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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:)
) Docket No.: 20-LITHIUM-01
Forum Presentation)
)
_____)

LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

Thursday, DECEMBER 16, 2021
9:00 A.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

Silva Paz, Chair

Ryan Kelley, Vice Chair

Luis Olmedo

Miranda Floresa

Frank Ruiz

Jonathan Weisgall

Roderic Dolega (Absent)

Rod Colwell

Steve Castaneda

James Hanks

CEC COMMISSIONER

Karen Douglas

CEC STAFF

Elisabeth de Jong

Lindsay Buckley

CEC PUBLIC ADVISOR

Rosemary Avalos
(For Noemi Gallardo)

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

Seanna Griffin

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlene Wardlow, California Geologic Energy
Management Division

Nikola Lakic

Jimmy Elrod, Southwest Regional Council
of Carpenters

Victor Beas

Garth Newberry

Rock Vitali, Easie

Eric Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad,
Imperial County

Tom Sephton, EcoMedia Compass

Conchita Pavar

Luis Lopez

Jose Flores

Margaret Stewart Slattery, UC Davis and Berkeley
National Lab (via write-in)

Vijay Dhar, New Energy Nexus

Mariela Loera, Leadership Council

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021

9:00 A.M.

CHAIR PAZ: Good morning, everyone. And welcome to the Lithium Valley Commission Meeting. We are providing Spanish interpretation for attendees who are participating in this meeting via their computers or tablets. Unfortunately, anyone joining over the phone, Zoom does not support the interpretation capacity there.

I would now like to introduce Noemi to give us instructions on how to join the interpretation.

MS. AVALOS: Good morning. This is Rosemary Avalos from the Public Advisor's Office standing in for Noemi, our Public Advisor. And I'll begin the information now.

(Speaking Spanish)

Okay, I turn to you now, Chair Paz. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So just a reminder for everyone who is not in need of Spanish interpretation, make sure that you're selecting the English Channel on the globe that's at the bottom of your screen, and do not mute the

1 original channel.

2 I will now turn it over to Elisabeth so
3 that she can walk us through some administrative
4 items.

5 MS. DE JONG: Thank you so much, Chair
6 Paz. This meeting is being conducted entirely
7 remotely via Zoom consistent with Assembly Bill
8 361 to improve and enhance public access to state
9 agency meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

10 This meeting is being recorded, as well
11 as transcribed by a Court Reporter. The
12 transcript will be posted to the electronic
13 dockets. The recording of the meeting will be
14 available on the Lithium Valley Commission
15 webpage. The Spanish interpretation will not be
16 recorded or transcribed.

17 Members of the public will be muted
18 during the presentations, but there will be an
19 opportunity for public comment on each Agenda
20 Item and an additional opportunity for public
21 comments towards the end of the Agenda.

22 To provide public comments, please use
23 the raised hand feature in your zoom application.
24 If you called in by phone, you will need to dial
25 *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute yourself.

1 When you speak, please provide your name
2 and affiliation, and please say and spell your
3 name for the Court Reporter. There is also a Q
4 and A window in the Zoom application, which you
5 may use to type your questions so we can relay
6 your comments.

7 We'll go over these instructions again
8 during the time for Public Comment. Please
9 remember to stay muted until you've been called
10 on to speak.

11 We also have a chat function available
12 for IT support. Meeting materials, including the
13 Notice, presentation slide deck, and resource
14 documents are posted online and in the Lithium
15 Valley Commission. Next slide and back to you,
16 Chair Paz.

17 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. We are going to
18 move to Roll Call of the Lithium Valley
19 Commission Members to determine a quorum.

20 CHAIR PAZ: Steve Castaneda.

21 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Here.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Rod Colwell.

23 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Present.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Roderic Dolega.

25 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: (No audible reply)

1 CHAIR PAZ: Miranda Flores.
2 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Present.
3 CHAIR PAZ: Martha Guzman Aceves. Not
4 here.
5 James Hanks. (Inaudible response)
6 Vice Chair Ryan Kelley.
7 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Here.
8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Arthur Lopez. Not
9 here.
10 Luis Olmedo. I see him on the screen.
11 Luis Olmedo, can you hear us?
12 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Here.
13 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Myself, I'm here.
14 Frank Ruiz.
15 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Present.
16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.
17 Manfred Scott. Not here.
18 Thomas Soto is not here.
19 Jonathan Weisgall.
20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Here.
21 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.
22 MS. DE JONG: Chair Paz, Manfred Scott
23 does look like he's in the Attendees list.
24 CHAIR PAZ: Perfect. Manfred Scott, if
25 you can --

1 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Present.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Perfect, thank you. Welcome.

3 We have at least eight members, so we do
4 have a quorum. Next slide, please. Oh, and I
5 also want to recognize we have, as always, the
6 support from the CEC staff and at this meeting we
7 are joined by Commissioner Douglas. Thank you
8 for joining us.

9 MS. DE JONG: If I can interrupt one more
10 time, I do want to acknowledge that Commissioner
11 Hanks is in the Attendees List, as well.

12 CHAIR PAZ: Oh, perfect. Commissioner,
13 for the record if you can --

14 COMMISSIONER HANKS: I'm here.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So we do have a
16 quorum and the Agenda is on our screens for
17 reference. If we can move on to the next slide,
18 please.

19 We will start with the approval of the
20 past meeting action minutes at this point. If
21 there are any questions, comments, we can have
22 that discussion now before we go to public
23 comment, and then come back to approve them.

24 I don't see any raised hands. Elisabeth,
25 can we invite the public to give us any comments?

1 And a reminder for the public, we're taking
2 comments on this item only. There will be
3 opportunities to comment on other items on the
4 agenda, and at the end of the meeting there is a
5 section for general public. Elisabeth.

6 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. So, if you're
7 joining us by Zoom on your computer, please use
8 the raised hand feature. If you have called in,
9 please dial *9 to raise your hand, and *6 to
10 unmute your phone line.

11 So first we'll go to any raised hands in
12 the Zoom application and then to the phones.

13 Chair Paz, I'm not seeing any raised
14 hands at this time from folks on Zoom or on the
15 phone, so back to you.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. At this point,
17 I'll entertain a motion to accept the Minutes.

18 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: So moved.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I think that was
20 Jonathan?

21 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yes.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. A second?

23 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Second.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I'll do a roll
25 call.

1 Steve Castanedas.

2 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDAS: Yes.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Rod Colwell.

4 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Roger Dolega is
6 not here. Miranda Flores?

7 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Yes.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Martha Guzman-
9 Aceves is not here.

10 Jim Hanks. Mr. Hanks I will come back to you
11 on this item.

12 Vice Chair Ryan Kelley.

13 VICE CHAIR RYAN KELLEY: Yes.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Arthur
15 Lopez is not here.

16 Luiz Olmedo.

17 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

19 Frank Ruiz.

20 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Manfred Scott?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Abstain.

23 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Jonathan Weisgall.

24 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yes.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Mr. Jim Hanks.

1 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. The motion
3 passes. Next slide, please.

4 This section in the agenda hopefully will
5 go briefly, but just to provide you some context,
6 the CEC staff has been receiving a number of
7 emails and comments sent directly to the CEC
8 staff or through the Lithium Valley's email
9 address.

10 While that is a good way to be able to
11 reach us, it provides delays on having access
12 both for the public on those comments and for all
13 of us as Commissioners. So, we do want to
14 encourage anyone, both Commissioners and the
15 public who want to submit a comment to do it
16 using the Docket.

17 So Elisabeth will be briefly walking us
18 through how to access the docket. And at this
19 time, I'll pass it over to Elisabeth.

20 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. Next
21 slide, thank you.

22 So I'm going to quickly show everyone how
23 to submit information to the Docket for the
24 Lithium Valley Commission.

25 On your screen right now you can see an

1 image of the Lithium Valley Commission webpage
2 with links to the Docket 20-Lithium-L1m and a
3 separate link to submit e-comments. And then
4 we'll go into the next slide.

5 The first link takes you to the Docket
6 log called 20-Lithium-01. On the right side of
7 your screen, you can see what the Docket log
8 looks like when you click on that link. This
9 includes all materials submitted to the docket.

10 Everything in this log is public, you can
11 click on any item and review it.

12 The second link on that top right corner
13 of the home page, which you can see on your left,
14 is that submit e-comments button for the 20-
15 Lithium-01 docket log. Next slide, please.

16 When you click on that link, you are
17 taken to the form shown on the right, which
18 provides a simple form for providing your contact
19 information, a comment, and an option to upload a
20 document.

21 Please note that anything submitted here
22 will be added to that 20-Lithium-01 Docket log,
23 the first things that we reviewed. And when a
24 document is added, an alert email is issued to
25 everyone who is subscribed to the Lithium Valley

1 Commission Listserv to notify them that new
2 information has been added.

3 At the bottom of the webpage, you can
4 find contact information if you have questions or
5 need assistance in submitting comments or
6 documents to the docket. Next slide, please.

7 So, returning once to that Lithium Valley
8 Commission webpage, on the bottom right of the
9 screen shot you can see the word "Subscribe."
10 Where you can subscribe to the Listserv, if you
11 still need to, all parties who subscribe to the
12 Listserv will receive an email notification when
13 anything is submitted to the docket that we
14 reviewed, as well as a notification of related
15 announcements and materials.

16 It is important to keep an eye out for a
17 confirmation email that you will receive after
18 subscribing to verify your email address and
19 complete your subscription to the Listserv.

20 If you believe that you have subscribed,
21 but you are not yet receiving email alerts from
22 the Lithium Valley Commission Listserv, please
23 contact CEC staff who can help you to subscribe.

24 And with that, I'll go back to you, Chair
25 Paz and onto the next slide.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Are there any
2 questions from the Commissioners? I don't see
3 any hands.

4 We will now open public comments for this
5 Administrative Topic only. Elisabeth?

6 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. So
7 if you're joining us by Zoom on your computer,
8 please use that raised hand feature. And if
9 you've called in, please dial *9 to raise your
10 hand and *6 to unmute your phone line.

11 First, we'll go through hands raised in
12 the Zoom application, and then look on the phone.

13 All right, Chair Paz, I'm not seeing any
14 hands raised for comments at this time. Back to
15 you.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Next slide,
17 please. We're now in a Media and Legislation
18 Updates. I would like to introduce Seanna
19 Griffis from the Legislative Office to give us a
20 few updates. Seanna?

21 MS. GRIFFIS: Hi everyone. Just a brief
22 update for you all today.

23 The Legislature is still in recess and
24 they don't reconvene until January 3rd. So right
25 now I don't have any legislative updates, but we

1 do expect to see some Lithium and Salton Sea
2 phase fill (phonetic) and when they introduce
3 them this session.

4 And then the final day to introduce new
5 legislation will be February 18th, so I'll have
6 better update for you all next meeting at where
7 we stand, legislative-wise.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Are there any
9 questions for Seanna? So we will move on to
10 introduce Lindsay Buckley for a media update.

11 MS. BUCKLEY: Good morning, Chair Paz and
12 Commissioners. I will also keep my update brief.

13 Last month, we conducted Media Outreach
14 in advance of the community forum that included
15 sending information to local reporters and
16 Imperial and Coachella and Los Angeles Area, as
17 well as state and national reporters who covered
18 the issue.

19 Press interest remains high. Highlights
20 of coverage this last month on the issue came
21 from the L.A. Times, NBC News, and Popular
22 Science, and a number of trade publications.

23 I had a little bit of tech trouble, but I
24 will drop some of the highlight links in the chat
25 here shortly. And that is it for me.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. At this point --
2 oh, next slide please?

3 I'm going to invite any Commissioner who
4 has an update to use the raised hand feature on
5 Zoom, so that I only call on those of you who do
6 have an update. And I see Jonathan Weisgall.

7 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Really just a
8 quick media update. Let's see if I can hold up
9 this page, the cover of today's New York Times
10 lead. You can see one of the salars, those
11 evaporation ponds, and Article "Energy Riches in
12 Bolivia Lure Global Suitors." Just an article
13 that, number one, it does touch on some of the
14 really less environmental, more cultural issues
15 affecting this area of the Salt Flats of the
16 salars and I think I counted eight different
17 companies, I want to say four Russian, two
18 Chinese, two Americans, looking to nail down
19 lease rights in Bolivia.

20 So one more illustration of the race for
21 Lithium, so just thought I would point that out
22 to the group.

23 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Jonathan. Rod?

24 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thank you, Chair
25 Paz. I think Commissioner Weisgall hit one of

1 the points I wanted to talk about. So, yes, the
2 media has the attention of Bolivia, ESG or the
3 world's most sustainable lithium is brought on
4 Imperial Valley at the moment.

5 The other report I have for the public
6 and the Commissioners, is we did our first target
7 depth of our first production well this week at
8 8,000 feet, which is great. Secondly, Vice
9 President Harris mentioned the CTR project, the
10 Lithium Valley in general, how important it is to
11 the United States, you know, critical mineral
12 security, and was published on the White House
13 Website. Thank you.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Rod. I'm going to
15 check in for additional hands. Steve?

16 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you,
17 Chair. I just wanted to -- I didn't know if it
18 was on the list that was provided by staff, but
19 the Wall Street Journal ran an article December
20 13th, talking not specifically about Lithium
21 Valley, but talking about the lithium price
22 increases and there was also a video that was
23 embedded, which I thought was extremely helpful
24 in understanding not only the different kinds of
25 extraction and recovery processes, but also just

1 basically how lithium is used in the properties
2 that contribute to storage of energy.

3 So it is, I think, very very informative
4 and interesting and bodes well for the work that
5 we're doing, and I will go ahead and figure out a
6 way to get that to you. Okay? Thank you.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I don't see any
8 other hands. Luis Olmedo?

9 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you. I
10 thought I had raised it. Showing this to
11 highlight the tour that happened on December 10
12 led by the California Natural Resource Agency and
13 some other sister agencies within the CNRA. The
14 tour, I felt, was a really good opportunity to
15 see what we've been hearing a lot about, the
16 Species Conservation and Habitat Project. I
17 walked away quite impressed with the massive
18 scale of the project that they've taken on, and
19 I'm eager to see how it comes to its final phase.
20 You know, there's habitat and wildlife and
21 shallow water ponds, so different levels of
22 ponds, but I really appreciated that tour
23 because, you know, for so long we've been hearing
24 these sort of undelivered promises,
25 administration after administration, and I do

1 want to give credit to the CNRA, Assembly Member
2 Garcia, and the great level of community
3 engagement that happened in that tour, you know,
4 I really appreciated the invite that went out and
5 was very regional, it covered a wide range of
6 stakeholders. I hope they do more of those
7 tours, and if anybody didn't make it from the
8 Lithium Valley Commission, I hope that in future
9 meetings the entire Commission gets invited
10 because as we continue to talk about the Lithium
11 and these great opportunities with geothermal and
12 Lithium, certainly the Salton Sea and its
13 restoration efforts are a critical component.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Jonathan?

16 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Two more quick
17 points. Yeah, Steve, that was a very important
18 article. Just for the group, to give you a note,
19 I mean, the headline of the article in that Wall
20 Street Journal on December 13, "Lithium Prices
21 Soar Turbo-Charged by Electric Vehicle Demand and
22 Scant Supply."

23 The other point I just wanted to make, on
24 November 30 --

25 CHAIR PAZ: It looks like we lost him?

1 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: I was going to
2 say I didn't know if it was on my end or his.

3 CHAIR PAZ: And I think something
4 happened with the slides, as well. I think
5 Jonathan is back.

6 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Can you still
7 hear me, by the way? Because I may have lost
8 connectivity.

9 CHAIR PAZ: We lost you when you were
10 going to tell us the title.

11 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Can you hear me
12 now?

13 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Okay. Well, the
15 title of that article was simply "Lithium Prices
16 Soar Turbo-Charged by Electric Vehicle Demand and
17 Scant Supply."

18 But what I really wanted to point out,
19 Chair Paz, was we hosted a tour on November 30 of
20 about 37 officials of our Geothermal Facilities
21 and Lithium Recovery Demonstration Project.

22 Also, they went to the Sonny Bono Refuge,
23 they were at the Salton Sea, a brief meeting also
24 with CTR. We had seven California Senators and
25 Assembly Members, including Assembly Member

1 Garcia, of course, Chris Holden, a number of
2 others from the Inland Caucus, and the Select
3 Committee on Lithium, Lithium and the California
4 Economy, Legislative staff, we had Imperial
5 Valley Supervisor Castillo, we had other
6 representatives from Governor Newsome's staff
7 from United Brotherhood of Carpenters and
8 Joiners, College of the Desert, General Motors,
9 University of California at Riverside, lots of
10 questions, and I think, Louis, kind of similar to
11 what you were talking about, just seeing
12 everything live and up close, there's just no --
13 you can't replace that, you can't even replace it
14 with photographs. And lots of questions ranging
15 from permitting and regulations, environmental
16 impacts, community outreach, workforce
17 development and the like. And we were delighted
18 to be able to show some very good progress on our
19 Lithium Recovery Demonstration Project. I'll
20 perhaps have a photograph to put in the record
21 for next month, Chair Paz.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Jonathan. On that
23 note, so I was able to join briefly the
24 conversation that took place at CTR and got wind
25 of the robust conversation that had happened

1 throughout the day as you summarized right now.

2 Thank you for sharing that.

3 After our Community Forum, and on the
4 topic of engagement, I was reached out by a
5 number of community groups, including KDI, Sierra
6 Club, Loma Linda University, Professor Ryan
7 Sinclair, and members of the Alianza Team who
8 wanted to understand more. I think after the
9 forum there were still many questions for the
10 community, it was apparent that we need to
11 continue to be doing community engagement and
12 have these conversations so that we can expand
13 the understanding that is out there from items
14 on, you know, what their mandate is, the Lithium
15 Battery Commission, to understanding the
16 technology, to understanding what are the points
17 in which the community can ostensibly engage and
18 provide feedback. So we had a very good
19 conversation that ended with a request from them
20 to have a tour. And I thought Jonathan, I know
21 in past, that you've reached out to me and
22 wanting to do more community engagement, so I'm
23 bringing it up to you here now to see if maybe
24 you can host a group of both community members
25 and nonprofit organization leaders at your plant,

1 and just show us and make it sort of more
2 tangible for us to understand.

