

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Lithium Valley Commission
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<b>Document Title:</b>	Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan
<b>Description:</b>	Presentation materials on Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP)
<b>Filer:</b>	Erica Loza
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
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# Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan



# Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP)

- ▶ Resolution of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors adopting the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP) and authorizing the County CEO and/or his/her designee to begin implementation

# County of Imperial Lithium Team

- ▶ Chair of the Supervisors Jesus Escobar
- ▶ Supervisor Ryan Kelley
- ▶ Ben Salorio, Interim County CEO
- ▶ Eric Havens, County Counsel
- ▶ John Gay, Public Works Director
- ▶ Priscilla Lopez, Director of Workforce & Economic Development
- ▶ Jim Minnick, Director of Planning & Development Services
- ▶ Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, Intergovernmental Relations Director
- ▶ Michael Abraham, Assistant Director of Planning & Development Services
- ▶ Gilbert Rebollar, Public Information Officer
- ▶ Blanca Acosta, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

# Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP)

- ▶ ***Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan*** outlines the specific actions that the County of Imperial will take and provides our request(s) of the State and Federal Government to encourage economic investment in our region.

*The goal of the plan is to generate investment resulting in career and economic opportunities for Imperial County residents*

# Process of Creating LVIP

- ▶ Over the past few years, industry, community groups and local/regional government officials have been engaged in both informal and formal meetings/communication regarding the economic potential for lithium & other rare mineral extraction and geothermal energy production in Imperial County.
- ▶ The LVIP takes into account the information received by literally over 100 different participants and provides a roadmap of action of the County of Imperial and the requested actions of both the State and Federal Government.

# Actions of the County of Imperial

- ▶ Create Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan Subcommittee (2 members) of the Board of Supervisors & internal working group of County CEO, Counsel and Directors
- ▶ Seek voter approval to establish remuneration for lithium/rare mineral mining and power generation/storage to provide appropriate financial benefits to the County and community organizations that further the economic interests of the region and address environmental/infrastructure impacts
- ▶ Encourage Processing Vertical Integrated Investment by providing tax credits for lithium/rare mineral processing and manufacturing
- ▶ Establish a Lithium Valley Project Ombudsperson to work directly with lithium/rare-mineral mining and renewable energy generation industry representatives
- ▶ Explore economic viability of an Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) to finance infrastructure improvements.
- ▶ Provide leadership (Subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors) and professional staff resources to work directly with the State and Federal Government on their portion of the Investment Plan.

# Requested State of California Actions

- ▶ Delegate planning and permitting authority of Geothermal Development up to 99.9 Megawatts to the County of Imperial. (Currently limited to 49.9 Megawatts)
- ▶ Provide Direct Funding County for the Lithium Valley Specific Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (\$5,000,000)
- ▶ Direct Funding to the County of Imperial for the Lithium Valley Development Office for a period of ten (10 years) beginning with the FY 2022-23 State Budget
- ▶ State of California Support and Assistance in creation of an Imperial County Severance Tax or Resource Levy (remuneration) for critical minerals.
- ▶ Support and Funding (\$100 million) of a Cal-Poly campus in Imperial County (or expansion of current/past efforts) to include educational opportunities in engineering, geology and chemistry for which to train/support the lithium industry in Imperial County)
- ▶ Support and Seed-Funding a reference lab for lithium purity testing
- ▶ Go-Biz Tax Credit Carve-Out for Lithium, Geothermal (\$25 million over 5 Years)
- ▶ Executive Order or Legislative Action exempting lithium/rare-mineral and geothermal producers from additional compliance from CEQA after PEIR and SP



# Requested Actions of the Federal Government

- ▶ *Roads & Bridges:* Imperial County needs an allocation of \$50 million to provide for road and bridge infrastructure to portions of the region where lithium/rare-mineral mining and renewable power generation occur.
- ▶ *Railways:* \$1 billion of railway upgrades in the form of additional tracks, loading and siding/spur infrastructure.
- ▶ *Electrical Grid:* \$500 million in funding offsets for grid upgrades and wheeling charges from energy producers.
- ▶ *Environmental Remediation:* \$500 million in direct funding and/or loan guarantees for companies that desire to build/operate End of Life Recycling and Reuse facilities in Imperial County

# County Board of Supervisors Press Conference

- ▶ The Imperial County Board of Supervisors will host a Press Conference at 10:00am on Friday February 18, 2022 in the Board Chambers to present the Lithium Valley Economic Investment Plan and discuss plan specifics.
- ▶ The County Board of Supervisors, County Executive Staff and Department Directors will be available at that time to discuss the plan and implementation