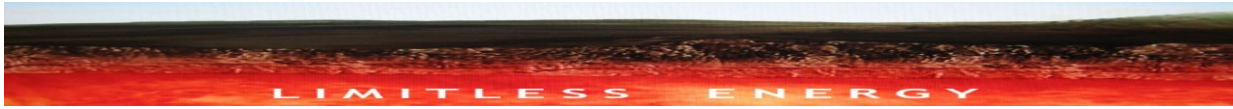


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Submitted On: 8/23/2021
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Nikola Lakic Comment regarding Lithium Valley Commission Meeting on July 29, 2021

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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August 23, 2021

California Energy Commission
Docket: Unit, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-1
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

LithiumValleyCommission@energy.ca.gov

Cc: docket@energy.ca.gov; Karen.Douglas@Energy.ca.gov;
Christopher.Calfee@resources.ca.gov; michelle.hutzel@calEPA.ca.gov;
secretary@resources.ca.gov ; Lisa.lien-mager@resources.ca.gov;
kenos@iplawusa.com

Subject: Nikola Lakic Comment regarding Lithium Valley Commission Meeting on July 29, 2021.

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

I am writing this letter for the record to inform you, respectfully, about the faultiness that I noticed in conducting Lithium Valley Commission Meetings so far.

I sent you some material earlier this year (March 3, 2021) regarding the extraction of Lithium from the salty water of the Salton Sea and asked you to be invited to make a presentation. I am the inventor of several breakthrough technologies in the energy industry which I have modified to incorporate local conditions of the Salton Sea area with a final product a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Unfortunately, I do not have a 3-D realistic animation video for explaining the process. My material is substantial and without me presenting it and answering your questions, it would be very difficult for commissioners to understand it.

I would like to mention just a few faultiness of the Lithium Valley Commission process so far:



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- a) During the meeting on July 29, 2021, several knowledgeable experts made presentations and answered questions. The host of the session Michael Whitaker was asking Mr. Alex Grant, Principal at Jade Cove Partners, a question: Paraphrasing - "Can Lithium be produced from the Ocean?" His answer was "yes" but I would not bet on it.

I asked to comment in response to Mr. Alex Grant's answer. My request was accepted – Thank you. I commented: Paraphrasing – "Mr. Alex Grant's answer is correct, and I explained why. The reason why he would not bet on it at this time is that he knows that Ocean's water does not have enough salt to be practical for processing extraction of Lithium. I explained that for one ton of Lithium needs to be processed about 5,000,000 tons of seawater. Therefore, it is not practical. I also said that in my proposal I am explaining how I am using saltier water from the bottom of the Salton Sea into boilers of a new design geothermal power plant (my patented system) and am increasing the concentration of salinity of the brine, for free, during generation of electricity. Also having potable water as a free byproduct - using geothermal, solar, and a "greenhouse effect".

I believe that Mr. Alex Grant would agree with me and my design if he had a chance to see my presentation.

The reason for my comment about faultiness in conducting Lithium Valley Commission Meetings so far is that the experts are asked to comment on very important issues without seeing the most important part (my proposal). The proper way would be to invite me to make a presentation of my creative design and then ask the experts to comment on it – not the other way around – commenting in general without seeing my proposal.

- b) During the same meeting the host (Michael Whitaker) asked a question: Paraphrasing - "How much Lithium is down underground in a geothermal reservoir and how many years can be exploited?" Also, "Is there a danger of source being depleted". Those are very important questions.

Jim Turner, (panelist) Controlled Thermal Sources, answered rightfully so: "Technically it is a mine. As any mine there is the beginning and an end". He also mentioned substantial time (many years) – our lifetimes, etc.

I did not have a chance to comment at that time, but I would like to comment now for the record. My intention since 2013 was to explain to the members of the



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Salton Sea Authority (SSA) the value of my proposal that includes, besides saving and restoring the Salton Sea, the extraction of Lithium from salty water from the Salton Sea. Unfortunately, the commissioners Mr. Ryan Kelley and Mr. James Hanks who are also Directors at the SSA had rejected and suppressed my proposal for many years because my proposal interfered with the proposal that they initiated, supported, and promoted - the "Perimeter/Brine Lake" which, without any doubt, leads to "destruction" of the Salton Sea. It inevitably leads to a "smaller sustainable cesspool" with unimaginable consequences for the environment, wildlife, health of the nearby population, economy, etc.