3 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: We would be
4 delighted, just a question of timing and
5 logistics. It took a certain amount of work just
6 to get that one trip down on November 30, but by
7 all means and I look forward to following up with
8 you, Silvia, to try to make those logistical
9 arrangements as soon as we can.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Perfect, thank you. Luis
11 Olmedo.

12 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you. Sounds
13 like that was a really great tour. My
14 understanding was that one County official from
15 Imperial showed up and I was wondering how
16 expansive the outreach was on the southern end
17 into Imperial where the resource exists.

18 It's pretty phenomenal and I would say a
19 missed opportunity if there wasn't a significant
20 outreach also in the southern end, full
21 participation. I know that at CBO's we didn't
22 hear anything about it and wasn't sure if the
23 Lithium Commission was also considered part of
24 the officials that were invited, as well. I
25 never saw an invitation to the Lithium

1 Commission, though I know I'm not in a leadership
2 role, but I didn't hear whether there was one or
3 not.

4 In the future ones, it would be great to
5 see more participation on the southern end of the
6 seat.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you for your comments,
8 Luis. Okay, I don't see any other comments or
9 hands. Again, thank you. And we'll move on to
10 the next slide, please.

11 At this point, I would like to introduce
12 Rafael Aguilera. He is from the California
13 Workforce Development Board with some updates on
14 grant opportunity. Rafael, are you on?

15 MR. AGUILERA: Yes, I believe I'm
16 unmuted. I don't know if you can see me. I
17 don't know if there's an opportunity to share a
18 PowerPoint? If not, I can proceed with just
19 information. Okay, here we go. Once second, I'm
20 joining as a panelist --

21 CHAIR PAZ: Once Rafael joins back as a
22 panelist, he will be able to share his screen to
23 show a presentation.

24 MR. AGUILERA: Okay, hello. Can you see
25 me now?

1 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

2 MR. AGUILERA: Okay. Thanks everybody.
3 I'm going to start sharing my screen; hopefully
4 this goes -- I'm dealing with two monitors. But
5 good morning. Thank you for the invitation,
6 Chair Paz, and I really appreciate the
7 opportunity to update the Commission on our
8 upcoming grant opportunity. Give me a sec here
9 while I navigate this technology.

10 Can you see my PowerPoint?

11 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

12 MR. AGUILERA: Okay, great. So as I
13 said, thank you for the opportunity to present.
14 I'll try and be brief.

15 I'm very excited to share that I'm with
16 the High Road Training Partnership's Field Team
17 with the California Workforce Development Board.
18 We're in the Equity Climate Jobs branch, so all
19 we talk about is low carbon economy and how to
20 chart a high road path towards that end.

21 I'm going to give you a brief overview of
22 the agenda. I'm going to share a little bit
23 about the High Road vision, go into the
24 components, essential elements, and take time for
25 questions. And all in less than 10 minutes if

1 that's okay, Chair Paz.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

3 MR. AGUILERA: Okay. So just to kind of
4 share -- I don't want to go into it, but
5 inequality that exists in California's workforce
6 system is apparent and compounded by the recent
7 impact of Covid-19. We're also currently in a
8 great transition of fossil fuel intensive
9 industries to low carbon.

10 But let's not forget just the history of
11 mass incarceration, racism, and system bias in
12 workforce programs, and even turning an eye
13 towards their own workforce system, sort of
14 built-in barriers that we've created.

15 An example of how this current workforce
16 system doesn't work very well for the
17 construction trade, you look at the career of
18 pipeline and there are many places where people
19 can fall out of it. It's sometimes hard to get
20 into pre-apprenticeship on a path to
21 apprenticeship. Many times, placement is the
22 place where they fall out and then job quality
23 suffers at the end of the labor market when there
24 are not enough high road employers, or good jobs
25 out there, basically.

1 Our approach to this is what we call High
2 Road, it's a term of art, but what it means is
3 sort of a set of economic and workforce
4 strategies to help achieve economic growth,
5 equity, prosperity, and a clean environment, so
6 everything that California is about.

7 This is sort of our North Star, how we
8 chart the path towards what we consider High
9 Road. A little road job is basically something
10 that treats workers as expendable and, you know,
11 the earth as a trash can. And the high road is
12 really what I think California is all about and
13 putting people on a path towards livable wages
14 and low carbon industries.

15 There is some text here and there's a lot
16 of visuals, as well, I promise that, Chair, for
17 posterity I'll be able to share this presentation
18 afterwards.

19 We do work with a lot of climate and
20 technology impacted industries. We also bring
21 together partnerships that include local
22 government employers, workers, community members,
23 and really the key is those partnerships. You're
24 going to hear me say Equity Climate Jobs many
25 times.

1 The thing that we think we're leaving for
2 the future after our grants program would go
3 away, hopefully never, but sometime in the
4 future, is an industry-based skilled
5 infrastructure that can negotiate the future of
6 work and build regional economies in California
7 that are sustainable and just.

8 Our approach through our different
9 policy, programs, and popular education is to
10 work with state agencies through our HR cap.
11 We're working with the CEC and PUC,
12 CARB, and other agencies to create goals for
13 investments, as well as job quality standards for
14 those investments. The state is a huge employer,
15 the state is a huge investor. We integrate this
16 into our statewide plan for workforce
17 development, which is over \$500 million every
18 year.

19 And what I'm talking about is the High
20 Road Training Partnership, which are specific
21 projects in an industry or region, and we make
22 grants towards that end. And this general
23 popular education is how we try and spread the
24 message.

25 The "then Venn Diagram," if you will,

1 equity climate jobs are sort of how we see it all
2 coming together. We know that there's a lot of
3 issues on the outside of these circles, people
4 coming from different communities, as well as
5 speaking different languages in many cases. So,
6 this is how we try and bring those things
7 together.

8 Regionalism is also sort of a term of
9 art, but certainly with the Lithium Valley, we
10 are talking about a very specific region and a
11 set of stakeholders and constituents and actors.

12 Now, I'm going to get into an H RTP and
13 the specifics, and I just want you to have this
14 image in your mind. H RTP would actually start
15 with the jobs, so where this arrow goes at the
16 end here, that's where we start.

17 We want to talk about quality jobs and
18 how to get there. It's turning the workforce
19 system on its head, so instead of doing a train
20 and pray model where people receive training not
21 knowing what the end result is, we want to work
22 with employers to figure out what their needs
23 are, first and foremost and identify where there
24 are gaps in the labor market, and then provide
25 access and equity on the labor supply side to

1 help folks get into those pipelines.

2 Now, as strategies go, it requires labor
3 market interventions, working with CEO's, EJ
4 community, the employers, unions, labor
5 representatives. We have been partnering with
6 UCLA Labor Center and the UC Berkeley Labor
7 Center and soon UC Merced Labor Center to deepen
8 our work in those communities.

9 Currently we have, I believe, over 24
10 projects. One that is relevant to this, I think,
11 is the Offshore Wind Energy H RTP we have in the
12 Central Coast because it's dealing with an
13 entirely new sector. Even though geothermal is
14 not new, lithium extraction and refining would be
15 somewhat new.

16 And it's going to encounter similar
17 challenges of identifying workforce needs,
18 economic development needs, and navigating
19 through environmental regulation, as well as
20 permitting, etc.; same thing with offshore wind,
21 it's totally new to California, dealing with many
22 hurdles, and we have community college labor
23 unions, as well, and High Road employers at the
24 table.

25 High Road construction careers are a type

1 of H RTP, but they're actually statewide and the
2 state does a lot of construction. You know, I've
3 heard through conversations with Lithium Valley
4 the need for infrastructure. Everything low
5 carbon -- solar panels, wind, geothermal, needs
6 to be built. And real people can't just be
7 imported, it can't just be outdoors, it needs to
8 be built.

9 We have a pre-apprenticeship program,
10 multi-craft core curriculum that is statewide,
11 and they're currently working in Region 5 which
12 is San Diego-Imperial Valley, and this is not my
13 expertise, but I do have colleagues that work on
14 this. Here are the regions, San Diego and
15 Imperial County are connected as one.

16 I'm going to skip this one because I went
17 over them, but what we've learned from H RTP that
18 are existing is that industry-led problem solving
19 is key, and by "industry" we mean not just the
20 employers, but also the workers, right?

21 The partnership is most important and
22 there's really a need for a separate space from
23 the regulatory agencies, or even research
24 committees, advisory committees, those types of
25 things, where workforce needs to be discussed

1 separate from the negotiating table, as well.

2 Partnership is the priority, and this is
3 a really unique opportunity, I feel, with H RTP to
4 fund someone, some group, some entity that wakes
5 up everyday and goes to bed thinking about the
6 needs of the partnership, not just their own self
7 interests, not just one sort of view, but rather
8 those things that come together and actually move
9 the needle.

10 Worker wisdom, often overlooked, but
11 apprenticeship I mentioned, mentorship, you know,
12 the folks on the front end of the workforce
13 system with their hands in the ground, basically,
14 are the ones that can identify efficiencies. And
15 so, we always try and look for opportunities to
16 elevate worker wisdom.

17 And at the end of the day, what we really
18 want to see is credentials, certificates,
19 education, and training that leads to better
20 labor market outcomes for those individuals.

21 The H RTP model usually includes this --
22 and I leave it as a visual, but it can be
23 amorphous, or adaptable to whatever the community
24 or the project might need. This is a typical
25 example. And with High Road construction

1 careers, it's a little bit more refined and
2 specific to include Building Trade Councils,
3 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees, CBOs,
4 our Local Workforce Boards, and adult education
5 partners such as community colleges.

6 Kind of how it all comes together, you
7 can see it's quality training, multi-faceted,
8 very resource intensive, but we see better labor
9 market outcomes with folks who receive the
10 supportive services that they need and, like I
11 said, paying attention to those needs of the
12 folks that are going through these trainings.

13 Once again, just to hit you with this,
14 this is an idealized version, a simplified
15 version of the trajectory of someone seeking a
16 career and the labor market interventions can be
17 at any point in this and really need to be at all
18 points.

19 Wrapping up, with the upcoming grant
20 opportunity we're still trying to decide whether
21 or not it will be a request for a proposal which
22 is a larger grant application, or a letter of
23 intent which is simpler, sort of a three-pager,
24 but regardless the grant opportunity will come by
25 the end of the first quarter of 2022, so we're

1 shooting for February or March.

2 In the meantime, I'm paying attention and
3 other folks at the California Workforce
4 Development Board are very excited about this
5 opportunity and are sort of eagerly awaiting to
6 see if there's a possibility for a High Road
7 training partnership regarding Lithium Valley,
8 especially in this area of the state that has
9 usually triple the level of unemployment and just
10 this abundant resource and opportunity here.

11 In the meantime, I know the work at the
12 Lithium Valley Commission is, in part, to
13 identify economic impact, and I would say
14 workforce is a component of that, but for a
15 grant, the lead applicant, key partners listed
16 here -- local government, industry workers,
17 community, community colleges perhaps, and a set
18 of issues, a set of issues that can be addressed
19 hopefully through partnership. And the range for
20 past Grantees has been \$500,000 to \$2 million,
21 depending on the size. This is a large-scale
22 project and that's the multi-year investment.

23 I'll leave it there and if there are any
24 questions, we've got more info for you or more
25 examples. I'll just leave you with this: given

1 where I started, there are existing disparities
2 and inequities, especially in this region, and we
3 would hope that this is an opportunity taken, and
4 I know that's really the focus of why this
5 Commission has come together. Thank you.

6 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Rafael. Are there
7 any questions from the Commissioners about this
8 opportunity?

9 I do have a question, Rafael. So, from
10 the list of key partners that you listed there,
11 any one of those entities can be the lead
12 applicant?

13 MR. AGUILERA: Correct. You know, it's
14 usually best for a third-party entity; sometimes
15 it's a nonprofit, sometimes it's a labor-
16 management partnership, or a trust; it's been a
17 joint apprenticeship training committee.

18 You know, it just depends on who is
19 available, who is there. It can be a local
20 Workforce Development Board; it can be a County.
21 We're flexible as to who holds it, but what we
22 try and focus on is the partnership itself and
23 the fundamentals of best practices of High Road.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Again, I've been
25 working with Rafael and his colleagues around the

1 workforce workshop when they brought this to my
2 attention, and I thought we couldn't miss this
3 opportunity. I do hope that someone from the
4 Region is interested, and we can start early.
5 And there's funding so that, as we have all
6 expressed, that we can have a workforce that is
7 ready.

8 So again, this is a great opportunity and
9 I hope someone will take advantage. And if you
10 are planning to apply, I would love to be in
11 conversation with you all.

12 I do see a few hands up. I will start
13 with Steve Castaneda.

14 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you, Chair
15 Paz. And Rafael, thank you very much. You know,
16 in our subcommittee breakout, we had a meeting
17 regarding this program. And again, the upcoming
18 workshop on workforce development, I think, will
19 kind of delve into this probably a lot more
20 specifically, and I hope so.

21 I'm just trying to wonder, in terms of
22 the kinds of training -- and all of that hasn't
23 been fleshed out yet because I certainly am not
24 aware of all the training -- does the
25 infrastructure exist in both East Riverside and

1 Imperial County to provide this level of
2 training?

3 I mean, even if you had partners that
4 were interested, obviously we have the companies
5 that are very interested in developing this
6 workforce, but I'm just wondering based on what
7 you know, what would be the startup investment in
8 terms of getting them to a place where they could
9 provide this kind of training and assist folks?

10 MR. AGUILERA: Yeah, so I showed that
11 trajectory and I showed the idealized
12 partnership, right, but it's not going to look
13 like that at the beginning. Certainly, at any
14 point, there's no wrong door to enter.

15 Sometimes these things start from the
16 employer that really wants to compete on the
17 basis of being a High Road employer, as in the
18 case with the offshore wind; they know that
19 having the support and the quality training and
20 lifting up the employee and making this an
21 attractive job is going to attract the best
22 talent.

23 At the same time, you know, the Unions
24 are involved and they're looking at the needs of
25 the employer and figuring out if they can meet

1 those needs. Maybe they have a skills gap; they
2 need training because this is a new industry,
3 right. How do you lay a cable under water or do
4 the type of platform building? It's not been
5 done.

6 Likewise, perhaps with geothermal, I
7 don't know the specifics of the technology, but
8 we have a generalized approach. But then when it
9 comes down to it, what are the needs of the
10 employer and what are the workforce gaps, right?
11 And then how can we design training to fill those
12 gaps.

13 It's something that's being floated
14 around in various sectors of the economy, ways
15 for competency-based training, you know, specific
16 skills training. But what we find is we want
17 those trainings to be durable, those skills and
18 credentials to be portable so that, if someone
19 gets a job, it's not a temporary job, it's
20 something that they can build a career on.

21 And with this particular case, it sounds
22 like there's a group of employers and a set of
23 regulatory agencies and a ton of folks that are
24 available for work. The question is, how do we
25 get all of those together and have a conversation

1 about partnership.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Rafael. Luis
3 Olmedo?

4 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you, Mr.
5 Aguilera. It's a great presentation and I'm
6 actually very enthusiastic to see from the
7 government agency the level of depth and thought
8 that was put into it, and research and history
9 that was put into this program the way that
10 you've explained it.

11 And it goes to show how important it is
12 to have the right people in the right places
13 within government agencies because a lot of times
14 they're trying to dismantle a system that has not
15 worked, quite frankly, and we keep doing the same
16 thing and you come up with the same outcome.

17 So, I figure this is not the same thing
18 and we are going to be expecting a different
19 outcome, a much more positive outcome. You know,
20 also is the question of where the workforce is
21 going to come from; well, you know, where are the
22 capacities and capabilities? It's a question
23 that is not difficult to answer.

24 I was reading the New York Times and, a
25 little bit irrelevant but a perhaps somewhat

1 relevant comment, I was really excited to see the
2 fact that Imperial had surpassed a 74 percent
3 vaccination rate when we were basically the
4 litmus test for this entire state when it came to
5 Covid. And the State data shows that at the
6 state level there was 64 percent.

7 So, the New York article asked what is
8 this whole sort of mysterious situation that
9 happened? Well, there's no mystery: the proper
10 resources were invested, the proper
11 collaborations occurred, there was a strong
12 united front that made this happen among
13 different stakeholders from our local
14 governments, local hospitals or clinics,
15 private/public CBOs, it was a monumental effort.

16 And so, same thing here, with the proper
17 resources, the proper support -- we don't want a
18 do over like the wind and solar that turned up a
19 significant number of certified workers in these
20 fields of work -- and then there's no jobs,
21 right? So, it seems that whatever it is that
22 you've presented now and the direction you're
23 going that hopefully we don't end up with the
24 same experience and that we actually provide the
25 proper resources.

1 And I'm just excited in the way and the
2 ample opportunities that are for different
3 applicants and different stakeholders to be a
4 part of that process. So, congratulations on
5 what you presented and I'm eager to stay engaged
6 and that this program comes to fruition.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you.

9 CHAIR PAZ: Vice Chair Kelley.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Chair Paz.
11 I appreciate the presentation, the Workforce
12 Development Board. I know that we've been having
13 conversations from our local to state agency and
14 other entities. Very promising. And I know that
15 we will be active in continuing that partnership
16 of developing workforce within Imperial County.

17 As we've shared in the past, we've
18 started to develop some of that capacity,
19 identifying gaps here, and working with industry,
20 already making changes that will be implemented
21 in the near future and our Community College and
22 hopefully soon in our higher education outposts
23 and our secondary schools. So eager to see the
24 opportunities developing and we are engaged and
25 will be following up. Thank you.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Vice Chair KELLEY.
2 And a little bit to your question, Commissioner
3 Castaneda, about the infrastructure. I think
4 what I heard, too, was capacity and I think both
5 the comments from Vice Chair Ryan Kelley and Luis
6 point to the readiness.

7 I do believe we have a history, both in
8 the Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley, of
9 setting up tables, collaborating. We've seen it
10 around the Census, around the Covid response that
11 has brought both government and nonprofits and
12 communities together, and this is adding the
13 element of the employer. So, it's very exciting
14 to see that we are positioned to do this.

