belong to neither party. I'm
12 really -- the independents should be true independents. I
13 mean, I'm an independent, but you don't want me on the
14 commission -- if I apply, reject me -- because I have
15 strong views and I will try to push for those views, okay?
16 But you want someone who's truly independent, not
17 registered independent and then really more republican or
18 more democrat.
19 And then also, among those who belong to
20 neither -- those who belong to other parties besides the
21 republicans and the democrats, you don't -- you don't want
22 this to be a commission that's representing the fringe
23 parties, because I'm not sure what would happen if that's
24 what it was, that's representing zealots among the fringe
25 parties. So you want people who are fair minded, whether

1 they're republicans, democrats, independents, or belonging
2 to a minor party. Okay. That's what I would suggest.
3 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
4 Is there anyone else who would like to comment?
5 Yes, thank you.
6 MR. LEPULE: Good morning, everyone. My name is
7 Tona Lepule, and this is not my type of environment. I'm
8 with the Native Hawaiian Pacific Island Communities. Our
9 form of conducting business is a little different than
10 this, but I would rather be in my shorts and T-shirt; but
11 just in here listening to the input, it built up my
12 courage to come up and be a part of this process. And
13 that is definitely transparency is very important, not
14 only just in general business, but with some of the other
15 communities in San Diego. And as a Native Hawaiian
16 Pacific Islander in this beautiful community of San Diego,
17 I just wanted to extend anything I can do.
18 I'm also involved with the Pacific Islander
19 Festival Association and the Native Hawaiian Pacific
20 Islander Alliance. So please utilize me to make that
21 transparency come through to some of the underserved
22 communities.
23 As some of us, as you can see in the room, do not
24 take part in this process, but if you really want to talk
25 about involving everyone, let's include those who are not

1 even interested in this, because as we do our true
2 outreach, we're going to at least provide opportunities
3 for those who are not interested to be a part of this
4 process.
5 Redistricting is very important. And I hope that
6 anyone who's on that commission really considers their
7 role in it. It's not just drawing boundaries, but as
8 American Samoa and Samoa are divided, you need a visa to
9 go just 300 miles across the ocean to visit each other.
10 So I really want to hope that the commission considers
11 that when they redo these lines, the redistricting lines,
12 to consider the livelihoods that are affected by it.
13 Thank you.
14 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
15 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?
16 Yes.
17 MR. ALVAREZ: Good morning. Thank you. My name
18 is David Alvarez, and I reside here in San Diego. I
19 wasn't going to speak, but after hearing people speak, I
20 got the courage to come up here as well.
21 As someone who comes from an underrepresented
22 community, I do also realize that it's going to be a
23 struggle to do the outreach, to contact more people from a
24 community like the Latino community that I come from. And
25 I heard that concern over and over here. So I do want to

1 encourage the Auditor to consider that in the future
2 meetings, not only for the application process, but also
3 to recruit applicants.
4 And one of the suggestions I was going to have is
5 that even though we -- I understand that the initiative
6 was trying to remove any influence from political offices
7 or political parties. I think that we have to acknowledge
8 that a lot of the -- the parties have a lot of subgroups
9 and people who are involved in some way or another. And
10 perhaps doing outreach to the parties is not necessarily a
11 bad idea in this case. There are people who are involved
12 in, for example, in the democratic party. They have
13 different groups, or Latinos and African Americans and
14 Asian Pacific Islanders. And so that would be something
15 to consider. And as well as political offices, they all
16 have newsletters and things like that they could send out
17 to their communities and making that outreach to not only
18 the state officials but the federal officials and the
19 local officials that have a lot of community
20 representatives that go to meetings and things like that,
21 that they can assist you in the outreach and particularly
22 in the communities that are most underrepresented.
23 So even though we're trying to remove, I think,
24 any sort of partisan into the commission, that's very
25 clear with the initiative, we should consider that because

1 they are avenues for us to reach people who don't normally
2 participate in things like this.
3 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
4 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?
5 Thanks. Yes, come on up.
6 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Good morning. My name is Evan
7 McLaughlin, and I'm with the San Diego and Imperial
8 Counties Labor Council. We are an umbrella group for
9 organized labor in the region representing about 125,000
10 workers.
11 Whether you agree or disagree with Prop 11, I
12 think most people would find the intention to be noble,
13 which is to increase involvement and participation by
14 voters. So this might be a good opportunity when
15 assembling this commission to find the groups who
16 typically aren't engaged.
17 And I think we heard a lot from Assemblywoman
18 Saldana and some others in the group about, you know,
19 where to really try to focus and diverse; and I would just
20 suggest some other areas.
21 Occupation. I think typically we see, especially
22 here in San Diego, that boards and commissions are made up
23 of lawyers or people in the know. You know, I would
24 advocate that there is a lot to be learned from
25 occupational fields where you typically don't have voter

