| DOCKETED | |
|---|---|
| **Docket Number:** | 20-LITHIUM-01 |
| **Project Title:** | Lithium Valley Commission |
| **TN #:** | 240569 |
| **Document Title:** | Jennifer Rogers Comments - Lithium and the Salton Sea |
| **Description:** | N/A |
| **Filer:** | System |
| **Organization:** | Jennifer Rogers |
| **Submitter Role:** | Public |
| **Submission Date:** | 11/10/2021 10:58:52 PM |
| **Docketed Date:** | 11/10/2021 |

*Comment Received From: Jennifer Rogers*
*Submitted On: 11/10/2021*
*Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-01*

## Lithium and the Salton Sea

I believe that lithium mining and geothermal energy development are important next steps for the Salton Sea area. This has economic benefits for the area as well as air quality benefits, as the geothermal/ lithium plants can sit atop the dangerous polluted playa, which, when blown in the wind, sickens the surrounding population with asthma. However, it is very important that the Salton Sea not be allowed to dry up and disappear. The Salton Sea is an extremely important stopover for birds using the Pacific Flyway. The Salton Sea is one of the last rest stops along the flyway, as human expansion has removed or destroyed other areas birds might stop to rest, eat, or breed. The situation is dire. The loss of the Salton Sea surely means the loss of up to hundreds of bird species that rely on the sea every year. The loss of birds then, has cascading effects on thousands of ecosystems, as the birds that use the Pacific Flyway come from all over South, Central, and North America. The loss of the Salton Sea could disrupt ecosystems spanning two continents, which could lead to even more habitat loss and species extinction in those areas.

Yes, geothermal energy development and lithium mining are important, but they are not more important than the Salton Sea. I propose a compromise: lithium/ geothermal plants on the exposed playa coupled with a man made extended wetland area, sizable enough to compensate the hundreds of species of birds who use the Salton Sea each year. The Salton Sea and/or extended wetlands may not look the same or be the same size as the sea was in its glory days, but the presence of a sea and suitable habitat in the Salton Sink is critical for continued survival of ecosystems all across the Americas.