15 And my request is that we're also
16 thinking about a regional approach while the
17 resources in Imperial County may be building
18 those concentric circles around how we do a local
19 first approach so that we are prioritizing and
20 targeting the community surrounding the Salton
21 Sea region as the first approach.

22 So, again, I look forward -- maybe, Vice
23 Chair Kelley, I should schedule some time with
24 you so that I can be engaged more in this
25 conversation.

1 Thank you. And thank you for the
2 conversation and the presentation.

3 The next item is also an informational
4 item regarding some of the rulemaking from the
5 CEC to amend regulations for the delegation of
6 certification authority and small power plant
7 exemptions, and at this point I will invite Renee
8 to take the mic.

9 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: Thank you. Thank
10 you, Chair Paz for this opportunity. We'd like
11 to share with the Lithium Valley Commission some
12 news about an action that the Energy Commission
13 took last week at its Public Business Meeting.

14 The Commission adopted an Order
15 instituting a rulemaking to amend a few existing
16 regulations related to thermal power plant
17 permitting.

18 This order is the very beginning of a
19 public process governed by the California
20 Administrative Procedures Act where public
21 agencies like the CEC can adopt or change
22 procedures to carry out powers that the agency
23 has been given in statute by the Legislature.

24 So why does this matter to the Lithium
25 Valley Commission? As you all have learned from

1 previous presentations, one of the permits
2 necessary for direct lithium extraction from
3 geothermal brine is for the construction and
4 operation of geothermal electricity generation
5 facilities. And those permitting decisions,
6 depending on the generating capacity of the power
7 plant, sometimes falls under the Energy
8 Commission's licensing authority.

9 There are two State directives issued
10 just this year that urged the Energy Commission
11 to take a hard look at its licensing procedures,
12 including those that can impact geothermal
13 facilities. First, to meet the twin challenges
14 of improving electricity supply reliability as a
15 result of wildfires and power safety shutoff, and
16 the imperative to exceed statutory deadlines for
17 a carbon-free electrical grid.

18 Governor Newsom issued an Emergency
19 Proclamation on July 30th of this year which
20 recognizes the sudden and severe energy shortages
21 caused by the adverse impacts of climate change
22 on the supply and reliability of energy. And so,
23 to prioritize public health and safety, the
24 Emergency Proclamation calls upon State agencies
25 to perform any and all activities consistent with

1 the direction of our state's Emergency Plan.

2 And in addition, the Emergency
3 Proclamation directs the CEC, in consultation
4 with other energy and climate change agencies, to
5 take any additional actions that would accelerate
6 the State's transition to carbon-free energy.

7 Additionally, in June of this year, the
8 California Public Utilities Commission approved
9 the decision ordering utilities to procure 11.5
10 gigawatts of new electricity resources to come on
11 line between 2023 and 2026, with at least 1,000
12 megawatts coming from sources like geothermal
13 resources.

14 So the CEC, in reviewing any obvious
15 steps that we could take to meet these twin
16 challenges, we immediately considered whether we
17 could streamline our Administrative processes for
18 two things: delegating our certification
19 authority over geothermal facilities to counties
20 who have desired to assume that role, and for
21 approving small power plant exemptions.

22 And in our first review, we noted that
23 the regulations that we currently follow in order
24 to implement the statutory authorities haven't
25 been updated since the 1970's. And so it made

1 them ripe for a hard look at improvements. Next
2 slide, please.

3 So I want to emphasize that rulemaking
4 can only enable what an agency can already do
5 under current law. Rulemaking cannot expand or
6 change the powers of an agency that doesn't
7 already exist in statute.

8 So I wanted to briefly summarize what the
9 Warren-Alquist Act empowers the Energy Commission
10 to do with regards to thermal power plants. It
11 gives us the exclusive power to certify all
12 thermal power plants and related facilities,
13 generating 50 megawatts and great. And this is
14 generating capacity.

15 And in essence what the Warren-Alquist
16 Act did -- and it's a little bit unique in State
17 law -- is it provided the Energy Commission a
18 one-stop-shop and the ability to issue a
19 certificate to the project that would be in lieu
20 of any other permit required by State, Regional,
21 or Local agencies.

22 So, what that does is it gives the Energy
23 Commission the decision-making authority to issue
24 conditions of certification, which would cover
25 all of those other permits and licensing

1 prophecies that a project would normally have to
2 apply to separately.

3 The CEC also coordinates with Federal
4 agencies to the extent that Federal law doesn't
5 allow states to step in its shoes. So, the CEC
6 really serves as the center of the permitting
7 decision for these facilities that are 50
8 megawatts and greater, and we issue an extensive
9 set of conditions of certification that covers
10 both the construction and operation of the plant.
11 Next slide, please.

12 So, I wanted to highlight some of the
13 findings that the Energy Commission reaches and
14 issues in its process and determination to
15 certify a power plant.

16 After an evidentiary process that's
17 extensive and governed by the Administrative
18 Procedures Act, the CEC issues findings and
19 conclusions that speak to a number of things.
20 Most important is it needs to make findings and
21 conclusions that the power plant is in conformity
22 with all applicable Local, Regional, State, and
23 Federal Standards, Ordinances and Laws. We refer
24 to them in short as LORS.

25 And this includes safety and reliability,

1 it includes air and water quality requirements,
2 and it includes environmental review. Under the
3 Warren-Alquist Act, we are the lead agency for
4 these decisions and we carry out our
5 environmental review through a certified
6 regulatory program adopted pursuant to CEQA.
7 Next slide, please.

8 The Warren-Alquist Act also contains two
9 exceptions to our exclusive permitting decisions
10 and the exceptions apply only after the Energy
11 Commission has made the discretionary decision to
12 award the exception to the entity or the
13 Applicant.

14 The first is the section of the Public
15 Resources Code which allows the Energy Commission
16 to delegate its exclusive permitting authority to
17 a county that has a geothermal element in its
18 General Plan; Imperial County has such a
19 geothermal element.

20 And our statute requires that if the
21 County wants to apply for the exclusive
22 permitting jurisdictions that the Energy
23 Commission normally applies, it has to file a
24 petition with the Energy Commission that
25 demonstrates that the County has an equivalent

1 certification program with specific application
2 and appeal procedures.

3 It also requires the County to assure
4 that its equivalent program allows for input and
5 review by other public agencies and members of
6 the public.

7 And in our current regulations in this
8 process, we have added an adjudicative process
9 which is essentially an evidentiary process for
10 counties to follow when submitting their
11 petition.

12 And we note that, even though we've had
13 these regulations available for counties since
14 the 1970s, delegation has never been sought nor
15 approved by any of the Counties, including those
16 in the state with significant geothermal
17 resources.

18 The other exception to our exclusive
19 permitting is what we call our Small Power Plant
20 Exemption, or SPPE. So, I've shared with you
21 already that our jurisdiction applies to thermal
22 power plants 50 megawatts or over; this exemption
23 applies to those power plants 50 megawatts or
24 over, but under 100 megawatts. So it provides a
25 window of opportunity for those power plants with

1 generating capacity between 50 and 100 to apply
2 to the Energy Commission to be exempted from our
3 exclusive jurisdiction; however, in order to
4 qualify, the project applicant has to demonstrate
5 that the power plant will have no substantial
6 adverse impact on the environment.

7 Under this application for SPPE, the EC
8 is the CEQA lead agency. So we have to conduct a
9 full environmental review pursuant to CEQA,
10 whether it's an initial study or an Environmental
11 Impact Report, examining the application for the
12 exemption and whether or not the project itself
13 will have any adverse impact on the environment.

14 If the Energy Commission approves an
15 SPPE, then that approval essentially shifts the
16 project application and any further decisions on
17 it to the local level, and the project developer
18 needs to seek the permits that it needs for the
19 operation and construction to all of the other
20 agencies that may be jurisdictional, including a
21 County or a City, and Air District, a Regional
22 Water Board, etc.

23 So, just like the delegation decisions,
24 our Regulations also add this adjudicative
25 process on top of the CEQA process to structure

1 the decision. Next slide, please.

2 So, we know that you all have received
3 presentations on CEQA and some of the Permits
4 that are required for geothermal projects and
5 other development projects in Imperial County,
6 and we just wanted to touch quickly on and
7 restate some of the key elements of CEQA and the
8 responsibilities of a lead agency, regardless of
9 who is the lead agency.

10 So a lead agency is required to provide
11 notice and opportunities for public review and
12 comment at every stage of the process. So there
13 are oftentimes Scoping Meetings associated with
14 Environmental Impact Reports as they're being
15 drafted; there are comment periods required to be
16 offered to the public on the draft environmental
17 document; and the lead agency has to evaluate and
18 respond in writing to the comments submitted
19 about the environmental issues disclosed in the
20 draft environmental document.

21 As we're moving through this rulemaking,
22 we wanted to underscore this because, regardless
23 of who is the lead agency under any of these
24 permit decisions, whether they remain at the CEC,
25 or they get shifted to a local entity, the lead

1 agency must carry out some of these essential
2 components and requirements of CEQA, including
3 the public participation -- and an evaluation for
4 potentially significant impacts of all of these
5 resource areas. These are required under CEQA,
6 so each of these 21 resource areas need to be
7 evaluated and discussed and considered as to
8 whether or not the project is going to provide a
9 potentially significant impact on these resource
10 areas. Next slide, please.

11 So, the proposed amendments that the CEC
12 is considering at this point -- and, again, we're
13 at the early stage of the rulemaking -- are to
14 streamline our administrative procedures
15 associated with these two exceptions from our
16 jurisdiction.

17 And we want to balance that and ensure
18 that if we streamline the administrative process,
19 that we're not sacrificing public participation
20 in any of these government decisions, nor are we
21 sacrificing the substantive requirements of the
22 Warren-Alquist Act, CEQA, or other environmental
23 or public health and safety laws.

24 So just to summarize what staff is
25 considering proposing right now, for both

1 exceptions we're proposing eliminating redundant
2 Administrative process; we're proposing terms
3 that are going to specify and strengthen the
4 requirements for local government; we're going to
5 ensure that public participation is retained in
6 the EC's review of, say, the petition for
7 delegation and in the local review and
8 certification of geothermal power plants; we'll
9 be retaining for the SPPE process CEC as the CEQA
10 lead agency on the Application for Exemption; and
11 we're going to be retaining all other Local,
12 Regional and State agency permitting
13 requirements.

14 So again, the focus here is to really
15 simplify and streamline the administrative
16 process, while still ensuring that the public has
17 full access to the notice and participation
18 opportunities that CEQA and the CEC's process
19 requires. Next slide, please.

20 Going back to where we started, the
21 relationship of this rulemaking to the Lithium
22 Valley Commission is a close one and one that we
23 hope that you'll all engage in as the CEC moves
24 through its rulemaking. Again, we want to align
25 state policies that are urging the acceleration

1 of the procurement of reliability renewable and
2 carbon-free energy, and we also want to
3 streamline redundant and obsolete processes while
4 ensuring public participation and compliance with
5 all of the environmental and public health and
6 safety laws.

7 We hope to simplify the licensing and
8 permitting of geothermal power plant facility
9 construction and operation. We hope to maintain
10 all of the legal requirements. And we also hope
11 to enhance the state/local partnership in
12 planning and permitting geothermal electricity
13 generation in counties like Imperial.

14 So, here is an overview of the timeline
15 that we're looking at. The green arrow shows
16 where we're at, at the beginning where we were
17 last week when the Energy Commission adopted the
18 Order to institute the rulemaking. This timeline
19 is governed by the Administrative Procedures Act
20 of California and overseen by the Office of
21 Administrative Law, so we will be beginning by
22 issuing our Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) and
23 publishing it through the Office of
24 Administrative Law -- we're hoping for February
25 4th.

1 And that will begin the 45-day public
2 comment period in which the public can comment.
3 We may be able to conduct a public hearing upon
4 request, and also there will be CEC Business
5 Meetings where the proposed text and adoption of
6 the Amended Regulations will be considered.

7 There are two timelines here for those of
8 you who are familiar with the State's rulemaking
9 process. There is the 45-day comment period and
10 then sometimes when comments are received that
11 are substantive, we add an additional 15-day
12 public comment period for the public to comment
13 on any second revision to the proposed text.

14 So, if we build in the assumption that we
15 would have a 15-day additional public comment
16 period, we're looking at adopting these
17 regulations by August 17th.

18 So here is how to follow along and
19 engage: The Order Instituting Rulemaking opened
20 up the docket at the Energy Commission and all
21 filings in this rulemaking will be posted not
22 only to that docket, but also to the following
23 Listservs listed here: the Siting Division
24 General List, the Rulemaking List Server, and the
25 Geothermal List Server.

1 So, if you are subscribed to any of those
2 topical Listservs, you'll get notice of
3 everything filed in this rulemaking. It's easy
4 to sign up for the Listservs, as well, so that's
5 a way to stay apprised of what's happening in the
6 rulemaking. You can always reach out to the
7 Public Advisor's Office for assistance in
8 engaging in our rulemaking, and you're welcome to
9 contact me, as well, in the Chief Counsel's
10 Office.

11 I want to thank you for your attention
12 and happy to take any questions here if there
13 are.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Are there any
15 questions? I do not see any hands.

16 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: It looks like Mr.
17 Weisgall may have a question.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Jonathan.

19 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Thanks very much.
20 Thanks for that really thorough presentation. I
21 didn't realize this was at the beginning stages.
22 Could you provide a little bit more detail of
23 what that adjudicative or evidentiary process is
24 about? What is proposed to be included there?

25 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: What we're

1 proposing is to actually eliminate those
2 processes from these two exception applications.
3 So in our regular power plant Application for
4 Certification Proceeding, we are required to
5 include this adjudicative procedure that is on
6 top of CEQA. And the reason is because, as the
7 one-stop-shop and certifying authority, there is
8 a compelling public need to have a formal
9 administrative, adjudicative hearing process
10 where the parties can submit evidence, where
11 intervenors can also apply to be a formally
12 recognized intervenor which allows them to submit
13 evidence, where the evidence is considered by the
14 committee and the full Commission, and where
15 there is testimony given in a public hearing. So
16 it's called Quasi-Adjudicative because it's like
17 a court proceeding with evidentiary standards,
18 but at the Administrative Agency.

19 When these Regulations were adopted for
20 these two processes in the 70's, we just
21 automatically included the adjudicative processes
22 because it was what we were familiar with,
23 because it's what we do with our full licensing
24 proceedings, but they're not statutorily required
25 for these two processes.

1 And at the time there were also
2 compelling energy market reasons and economic
3 needs and findings that the Energy Commission
4 needed to make, that no longer apply in a
5 deregulated energy market. So that adjudicative
6 overlay on these applications really has become
7 redundant because, at the same time, the CEQA
8 process has become so robust that it provides the
9 kind of transparency and opportunities for public
10 and other agency engagement.

11 So that's the reason why we're proposing
12 to remove that adjudicative overlay, while still
13 ensuring that the CEQA process is fully engaged.

14 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Got it. So of
15 course, I mean, any opponent can take whatever
16 action is allowed under CEQA and there's nothing
17 in these regulations that in any way seeks to
18 restrict any CEQA overview?

19 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: That's right.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Thank you very
21 much. Very helpful.

22 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: Yes. Mr. Olmedo?

23 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you for the
24 presentation. In the rulemaking process that you
25 described, it seemed very heavy on the

1 geothermal, which is a bit surprising to me
2 because I thought that was already a well-
3 regulated industry. Maybe I missed it, but I
4 didn't see where there was focus on the other
5 component of the task at hand which is the
6 lithium extraction.

7 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: Right. The lithium
8 extraction is a decision under the jurisdiction
9 of CALGEM. And in our one-stop-shop, we would
10 obviously have CALGEM be a part of that process
11 and include them as a state partnering agency to
12 ensure that our Conditions of Certification would
13 include their permitting and requirements.

14 With the delegated authority, the
15 petitioning county would need to demonstrate how
16 it would have an equivalent certification program
17 and accomplish the same goals and outcomes that
18 the Energy Commission would do if we retained
19 jurisdiction.

20 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you.

21 CHAIR PAZ: I have a question, Renee. As
22 a point of clarification, so if these amendments
23 were adopted, the counties who have a geothermal
24 element would have to request that the authority
25 is granted to them? It doesn't automatically

1 push it down to the County?

2 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: Absolutely. So,
3 thank you for that question because all it would
4 do is facilitate and hopefully streamline the
5 process for counties to apply; however, our
6 Warren-Alquist Act still has very clear criteria
7 for what a County needs to demonstrate in order
8 to apply.

9 So, there would be this rulemaking in
10 which you would have the opportunity to comment
11 generally on whether you think streamlining that
12 process is a good thing, or how to make it a
13 better thing.

14 And then, if it was adopted, then you're
15 right, then the next step is that a County would
16 need to submit a petition to the Energy
17 Commission for the delegation, and we would have
18 a public process on that petition. And then the
19 full Energy Commission would decide under its
20 discretionary authority whether or not the
21 petition had merit.

22 And then it would be at that point, if a
23 County was delegated our jurisdictional
24 authority, that then any power plant applications
25 or modifications would then go to the County

1 subject to the terms and conditions of the
2 petition under which it sought delegation.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you for that. Vice
4 Chair Ryan Kelley and then Commissioner Douglas.

5 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Great. This is
6 welcome news and I appreciate the presentation
7 today. The County did send a letter in September
8 to the Energy Commission actually asking for a
9 delegation and opening conversations for
10 coordination with the California Energy
11 Commission.

12 And so we are supportive of all the
13 actions that are being proposed and continue to
14 have those conversations in regards to expanding
15 our ability for local permitting. Thank you.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner
17 Douglas.

18 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Hi. I just wanted
19 to elevate Charlene's clarification that she put
20 in the chat, which is the permitting for lithium
21 extraction, that the County Department of
22 Conservation has a role with regard to wells.
23 But I wanted to make sure that was clear. That's
24 all, thanks.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

1 MS. WEBSTER HAWKINS: Thank you.

2 CHAIR PAZ: I do not see any other
3 questions so, again, thank you for the
4 presentation. Very good information today.