1 participation. And if we're really here to start engaging
2 the electorate to find out what is going to work for
3 California going forward, then I would suggest you take a
4 look at that.
5 I'd also look at income level. I know that might
6 be a little tricky to ferret out in the application
7 process, but maybe that could be something, when looking
8 at the occupation and the fields thereof, for -- you know,
9 try to use this as an opportunity to get to the, you know,
10 20 percent who didn't vote in this last election or the 70
11 percent who did not vote in the June primaries.
12 So that would be my suggestion. Thank you.
13 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
14 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?
15 MR. LUTZ: I'd like to make one further comment,
16 because of some of the comments in the room about the --
17 you know, whether this thing's going to work or not.
18 I'll tell you, in my district it probably will
19 not improve the situation for, you know, the party balance
20 so to speak, unless they somehow chop in a big part of
21 San Diego City or something. There's -- I don't think
22 it's going to change the balance. If they want to try to
23 make them all balanced, I think it's going to be really
24 difficult to keep the communities together.
25 But with that said, I'll tell you one really good

1 thing about this. Even if it fails in every other way,
2 the Assembly districts are the same as the Senate
3 districts, they overlap, and they're the same as the other
4 districts -- so now if you go to the man on the street and
5 you say, explain where your assembly district lies, which
6 one are you in, most people draw a blank. How about the
7 Senate district? They don't know. I ran for office, and
8 before I ran for office I didn't know, and I'm a pretty
9 active guy. So that right there, even if everything else
10 fails, will be a benefit for the voter, to make things
11 easier for them to understand where they -- who their
12 officials are.
13 There's no reason that these districts should all
14 be a hodgepodge overlapping this way, that way and so
15 forth where you can't figure out where they are. And if
16 you actually look at the maps, which I have in detail, the
17 way they've drawn them is completely ridiculous. So I
18 don't see that they can do worse than they have now. I
19 really don't.
20 Even if you get people in there and you totally
21 fail and they're going to be working their party and so
22 forth, I think you're going to get a better result out of
23 this than what they have now by quite a bit, especially if
24 it's transparent. That's what we have to go for. And
25 that's why I want to really push for this to be recorded,

1 put on -- streamed on the internet, put on -- recorded so
2 everybody can access it, not just a private meeting. I
3 really want to push for that.
4 Thank you very much.
5 THE REPORTER: Can you say your name, please, for
6 the record, please.
7 MR. LUTZ: Sorry. I introduced myself earlier.
8 Ray Lutz. I ran for the 77th State Assembly District in
9 this last election.
10 THE REPORTER: Thank you.
11 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Is there anyone else who
12 would like to speak?
13 MS. KRUG: My name is Michelle Krug. And I think
14 that the criticality for me is in the transparency, but
15 I'm hoping it doesn't just end in getting out the word --
16 of course I want it to get out the word about these
17 informational meetings, about these feedback sessions, but
18 I would hope that once the commissioners are chosen, that
19 we continue to have statewide meetings and that there is
20 consideration and sensitivity given to communities of
21 interest. And, you know, that's a broad range; everything
22 from the disability community to the, you know, the --
23 obviously the geographic communities, but the
24 underrepresented groups. I think it's really critical
25 that they be able to maintain some kind of strength in the

1 elected system.
2 And I would hope that we will continue to have
3 the ability for regular people -- like I vote for a
4 wastewater operator to be someone on that commission,
5 thank you, Evan. Truly, blue-collar workers are never
6 considered within these processes, and I think that,
7 again, if you're getting -- if you're really looking at
8 the broad band of people that normally are not involved,
9 that this -- that this is important to consider. And I
10 just hope that we continue to have the ability to give
11 feedback within every single step of this process.
12 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
13 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?
14 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: Actually, I have a
15 comment.
16 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Thank you.
17 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: And I realize you --
18 Lori Saldana. I realize you can't answer questions, but
19 the initiative was silent on any working groups or
20 subcommittees to assist the panel members, the
21 commissioners in their determinations. So since it was
22 silent, it does not rule out the creation of those types
23 of regional or local working groups.
24 So I would like to encourage the audit board as
25 you work on this process to have local working groups that

