

DOCKETED

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March 3, 2021

California Energy Commission
Docket: Unit, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-1
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Subject: Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-1

Comment Title: "Nikola Lakic Comment regarding Lithium Valley Commission Meeting"

Greetings, Chair David Hochschild, Commissioner Karen Douglas, and Lithium Valley Commissioners:

I am pleased with the first Lithium Valley Commission Meeting held on February 25, 2021. I am thankful for the opportunity to introduce myself and to say a few words in 3 minutes about my methodology for the extraction of Lithium.

I am using this opportunity to introduce myself officially again. I am the author of the proposal – a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea. Besides a unique architectural design, my proposal incorporates several breakthrough technologies in the energy industry (Hydro, Solar, Geothermal). My proposal also introduces a new methodology for the extraction of Lithium from the salty water of the Salton Sea using geothermal sources (heat) which is prevalent in the area and having potable water as a free byproduct.

My system for extraction of Lithium from the salty water of the Salton Sea is in addition to the extraction of Lithium from geothermal brine from a geothermal reservoir at conventional geothermal power plants which Commissioners Jonathan Weisgall and Rod Calwell talked about. Their expertise on this subject is of great value. Hopefully, they will realize the superiority of my system and that we will work together on this subject.

I respectfully urge Chair David Hochschild and Commissioner Karen Douglas to invite me to make a presentation, sooner the better, so that rest of the commissioners can learn about my methodology at an earlier stage rather than later stage or not learn about it at all.

For those who are not familiar with my work, I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself again.

I am a Graduate Engineer Architect.

My talent and expertise are in solving serious environmental and energy-related problems.

My PROPOSAL FOR CONTROLLING DYSFUNCTIONAL “BLOW OUT PREVENTER” - Offshore of Louisiana, Gulf of Mexico – 2010, was used to stop bursting crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico.

In Summary: After an accident in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, and a failure of the "Blow Out Preventer" (BOP) in the Macondo well, it became a challenge how to stop uncontrollable bursts of crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico and prevent disasters of epic proportions. After several unsuccessful, almost laughable attempts, which have been televised "live" on TV, mostly on CNN, I postponed most of my activities at that time and started working on a solution. As an outsider, with limited information, only from TV, I submitted three proposals. The first two proposals which I submitted several weeks earlier are based on information that I obtained from Television. Soon after I submitted my first proposal, I learned that there were several (not one) leakages in the "fallen riser pipe" and later on, after my second proposed submission, I also learned that there is a pipe inside the "fallen riser pipe" which made my two earlier proposals insufficient and I had to work on and submit an additional proposal. I submitted my third proposal on June 8, 2010. On July 10, 2010, 32 days after I submitted my proposal, the BP began operations to install a sealing cap atop the failed BOP. By July 15, 2010, the Macondo well was sealed, if only temporary, for the first time in 87 days. My proposal is well documented (it is on my website) and implementation of the control valve on top of the dysfunctional BOP was televised. The televised implementation of the control valve on top of the dysfunctional BOP and my submitted papers (proposal/illustrations) are identical.

I have made presentations (as a speaker) with the title “Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea” at SMU Dallas, TX, on May 19-20, 2015; and at Long Range Plan Committee, CVWD, Palm Desert, CA, on February 25, 2016; and at the National Association of Environmental Professionals Conference, NAEP, in Durham, NC, on March 27-30, 2017; and at the Request for Information (RFI) for Salton Sea Water Importation Projects by California Natural Resource Agency - May 21, 2018, in El Centro, CA; and at Electric Power Conference in Las Vegas, on April 26, 2019; and at the World Geothermal Congress (WGC) in Reykjavik, Iceland, April 26 - May 2, 2020 - (Note: because of COVID-19, the WGC 2020 is postponed for this year 2021).

Submitted papers at the Universities and International Conferences pass through a strict vetting period and when accepted most of them are registered as scientific documents.

My proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea involves architectural design that incorporates several breakthrough technologies in the energy industry which I have invented and modified to incorporate local conditions of the Salton Sea area with the final product – the long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea. It might be considered as a project of the century costing only about \$15 billion and generating \$100s billion in revenue in a few decades and would continue so in the future.

At this point, I will just mention the subjects of my breakthrough methodologies:

1. I am the inventor of the new system for harnessing geothermal energy (a completely closed-loop system) which is not limited to geothermal reservoirs.
2. I am also the inventor of the new system for drilling deeper and wider wellbores.
3. I am also the inventor of the new system for harnessing solar energy (thermo-optical solar system) having power unite with pistons, which is at least several times more efficient than Photo Voltaic (PV) systems.
4. I am also the inventor of the new system for the cross-country pipelines for importing seawater or other fluids, having the “in-line-pump” as segments of the pipeline for uphill routes, and having the “in-line-generator” as segments of the pipeline for downhill routes.
5. I am also the inventor of the new system for using the pipeline as a foundation for solar panels which eliminates expenses for purchasing or leasing huge sections of land, which is an expensive requirement for conventional solar facilities on an industrial scale.
6. I am also the inventor of the new system for the desalinization of salty water using solar and/or geothermal energy to generate electricity and having potable water as a free byproduct.

My mission is global – which is licensing technologies to capable companies/contractors with means. The Salton Sea project is a small part of it but an important part. It is imperative to save the Salton Sea and our environment despite unreasonable opposition. I am providing a solution and the “know-how” to the desperate situation.

Here is the link to the video of the complete presentation – it is about 1:00 hour: <https://youtu.be/pcYTUPCiljQ>.

The video is not of the best quality, but it summarizes in one hour my work of the last dozen years. Included are several options including several different corridors. For more details, please read the papers. The papers and slides, which can be zoomed in, are accessible on my website: www.GeothermalWorldwide.com => “Our Technology” => “Presentation – CNRA – El Centro, CA”.