5 At this point, we will invite people who
6 are joining us on Zoom to offer public comment
7 and, as a reminder, the public comments should be
8 limited to the last few presentations, and the
9 informational presentation.

10 Elisabeth.

11 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. So
12 if you're joining us by Zoom on your computer,
13 please use the raise hand feature. If you've
14 called in, please dial *9 to raise your hand, and
15 then *6 to unmute your phone line.

16 First, we'll go through hands raised in
17 the Zoom application, and then take the people on
18 the phones. Charlene, you should be able to
19 unmute yourself.

20 MS. WARDLOW: Good morning. This is
21 Charlene Wardlow. I'm with the California
22 Geologic Energy Management Division which was
23 formerly known as the Division of Oil, Gas and
24 Geothermal Resources and based in Sacramento at
25 the new building.

1 I wanted to clear up a couple of things.
2 So our authority in terms of geothermal
3 operations in the state, actually going back to
4 1978-79, Imperial County actually requested
5 jurisdiction for CEQA for exploration projects up
6 to six wells from DOGGR at that time. And they
7 have continued to have jurisdiction for
8 exploration projects in the County. They are the
9 only county that has that jurisdiction, so if
10 another county wants to drill exploration wells,
11 CalGEM is actually the CEQA lead agency. And
12 then once they've drilled the exploration wells
13 and it goes to development, then it goes back to
14 the county for land use planning jurisdiction.

15 Specific to the lithium side, it doesn't
16 impact the well field development, it actually
17 just adds another process. So we would be
18 overseeing the well field, the well permitting
19 construction operations like we do just now for
20 the actual geothermal operations.

21 And just my understanding is, too, from a
22 historical perspective, is the county has
23 actually applied for jurisdiction from the Energy
24 Commission historically, too, so thank you for
25 the update on the September petition.

1 Finally, just to clarify on the Energy
2 Commission permitting, I led the effort for
3 Calpine Sutter Power Plant back about 25 years
4 ago; it seemed like we still had to get the
5 permits from the local agencies, it's just that
6 they submitted their conditions of operation, for
7 example, from the Air District to the Energy
8 Commission, to include in the final decision, so
9 it was kind of a non-stop-shop instead of the
10 Applicant having to get the permits; the Energy
11 Commission staff was actually calling those
12 agencies to get their conditions for approval and
13 operation. Thank you very much.

14 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next hand
15 raised is from Nikola Lakic.

16 MR. LAKIC: Good morning, Chair Paz and
17 Commissioners. I would like just to remind you
18 that I did send a lot of materials to you. I
19 doubt if you read it, but it's very relevant to
20 what has been discussed so far.

21 I have invented a new system for
22 harnessing geothermal energy, complete closed
23 rope system. It does not depend on the
24 geothermal reservoir. And if you can read it at
25 some time, that would be much better so next time

1 if I'm invited, I would be glad to answer some
2 questions.

3 It's also a part of that bigger picture
4 which is restoration of the Salton Sea. I have a
5 feeling that leadership on top makes mistakes
6 really dividing that as a separate issue like
7 Lithium Valley projects harnessing lithium from
8 geothermal brine, which is fine, but it should be
9 separated from project restoration in the Salton
10 Sea.

11 My proposal for the restoration of the
12 Salton Sea is a comprehensive design that
13 incorporates all those elements. So, if you can
14 read it, please do and that way I would be able
15 to answer some questions right now. It might not
16 be proper because there is no illustration that
17 you would know what I'm talking about.

18 It is a comprehensive design, it's about
19 120 slides, but of high segments importing sea
20 water, which is necessary for operation, even
21 conventional geothermal power plants, which
22 geothermal reservoirs are depleting. So, we will
23 have extra water to refinish those.

24 And also, I'm using conventional
25 geothermal power plant as the storage for my base

1 material if there is (phonetic) because I am
2 producing lithium from sea water, important sea
3 water, about 1,000 tons of lithium. That should
4 not be ignored.

5 At the same time, I am cleaning the lake,
6 desalinating. So importing sea water from Long
7 Beach, one corridor, one corridor from the Sea of
8 Cortez, and so taking from the bottom of the sea
9 high salinity water, dirty water, and importing
10 less salty water into the central part of the
11 lake, which is sea water. So in five or six
12 years we can equalize salinity of the Salton Sea
13 with the salinity of all the ocean. And in the
14 process, we have constant import of salty water,
15 which I'm using for extraction of lithium.

16 Salinity is about only 1,000 tons, it's
17 not some impressive number, but it is a number,
18 and it's for free because mining from geothermal
19 reservoirs, it is mining, it has a beginning and
20 the end. In my proposal it's in addition -- I'm
21 not in conflict with harnessing lithium from
22 conventional power plant, but this is in addition
23 -- they should all work together. You should not
24 ignore it.

25 Please read my material. It might be a

1 little bit complicated for you to understand it
2 without me explaining it. Oh, by the way, there
3 is one readout that I made, about one hour, to
4 the California Energy Commission. I submitted
5 the link to it. Please read it so at some of the
6 next meetings, if I'm invited, I will be glad to
7 answer any questions, it would be very difficult
8 without illustrations. But I appreciate it.
9 Thank you very much for this opportunity to say a
10 few words.

11 MS. DE JONG: All right. And on to the
12 next speaker, Jimmy Elrod.

13 MR. ELROD: Hello, Madam Chair and
14 Commissioners. My name is Jimmy Elrod and I'm a
15 Representative for the Southwest Regional Council
16 of Carpenters.

17 First, I would like to thank Mr. Aguilera
18 for his presentation on the California Workforce
19 Development Board's grant opportunities. It was
20 a very informative and beneficial presentation
21 that provided a tremendous amount of good
22 information.

23 During his presentation, he mentioned the
24 importance of pre-apprenticeship programs and
25 cited the Building Trades Multi-Craft Core

1 Curriculum, also known as the MC3 Program, which
2 consists roughly of 150 hours of period-based
3 construction that provides a general overview of
4 all the opportunities in all of the construction
5 trades. It's really a great program.

6 We at the Southwest Regional Council of
7 Carpenters have an additional Pre-Apprenticeship
8 Program called Career Connections. Career
9 Connections consists of roughly 300-360 hours of
10 lab-based instruction that provides the students
11 hands-on activities that help develop solid work-
12 based experience in carpentry-related skills.

13 Also worth mentioning, our program is A-G
14 approved through the University of California's
15 Office of the President, and we have over 100
16 high schools in Southern California that have
17 this program in place, with over 10,000 students
18 currently enrolled.

19 I greatly appreciate the opportunity to
20 share this information with you and would like to
21 provide more in-depth information with anybody
22 who may be interested.

23 We are very excited about the many
24 opportunities being explored and commit ourselves
25 as an organization to ensuring that we do

1 whatever we can to create career opportunities to
2 local residents and build community wealth and
3 process. I've provided a link to our Career
4 Connections website, and I will also include my
5 email if anybody would like to chat. Thank you
6 very much.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

8 MS. DE JONG: The next commenter is
9 Victor Beas.

10 MR. BEAS: Hi. Good morning everyone.
11 Well, first of all, I want thank you for the
12 presentation of Mr. Rafael Aguilera. It was a
13 great presentation.

14 And at this point, I think at least one-
15 third of the Commission should be focusing on
16 that part because we know the resources are
17 there, we know the business opportunity is there,
18 so I think the Commission should focus more on
19 the aspect of workforce and the community
20 aspects.

21 Having said that, I also want to ask the
22 Commission to make sure during the Public Comment
23 period, make sure to have a list, one of the
24 forums totally in Spanish. We all respect the
25 Translator. I mean, Spanish is my main language,

1 and I was trying to follow the meeting in
2 Spanish, but it was hard. So, I decided to go
3 back to English-only.

4 I'm sure a lot of people here in Imperial
5 County, most of them are Hispanics, and they
6 could have the same problem. So please make sure
7 to have at least one forum like the ones you made
8 in November completely in Spanish, please, to
9 make -- Mr. Aguilera was talking about equity and
10 I think that's one of the aspects that you should
11 have in mind for future public presentations.
12 Well, I think that's it. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIR PAZ: The next speaker is Garth
14 Newberry. You should be able to unmute yourself.

15 MR. NEWBERRY: Okay. Good morning,
16 everyone.

17 MS. DE JONG: Hello. We can hear you.

18 MR. NEWBERRY: I hear my voice twice.
19 Very interesting discussions this morning. I'd
20 just like to find out how I can get our community
21 of Riverside, Merino Valley, Inland Empire, more
22 involved in the initiatives that we discussed
23 today. Rafael Aguilera's presentation was very
24 good and I see a lot of opportunities for our
25 youth and other stakeholders to become involved.

1 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Garth. The next
2 speaker is Rock Vitale.

3 MR. VITALE: Hi everybody. Can you hear
4 me?

5 MS. DE JONG: Yes.

6 MR. VITALE: Okay. Hello everyone. My
7 name is Rock Vitale and I'm the founder of Easie,
8 a San Diego-based, single source consulting
9 company working in about 30 separate industries
10 in both the public and private sectors.

11 In addition to Environmental Compliance
12 and Engineering Services, Easie supports diverse
13 technical projects including operational
14 excellence, permitting logistics, field services,
15 automation, machine learning, computer vision
16 research, as well as other complex project
17 management. We've also helped with technical
18 training and E-Learning program development.

19 Myself, I am a subject matter expert in
20 the field of Lithium metal batteries for the oil
21 and gas industry, as well as dangerous goods
22 transportation. And I am exciting to hear about
23 these upcoming developments towards sustainable
24 sourcing of Lithium, while helping develop and
25 train the local workforce in the Imperial Valley.

1 As direct neighbors of the Imperial
2 Valley, we'd like to further offer B to B
3 services to organizations that are making
4 progress towards these different projects from
5 the Salton Sea.

6 We understand after reading Bill A.B.
7 1657 that significant technical deliverables are
8 required, including research studies for porting
9 and other efforts to ensure it meets the deadline
10 of October 2022.

11 So my question to the Commission is:
12 what can a company like ours do to become more
13 involved and support the Lithium Valley
14 Commission in making progress against these
15 deadlines, as well as any other further needs?
16 For example, via some kind of request for a
17 proposal process.

18 MS. DE JONG: All right, thank you. The
19 next speaker is Eric Reyes.

20 MR. REYES: Hello. Eric Reyes from Los
21 Amigos de la Comunidad, Imperial County.

22 And I also want to say excellent
23 presentation by Rafael Aguilera. And some of the
24 pertinent points on there: workforce development
25 is crucial to our community which has the lowest

1 per capita income and lowest education levels, as
2 well. So, this type of workforce development is
3 going to be crucial in making our community rise
4 further and other opportunities beyond just
5 lifting and geothermal, which is a great startup.

6 But I want to make sure that the CEC also
7 uses the rulemaking process, the model that was
8 created, I think, for the last public engagement
9 meeting with the Lithium Valley. I think that
10 was excellent. We had satellite locations, we had
11 translators, and we had everyone more engaged.
12 It was an excellent model for everyone to follow.

13 And we're worried that we're not going to
14 be able to be a part of the rulemaking process on
15 this new initiative from the CEC and Lithium
16 Valley, so we want to make sure the community is
17 1) properly prepared and 2) given equal access,
18 equitable access to making those comments. We'll
19 do our best.

20 I hope you will work with the community-
21 based organizations and all the impacted
22 communities in and around the Salton Sea so their
23 voice can be heard. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

25 MS. DE JONG: The next speaker is Tom

1 Sephton.

2 MR. SEPHTON: Thank you. We represent a
3 local nonprofit, the EcoMedia Compass. I had,
4 first, a question about the workforce development
5 process and grant. Did I hear correctly that
6 it's necessary for either a nonprofit or a local
7 government agency to work with a lithium
8 developer in applying for the grant to help local
9 people prepare themselves for jobs and the local
10 lithium industry?

11 And then, a very different comment, with
12 respect to what we heard from the California
13 Energy Commission, I definitely see that as a
14 positive, and I hope that the California Energy
15 Commission will work very actively with Imperial
16 County to delegate permitting authority to
17 Imperial County in that range of projects when
18 that can be done.

19 We've seen time and again geothermal
20 developers scaling their projects to be within
21 that 50-megawatt limit because the challenge of
22 doing a full permitting process through the
23 California Energy Commission is so difficult.

24 And we really hope that California Energy
25 Commission will move ahead quickly with Imperial

1 County to delegate that authority so that we
2 could get more plans on the ground and more jobs
3 that are much needed and improved opportunities
4 for the community. Thank you.

5 MR. AGUILERA: May I respond, Chair Paz?

6 CHAIR PAZ: Please.

7 MR. AGUILERA: Briefly, you know, the
8 High Road model. Like I said in the
9 presentation, it really depends on an employer,
10 a willing employer, you know, that we believe is
11 committed to those values, those principles,
12 those goals, community, better jobs, higher
13 wages, and things like that.

14 And more importantly, creating some
15 transparency in the development of workforce
16 training and career pathways. And so, what I
17 think is different about the High Road as opposed
18 to other workforce development, we believe in
19 involving industry -- both sides -- you know, the
20 employers and the workers.

21 So, I would say they're both essential,
22 as is community, as is the regulatory
23 environment, and the policy landscape of which
24 we're discussing, as well. So, it's a great
25 conversation.

1 I really appreciate everyone and their
2 compliments, as well as I look forward to working
3 with all of you.

4 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Rafael. Next
5 public comment?

6 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. We
7 did have one comment written into the Q&A, which
8 I will read. It's from Barry Lehrman and it
9 says:

10 "I am an Associate Professor of Landscape
11 Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona who has
12 been researching dust mitigation and
13 ecological revitalization of the Salton
14 Sea playa for five plus years. In
15 February, we'll be conducting field work
16 with about 20 students around Hells
17 Kitchen Geothermal Area/Niland. Who
18 should I contact to coordinate schedule,
19 meetings, tours with Lithium Valley
20 Commission members?" And then they
21 provided their email address.

22 I will note, Vice Chair Ryan Kelley did
23 respond and said that he would be happy to join
24 in the tour and work site, and offered to be a
25 contact from Imperial County.

1 And I did see that there is another hand
2 raised in the Zoom application. I think it is
3 Conchita Pavar (Phonetic). You should be able to
4 unmute yourself.

5 MS. PAVAR: (Spanish)

6 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I do see
7 another hand raise from Luis Lopez. You should
8 be able to unmute yourself.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Hi, hello. My name is Luis
10 Lopez and I'm a resident of Imperial County. And
11 as you all may know, Imperial County is the
12 poorest county in California and I believe we do
13 have the second or third highest unemployment
14 rate in the country.

15 So, you know, getting all this
16 development of Lithium is definitely very
17 exciting. The county, it can definitely help us
18 out. So, you know, it is a little concerning
19 hearing other places being mentioned that are not
20 Imperial County because I know "equity" is a word
21 that's being thrown around a lot now a days, and
22 I would hate for it to be just a buzzword.

23 I think it's important to practice what
24 we preach, right? So what better way to practice
25 equity than to prioritize the work list here in

1 Imperial County, as opposed to other locations.

2 Also, I do want to personally thank Mr.
3 Rod Colwell because I do notice that, in
4 conversations and dialogue, he always shifts the
5 conversation to the Imperial Valley; he mentions
6 the Imperial County. So, Mr. Colwell, I just
7 want to thank you for that; just an example like
8 the Chair of the OPC, it is concerning to me that
9 they're not from Imperial County, not to throw
10 Chair Paz under the bus, I'm sure she's doing a
11 great job. You know, that's just an example that
12 I can speak of off the top of my head.

13 I just want to thank everyone, the
14 Commission for posting this meeting and having
15 this public meeting and allowing members of the
16 public to comment. Thank you.

17 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. And there's
18 another hand raised from Jose Flores. You should
19 be able to unmute yourself.

20 MR. FLORES: Hello, good morning. I'm
21 Jose Flores from the Imperial Valley. I want to
22 thank the Commission for all the hard work
23 they're doing and also the ability to hold a
24 forum on November 17th in various areas in
25 Riverside County and Imperial County.

1 But for future, forums, if possible, it
2 would be beneficial and it would behoove us to
3 have more community finally, more efficient
4 meetings, maybe not run the way the regular
5 Commission meetings are held. If it consumes too
6 much time, for example, that November 17th
7 meeting was a little over like an hour and a half
8 just of intros. And having Commissioners speak,
9 there was some public that were very eager to get
10 their point or comment across to the Commission,
11 but they left the site in Calipatria,
12 specifically, at about 7:15 or 7:20, people began
13 to walk out because they were kind of spectators
14 and a lot of these people were steelworkers that
15 had just gotten off of work to participate and
16 they could not be there for the entire two hours,
17 so they were in a rush to go back home to get
18 ready for the next day of work. So just for
19 future meetings, if it's possible to have
20 committees have certain meetings where they allow
21 more time, or a specific time, so the community
22 knows exactly what time they can engage, so they
23 can plan their day more accordingly. Again, just
24 focusing on the equity, having these people that
25 very rarely participate in this space, having

1 them to go out and then them having a negative
2 experience where they are told they might be able
3 to speak, but then they sit there for an hour or
4 hour and a half, it kind of turns them against
5 the possibility of future presentations, or
6 themselves going to meetings in the future with
7 family members, etc. So thank you for the hard
8 work you do, I know having meetings are very time
9 consuming for planning and sometimes what you
10 plan to do does not go the way it turns out. So
11 just focus here on equity and planning
12 accordingly where in the future they have more of
13 an opportunity right from the get-go, I think
14 would be a benefit for all of us. Thank you very
15 much and we appreciate your work.

16 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. There is
17 another comment that was submitted in the chat.
18 It's from Margaret Stewart Slattery. And it
19 says:

20 "Hello. Apologies for not making public
21 comment verbally, I'm having issues with my
22 audio. This is Meg Slattery with UC Davis and
23 Berkeley National Lab. I wanted to encourage
24 folks to please consider filling out our Lithium
25 Valley Survey, which is still live. The purpose

1 of the survey is to understand what potential
2 positive and negative impacts are most important
3 to the public who might be involved in, or
4 affected by, Lithium extraction. This
5 information will be used to make recommendations
6 about what impacts should be included in future
7 lifecycle assessments of direct Lithium
8 extraction and how that information should be
9 communicated. The survey is available in Spanish
10 and English, and should take no more than ten
11 minutes to complete. I am sharing the link to
12 the survey in English and Spanish, as well as my
13 email address in case anyone has questions.
14 Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for
15 anyone who is able to take the survey, we greatly
16 appreciate your time and feedback."