Again, the reason for my comment about faultiness in conducting Lithium Valley Commission Meetings so far, is that the experts are asked to comment on very important issues without seeing the most important part (my proposal). Also, a big mistake of current leadership was/is to separate "the extraction of Lithium" as a separate issue from "the restoration of the Salton Sea". That is a serious mistake because most of the leadership (decisionmakers) on this issue are not aware of the existence of my proposal (or they do not understand it completely). My proposal is a comprehensive design that successfully deals with both issues. Again, with my design, we can save and restore the Salton Sea and produce much more Lithium than just from geothermal brine which has the beginning and the end.

- c) A few days ago, on August 18, 2021, was published a Document - Michael McKibben Comments - Report Chapter on Lithium resources at the Salton Sea - Title: [Michael McKibben Comments - Report Chapter on Lithium resources at the Salton Sea.](#)

The first sentence of the first paragraph of the HIGHLIGHTS of the "Lithium and Other Geothermal Mineral and Energy Resources Beneath the Salton Sea" says:

"HIGHLIGHTS

- Salton Sea management plans should consider economic opportunities to expand the region's active geothermal industry, **as the receding shoreline opens new land** suitable for construction of both wetlands and new geothermal infrastructure."

My comment: It is obvious that Mr. Michael McKibben is accepting it as a "normal happening" and agree with those who promote "destruction" of the Salton Sea in the interest of new geothermal infrastructure. I highlighted with red lettering his wording "**as the receding shoreline opens new land ...**".



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With all due respect, Mr. Michael McKibben's approach is fundamentally wrong. I heard similar comments many times from officials at the IID and SSA. Their opinion and policy are based on a false assumption that the import of seawater is not a feasible concept. Also, it is based on gaining more land for leasing. Also, statements that I have heard several times from some members of the SSA such as "We know what to do – we have expertise – we just need money" are false. They do not know what they are doing. They have been aware of the existence of a long-term solution (my proposal) for many years, and they choose the destruction of the Salton Sea and are asking governments (state and federal) to fund their concept.

Again, the reason for my comment about the faultiness in conducting Lithium Valley Commission Meetings so far is that the experts from the University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, are not aware of the existence of my proposal or they do not understand it completely (no pond intended – they are knowledgeable experts in their fields, but they are not architects, nor civil engineers, nor mechanical engineers. They are in Earth and Planetary Sciences; College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences; Center for Environmental Research and Technology; etc.).

They are offering their expertise on the issue that is not even close to their field of expertise. Monitoring the increase of salinity, algae, toxicity, etc., in the Salton Sea and extracting Lithium from geothermal brine, and frequently reporting results, with colorful diagrams showing the level of toxicity and making predictions of how much the lake will be polluted in 10, 20, 30 or 50 years, will not solve the problem of the Salton Sea.

What was needed was/is an architectural design – the Master Plan – that deals with issues of how to save the Salton Sea despite the reduced inflow of water from the Colorado River and reinstate water level back to levels of the 1950s and 60s which is about -220 feet; How to stop pollution; How to preserve wildlife; How to import seawater and generate revenue during that process; How to generate electricity from prevalent geothermal sources in addition to a dozen of existing conventional geothermal power plants; How to desalinate the Salton Sea and in process of desalinization produce potable water and concentrated salty brine as a free byproduct that can be used for the extraction of the Lithium; How to use a new irrigation system for nearby farmland that can generate revenue of several hundred million dollars per year "out of blue" – literally; How to build recreational parks with smaller lakes having circulating water, and nearby fisheries.



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The value of my design is its simplicity and the necessity for it. The creativity is an essential factor. Unfortunately, many people do not understand nor value the “creativity” part.

The Commissioners are commenting on very important issues without seeing most important part – a comprehensive design for the restoration of the Salton Sea which includes extraction of Lithium and much more (my patented proposal).

- d) During the meeting on July 29, 2021, Commissioner James Hank talked about progress in contracts, leases, purchase of power, enterprise zone and encourages speedy process in that direction. Commissioner Ryan Kelley supported. Most of the commissioners were without comment at that time. Also, panelist Mr. Jim Turner encourages the concept of building power plants on the exposed lakebed.