1 can consult with the commissioners on this and hold
2 meetings in the localities, even on a finer grain basis
3 than the hearings that you're doing now, so that people in
4 Imperial as well as in San Diego County have a chance for
5 consulting and meeting with the commissioners, so they
6 understand the needs of their community, they understand
7 communities of interest, how those may evolve and may not
8 meet strict geographic delineations but certainly have
9 things in common.
10 So since the initiative does not specifically
11 refer to that, it doesn't preclude it. So I would argue
12 that those types of working hearings and working groups or
13 technical advisory groups or whatever you want to call
14 them be a part of this process as this commission is
15 developed and evolves.
16 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Thank you.
17 Yes, would you like to comment?
18 MR. SCHREIBER: My name is Fred Schreiber from
19 Encinitas.
20 Two comments that disturb me, and I don't know
21 how they're addressed. One is data to the commission.
22 And I hope that political party demographics is not part
23 of the data provided to the commissioners, because the
24 hope is that we don't align districts around political
25 parties. Have no problem around women, ethnic groups, but

1 the problem with our state is it is too politicized.
2 The other comment that I just heard, according to
3 the proposition, all meetings are public, there is no
4 outside discussions with anyone of -- anyone on the
5 commission with other groups outside of the commission
6 unless they're held in public. So when we talk about
7 subgroups representing and influencing members of the
8 commission, I hope that's not the case. I hope the
9 commission will work as a unit to come up with the best
10 solution for California as a whole as opposed to
11 individual groups or individual parties or -- well, that's
12 all I have to say.
13 Thank you.
14 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
15 And I'd just like to remind everybody that our
16 role is limited to the formation of the commission. And I
17 know there's lots of questions about what the commission
18 itself is going to do, and I'm sure this kind of feedback
19 that we just had will be really helpful to the commission
20 once it's formed.
21 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?
22 Okay. I just want to talk about outreach for a
23 couple minutes.
24 We do have a page on our website that is devoted
25 to Proposition 11, and we are sort of starting like a

1 grassroots email list where we're trying to get the word
2 out more and more. So to the extent that you can provide
3 us email or other ideas on, you know, local communities
4 where we can do more outreach, we'd really appreciate it.
5 We kind of hit the ground running with this, and
6 we're doing the best we can. I think this hearing's a
7 little better attended than our last one, but I think that
8 grassroots effort through the email will really be
9 helpful.
10 And when we send out information, if you're on
11 our interested persons' mailing list, feel free to share
12 it, forward it.
13 Yes.
14 MR. PRATH: I do encourage you to --
15 THE REPORTER: Sorry, if you want to be on the
16 record, you have to come to the mic.
17 MR. PRATH: This is just a question. We're off
18 the record.
19 THE REPORTER: No, no --
20 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: No, we're not done.
21 MR. PRATH: This just relates to your comment.
22 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: You need to identify
23 yourself again.
24 MR. PRATH: Bob Prath.
25 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.

1 MR. PRATH: I do encourage you to use existing
2 means that are out there; Twitter, Facebook, they're free.
3 Because I understand in the I.T. world too that starting
4 your own website is expensive and requires your own I.T.
5 people, and it's hard because there's a lot of goo
6 involved. But if you use existing -- and major candidates
7 like our President uses those, Twitter, Facebook, they
8 exist. You can get a blog started and a conversation
9 started. And in that conversation you'll find a lot of
10 useless stuff, but there'll be some gems in there that
11 relate to the recruiting process that I think you'll find
12 valuable. When you get 5,000 citizens comment on Twitter,
13 there's gems in there that we haven't thought of here, and
14 they exist and they're free.
15 Thank you.
16 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
17 And we really do appreciate your comments on
18 outreach today. We're hoping that these interested
19 persons' meetings not only serve the function of helping
20 us develop what regulations we need to make the -- make
21 our world work, but also is the means of educating the
22 public about the opportunity to serve the redistricting
23 commission.
24 So I'm going to give one final chance to make
25 comments.

