DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Informational Proceeding on Lithium Valley Vision
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA – NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
715 P Street
Sacramento, California, 95814
energy.ca.gov
CEC-70 (Revised 4/26)

Notice of Workshop on Lithium Valley Vision In Lithium Valley Informational Proceeding (Docket No. 24-OIIP-02) November 6, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(Hybrid)
Includes In-Person and Virtual Spanish Interpretation

In-person at:

San Diego State University Imperial Valley
Rodney Auditorium
720 Heber Avenue, Calexico, CA 92231
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Remote Access via Zoom

See Attendance Instructions.

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The California Energy Commission (CEC) will conduct a workshop to discuss the potential environmental and public health impacts of Lithium Valley development as well as the regulatory measures that are currently in place and will continue to evolve as the industry grows. The focus of the workshop will be to share the latest information available, hear from California Native American tribes (tribes) and interested communities on their concerns, and share solutions and opportunities for better measuring and mitigating any impacts. Panelists will include representatives from industry, academia, government, community-based organizations, and tribes. This workshop is being conducted by Lead Commissioner Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo in the Informational Proceeding on Lithium Valley Vision (Docket No. 24-OIIP-02) (Lithium Valley Vision proceeding).

The public can participate in the workshop consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may start or end sooner or later than the posted times.

Agenda

This is the sixth workshop for the CEC's Lithium Valley Vision proceeding. At this workshop, researchers, experts, and industry representatives will provide an overview of the estimated and

anticipated environmental and public health impacts of lithium extraction and geothermal production related to Lithium Valley development and will discuss the policies and programs that are in place or will continue to evolve in order to best measure and regulate this nascent industry. Experts from industry, start-ups, academia, local government and the community will serve on a series of panels that will focus on water, air quality, and waste impacts of Lithium Valley development. Representatives from California state and regional entities will share the latest on regulatory frameworks and considerations for this industrial development effort.

There will be opportunity for the audience to ask questions after the panels and a period for public comments at the end of morning workshop sessions and afternoon workshop sessions. Written comments filed into the relevant Docket No. 24-OIIP-02 will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2026.

Background

"Lithium Valley" is the term used to describe a world-class lithium industry centered on recovering lithium from geothermal brine in the Salton Sea region. This includes expanding geothermal energy production, conservation efforts, and economic development with substantive benefits for local residents.[1] Located in the Eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley, near the Mexican border, this region contains some of the largest lithium deposits in the world. Recent analysis from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that there's enough lithium in the region to support over 375 million batteries for electric vehicles (EV)[2].

Assembly Bill 1657 (AB 1657) (E. Garcia, Chapter 271, Statutes of 2020) authorized the CEC to establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California, known more commonly as the "Lithium Valley Commission." The Lithium Valley Commission explored opportunities and challenges surrounding lithium recovery and adopted a report with findings and recommendations that provide a pathway for the state's Lithium Valley Vision, Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (see link below). The report, which was submitted to the state legislature in December 2022, recommends accelerating transmission planning, improving permitting, securing funding for infrastructure investments, incentivizing economic development to support industry growth, and increasing job training, among other actions.

The report found that interest in, and support for, the development of domestic lithium sources — specifically lithium recovery from geothermal brine in Imperial County — exists at the local, state,

[1] Paz, Silvia (Chair), Ryan E. Kelley (Vice Chair), Steve Castaneda, Rod Colwell, Roderic Dolega, Miranda Flores, James C. Hanks, Arthur Lopez, Luis Olmedo, Alice Reynolds, Frank Ruiz, Manfred Scott, Tom Soto, Jonathan Weisgall. 2022. Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-300-2022-009-F

