

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Geothermal Grant and Loan Program Workshops and Discussions
<b>TN #:</b>	226008
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*Comment Received From: Imperial County Board of Supervisors  
Submitted On: 12/4/2018  
Docket Number: 17-GRDA-01*

**on Workshop on Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

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December 4, 2018

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 17-GRDA-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Attn: Commissioner David Hochschild

Dear Commissioner Hochschild:

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors would like to thank you for hosting the recent California Energy Commission (CEC) Workshop on Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine. We were encouraged to hear that there was a large group that participated in the Workshop representing industry along with local, state and federal government agencies.

This potential new industry holds a great deal of promise for new job creation and economic development here in Imperial County. In addition, it could serve to provide an important domestic source of a critical resource that is a key component in batteries that can be used to improve electric grid reliability and electric vehicle deployment in the State of California. In addition, mineral extraction, in conjunction with other renewable energy development around the Salton Sea should contribute to ongoing efforts to address issues around that troubled body of water.

We understand that during the Workshop, you discussed the concept of forming a "Lithium Task Force", or a similar group, in order to bring together the various stakeholders that would be involved in various aspects of this effort. Imperial County strongly encourages the CEC to move forward with this "task force" concept, as we believe that the potential benefits would greatly increase the eventual success of this exciting opportunity. Our County would be directly involved in the permitting process for these facilities, and has the ability to provide significant incentives to future developers of mineral extraction projects here. We therefore would be very interested in participating in any initiative formed to promote this endeavor and pledge our full support for your continued efforts to help move this forward.

Please let us know if there is anything further we can do to assist the CEC in the area of lithium extraction from geothermal brine by contacting our County Executive Officer, Tony Rouhotas, at (442) 265-1001 or [tonyrouhotas@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:tonyrouhotas@co.imperial.ca.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond R. Castillo". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping letters.

Raymond R. Castillo

Chairman, Imperial County Board of Supervisor

Cc:

The Honorable Ben Hueso, State Senate, 40<sup>th</sup> District

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, State Assembly, 56<sup>th</sup> District

Karen Douglas, Commissioner, California Energy Commission