17 And I will just note that the links to
18 those surveys are in the chat on your Zoom
19 application if you're interested in finding those
20 links, as well as Federal folks' email addresses
21 from speakers today, including that one from Meg.

22 And let me just see. I believe that is
23 all of the comments for this comment period, so
24 back to you, Chair Paz.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Next slide,

1 please.

2 In this section of the agenda, really the
3 intent is for us to have an opportunity to
4 reflect on the comments that we have received
5 today, including some of them today, and discuss
6 possible strategies on how we can provide
7 responses.

8 I know a lot of times that public comment
9 period, you know, it's not really designed for a
10 back-and-forth conversation, but we are very
11 aware. I'm listening to the comments, as I'm
12 sure you all are, and you might have your own
13 thoughts and ideas on how we can better improve
14 our communication, our processes, and the
15 information that we should be sharing with the
16 public.

17 We have received letters and comments
18 that are filed in the Lithium Valley Commission
19 docket, and those are included from Leadership
20 Council, the Advanced Environmental Justice
21 Campaign (in Spanish), and we received oral input
22 at each of our meetings. The forum was an
23 opportunity, as well, to hear more from the
24 community.

25 Some of the things that I have heard is

1 just the need of clarity on what this
2 Commission's mandate is, clarity on the
3 terminology that we're using, more information on
4 the technologies for lithium extraction that is
5 being developed and that is being considered at
6 the Salton Sea, when, how and by whom the public
7 health and environmental impacts will be
8 considered and addressed, economic development
9 opportunities -- and that includes workforce
10 development. I know at the forum somebody
11 requested like an economic analysis, and in
12 addition increased opportunities for meaningful
13 community engagement.

14 So before I share my thoughts on some
15 options that we might pursue, I would like to
16 invite my fellow Commissioners to share your
17 thoughts on the comments that have been received
18 to date, any strategies you can think of on how
19 we might address it.

20 I would really like to hear from all of
21 you, so to give everybody a chance to speak, I
22 will follow you in a roll call manner. That way,
23 we all have an opportunity to again reflect and
24 put out there any potential strategies of what
25 you think we can do.

1 Especially for this section, as we think
2 about what we can do, I want to remind you that
3 Commissioner Douglas is here from the CEC, and
4 she can also give us some guidance on how the CEC
5 might be able to support the direction that we
6 want to take. So, I will start with Vice Chair
7 Ryan Kelley. And again, Luis, if you have a
8 question, I'll take your question and otherwise I
9 will just call everyone in the order of the roll
10 call if that's okay. Did you have a question,
11 Luis?

12 MR. OLMEDO: I will follow you. I wasn't
13 sure --

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, yes. Vice Chair
15 Ryan Kelley?

16 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Chair Paz.
17 I am very interested in continuing the
18 conversation about how the Lithium Valley
19 Commission can focus on recommendations for the
20 Legislature.

21 I know that we have been talking about
22 many things, great things, and we want to do so
23 much, but I think we do need to get back to our
24 intent, is to provide some kind of guidance of
25 what this grouping considers to be important for

1 that development, and then redirecting resources
2 or trying to make things happen at this body may
3 not be the right avenue, or I don't believe it
4 is. I believe that we should be coming up with
5 recommendations that we all believe could be
6 beneficial towards this development in a safe and
7 secure way. And if this truly works out the way
8 that we hope, that there will be benefit for
9 Imperial County, Coachella Valley, Palo Verde
10 Valley, State of California.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Kelley. Mr. Castaneda?

13 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Well, thank you
14 Chair. And to the extent that I kind of
15 understand what the comments, the questions, and
16 the concerns that have been coming from folks
17 that are familiar with our process, but probably
18 not really -- I don't want to say "educated"
19 because that's not really the goal of each
20 individual, you know, person out there that may
21 want to weigh in or cares about their community,
22 or sees a benefit, or a concern that they would
23 like to have aired and addressed.

24 One of the things that I have not seen,
25 and it may exist, I don't know, is one of the

1 things whenever any of us work on a project or
2 something that is obviously complicated, multi-
3 faceted, and will take a long time is that, you
4 know, we develop a Fact sheet. And that Fact
5 sheet is a bit of living document that
6 essentially is morphed into the more information
7 that this body and the community brings forward.

8 So I think we may want to talk about that
9 or, if something doesn't exist, or if we do have
10 something that could serve in that direction,
11 that we figure out a way to make it so that it's
12 user-friendly for those people that are feeling
13 kind of not really understanding what we're
14 doing, what the role of this Commission is, and
15 essentially what will be the redress of the
16 community, should things not kind of go the way
17 that people would think. So that's one thing.

18 And then another, which is kind of
19 interesting because -- and again, I don't know
20 exactly what it is because at the beginning of
21 this proceeding there was sort of a short report
22 because there wasn't a lot of information
23 available about the legislative activities that
24 are going on with respect to the subject matter
25 that we're all working on. And to the extent

1 that people are kind of watching this process and
2 saying, well, this Commission is going to provide
3 recommendations and sort of a framework, which
4 obviously the Legislature and elected officials
5 and the government can do what they want with our
6 information and our recommendations; but I think
7 it kind of sends the wrong signal that there are
8 legislative Bills right now in process before
9 we've even had an opportunity to sort of taken in
10 all the public comment. I'm not sure what the
11 scope of these bills are, I'm not sure what they
12 will end of being, but I think it gives people
13 pause. And I don't know, again, what these are
14 all talking about or what they will cover, but my
15 sense is that the subject matter will at least be
16 some of what we're going to be talking about and
17 what we're going to develop in terms of
18 information and communication from the public.

19 So the Fact sheet, I think that maybe
20 there's just a better way that we provide people
21 with that sort of baseline of information about
22 what this is and, more importantly, what this is
23 not in terms of our Commission and our work. And
24 try to -- I don't want to say "educate," but try
25 to inform people as to what the process is,

1 again, what it's not, and then how to avail
2 themselves of any benefits that may accrue from
3 the development of this resource and this
4 economy.

5 So those are my two cents and I
6 appreciate the opportunity to say that. Thank
7 you, Chair.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Rod Colwell.

9 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thank you, Chair
10 Paz. I'll reflect on Steve and Ryan's comments.
11 I think that, you know, the Fact sheet which we
12 have as the development of the Hells Kitchen
13 Project, developing at the moment, that Fact
14 sheet and an informational video that visualizes
15 how basically direct lithium extraction is very
16 very different to the confusion out there, and
17 rightly so, in the community about the salars,
18 you know, the Atacama and how evaporation mining
19 works, which this is not, and also open pit
20 mining which this is not, and how the impacts are
21 different.

22 So we are developing that from control
23 thermal resources and we'll share that with the
24 Energy Commission and the public in the coming
25 weeks.

1 But also I would encourage the public as
2 to specific issues, or other if other
3 Commissioners have specific questions, I mean, we
4 would like to very much address those,
5 specifically. And we can because, again, there's
6 a lot of confusion out there, and rightly so.
7 This new information has not been properly
8 demonstrated that Steve mentioned, and Ron
9 mentioned, and the public continually mentions.
10 So we're doing our best, we'll provide that Fact
11 sheet and that video information very very soon.
12 But again, if there are specifics that the public
13 wanted to know about the Hells Kitchen Project,
14 well, just in general the Lithium Valley and
15 what's going on, please put them forward. We're
16 an open book and would love to engage. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner
19 Flores, Miranda?

20 COMMISSIONER MIRANDA: I'm sorry, I don't
21 have any comments.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. James Hanks. Mr.
23 Hanks? I'm just looking to see if he's still on.
24 I don't see him.

25 MS. DE JONG: Chair Paz, sorry, it looks

1 like he dropped the Attendee's List. He should
2 be able to speak though, now, if he wants to.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Again, Mr. Hanks, this
4 is an opportunity for you to share some of your
5 thoughts and the feedback, comments that we have
6 been receiving thus far, including the November
7 community forum, and propose maybe any
8 suggestions on how best this Commission can
9 respond.

10 COMMISSIONER HANKS: I have nothing to
11 add right now.

12 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Luis Olmedo.

13 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair. I just want to thank all the public
15 commenters. It's always very uplifting and
16 promising when we have community participation
17 and engagement, and if half our meeting was just
18 community participation, then I would certainly
19 feel quite unsatisfied without it because, at the
20 end of the day, we're here to make sure that
21 there is community engagement where there hasn't
22 been in the past. As the community becomes more
23 informed, more engaged, thanks to a lot of the
24 efforts of those who have advocated in the past,
25 those of us who continue to work with community

1 now, and I include you, Madam Chair, in your
2 efforts to engage community, as well. It's
3 always promising when they participate.

4 So, I want to thank all the public
5 commenters and continue to encourage them to
6 bring them here, because of them and through
7 their knowledge and experience on the ground and
8 in the community and, of course, all the other
9 experts who are also joining us in helping to
10 inform this process so that we can make the best
11 possible, most well-informed decisions that we
12 possibly can.

13 I did hear, and perhaps also because of
14 my role as a member that was appointed with the
15 duty of assuring that the disadvantaged community
16 had a voice in this process, I did want to get a
17 little bit ahead and I want to propose -- And I
18 know there will be more opportunity for
19 discussion through the agenda -- but I do want to
20 propose that we create a subgroup focused on
21 community engagement to help ensure outreach,
22 participation, education, and engagement
23 prioritized during this process. And as I
24 committed when I was assigned to this, I
25 certainly volunteer my time here to make sure

1 that I help lead that effort. So that would be
2 an okay conversation that I bring back as we get
3 into the committee conversations, but I think
4 it's something that I continue to hear. Any time
5 that I hear the community isn't engaged or not
6 participating, we can't just narrow it down to
7 just numbers in a room, but meaningful
8 participation, making sure that we're addressing
9 all the other barriers that exist in the
10 community, and making sure that we're first
11 understanding them, and that we are moving those
12 barriers to assure that there is successful
13 engagement. I have to say, a lot of times -- and
14 I'm going to go back to the presentation, then,
15 and refer to a presentation that Mr. Aguilera had
16 put forth. We, too, need to make sure that we
17 acknowledge the history, that we acknowledge the
18 cultures, the diversity of cultures in our
19 region. And it's going to be really important
20 that we're very thoughtful as we move forward in
21 this process because this can't be a north, a
22 south, you know, I think it's very clear this is
23 an opportunity for California. It's an
24 opportunity for the region. It's an opportunity
25 for Coachella and Imperial Valley. And we need

1 to make sure that, as we proceed as a body
2 assigned to some very important duties, but as
3 well as communities, that we make sure that, as
4 we proceed through this process the worst case
5 scenarios that we are creating spaces and places
6 that are creating these tensions within our
7 communities, this is a great opportunity for all,
8 and I would ask that, as Commissioners, that we
9 use our leadership here in this role, as well as
10 your leadership, Madam Chair, to assure that as
11 we move forward that we move forward as a larger
12 community, and then respectfully in a way that is
13 equitable and advantageous to our entire region.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Frank Ruiz,
16 Commissioner Ruiz?

17 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: No comment at this
18 time.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Manfred Scott.
20 Commissioner Scott?

21 MS. DE JONG: Sorry, Chair Paz. It also
22 looks like Commissioner Scott got the Attendees
23 List, so he should be able to unmute now to make
24 comments.

25 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Hello, can you hear

1 me?

2 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: My Internet was
4 acting up, I had to turn it off and get back on
5 again, so sorry about that.

6 I just want to kind of make a comment on
7 the Environmental Impact. Of course, you know,
8 our tribe is here, the Patan (Phonetic) Tribe
9 here is always concerned about the biological or
10 the cultural resources within the project area.
11 And so I just wanted to know if we're going to be
12 doing a record search on previous surveys that
13 were conducted within the Salton Sea area,
14 cultural resource surveys, and is this going to
15 be an ongoing survey. So that's basically what
16 I'm going to be talking about, is the cultural
17 aspect of it.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Jonathan
19 Weisgall.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Thanks. Look, I
21 think the Lithium Valley Commission has two major
22 goals. The first one is the statutory goal of
23 issuing a report to the Legislature with
24 recommendations and we have been getting a lot of
25 input, a lot of feedback, and we need to start

1 thinking about that report pretty soon -- it's
2 due next October, we've been around for about a
3 year now. But there's a second mission and that
4 is the general one that we've been talking about,
5 of education, of transparency, of outreach.

6 You know, I've been hearing for a year
7 about the need for community involvement. We had
8 our first community town hall meeting in March of
9 this year, we had about 200 people attending. We
10 put out a Fact sheet, it's on our website, it's
11 been there since March, we've got it in English,
12 we've got it in Spanish. So we also are pretty
13 much an open book. I mean, we want to educate
14 and I think the Commission is one way to do that.

15 Whenever we build a project as a company,
16 we emphasize community outreach, we emphasize
17 stakeholder engagement. That's not lip service.
18 I mean, if it's a wind project, or solar, hydro,
19 geothermal, or, in this case, lithium, these
20 projects are going to have an impact on the
21 surrounding community. We're in the renewable
22 energy business and we think those impacts will
23 be positive. But we recognize that not everybody
24 embraces change. Not everybody embraces a large
25 new energy project or something related to

1 renewable energy like lithium. So how do you
2 handle that? You handle it through community
3 outreach. You reach out early, you reach out
4 often to engage with local stakeholders, whether
5 it's CBOs, Community Based Organizations, EJ,
6 Environmental Justice groups, Environmental NGOs,
7 labor, trades, tribes, elected officials. And
8 the goal there -- the goal is 1) to educate the
9 groups. I mean, what's the project about? What
10 are you trying to accomplish? And secondly,
11 listen to concrete specific concerns, whether
12 it's about environmental impact, whether it's
13 about workforce development, whether it's about
14 water usage -- I'm here to speak to you on
15 lithium -- but to learn about those issues, deal
16 with them, and wherever possible mitigate those
17 concerns, and hopefully that the goal here is not
18 just to reach out, and not just to listen, and
19 not just to mitigate, but eventually to get the
20 support of these groups for the project. You
21 know, whether it's -- from our point of view, we
22 think that the potential here for upward mobility
23 in Imperial County is limitless. I've said this
24 before; our geothermal workforce jobs pay 200
25 percent of the average salary in Imperial County.

1 We want it higher. We're going to be hiring
2 chemists, operators, you know, folks with good
3 skills. This, I think, is better than the major
4 sector employer right now in Imperial, which is
5 agriculture, and the other sector is
6 unemployment. So we are enthusiastic about our
7 belief that this will be good for Imperial
8 County, it's going to be good for California,
9 it's going to be good for renewable energy. I
10 hope it will be good for our company. We want to
11 do this to be able to make a profit if we're
12 going to be developing lithium. But I think this
13 can be a winner for everybody. Look, we've got
14 to move this process along. Sylvia, you and I
15 talked at the beginning of this meeting, and we
16 will continue to talk off line, about getting
17 more concerned community-based organizations to
18 see first hand, you know, what a geothermal plant
19 looks like, what our demonstration project looks
20 like. We still are in the beginning stages and,
21 I will tell you as a company, if we have any kind
22 of a mantra, it is to under promise and over
23 deliver. And I still hope we're going to get
24 there, but I for one look forward to working both
25 on this report to the Legislature, which we've

1 got to start on, and continued community
2 outreach. And I do think that, as a Commission,
3 we're doing a pretty good job of listening to
4 what people have to say, that that four hour, 15-
5 minute community meeting, yes, I think those
6 criticisms are good. We shouldn't have spent an
7 hour and a half introducing ourselves. You know,
8 we could have done that in 10 minutes. Yes, we
9 should have worked on the timing. I think we
10 should have another one, I think we should be
11 very clear when the timeframe is. Not everybody
12 who wants to come can sit around for four hours
13 until they're called on.

14 So, you know, there's a lot of room for
15 improvement. But let's keep at it. I think
16 we're doing a pretty good job. And I look
17 forward to moving this process along. Sorry, I
18 didn't mean to go on there. I'll get off my
19 soapbox.

20 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. And I love the
21 ideas that I'm hearing from all of you. And for
22 the purpose of focusing this conversation, we
23 will address how to get this commission back on
24 track, what we need to do to reshape and how we
25 focus on the report, and I believe that's the

1 next item or the one after that, but it's an item
2 coming up on the agenda.

3 So to go back to the other things that I
4 heard in terms of how we can be responding and
5 what's needed -- and I agree with you, Jonathan,
6 I mean, if we don't address a community's concern
7 at the get go and I think we said this in the
8 very first meeting that we had, we knew that
9 there were questions, we knew that there was not
10 enough information at the hands of the community,
11 and we heard it at the forum and we heard it
12 today. Some of the things that we heard are
13 around the realities of the benefits. So what
14 are the benefits? How realistic are they? Or
15 are we just selling up a dream? Or over-
16 promising? So, how do we get the information out
17 there? I heard from some of you, one of the
18 simple ways of doing it -- and this will all take
19 resources, but the low hanging fruit, I would
20 say, is the development of those Fact sheets.
21 And those Fact sheets can and probably should
22 include what the mandate for this Commission is,
23 so that it is clarity. Then there should also be
24 some sort of Fact sheet information on the
25 technology, and make it accessible, I mean, an

1 infographic, even Rod mentioned a video. Other
2 things may be mapping out the processes. I
3 learned a lot today from the permitting process
4 and who has the authority because people have
5 been questioning whether we're going to say yes
6 or no on that report, and I don't think that's
7 what we've been mandated with. So how can we map
8 out for the community what the permitting and
9 regulatory process for lithium is shaping out to
10 be, right, because we are at the demonstration
11 phase yet. We should be mapping what the
12 development of lithium from this demonstration
13 phase to commercial, right, like what are those
14 spaces, how does it look, what are the types of
15 jobs or skills that are going to be needed along
16 the way?