Such comments are premature at this time without commissioners seeing my proposal. Such practice is wrong and bluntly against the basic rule of Bill 1657. Here below is a reminder (copy/paste) summary of Bill 1657. I have emphasized with red lettering the obligation to “... reviewing, investigating, and analyzing certain issues and potential incentives regarding lithium extraction”:

“Background Assembly Bill 1657 (Garcia, Chapter 271, 2020) (AB 1657) requires that the California Energy Commission (CEC) establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (referred to as the Lithium Valley Commission), **which is charged with reviewing, investigating, and analyzing certain issues and potential incentives regarding lithium extraction.** Additionally, the Lithium Valley Commission is required to submit a report to the legislature documenting its findings and recommendations on or before October 1, 2022.”

- e) Also, Commissioner Mr. Frank Ruiz asked a very important question: “How much water is needed for the production of a ton of Lithium?” All panelists struggled with the answer because a substantial amount of water is needed, and we do not have it (it is already taken), but with my proposal, we will have plenty of water. That is another very important reason for the Commissioners to learn about my proposal and for other stakeholders to accept it.

I am pleased that my proposal is under review by the panel of independent reviewers and that I will make a short presentation of 30 minutes and be able to answer questions for another 15 minutes on October 20-22, 2021.



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I respectfully urge Chair David Hochschild and Commissioner Karen Douglas, and Silvia Paz, chair, and remaining commissioners to invite me to make a presentation, sooner the better, so that rest of the commissioners (besides Mr. Ryan Kelley and Mr. James Hanks) can learn about my methodology at an

earlier stage rather than later stage or not learn about it at all. I respectfully urge Commissioners not to make changes in original rules such as minimizing the scope of "Lithium Valley" only for extraction of Lithium from geothermal brine and to exclude the extraction of Lithium from the water of the Salton Sea. If that already happened, I respectfully urge Commissioners to reverse such a decision. Also, I respectfully urge Commissioners not to make critical decisions before we hear from Dr. Rominder Suri, Chair of the Independent Review Panel. Have in mind that extraction of Lithium from so call "Lithium Valley" is an integral (coexisting) part of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea. The destruction of the Lake (shrinking it) and building projects on exposed lakebed (playa) is not necessary - I am explaining in my papers why is not necessary and I would be glad to explain that during my presentation - and is not in harmony with a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

The option of writing comments is good for the record and historic reasons, but because - base on my experience so far - very few people read the comments at the right time (now) and because decisions (voting) are in process during the meetings, it is not the best options for someone like me who has the solution for the extraction of Lithium but is not welcome to make an important presentation and cannot explain the process to commissioners nor answer the questions directly.

I welcome criticism, questions, and dialog, but I am opposing decisions made behind closed doors and the answers such as "I do not Like it" or "Sorry, the majority voted against it" as I received such comment from former Assistant Secretary for CNRA Bruce Wilcox. Such answers should not be validated because such answers are not scientific and anyone with common sense should not accept such practice. If someone does not like the proposal, he/she needs to explain why and should have reasoning to back his/her dissenting decisions.

I would like to emphasize again that this is not about me and my exposure - my patented systems will be used all around the world soon, regardless of the Salton Sea project - but I am saddened to know that a relatively small group of people can be so effective for so long time in their destructive cause without anyone from a government challenge them. Obviously, they have several "friends" in several agencies/companies. Sometimes I am wondering if we have people with



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“backbone” in government these days – someone who can ask a question, demand the truthful answer, and challenge nonsensical ideas.

The right solution for the Salton Sea is of great importance for the environment, the health of people, and the economy of the State. My concern is that several people who are deciding on the fate of the Salton Sea (in this case Lithium Valley Commissioners) are not informed about the existence of my proposal, or the function of it, the details of it, or the importance of it yet.

I would like to emphasize again, that this case is about the extraction of Lithium from the Salton Sea - that is in addition to extraction of Lithium from Geothermal Brine. The Salton Sea does not need to be destroyed (shrink). If the current course of action continues, the lake would sooner or later, be destroyed (would become a cesspool).

This case is about saving the Salton Sea and wildlife sanctuary. It is about preventing oncoming ecological disasters. It is about becoming leaders in the generation of clean renewable energy and Lithium. It is about our economy. It is about us. It is about future generations.

At this time, I am including as an attachment a one-page mission of Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.

Sincerely,

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