Also, I am including links, a summary of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, divided into five segments for easier understanding. Each of the segments is an essential integral (co-operating) part for having a functional self-sustaining Lake.

(About Importing Seawater – Segment - I)

<http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/images/ImportingSeawater-1.pdf>

(About Harnessing Hydropower – Segment - II)

<http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/images/HarnessingHydroPower-2.pdf>

(About Harnessing Solar Energy – Segment - III)

<http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/images/HarnessingSolarEnergy-3.pdf>

(About Harnessing Geothermal Energy – Segment - IV) (in the GWC 2020 papers it is defined as Segment - II)

<http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/images/HarnessingGeothermalEnergy-4.pdf>

(About Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores – Segment - V) (in the GWC 2020 papers it is defined as Segment - III)

<http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/images/DrillingDeeperWellbores-5.pdf>

The value of my work is the simplicity of it and the necessity for it. An average high school student could understand it in a relatively short time if read thoroughly. My work is patented with several “continuation-in-part” applications still pending. Also, I would like to say that the current illustrations are from the patent applications explaining the function and feasibility of the projects. I do have more detailed illustrations, to be disclosed to the selected contractor(s) at the appropriate time.

Also, I would like to mention that I am in dispute with the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) because they are ignoring (rejecting) my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea since 2013 without any reasonable answer yet. Arguments such as “I don’t like it” or “Majority voted against it” are not scientific answers.

Since two commissioners Mr. James Hanks and Rayan Kelly are also directors at the Salton Sea Authority, I would like to ask them a question: “What is their reasoning for ignoring my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea?” but, I would like to reserve that question after I made a presentation for extraction of the Lithium which is an essential part of the restoration of the Salton Sea. Also, at this time, that question would not be appropriate because the remaining commissioners might not know about the existence of my proposal, its function, and its benefits, therefore they might not be able to participate effectively in the conversation.

The discord between the CNRA, EPA, and SSA exists but is not obvious to the public, state, and federal officials because the SSA was/is systematically spreading a lot of false information such as “Smaller Sustainable Lake” alluding on “Perimeter/Brine Lake”

and using wording such as “Healthier Lake” knowing very well that the truth is just the opposite. The “Perimeter/Brine Lake” is a “U” shaped “snake-like Lake” with the purpose to funnel the New River and Alamo River around the perimeter wall and then merging into central “Brine Lake”. Brine Lake will be smaller, saltier, smellier, and more polluted every year. At some point, the pollution will reach a level that if some birds land on Brine Lake will die not to mention oncoming ecological disaster – toxic dust storms, health issues of the local population, economic collapse, etc. If the “current course of action” continues that is inevitable. Also, have in mind that if the “current course of action” continues, the Lake will shrink, not just 1/3 but rather close to ½ or original size (which was about 375 square miles). That means that will be an exposed lakebed of around 190 square miles which is about 122,000 acres.

Roughing several thousand acres of the exposed lakebed to supposedly prevent the formation of toxic dust storms is not very effective way, and is an expensive and insignificant task, knowing that about 122,000 acres of lakebed will be exposed and will need constant maintenance.

Usually, there is an inherent conflict between Energy producers (nuclear, oil, coal) because they pollute the environment - and environmentalist who want to protect the environment. The absurdity of this case is that those few who want to get rid of the Lake do not understand, yet, that they will be better off (more revenue for them) by accepting and implementing my proposal and the technologies involved. By implementing my proposal, we would generate much more electricity and much more Lithium than relying only on conventional Geothermal Power Plants.

My proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea transforms the situation - of the ecological disaster with liabilities exceeding \$70 billion - not to mention lives of the population - into the situation of clean environment and prosperity to the population and stakeholders generating revenue in hundreds of billion dollars in a few decades and will continue so in the future.

Hopefully, the key members of the DOE will learn about my technologies regardless of the Salton Sea project and extraction of Lithium. My mission is also to introduce my solar methodology, not just to be used for pipeline systems, but to be used for railroads, roads, and the residential sector – whenever a power line is accessible.

With the implementation of my methodologies for harnessing renewable energy, we can reach the state primary goal of almost 100% renewable energy much sooner than currently projected. Also, my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea is in harmony with Governor’s Executive Order N-82-20. That is not the case with the “current course of action” – which is the “Perimeter/Brine Lake” and related projects.

Therefore, I respectfully urge Chair David Hochschild and Commissioner Karen Douglas to invite me to make a presentation. I am doing my best, but

there is a limit to how much I can do alone. This is not just about me and/or my exposure. It is about us. It is about the Salton Sea. It is about a clean environment. It is about future generations.

I am including as attachment five segments (summaries) of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, and a PowerPoint Presentation (115 slides). Also, I am including my Public Comment that I submitted and was read at the recent SSA Board Meeting on February 25, 2021, which illuminates our disputes. My Public Comment is truthful and powerful. Thanks to COVID-19 and transparency through recorded meetings, their reaction is also documented. It appears that they did not like my criticism of them and their work.

It is mind-boggling that, instead of being grateful that we finally have a feasible and profitable solution for a very difficult problem, that many people, and organizations, tried to solve unsuccessfully, many times in the last 50 years, I need to argue with members of the SSA since 2013, whether to save or get rid of the Salton Sea.

I would like to mention that I have nothing personally against any member of the SSA, but I strongly disagree with their vision for the future of the Salton Sea and with their tactics especially withholding information of the existence of my proposal from the public and former Governor, Jerry Brown when he signed for the SSMP in 2015. By the way, that was/is illegal conduct. I strongly believe that former Governor Jerry Brown had in mind real restoration of the Salton Sea not the destruction of the Salton Sea and our environment.

Sincerely,

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