1 MS. LEE: Good morning. My name is Mitz Lee.
2 And I have heard all that I would like to discuss today
3 from our Assemblywoman Lori Saldana. And I truly, truly
4 thank everybody who spoke in support of ensuring that
5 there will be diversity in the commission. And I think
6 it's very, very important.
7 Someone who is the first Asian-American ever
8 elected in San Diego Unified School District will tell you
9 that that is a very, very rewarding experience to
10 represent the very unrepresented population. And I am
11 very, very happy that Lori has been speaking for us.
12 And during the redistricting of San Diego Unified
13 School District in 2002 in response to the 2000 census, I
14 was able to participate in that discussion. In fact, I
15 was able to, on record, to have two maps that I have
16 submitted to the city school, and those were used to
17 redistrict our San Diego Unified School District. And for
18 me that is a very rewarding experience.
19 But you need to have outreach and information so
20 that people will get involved and be excited about this
21 process. So I hope that -- pay attention to diversity,
22 and specifically for women, which are very
23 underrepresented.
24 And as Lori had said, City Council, you can see
25 no representation from, you know, population in women of

1 color. So please consider that.
2 And for representing -- working with Common
3 Cause, and I was asked to represent Mabuhay Alliance.
4 It's a Philippino organization that's worked very closely
5 in ensuring that we are represented in the commissions and
6 all the federal committee and council that we should be
7 considered to be represented on those commissions.
8 So thank you so much for your support for this.
9 Thank you.
10 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: And just to add to that, on
11 our website we are in the process of translating -- yeah,
12 we have two so far -- notices of interested persons'
13 meetings. We have Spanish and Tagalog, but we intend to
14 expand that. So we're reaching out as broadly as
15 possible.
16 Is there anyone else who would like to comment?
17 ASSEMBLYMEMBER SALDANA: I'd like to offer to the
18 group -- Lori Saldana, Assemblywoman. I'd just like to
19 offer to the people that are here today that would like to
20 keep working on this and recruiting additional people that
21 would be interested in serving as commissioners, that my
22 office can support a local working group in making sure
23 that if people were not able to be here today because of
24 conflicts at work or other things, that we will make sure
25 their comments are collected. And we understand that they

1 have to the end of the month to submit them in writing,
2 that that's the deadline.
3 So if anyone knows of people that couldn't be
4 here and want to contact my office, then I'll give you the
5 phone number. It's (619) 645-3090. And we'll be happy to
6 help provide information and make sure that those comments
7 can be collected and submitted to your office in a timely
8 way.
9 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Thank you.
10 And just to add to that, anybody here can submit
11 comments directly to our office as well.
12 Is there anyone else who would like to comment?
13 Do you have more comments?
14 MS. KRUG: Is the Auditor's office going to be
15 the one that is going to create the application for the
16 commission?
17 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Can you restate your name
18 for the record.
19 MS. KRUG: Michelle Krug.
20 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Yes, we are. We've
21 been tasked with that responsibility.
22 MS. KRUG: And do you have an idea of timeline?
23 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: That's something that we're
24 going to be posting on our web probably within the next
25 couple of weeks. We've been playing with the timeline,

1 but we have a rough one, but we're going to finalize it so
2 the public can see it as well.
3 MS. KRUG: Okay. Because again, in terms of the
4 distribution of the applications and getting that word
5 out, I'm assuming that they would be available online,
6 hoping they would be available online.
7 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: That's something that we're
8 considering.
9 MS. KRUG: I'm also hoping that any of these
10 upcoming meetings would also be held on weekends or
11 evenings, which would allow more accessibility for people
12 that can't make it.
13 And I'd like that to be my last comment.
14 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: Okay. Thank you.
15 Is there anyone else who would like to comment?
16 Do you two have anything you'd like to add?
17 MS. FERNANDEZ: I know Sharon's' already said
18 this, but that anybody can submit comments to us directly.
19 There are some -- we have extra comment cards. If you
20 know people who want to submit comments, please feel free
21 to take as many as you would like, or just contact us at
22 the office as well.
23 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: I think we're going to leave
24 the room open for another half an hour; but at this time
25 I'd just like to make some closing comments to the people

1 who are here.
2 I want to, on behalf of the State Auditor, really
3 thank you for coming today. Your comments were very
4 helpful, and, you know, we look forward to continuing to
5 work with you and getting the word out; however you can
6 help us with that, we'd really appreciate it.
7 So thank you.
8 (Recess.)
9 PANEL CHAIR REILLY: We waited an additional half
10 an hour for additional comment, but nobody else has
11 arrived, so at this time we are ending the interested
12 persons' meeting.
13 (Thereupon, the February 9, 2009,
14 California Bureau of State Audits
15 Public Hearing was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, PETER PETTY, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing Bureau of State Auditors Public Meeting; that thereafter the recording was transcribed.

I further certify that I am not counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said Public Meeting, or in any way interested in the outcome of said Public Meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of February, 2009.

PETER PETTY