17 And I think if we are able to capture
18 some of this information and make it available to
19 the community, it would get us farther. So the
20 question is, who can do this? Right? And at
21 this point I think perhaps I'll call on
22 Commissioner Douglas only on the topic of these
23 Fact sheets. Is this something that the Energy
24 Commission could take direction from us, sort of
25 draft something and then provide it back to us?

1 How do you -- I mean, for instance, if possible,
2 and what would that process look like?

3 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Hi Chair Paz.
4 Thanks for the question and, yes, if you were to
5 suggest some priorities or suggest some topics
6 where we could provide you with support for Fact
7 sheets, we'd be happy to do that. Depending on
8 how you wanted to use them, they could be Energy
9 Commission Fact sheets, they could be Draft Fact
10 sheets that you could modify if the LVC itself
11 wants to have its own Fact sheet. So I think
12 there are options there, but if you were to
13 suggest some priority Fact sheets, we could
14 absolutely help you with that.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So maybe -- and
16 maybe this is for Legal -- do we need to vote on
17 what those priorities are? Or could we wrap up
18 this conversation on Fact sheets right now if we
19 can get some consensus on what the priority areas
20 are?

21 DEBORAH: Hi. This is Deborah. I would
22 say that in order to obtain consensus and have
23 that consensus be clear, it would be best for a
24 vote to be taken. But a conversation that did
25 not include a vote could also give the Energy

1 Commission a broader direction. So I would
2 recommend a vote, but it's not really necessary.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Chair Paz, it is
5 really up to you. There are many ways to do
6 this, but you could have a conversation and that
7 could get us started. You could have a vote, it
8 just depends on how locked in you want the
9 priority of Fact sheets to really be -- I mean,
10 you named a few permitting process steps or
11 stages in lithium development, that's a little
12 bit more challenging; permitting process is very
13 easy. You could just do a quick brainstorm with
14 the LVC members right now if you wanted.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Yes. And I would prefer to
16 do that and just hear from the Commissioners.
17 Again, I'll mention I think the ones that are
18 probably doable, and just hear from the
19 Commissioners if you're okay, then really we
20 don't have to have this conversation all over
21 again next time.

22 So one, it's a fact sheet on the Lithium
23 Valley Commission and what our mandate is, and a
24 Fact sheet on the technology for the extraction
25 of lithium, also a Fact sheet on the

1 permitting/regulatory process, so understanding
2 who is involved, at what point. And I think
3 really the goal of this either Fact sheet or
4 mapping out of the regulatory process, it's
5 really to inform the community like who the
6 bodies are and when maybe things can happen, so
7 that they can be looking out and be aware of the
8 opportunities that they will have outside of this
9 Commission to really engage and influence those
10 conversations more directly. So, I think I
11 mentioned three that I feel are doable right now.

12 Vice Chair Ryan Kelley?

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Chair Paz.
14 I do agree that a Fact sheet prepared by the
15 Energy Commission that is available for use by
16 the Lithium Commission, that would talk about who
17 actually has authority over these projects,
18 either local in Imperial County, or State
19 Agencies, Federal interface, that would be very
20 helpful so that the public knows that this body
21 is not making individual decisions or
22 allocations.

23 And in regard to the regulatory
24 authority, I think that falls in line with the
25 authority, as well.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Perfect. Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Steve Castaneda. You're on
4 mute.

5 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Hold on a
6 second. How about now? I'm okay. So I'm on the
7 website and I know that Jonathan mentioned there
8 is a Fact sheet. I have not seen it and I'm not
9 really seeing it right away, you know, and so I
10 don't know if it's just basically paragraphs of
11 type and copy and so forth, like that. I think
12 that really there's an opportunity and I think
13 that certainly resource agencies like the Energy
14 Commission, the Public Utilities Commission, and
15 others are able to put together in culture and,
16 you know, with content that basically is
17 understandable for those that may not have the
18 kind of education and the ability to understand
19 complex or other kinds of technical issues. So
20 it would be helpful because I'm quite sure that
21 the Energy Commission has the ability to put out
22 that kind of documentation that's maybe not so
23 heavy on technical facts and so forth, but gives
24 people at least a baseline of understanding of
25 what we are and, again, more importantly what

1 we're not, and what this process is.

2 And so I'm constantly learning about
3 everything, I don't have the technical background
4 in the processes with respect to either
5 geothermal energy generation, nor recovery of
6 minerals from brine. So I understand the
7 concepts and I think I understand those kinds of
8 things that can help me understand, I mean, make
9 decisions. But clearly the public that is asking
10 this question is, I think, in need of a special
11 kind of education tool. That's all I would like
12 to say.

13 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Jonathan?

14 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, let me do
15 this. I'm going to email the Fact sheets we
16 have, both in English and Spanish, to --
17 Elisabeth, if it's okay, I'll mail that to you
18 and you can post it and send it to the
19 Commissioners, etc. And, Steve, it is not a
20 technical document at all, it is literally a one-
21 pager, but at least introduces the reader to what
22 we're doing with Lithium.

23 One other, well, two other suggestions,
24 Rod, I would urge you to send any materials
25 you've got that you'd like to be made publicly

1 available, and a third point, let me ask
2 EnergySource, the third Lithium Developer, if
3 they'd be willing -- they put together a terrific
4 video a couple of months ago -- Ryan, I'm
5 guessing you've seen it. I know it at least is
6 on geothermal, but I think it also goes into
7 Lithium. But it was really a first-rate video
8 that visually explains things which, Steve, I
9 think is every bit as important as a written
10 document. So I'll contact EnergySource and ask
11 if they'd be -- I've got the link to it, but it's
12 their document, so I just want to make sure it's
13 okay with them.

14 But anyway, those are a couple of
15 suggestions. Thanks.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Ryan, do you have
17 another comment?

18 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Yeah. Thank you,
19 Sylvia. I just wanted to jump in; I heard what
20 Jonathan was talking about. I've seen that video
21 most recently and, as kind of an overhead view of
22 what we're talking about, it is pretty direct
23 into what exactly our focus area is, and I think,
24 Jonathan, I can make some calls. I'm certain it
25 would be a publicly shared piece.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So I think to
2 what I think are the low hanging fruits and start
3 the information sharing and put in information
4 out to the community, I think there are other
5 things that we have heard in terms of improving
6 meaningful community engagement. I completely
7 agree with the commentary -- and I'm forgetting
8 their name at this point -- who said we need to
9 have those community meetings in a format that is
10 different from the Lithium Valley Commission
11 meetings.

12 So to that end, I know Mr. Olmedo
13 mentioned that he would like to create a
14 committee which is a sub body, which is totally
15 doable and we can do, I think maybe for me it
16 would be helpful to get sort of direction from
17 the committee, I mean from the Lithium Valley
18 Commission, in terms of being able to run this
19 like parallel informational meetings that doesn't
20 require the engagement of all the Commissioners,
21 or that could put us under seven so that we're
22 not constrained by the Bagley-Keene requirements
23 that we have. And I think it would be easier if
24 we could have that direction and designate and
25 I'll be happy to continue to work with the CEC

1 staff on planning sort of these additional
2 meetings that are less formal, that are more in
3 the sense of roundtable conversations with the
4 purpose of having very topic-focused information
5 shared with the community around many of the
6 things that we've heard.

7 So again, I didn't want to move in this
8 direction without having a conversation because
9 we are a Commission fully, but I'm looking for
10 creative ways on how we can address some of these
11 community needs and have some flexibility and not
12 so formal in the way that we do it.

13 So if I can hear from --

14 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Chair Paz?

15 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: I'm sorry to
17 interrupt the flow. I just had one thing on the
18 Fact sheets that you were moving on, which is
19 that I think it would be best if we labeled them,
20 for the time being, as Energy Commission Fact
21 sheets prepared at the request of the LVC. And
22 we'll send them to the LVC and you can talk about
23 them in the next meeting, and then if you think
24 there are changes you'd like to see, or
25 something, whatever, we can work on it from

1 there. If that's all right, that's what we'll
2 plan on. And then, as you talk about community
3 forums or engagement, I just wanted to make the
4 offer, we can't be out there every week, but we
5 can provide support and/or different levels of
6 engagement. And I think what's really important
7 as we think about any role the CEC would have, is
8 just some clarity on what is the CEC's role, and
9 what is the LVC's role, and how is it organized.
10 And so it could be a model where the CEC
11 organizes and notices and the LVC is part of it,
12 or it could be the LVC organizes and notices and
13 invites us, but just to have the clarity of
14 roles. We're really open to your model.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Yes. And thank you for
16 saying that, and I think maybe, I mean, for
17 getting some direction if we want to go with that
18 less formal way, is the first part, just making
19 sure that the rest of the Commission are still
20 comfortable, how we can incorporate some of the
21 planning and the topics and discussion into our
22 LVC meeting so that it's not a totally separate
23 space, as well. So there's going to be a lot of
24 planning there.

25 But the other thing is really resources.

1 And I know at the last community forum, Assembly
2 Member Garcia joined us and reminded us of the
3 importance and almost our responsibility, right,
4 to engage the community in this process. What
5 I've seen in other State agencies that are
6 focused on equity and community engagement is
7 that there are resources allocated for that
8 purpose, and that's monetary resources, so the
9 best example is the transformative climate or
10 communities, climate communities, the grant
11 process, where there's money allocated for
12 community engagement. They often hire people,
13 both consultants as well as local community
14 groups, so that this engagement can be done
15 adequately. So that is just, again, one of the
16 limitations, I think that the Commission has that
17 we do not have those resources. And I'm open to
18 ideas, to hear from you, like what is doable and
19 how do we do a good job in engaging people. So
20 again, I will open it up to a bit of discussion
21 and, again, what I'm looking for is some
22 direction on how we should move forward. Luis?

23 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair, for bringing attention to this subject. I
25 just want to make sure that it wasn't

1 misinterpreted as though the sub body that I was
2 proposing, that it be the deciding determinant of
3 what the community customization of the delivery
4 would be.

5 As even this discussion right now is
6 worth thinking about, what are those other
7 resources that are lacking? What are those
8 things that we need in order for us to be
9 successful in order for us to really achieve what
10 has become a priority for this nation and, in
11 particularly relevant to this committee, the
12 State, right? The State, I think, hasn't been
13 wishy washy, they've been pretty consistent. And
14 thank you to the Commissioners of the California
15 Energy Commission, Commissioner Karen Douglas, to
16 your leadership, Madam Chair Paz. We need to
17 have a sub body within our Commission to be able
18 to highlight, to be able to elevate, and to be
19 able to address whatever shortcomings we see
20 based on what the fellow participants are
21 informing us, but also the CBOs and others. You
22 know, perhaps even the industry. Any stakeholder
23 that is involved, or that needs to be involved,
24 should have a sub body to go to and say, "Hey,
25 this is falling short of our expectations," or

1 "This is not addressing our concerns." So we
2 need to be able to have that sub body within the
3 Commission to be able to discuss and be able to
4 elevate and uplift those priorities to the entire
5 Lithium Valley Commission. I am fully in
6 agreement with you, Madam Chair, because I know
7 that you have a lot of experience in the
8 community, and we definitely cannot do enough to
9 assure that we are also creating spaces
10 externally to assure that the community is
11 engaged in the best say, with the least barriers,
12 or no barriers, which would be the best outcome.
13 But we need to give them a sub body to work with
14 because, coming in at every meeting and bringing
15 concerns, we really don't have a sub body of the
16 Commission. And really, I definitely feel that
17 my role deserves involvement. I am very
18 committed to community engagement, to
19 disadvantaged community participation, but I also
20 want to make sure that others within the
21 Commission participate in that sub body because
22 it needs to be an effort of several to make sure
23 that it is a sub body that is well represented of
24 the community that we're trying to assure that
25 they're not left out of this conversation. So

1 for that reason, I wanted to again propose that
2 the sub body, I feel it's the right time, it's
3 the right commitment for the disadvantaged
4 community and, quite frankly, I think it's an
5 obligation that we have, to make sure they have
6 that sub body to go to. Thank you.

7 CHAIR PAZ: I have a clarification, and I
8 appreciate your comments. I just want to make
9 sure that I'm understanding what you're saying.
10 So in this proposal for a sub body, if I heard
11 you correctly, it would be designated LVC members
12 who the community can go to and have those
13 conversations around where it is, quote unquote,
14 "where it might be falling short," or there are
15 steps for information. I think I heard you say
16 that. And then my question is: what about the
17 implementation? So, say that this sub body is
18 formed and you're hearing all these things, will
19 this sub body or the members of it also be
20 implementing sort of the direct outreach, the
21 planning of the conversation, or am I just
22 assuming that that's what would happen?

23 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: No, Madam Chair.
24 Well, I would characterize it differently. I
25 think that the sub body would be no different

1 than a subcommittee, it seems like we have
2 subcommittees on economics, subcommittees on
3 environmental impacts, and so on and so on. This
4 would just be another subcommittee that would be
5 assigned to make sure that they are helping
6 organize, helping uplift, and helping to
7 coordinate with the CEC and other members of this
8 Commission, other Commissioners, to make sure
9 that, again, we're paying attention to make sure
10 that we are in a parallel or simultaneous manner
11 making the community ask or perhaps expectations
12 part of every other -- I should more consistently
13 call it a subcommittee, right? So that would be,
14 to me, the more general goal of this
15 subcommittee.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. There's a
17 lot of questions on this because, if we formally
18 create a sub body, then I think per Bagley-Keene
19 it would only allow two members of this body.
20 But perhaps the way in which we could restructure
21 our meetings to open up for public conversations
22 around to happen so we're not limited, so I think
23 we can explore that further along on the agenda.
24 But thank you for sharing that at this point.

25 Vice Chair Kelley, I believe you also had

1 a comment.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Chair Paz, I saw in
3 the chat Mr. Olmedo's comment. I'm willing to
4 help. I don't think that we need to attach CEC
5 staff to this, and I'm willing to participate
6 with Mr. Olmedo, and go to Community Advance --
7 go to one that they're already having, share
8 information, and take questions and listen to
9 comments. That's all I had.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Okay, it feels to
11 me that there are several options that perhaps
12 we're going to need to explore more before we can
13 agree on maybe what the best path forward because
14 there could be that informal process where
15 Commissioners straight on their own are going to
16 community meetings, as Mr. Kelley, or Supervisor
17 Kelley mentioned. Or there could be this formal
18 process attached to the LVC, or something in
19 between. But it's good to have options.

20 The other piece that I think would
21 require even more resources, but I think that are
22 important for the community that I have heard, is
23 the need for more information on the
24 Environmental Impacts and public health, as well
25 as economic impacts or economic analysis. There

1 are different ways I think that we can do this,
2 one way, of course, is that in our report we can
3 capture everything the community has said and
4 say, look, we need to do deeper analysis, or the
5 Legislature needs to invest in, you know, doing
6 more community outreach, doing further
7 assessments on the environment impacts, public
8 health, economic analysis. That is not my
9 preferred path because, if I'm hearing correctly
10 from some of the Developers, we're expecting to
11 have some Lithium production by 2024, I believe,
12 at the earliest. And I don't know if waiting
13 until the end of 2022 would give us time to have
14 the proper analysis. But, again, that's always
15 one option.

16 The other thing that we can do is maybe,
17 again, think what additional workshops or topics
18 they want to explore that are specifically
19 related to public health, the economy, maybe how
20 we can focus a little more conversation around
21 both topics that are very important to the
22 community in our workshops. So that is another
23 option. And then, a third option is that we can
24 talk to agencies and our philanthropic partners
25 and see whether there's a possibility for

1 commissioning some of these deeper economic
2 analysis on the get go, so that we're not
3 waiting, as well as what I've seen happen with
4 other projects is, what is it, Health Impact
5 Assessments. And I think if we did that, then we
6 could really start addressing and not let these
7 concerns, or lack of information, get in the way
8 of the process and the other things that we need
9 to do. So, given I think I've given you sort of
10 three options, I'm open to hear from you in terms
11 of how we address the bigger topics and concerns
12 around public health, environmental impacts, and
13 economic analysis questions.

14 And feel free to say that is a crazy
15 idea, I would not go for this at all. I mean,
16 that's what this space is for.

17 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes, Madam Chair.
18 I know you've covered a lot of areas and I
19 apologize because I got a little bit lost in your
20 proposal.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Do you want me to bottom line
22 it?

23 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: No, I just wanted
24 to just have clarification if you were offering
25 this, so the larger scope, as an alternative or -

1 - I wasn't sure if you had tabled any further
2 discussion on the proposal that I had made about
3 the sub body for later in the agenda --

4 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Okay, okay.

6 CHAIR PAZ: So I tabled that piece, and
7 then the other piece which I feel we, at least I
8 have heard, and it really resonated during the
9 community forum, were these bigger items, I think
10 beyond what we've been tasked to do, which is the
11 need for addressing the public health; issues, if
12 any, related to the development of Lithium; as
13 well as an economic analysis that will start
14 answering some of those questions on the
15 benefits. Are these benefits -- how much really
16 can we capture in our region? So those, I think,
17 are related, not necessarily in our scope. So
18 how do we address those concerns is my question.
19 And the options that I could think of was, 1)
20 that we increase the number of discussion topics
21 to include more on the public health and
22 environmental impacts work, as well as, I mean,
23 we are going to have a topic on economic impacts
24 and analysis. My experience in planning just the
25 workforce panel, for example, is that there's

1 still a lot of questions and unknowns that
2 perhaps require greater expertise than what we
3 have available at this point for these workshops.
4 So that's why we're thinking, do we commission
5 something, try to commission, find the resources
6 so that those reports are happening outside of
7 our body? Or simply do we at the end of our
8 report say these are things that came up, and we
9 encourage the Legislature to address them.

10 I think we're probably still thinking,
11 and that's okay, we can put that on a parking
12 lot. And maybe as we're planning our future
13 workshops, there might be easy ways to address
14 them.