[2] Dobson, P., Araya, N., Brounce, M., Busse, M.M., Camarillo, M.K., English, L., Humphreys, J., Kalderon-Asael, B., McKibben, M.A., Millstein, D., Nakata, N., O'Sullivan, J., Planavsky, N., Popineau, J., Renaud, T., Riffault, J., Slattery, M., Sonnenthal, E., Spycher, N., Stokes-Draut, J., Stringfellow, W.T., and White, M.C.A. (2023) Characterizing the Geothermal Lithium Resource at the Salton Sea. LBNL Report LBNL-2001557, 350 p.

and national level.[3] The report also found that members of communities and California Native American tribes near and culturally affiliated with the Salton Sea and Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area are deeply interested in and concerned about possible impacts to the environment, cultural resources, and public health due to increased development of geothermal power plants and lithium recovery. Local residents are also interested in opportunities to participate in the economic development, job creation, and business expansion that may occur.[4]

On February 14, 2024, the CEC instituted an informational proceeding for the Lithium Valley Vision and designated Commissioner Noemí Otilia Osuna Gallardo as Lead Commissioner of this proceeding. Through this proceeding, the CEC seeks to collect additional information and perspectives to determine the most effective pathways to advance Lithium Valley. Using the recommendations in the Lithium Valley Commission's report as a starting point, the proceeding specifically seeks to:

1. Identify the entities currently implementing Lithium Valley Commission recommendations and establish a coordinated approach between those entities to fulfill and track progress on the completion of those recommendations;

2. Work closely with the County of Imperial and other local jurisdictions, as well as communities and California Native American tribes, to develop a shared Lithium Valley Vision;

3. Determine how the Lithium Valley Vision ties into the state's climate and green energy goals;

4. Develop recommendations to align resources and efforts towards the shared Lithium Valley Vision and the state's lithium economy;

5. Identify how to remove barriers to building out infrastructure required for the Lithium Valley Vision; and

6. Explore whether new legislation is needed to fulfill the Lithium Valley Commission's recommendations and the Lithium Valley Vision.

The proceeding seeks to establish a record of input from multiple perspectives, including those of local residents, government, California Native American tribes, industry, community groups, academia, the public, and other interested participants to incorporate into the Lithium Valley Vision and the recommendations for the CEC's Lithium Valley Strategic Assessment.

[3] IBID
[4] IBID

For more information about the Lithium Valley Vision, visit this webpage:
https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/lithium-valley-vision

For more information on Lithium Valley Commission and its report, visit this webpage:
https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley

Attendance Instructions
Participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on https://energy.zoom.us/j/86421867472?pwd=CywHrRNcYaLDHEWGPDTkzhaIWOCwMj.1 or login in at https://zoom.us/ and enter the Webinar ID **864 2186 7472** and passcode **919212** and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID **864 2186 7472** and passcode **919212**.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment.
The CEC encourages public comments upon the proceeding. Please see the following instructions for providing oral and written comments.

Oral comments and questions will be accepted at the end of each workshop session. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on November 30, 2026. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system for written comments. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket 24-OIIP-02 at
https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=24-OIIP-02.
Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be

included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 24-OIIP-02 and Lithium Valley Informational Proceeding in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

Written comments may also be submitted by mail. Please mail a paper copy to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 24-OIIP-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor: The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services in Spanish, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries: Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject Inquiries: Email LithiumValley@energy.ca.gov.

General Inquiries: Email Colleen Kredell at colleen.kredell@energy.ca.gov.

Commissioner and Advisor Attendance
CEC Commissioners and their advisors may be present at this event. **All Parties and Interested Persons to any proceedings pending before the CEC, including applications for certification for powerplants, who are participating in this workshop are asked to abide by any ex parte rules applicable to those proceedings** regarding specific communications to Commissioners and their advisors that may require prior notice.

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at the CEC Docket Log for 24-OIIP-02, https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OIIP-02.
When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Lithium Valley subscription. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit Subscriptions, at https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions.

Dated: October 14, 2026 at Sacramento, California.

Subscriptions and Distribution:
Lithium Valley; Docket 24-OIIP-02; Energy Research and Development; Geothermal Energy; Integrated Energy Policy Report; Tribal Program