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On Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



December 5, 2018

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Lithium Recovery from Geothermal Brine (Docket No. 17-GRDA-01)

Imperial Irrigation District would like to express its support for the California Energy Commission's efforts to explore the opportunities of lithium recovery in California, specifically in the Salton Sea region. Lithium recovery from geothermal brine provides an emerging economic opportunity that can benefit the state and that aligns with its air quality and renewable energy goals.

Located within IID's service area, the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area has the potential to produce up to 2,000 megawatts of clean power. With legislative efforts to increase renewable energy goals and decrease air pollution, the development of this resource provides a unique opportunity to extract lithium, a byproduct of the geothermal brine extracted from deep beneath the earth's surface. As you know, mobile sources are a major factor contributing to poor air quality and lithium is a key component for manufacturing batteries used to facilitate electrification of the transportation sector.

The Imperial and eastern Coachella valleys continue to face high unemployment and poverty rates and have non-attainment air quality conditions. Through the development of lithium extraction from geothermal facilities, California can help develop economic opportunities for impoverished communities while addressing environmental concerns. As such, IID strongly encourages the formation of a task force to closely examine the barriers facing this emerging industry and recommending actionable solutions to administrative, regulatory and legislative entities.

IID looks forward to participating in future meetings and even on a task force, if one is created, to lend its support and advocacy of this critical effort. Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at 760-339-9477.

Sincerely,

Kevin E. Kelley
General Manager