

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	17-GRDA-01
Project Title:	Geothermal Grant and Loan Program Workshops and Discussions
TN #:	226001
Document Title:	IBEW Comments - Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	IBEW
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	12/3/2018 3:49:13 PM
Docketed Date:	12/3/2018

Comment Received From: IBEW
Submitted On: 12/3/2018
Docket Number: 17-GRDA-01

Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) - Local Union 569 San Diego and Imperial Counties

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Local Union 569 San Diego and Imperial Counties



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

4545 Viewridge Avenue, Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92123-5615 (858) 569-8900
2420 Imperial Business Park Drive Imperial, CA 92251-4004 (760) 355-3000

December 4, 2018

Commissioner Hochschild
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine

Dear Commissioner Hochschild:

On behalf of over 3,200 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 569 representing San Diego and Imperial Counties, I am writing to thank you and the California Energy Commission for hosting the recent workshop on lithium recovery from geothermal brine and to express support for continued leadership at the state level to advance these technologies.

Together with electrical industry partners, IBEW 569 operates the Imperial Electrical Training Center, a state-certified apprenticeship facility preparing local residents for electrical careers in construction. Imperial County is a working-class community with high unemployment where many families struggle to make ends meet while also enduring some of the worst air quality in the state. Thanks to California's leadership on climate change and clean energy, we have seen the growth of renewable energy in the County which has created middle-class jobs and apprenticeship training opportunities for local residents in this disadvantaged part of the state.

Environmentally-responsible lithium recovery projects that also complement efforts to address the public health crisis at the Salton Sea can create additional high-quality jobs in the region. Capturing lithium from geothermal brine can also provide broader statewide benefits by supporting the growth of electric vehicles and energy storage. These industries, which require lithium, are providing new economic investment in California and strengthening our ability to address climate change.

Domestically-sourced lithium from right here in California offers many win-wins for working families and our environment. Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to next steps and to lending a local economic development perspective to the conversation as this exciting dialogue moves forward.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Segura, Jr.
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

NJS:jr
Opeiu#534, afl-cio, clc

CC: Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District, California
Assembly member Eduardo Garcia, 56th District, California