



AARC

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
REDISTRICTING
COLLABORATIVE**

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**California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Educational Session February 26, 2011**

AARC is working to ensure that the African American community participates in California's redistricting process to the fullest extent

- outreach, public education and community trainings/workshops
- monitor/participate in Commission hearings and processes
- draft/analyze/comment on maps

AARC's Redistricting Activities

- ▶ Monitor the Commission's processes for transparency and compliance with the VRA
- ▶ Work with community members to help them describe their communities of interest
- ▶ Help ensure that people of the African diaspora are able to elect candidates of choice
- ▶ Examine prison-based gerrymandering policy
- ▶ Form coalition with APALC, MALDEF, NALEO and others promoting the Voting Rights Act
- ▶ Testify, draft and comment on proposed maps

Outreach To Date

- ▶ VRA presentation at Empowerment Congress (Jan)
- ▶ Mailer to over 60 key African American civic, business and grassroots organizations (Feb)
- ▶ RedistrictingCA Conference (Jan, March?)
- ▶ Community workshops/educational forums in Los Angeles, Inland Empire, East Bay Area and Sacramento (March-April)

AARC's Outreach Efforts

- ▶ Los Angeles, the East Bay Area, the Inland Empire and Sacramento
- ▶ Materials are provided in English
- ▶ AARC may be submitting maps concerning Los Angeles, the Bay Area, the Inland Empire and Sacramento regions.
- ▶ Will analyze and comment on CRC proposed maps.

AARC's Continued Outreach Plans (Spring/Summer)

- ▶ Hold community meetings to get feedback on possible AARC maps and CRC maps
- ▶ Continue to work with community members who wish to testify before the Commission regarding proposed plans
- ▶ Continued coalition work with partners like MALDEF and APALC and RedistrictingCA
- ▶ Work with ethnic press to raise consciousness within the community about CRC's work/maps
- ▶ Provide information on aarc-ca.tumblr.com

Suggestions for CRC Success

- ▶ CRC must have a deep appreciation for and understanding of the various requirements of the Voting Rights Act
- ▶ CRC must consider public testimony about communities of interest very seriously
- ▶ CRC needs VRA counsel and a diverse staff
- ▶ CRC's work must be transparent with a user-friendly website
- ▶ Must allow ample time in schedule for community input before map drawing begins