15 So it's been a good conversation. I
16 think that's it for this section, the
17 acknowledgement of what we've heard. We have
18 some very concrete items to move forward, which
19 is requesting from the CEC to get some Fact
20 sheets on behalf of the LVC that we will be
21 reviewing at a future meeting, the potential of a
22 sub body on community engagement, and then
23 exploring how we address the other topics which
24 are, you know, heavier and outside of the scope
25 of this Commission.

1 So, thank you, everyone. And we can move
2 to the next -- unless, I mean, Commissioner
3 Douglas, maybe we can hear from you on your
4 takeaways from this and any other observation you
5 may have had?

6 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Yes, thank you.
7 Well, I've been listening with interest. I've
8 definitely gotten takeaway on the Fact sheets,
9 and we'll work on those three Fact sheets and
10 endeavor to have them ready for you to see at the
11 next meeting.

12 I just wanted to say, just reflecting on
13 the conversation, as well to the extent that the
14 Energy Commission can help support these
15 substantive discussions and, for example, provide
16 a clear and tight one or two-page summary or
17 background sheet for some of these topics to help
18 your discussions, or even draft findings, or
19 draft recommendations, or anything like that in
20 order to facilitate discussion, I've heard a
21 couple Commissioners mention just getting to
22 recommendations and getting into the substance.
23 And I think that could help you on your way
24 towards being able to do that.

25 I also heard, I think it was Commissioner

1 Castaneda, reference the fact that there are
2 things happening in real time, even as the
3 Lithium Valley Commission is doing its work and,
4 you know, that's to be expected in a lot of ways.
5 Legislatures may have ideas, Agencies do too, you
6 know, the Energy Commission's rulemaking.
7 Theoretically we could wait until you are done,
8 but we saw value in pursuing it and providing an
9 early update on it, and opportunities to comment
10 to the LVC.

11 So I do think in light of the nature of
12 this issue, to the extent that you're able and
13 interested in finding ways to front load some of
14 that discussion, we can be supportive of that.
15 Again, our role as we see it with the LVC is more
16 of a support role, so the more clarity we can get
17 from the LVC about what would be helpful, the
18 better.

19 MS. DE JONG: Chair Paz is on mute.

20 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Commissioner
21 Douglas, for that support. At this time, we will
22 open it up to public comment, I believe.

23 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I did want to
24 acknowledge that Commissioner Castaneda had his
25 hand raised there.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Oh, I apologize. I didn't
2 see that. Commissioner Castaneda.

3 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you. I
4 just wanted to make a quick comment to the
5 Commissioner and, thank you, I really appreciate
6 that. And again, I don't know what the nature of
7 those legislative actions are, whether it has to
8 do with what we're doing. Obviously, the
9 business of the State needs to move forward and
10 obviously can't always wait for everything we're
11 doing. And so obviously we're advisory. So
12 that's it, but I just think it does cause concern
13 for folks that may be following this process, so
14 having that information probably would be
15 important.

16 And, Chair Paz, I just want to get to a
17 point with, I mean, we're going to be a year down
18 the road, a year and a half, and I just want to
19 make sure that to the extent possible we provide
20 folks from the public the base information so
21 that we're not -- we'll never be able to
22 completely eradicate this -- but we'll be being
23 asked these sort of perfunctory sort of really
24 baseline questions at Day One from the Commission
25 and being asked the same questions, where

1 hopefully we can provide that ongoing educational
2 process, just so folks that do take the time, and
3 I've heard a lot of concerns about people having
4 to wait and so forth, and that's always an issue
5 in public hearings, you know, that they have that
6 information and at least something that we can
7 refer them to and not have to spend a lot of the
8 public's time and the Commission's time just sort
9 of going over issues that have already been dealt
10 with. So I think it will be a helpful process.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So at this point
13 we will invite members of the public to comment
14 on the discussion we just had about how to
15 respond to community engagement. Elisabeth?

16 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. And
17 again, I just want to acknowledge that there's a
18 hand raise from Commissioner Hanks.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I keep missing
20 these hands. Commissioner Hanks.

21 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes. I'd like to
22 just make a couple of comments.

23 The Commission is representative of our
24 diverse community and we each have a lot of
25 tasks, different responsibilities, and so forth.

1 And so, I've spent a lot of time listening to
2 comments that have been made about equity,
3 disadvantaged communities, opportunities, and so
4 forth.

5 And I hear that. And I think everybody
6 else on this Commission hears that and how that
7 moves forward, I think, is something that we kind
8 of deferred to some of the other Commissioners
9 because that's their expertise.

10 And at the same time this is going on,
11 there is so much more going on in the outside
12 that we never talk about. For example, this week
13 we had a team, maybe seven or eight people on the
14 river, on discussions about the draught, and
15 basically looking at the draught situation. In
16 the past 15 years, we've been making plans for
17 the development of additional geothermal and more
18 recently to meet the requirements of the
19 expectations of Lithium.

20 So that's an ongoing process that we're
21 doing on the outside, and we haven't really
22 discussed it at Lithium Valley. Yet we also are
23 having discussions on energy transmission. Those
24 are very important projects that have to move
25 forward, they have to be in place in a timely

1 manner.

2 So as geothermal comes on line, as
3 Lithium comes on line, those projects have to be
4 developed, funded, and in place. So those things
5 are ongoing. So if it seems like maybe we're not
6 as in tune to the community concerns that our
7 Commission colleagues are on some of these
8 matters, it's not that we're not concerned, it's
9 that we are very busy trying to get these things
10 all in place because, at some point in time,
11 everything has to gel together. You can't just
12 focus on one aspect and let the others fall by
13 the wayside and not be prepared.

14 I just wanted to pass that on. It's not
15 that there's apathy on our part, or lack of
16 interest, it's just overwhelming, the amount of
17 hours that are being put in to move these
18 projects forward, along with our other
19 responsibilities. Thank you.

20 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Commissioner Hanks
21 for providing that background and context.

22 MS. DE JONG: So for public comment, if
23 you're joining us by Zoom on your computer,
24 please use that raise-hand feature. If you
25 called in, please dial *9 to raise your hand and

1 then *6 to unmute your phone lines. First, we'll
2 go through hands raised in the Zoom application
3 and then to the phones.

4 The first hand raised is by Vijay Dhar
5 and you should be able to unmute yourself.

6 MR. DHAR: Thanks for giving me a
7 chance. This is Vijay Dhar from New Energy Nexus
8 and this is about the public comments about the
9 November 17th Lithium Valley Community Forum.
10 There was a very active community participation
11 and many references to the environmental
12 advantages of geothermal brine and all that, or
13 open pit mining, and everything. However, it was
14 not very easy for people to internalize these
15 advantages.

16 I heard about the Fact sheets, the video
17 and about how all of that is going to be helpful,
18 but what are very clear from the community
19 members, as was articulated very well by many of
20 them, was the clear health challenges and the
21 respiratory problems and degradation of soil, air
22 quality, and water quality, and all of that
23 stuff, that was very clear, and the
24 (indiscernible) also mentioned.

25 These are challenges that actually

1 present a fantastic opportunity to build trust
2 with them. And that could be done relatively
3 quickly, with tried and tested concrete actions.
4 You know, Fact sheets and all are not concrete
5 actions. Though there are many highly successful
6 demonstrations of soil restoration across the
7 globe that solve air quality and water quality
8 issues, even in extremely arid climate, and some
9 of the compelling examples are in Australia,
10 India, Africa, in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, most
11 of these are under the guidance of Australian
12 scientists, soil and water, and these methods --
13 basically they use the same sunlight that is
14 being used for solar to use photosynthesis and
15 introduce biodiversity in the soil to restore
16 soil health.

17 But more importantly, this contributes to
18 climate action, also, and economic opportunities
19 because carbon is sucked out from that moist air,
20 healing the soil restoration techniques, and
21 atmospheric humidity is used to meet urban food
22 needs, even in the most dry and arid climates
23 such as Salton Sea.

24 So they are concrete things that have
25 been tested even in the poorest of poor

1 countries. And actually, one of the
2 Representatives in the U.S. Congress, Chellie
3 Pingree of Maine, is trying to introduce
4 legislation in the U.S. Congress, public policy
5 to propagate such restoration work in the U.S.,
6 too.

7 And I'm going to be including this public
8 comment in a little form so that you can see the
9 link to that Webinar I'm talking about, where
10 Rep. Pingree is also talking about this policy
11 initiative.

12 I suggest that we should organize
13 hackathons with the community and selected
14 Experts and innovators who are working in these
15 areas for harvesting and funding innovative
16 solutions like these to address the highest risk
17 concerns from the community with viable projects
18 for soil, air, water restoration, and even high
19 efficiency housing. Again, I have a link that I
20 can include. And this can be part of the Lithium
21 Valley Master Plan. And this will also help
22 bring community as part of the solution instead
23 of just part of the problem, you know, like
24 creating concerns.

25 And I also wanted to say that, you know,

1 projects like these are not separate from Lithium
2 Valley Commission. These projects, Social and
3 Environmental Justice projects are envisioned in
4 the National blueprint for Lithium batteries used
5 in June until 2021, after the 100-day reviews
6 that were ordered by the President in February
7 2021. So, we're not doing Lithium for the sake
8 of Lithium, we're doing Lithium to meet a bigger
9 mission which is Environmental and Social
10 Justice.

11 So, just keeping this Lithium Valley
12 Commission focused on a narrow thing is going to
13 defeat the purpose. And also, Justice 40 Funds
14 are also available, and they're meant for fueling
15 such projects. And they can be skewed using
16 those funds.

17 So, of course, there are a lot of
18 philanthropic funds that can be also matched to
19 really do this and uplift the communities with
20 spillover economic opportunities while we are
21 also driving the Climate Action with this cleaner
22 industry around this precious Lithium resource in
23 the Lithium Valley.

24 And this is all within our framework of
25 mission-oriented innovation. So that is what we

1 have to do, I think, and I suggest that these
2 hackathons can be augmented over a subcommittee
3 that you guys are talking about. And that's all
4 I have to say.

5 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. And the next
6 commenter is Jose Flores.

7 MR. FLORES: Yes, thank you. I want to
8 thank Chair Paz for being responsive and
9 discussing the possibility of taking further
10 steps to, yes, formal presentations to certain
11 communities that need certain information for
12 them to comprehend. Some of the information,
13 over and over it's been mentioned about teaching,
14 educating, teaching and educating, and one thing
15 we need to understand, sure, people get on the
16 elevator whether it goes up or down on their own
17 time because sometimes it takes them longer to
18 digest and comprehend the information, so we
19 would appreciate that being taken into
20 consideration.

21 Also, another concern or question that I
22 have for long-term success, if this Lithium does
23 come to fruition with a minimal footprint, and I
24 would prefer it to be long-term, is the Lithium
25 Commission also seeing the possibility of, since

1 tech is a zero-sum gain, and tech is always
2 evolving, there is talk of the possibility of
3 sodium ion batteries? And is that being taken
4 into consideration?

5 Obviously, I see that within the
6 geothermal process and the extraction of possible
7 Lithium mining, there's also sodium within that
8 brine mixture. So I'm just wondering if that's
9 being considered because, if sodium does take
10 off, we don't want to be left out where we lose
11 all the jobs because now it changed to a new
12 technology. Thank you very much. Thank you,
13 Commissioners.

14 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next
15 speaker is Mariela Loera. You should be able to
16 unmute.

17 MS. LOERA: Hi. This is Mariela Loera.
18 I'm with Leadership Council, who, as you all
19 know, I have been following this conversation and
20 I've been advocating for community engagement
21 from this group.

22 I do want to start by saying thank you to
23 all of you for dedicating time to this
24 conversation. I know, as has been mentioned
25 before, it did take a long time and it is a

1 pretty dense conversation, so thank you for that
2 initiative and for including that in this
3 meeting.

4 One thing that does stand out to me from
5 listening to all of your responses and comments
6 is that there is still disagreement among
7 yourselves as to what your role is as a group and
8 whether or not it is the responsibility to lead
9 community engagement.

10 I think it is important for the group as
11 a whole to come to an agreement on what your role
12 is and what the priorities of this group are,
13 including the topic of public engagement. But I
14 think others should also be discussed.

15 It is also important that the group stops
16 responding by saying that it doesn't have the
17 ultimate decision to make the decision about
18 Lithium extraction, and instead acknowledge that
19 you all have a lot of power in terms of how you
20 influence that decision, regardless of you being
21 the ultimate say, or having that ultimate say.

22 And I think it is clear, I think that as
23 you develop this report and analyze the issues
24 that it is extremely important for you to
25 understand the communities that will be living

1 around these sites, and that these residents
2 should be put in the center of these
3 conversations. This will benefit the community
4 by helping us better understand the topic and, as
5 Commissioner Weisgall has said repeatedly, it is
6 important for you all, as well, to have community
7 support.

8 I think at least from the comments
9 Leadership Council has submitted, in
10 collaboration with community our questions and
11 concerns, have been very clear and
12 straightforward, and should be taken into
13 consideration in the development of any material,
14 including Fact sheets, or any type of future
15 public spaces.

16 I think having less formal meetings at
17 our community center, running in parallel to
18 these meetings like Commissioner Paz mentioned,
19 would be ideal. I think that these should also
20 be organized and would suggest that they're
21 organized in collaboration with community leaders
22 that are already in these spaces and living in
23 these communities.

24 And I am also in support of the
25 suggestion about that sub body that Commissioner

1 Olmedo mentioned and think this sub body can
2 work with those leaders that are already existing
3 in these communities to develop future public
4 spaces and material.

5 I do want to agree with the commenter
6 earlier who made comment about the Spanish
7 translator. Again, with all due respect to this
8 individual, but the translation was very hard to
9 follow and that conversation is very hard to
10 follow.

11 And lastly, thank you, and thank you
12 again for having this conversation.

13 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next
14 commenter is Garth Newberry. You should be able
15 to unmute.

16 MR. NEWBERRY: Okay. Am I clear this
17 time? Can you hear me?

18 MS. DE JONG: Yes.

19 MR. NEWBERRY: Okay. I'm looking at my
20 notes here. I want to thank Chair Paz for her
21 comments. I think the Commission needs to -- she
22 talked about how all these areas that we need to
23 address -- and that's a whole lot of areas
24 regarding skillsets, permitting process,
25 technology, extraction of Lithium, public health,

1 economy. That's a vast area to address.

2 But I think -- I wanted to go on what
3 Luis Olmedo had said, to develop a sub body
4 within the LVC. So my question is, how can we
5 implement that? I think that's a great idea.
6 And also on Jonathan's comments regarding he had
7 a lot of good comments too as far as the
8 environmental impact, air quality, and these
9 issues, as well. So it's a lot of issues to
10 cover and I don't think that this can be covered
11 easily, these challenges by just one group. We
12 will have to have advocates and serious outreach
13 to the greater community because we have a large
14 regional area, we're a large state, people who
15 are going to be affected by this in our
16 community, to be addressed.

17 So that's what I would like to hear. And
18 whatever I can do to be helpful, let me know.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next
21 commenter is Tom Sephton. You should be able to
22 unmute.

23 MR. SEPHTON: Thank you. I appreciate
24 the opportunity. I represent local nonprofit,
25 the EcoMedia Compass, and I would like to request

1 that members of the Commission share public
2 information that's been discussed today, so it's
3 those Fact sheets, visual representations, and in
4 particular video representations of how the
5 geothermal and the Lithium recovery process
6 works, or it will work in its unique
7 implementation in the Imperial Valley as part of
8 the geothermal process.

9 We do see a lot of questions from the
10 members of the community that we interact with
11 and about Lithium and what the impacts will be on
12 the community, and we also encounter quite a lot
13 of misinformation about how the Lithium process
14 is going to work here, people confusing it with
15 the evaporation processes in South America and
16 open pit mining, and so forth, and the
17 environmental challenges there.

18 We'd like to have access to good
19 information, well vetted information, and
20 visually appealing information that helps people
21 understand how the process here will be different
22 from how it's implemented in other places in the
23 world.

24 I put my contact in the chat, my
25 organization email, and we would very much

1 appreciate the members of the Commission sharing
2 with us the information you want to put out to
3 the public because we have a public, as well,
4 through our website, our Facebook, Instagram, and
5 other social media contacts, and direct public
6 events that we hold in the community. And we
7 would like to be able to answer questions in a
8 way that's backed by the facts and is
9 understandable to people, and we'd appreciate
10 sharing the information with us to help us do so.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. DE JONG: Thank you.

13 CHAIR PAZ: If I can just respond to Tom?

14 MS. DE JONG: Yeah.

15 CHAIR PAZ: So, Tom, thank you for your
16 willingness to help and everyone else who wants
17 to be sharing information. On the chat, you have
18 probably been seeing links to resources, and also
19 requests from CEC staff to put those on the
20 Lithium Valley Commission's docket. So, earlier
21 in the meeting, Elisabeth walked us through how
22 to find that, but if you go to the Lithium Valley
23 Commission website, that's probably the fastest
24 and easiest way for you to find any of the
25 resources that are mentioned here, or shared with

1 the Commission, and select the ones that you
2 think would work best for your needs. So thank
3 you again for your willingness to help share the
4 information.

5 Elisabeth, back to you.

6 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. I'm
7 going to read a couple comments that were
8 submitted to the Q&A. There's one from Rock
9 Vitale and it says:

10 "Related to Commissioner Castaneda's statement:
11 as I mentioned in my comment, complicated,
12 multifaceted projects using subject matter experts
13 required by these initiatives are what our team
14 is specialized in supporting at Easie.com)."
15 And there is an email address provided. And
16 another comment from Nilda Ruiz. It says:

17 "I just want to put this out there. Can
18 there be a fact sheet on what the public
19 can and cannot expect to read about in
20 the report coming out in October of
21 2022?"

22 Those are all of the comments I am seeing
23 at this time. So back to you, Chair Paz.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So I'm looking at
25 the time and want to be mindful that I think

1 after four hours of meeting, we all sort of lose
2 our focus. There are still a few items on the
3 agenda that require the type of engagement and
4 discussion that we had in this previous comment,
5 particularly around what changes we want make in
6 the way we run the meetings and the possible
7 amendments to the workshop topics, and how we
8 plan for those. I would like to defer that
9 conversation to our next meeting and maybe skip
10 over -- I think we do have time to address
11 Consideration of Sub body Changes. So,
12 Elisabeth, do we need to vote on that? Can I
13 just -- what do we need to do?

14 MS. DE JONG: If I would phone in a
15 friend, one of the legal support? Deborah?

16 DEBORAH: Hi, yes. Decision to Defer can
17 be made by you, Chair Paz. Or if you would like,
18 you can put it to a vote, but either way is fine.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. I think I'll save us
20 the vote, given the time, unless I hear someone
21 who wants to take the vote. Okay, so thank you.
22 Not seeing any comments, we will defer that for
23 the next meeting so that we can be fresh.

24 And we will move on now to the
25 Consideration of Sub Body Changes. There is a

1 hand up. Luis Olmedo.

2 MR. OLMEDO: Yeah, Madam Chair, was there
3 going to be a formal -- I didn't catch you - I
4 mean, will there be a formal proposal put on the
5 table, an action? Is that what I understood?

6 CHAIR PAZ: For -- we don't have to vote
7 on delaying or moving that item to the next
8 meeting. At the next meeting I would like us to
9 have sort of a depth of conversation that we had
10 just previously around changes that we can make
11 to both the workshop planning process and
12 amendments to the workshop schedule that we have.

13 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Now, Madam Chair,
14 and I assume Deborah, as a Commission I imagine
15 following the Bagley-Keene, is it the purview of
16 the Chair to put an action forward? Or table it
17 for a future meeting? The reason I ask is it's a
18 very simple ask and I didn't want to over-
19 complicate it nor dilute it. And I'm just a
20 little concerned that it may becoming a little
21 more complicated and diluted if we didn't address
22 it as the very simple ask of creating a sub body
23 for community engagement. That was my only
24 concern and whether as members we can put a
25 motion forward, or what that procedure would be.

1 DEBORAH: Yes, Chair Paz, it is up to
2 you. You can entertain a motion, or request
3 motions from the Commissioners if that falls
4 within your timeframe that you're considering.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Yes, I was
6 confused at what you were asking, Commissioner
7 Olmedo. I understood your question as my ability
8 to pass on some of these topics to the next
9 meeting; but what you're asking is about a vote
10 on adding another subcommittee body, and that
11 would -- we didn't create the sub body by a
12 formal vote, so I think perhaps to not, given the
13 time and that we can spend to have the
14 appropriate conversation, maybe leave it for the
15 next meeting, as well, in terms of creating that
16 sub body. Yes, Mr. Castanedas.

17 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDAS: Thank you,
18 Chair. Yeah, because I got the sense that, and
19 again, I don't know if it was Commissioner Olmedo
20 that brought it, but I got the sense from some of
21 the speakers that we're in support of such a
22 move, it almost sounded like they envision people
23 outside of the Commission making up the sub body
24 and that -- obviously, that's a major discussion.
25 That is complicated. So, I don't know.

1 Commissioner Olmedo, do you have a comment on
2 that because that would clearly, you know, direct
3 me in terms of what I'd like to see.

4 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Thank you,
5 Commissioner Castaneda. That's not what I
6 understood, though I certainly at the end of the
7 day want to respond and deliver to the
8 expectations of the community, that's what I
9 would hope that in my role, and I know all of us
10 as Commissioners are committed to.

11 Again, I didn't want to over-complicate
12 it. I didn't want to change the makeup of it,
13 nor diminish the value of it because of the
14 Bagley-Keene and the rules of the two-member
15 maximum. But, again, it was a very simple ask
16 that I think that we would make that commitment
17 to creating a body within the Commission to lead
18 this engagement committee. I volunteered myself
19 just because I feel that it is my duty, but I'm
20 not diminishing the duty of all of us as a member
21 of the representation of a disadvantaged
22 community.

23 So I do feel that, by bringing this
24 additional commitment, this additional space,
25 again, led by Commissioners, that we would be

1 able to have these conversations and making sure
2 that every sub body, or every subcommittee, I
3 know we keep interchanging those two words, that
4 we would bring in the engagement component into
5 each and every one of those conversations. It
6 would be dedicated, certainly, I think it would
7 help facilitate proactively the dialogue with the
8 community and a lot of these concerned so that
9 we're not addressing these concerns at the time
10 of the meetings, because not everybody has the
11 technology or the access or the understanding to
12 submit things into the docket, right? So we want
13 to be able to make sure that as members we are
14 facilitating to the greatest extent possible
15 through the subcommittee, and I think it would
16 help us facilitate a lot of these discussions,
17 even ahead of the complete committee meetings.
18 The task I think could be developed by that sub
19 body is the scope obviously informed by this
20 Commission and, as well, the expectations of the
21 public. But again, I didn't want to
22 overcomplicate it nor dilute it, it was a very
23 simple ask to have this sub body. Thank you,
24 Commissioner Castaneda for bringing up your
25 comment, as well.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you for that
2 conversation. And just a little bit of history.
3 So the sub bodies we had agreed on during the May
4 20-21 public meeting, they were not necessarily
5 voted on, so it wasn't that type of formal
6 creation of a sub body. I do think, however,
7 that the consideration of creating and adding and
8 identifying the members who want to be part of a
9 potential community engagement, somebody should
10 have more time so that we can address them.

11 You know, all of the different aspects --
12 and we can understand what exactly our
13 expectation of that sub body is going to be, so
14 we're not jumping ahead and there's
15 miscommunication or missed expectations. So if
16 you are okay with this, Mr. Olmedo, we can give
17 it the time and space in our next meeting.

18 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah, I really
19 didn't -- I made my comments, I mean, it's not a
20 dealbreaker. I don't think I was asking for
21 anything that necessarily was high impact. If
22 anything, I think it was favorable, it would
23 reaffirm our commitment to making sure that, as a
24 body ourselves, or organizing ourselves
25 internally, or as a Commission, and given that

1 the time that the community does need, but I
2 don't necessarily have a yes or a no because I
3 felt like this is important, but I leave it to
4 your leadership, Chair Paz --

5 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: -- and I see Vice
7 Chair Kelley.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I see him. Vice
9 Chair Kelley?

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thanks, Chair Paz. I
11 would suggest not to belabor it any longer. I'll
12 get together with Mr. Olmedo and have something
13 to report back about how this could be developed
14 as an outreach between us, and share it with the
15 group, and there could be a plan that could be
16 covered in Coachella if wanted. Okay?

17 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Mr. Frank Ruiz.

18 MR. RUIZ: Yeah, I'm in support of that
19 initiative, as well. I think the request, it's
20 pretty clear and seems what the community wants.
21 I think it's important to cater to the community
22 since some of the misunderstandings, to clarify
23 what some of their concerns are.

24 And I think creating a sub body, it
25 definitely is the right way to do it. And if

1 nobody wants to volunteer, I will also volunteer,
2 as well. I think it is important as we cover the
3 whole area. Mr. Olmedo covers the south, you
4 know, I can cover the north end so we can cover
5 the whole region as a whole.

6 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So at this point
7 I will seek guidance from Legal in terms again of
8 how to proceed because I hear the urgency in
9 wanting to create this sub body. I know when we
10 originally created the sub bodies, we were
11 limited to two members. Again, I'm not opposed
12 to this and I don't think anybody opposes, but I
13 want to understand if there's some process that
14 needs to be taken, or if it's simple as you all
15 go and talk, I mean, I'm okay with that. So,
16 Deborah?

17 DEBORAH: Yes, Chair Paz, you are
18 correct. It can be as simple as Commissioner
19 Olmedo and Vice Chair Kelley getting together and
20 coming back at the next meeting with some
21 additional information.

22 If we proceed in that way and there are
23 only two members, then there is no need for
24 notice or agenda. I am seeing a message from
25 Elisabeth that -- there actually are three people

1 who wanted to meet and, again, that would also be
2 possible if the group of folks was not an
3 officially determined sub body, but more of a
4 group of Commissioners who want to get together
5 and talk about these items. Then that is the
6 procedurally simplest way to proceed at this
7 time.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I see
9 Commissioner Douglas.

10 COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS: Thank you, Chair
11 Paz. I raised my hand and then our counsel
12 clarified something that I thought I might need
13 to clarify, so I think we're good. And, Deborah,
14 you can jump in if I misstate this.

15 But, not to overcomplicate things at all
16 if three or four Commissioners even informally
17 meet and talk about how this can be and bring
18 that feedback back to this group, that's really
19 fine. It's really only if you were to formally
20 create a sub body that the Bagley-Keene Act would
21 apply to the body.

22 So you do have some flexibility in how
23 you go forward here.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Luis Olmedo.

25 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madam Chair, you

1 earlier had asked, and I wasn't necessarily
2 feeling a certain direction, but I want to
3 support Commissioner Kelley's proposal and the
4 inclusion of Commissioner Luiz, and I've heard a
5 fourth, I certainly welcome any Commissioners,
6 whatever is within Bagley-Keene, so I'm glad we
7 have the support and the guidance of Commissioner
8 Douglas to support that, and Deborah as well.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR PAZ: All right, so to clarify
11 we're not formally creating any subcommittee and
12 you all have the liberty to meet and talk about
13 this and bring this back to us at a future
14 meeting, so take it away. Look forward to
15 hearing from you all.

16 So now to this topic around sub body
17 changes. The context for this is that there are
18 certain Commissioners who have expressed interest
19 in changing assignments. I know Jonathan
20 Weisgall and Steve Castaneda are interested in
21 switching committees. We also anticipate a
22 change in the CPUC representative to the
23 Commission soon.

24 So we want to talk about this publicly
25 because when we first volunteered into this

1 grouping, we did have a public conversation to
2 see if there are anybody else who is considering
3 wanting to make changes in subcommittees at this
4 point. Unless there is any objection, I think as
5 long as both Mr. Castaneda and Jonathan Weisgall
6 mutually agreed, you know, we just wanted to
7 bring it up here, but it is possible to make that
8 switch.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Chair Paz, I have no
10 desire to change committees.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I don't know if
12 there's anything else on this topic that needs to
13 be made. I know there will be further
14 conversations that remains to the sub bodies and
15 how we plan at the next meeting when we are
16 considering making amendments to the workshops
17 and all that, but for now I think this is all the
18 conversation that we need. Thank you.

19 Can the staff please reflect, then, on
20 the change between Steve Castaneda and Jonathan
21 Weisgall? So Jonathan Weisgall would be
22 replacing Steve on the Workforce Development, and
23 I believe Steve would be replacing Jonathan in
24 the Incentive Group. Did I get that correct?

25 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Correct.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

2 MS. DE JONG: And to answer your
3 question, Chair Paz, yes, we can make that
4 change.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I do have an
6 additional topic around -- or a suggestion around
7 these sub body changes. So, currently we have
8 Workforce Development on its own, and then we
9 have Economic Impacts, which we still haven't
10 heard from. And there has been conversation
11 around maybe grouping this together so that we're
12 thinking about Economic and Workforce Development
13 together, so that would potentially be a
14 regrouping that should be more receptive. Is
15 there any -- I mean, first, how do the other
16 Commissioners feel about regrouping these? I see
17 Ryan.

18 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Sylvia, I don't think
19 that they should be grouped. The Workforce
20 Development and Education piece is very
21 extensive, the economic part is more in tune with
22 some of the Business Development, and Central
23 State Programs that are not related to workforce
24 or could be related to workforce. But I think
25 they're very big and I don't think there's any

1 need to make it change.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Okay, perfect. Unless I hear
3 anything from anyone else, I think that we are
4 set on this item. I don't see any hands up.
5 Thank you.

6 So we will now turn to public comment and
7 this is any public comment related to the
8 discussion on the sub body changes.

9 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. So
10 two public commenters, if you're joining us via
11 Zoom on your computer, please use the raised hand
12 feature. If you've called in, please dial *9 to
13 raise your hand, and then *6 to unmute your phone
14 line. First, we'll go through hands raised in
15 the Zoom application and then to phones and
16 written comments. Not seeing hands raised at
17 this time, so let me go to some written comments.

18 An anonymous attendee wrote:

19 "Has a clean tech requirement been
20 mandated for the clean and safe
21 extraction of Lithium? If not, can one
22 be made at a legislative level?"

23 And another written comment directed to
24 Vijay Dhar. It says:

25 "Hi Vijay. Could you post your webinar

1 link and email address here? Thanks."

2 And that is in that Q&A chat box submitted from
3 David Stevenson. We do have a hand raised, so
4 let me go over to Nikola Lakic. You should be
5 able to unmute yourself.

6 MR. LAKIC: Hello. Can you hear me?

7 MS. DE JONG: Yes.

8 MR. LAKIC: Thank you. Thank you for the
9 second opportunity. On this subject, if I want
10 to meet with any of the members, personally,
11 separately since it's going to be very difficult
12 to give me several hours presentation and to
13 explain my proposal, which is comprehensive
14 design. It's my understanding that that would be
15 okay and it's not against the law, and even if I
16 had to meet separately each of you, I don't mind.
17 But it's very, very important that you understand
18 what it is on the table.

19 My proposal is under review by the State
20 right now, it's by Dr. Suri and the result of it
21 will be middle of next year. And I'm hoping that
22 my proposal will be selected because it's the
23 only proposal that can generate about \$1 billion
24 revenue literally out of the blue, and it saves
25 the environment, and it does not interfere with

1 those that want to extract Lithium from
2 Geothermal in brine. We should be working
3 together on this.

4 I am extracting about a thousand tons of
5 Lithium from cleaning the lake, that's in
6 addition. All I'm asking is that those areas
7 that are planted for extracting Lithium be
8 encapsulated with the dike. And on top of the
9 dike will be a road. In my proposal, I selected
10 only one area, Hells Kitchen, but it's not
11 limited to it, it can be added to areas like
12 that, and we can save a beautiful lake again to
13 the level of minus 220 raised on beaches and
14 raised on this marine base, and it will be
15 exclusive real estate all around. Just think
16 about the other alternative, which is destruction
17 on the lake in order to get lithium. We can have
18 Lithium and we can have safe Salton Sea. And I'm
19 proposing also -- it's hard to explain it in 10
20 minutes, but recreation parks and fisheries on an
21 industrial scale, I mean incorporating,
22 harnessing -- importing seawater, hydro power,
23 solar power, geothermal power. Again, I don't
24 want to take your time right now, but I think --
25 my question is, can I contact one or any of you?

1 Can I have emails somehow? And spend some time
2 and maybe explain. I'm not asking for special
3 treatment, I'm just asking that you understand
4 what it is. And it's not that simple to
5 understand without me explaining. That's all.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. DE JONG: Chair Paz, I'm not seeing
8 any other hands raised or written comments at
9 this time.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. You know, I think
11 it's important that I respond to Nikola who has
12 been speaking at every meeting that we've had,
13 and I thank you for that.

14 Some of the things that you are asking,
15 it's not that it's falling on deaf ears, I mean,
16 our body was created through a legislative bill
17 that gives us a very clear mandate into looking
18 at extraction from geothermal brine,
19 specifically. Some of the things that I've heard
20 you say and that I heard today are I believe more
21 in correlation with like the long range planning
22 of the Salton Sea and how to restore the sea, and
23 I just want to bring to your attention that the
24 California Natural Resources just relaunched
25 their Long Range Planning Committee, so perhaps

1 that is a space better suited for some of the
2 things that you are proposing, Nikola. Again, I
3 just wanted to make sure to let you know that
4 there is a space that is considering things maybe
5 in the area that you are proposing and clarify
6 that this Commission really has a mandate to look
7 at the geothermal brine, specifically. But
8 again, I want to thank you for your continuous
9 engagement with us.

10 It is 12:42 and any of the other items
11 that we didn't get to today, we will bring back
12 at the January meeting. So now if we can just
13 open to General Public Comment.

14 MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. For
15 general public comments, if you are joining us by
16 Zoom on your computer, please use that raised
17 hand feature. If you've called in, please dial
18 *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute your phone
19 line. We'll go to hands raised in the Zoom
20 application, then the phones, and any written
21 comments.

22 I do see that there is a hand raised
23 again by Nikola Lakic.

24 MR. LAKIC: Hello.

25 MS. DE JONG: Hi, we can hear you.

1 MR. LAKIC: Thank you for second
2 opportunity. I just want to respond. What I'm
3 trying to explain is that my proposal
4 incorporates all those together, it's a
5 comprehensive design, so going to the one -- and
6 in my opinion, it was made mistake from top, or
7 actually to separate those projects, restoration
8 of the Salton Sea, and then we have another
9 subject, harnessing Lithium from geothermal
10 brine.

11 I am incorporating altogether. We can
12 have both. Therefore, I have a feeling that this
13 misunderstanding is pulling in both directions.
14 Give me a chance to explain that and I think we
15 can be on the right track, then. Thank you again
16 for the second opportunity. Thank you.

17 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. And the next
18 commenter is Garth Newberry. You should be able
19 to unmute yourself.

20 MR. NEWBERRY: Yes. LVC Commissioners, I
21 really enjoyed the conversation today and the
22 topics that were discussed. I kind of
23 misunderstood when it talked about the sub body.
24 My concern is just how do we extend or promote
25 some of the issues to the greater or broader

1 community? So maybe you all can think about that
2 for the next meeting.

3 And also, another thing I wanted to say,
4 too, is I know our meetings, or the meetings are
5 agendized on a calendar, but sometimes when an
6 emergency issue comes up, I don't know the
7 protocol for this body, but I know for the Brown
8 Act, you can have a meeting prior to that
9 agendized time, as long as it's done in the
10 proper protocol, in the proper time space for an
11 emergency meeting.

12 So, some of these issues that are
13 pertinent, they can get agendized sooner. But
14 anyway, I look forward to being part of this,
15 again. Thank you.

16 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. And I am not
17 seeing any other written comments at this time or
18 hands raised. So back to you, Chair Paz.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Well, thank you everyone for
20 joining us. Our next regular meeting is
21 scheduled for January 27th and the meeting is now
22 adjourned.

23 (The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.)

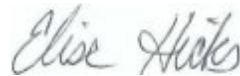
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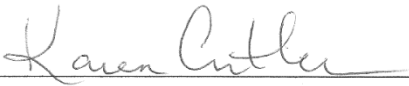
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January 28, 2022

KAREN CUTLER, CERT**1424