

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Lithium Valley Commission
<b>TN #:</b>	242353
<b>Document Title:</b>	Meeting Action Minutes for February 24, 2022 Meeting
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## **Lithium Valley Commission Meeting Action Minutes – February 24, 2022**

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on February 24, 2022, at 1:30 PM by Lithium Valley Commission Chair Silvia Paz.

### **Attendance: Lithium Valley Commissioners**

- Steve Castaneda
- Rod Colwell
- Roderic Dolega
- Miranda Flores
- Arthur Lopez
- Ryan E. Kelley
- Luis Olmedo
- Silvia Paz
- Jonathan Weisgall

Lithium Valley Commissioners James Hanks, Frank Ruiz, Manfred Scott, and Thomas Soto were not in attendance. Lithium Valley Commissioner Arthur Lopez joined after the initial roll call was taken. Lithium Valley Commission Vice Chair Ryan Kelley, Commissioner Rod Colwell, and Jonathan Weisgall left before the meeting concluded. California Public Utilities Commission Representative is currently vacant.

### **Agenda**

Media and Legislation updates, and the approval of the January 27, 2022, and February 16, 2022 Action Minutes were deferred.

### **Summary of Discussion**

A compiled set of the presentations identified below has been docketed and can be found here: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241964>

#### **Continuation of Items from February 16, 2022, Meeting**

- Chair Paz led a discussion on the two items continued from the February 16, 2022 meeting. Record of the votes specific to these items are below under Voting Items.

#### **Workforce Development Workshop**

- Presentations on workforce development and jobs associated with geothermal resources and development, including lithium development. This was followed by a question-and-answer period among Lithium Valley Commissioners.
  - Topic: What Are the Jobs Associated with Lithium Development?
    - Carol Zabin with UC Berkeley.
    - Jim Turner with Controlled Thermal Resources.
    - Burt Short with BHE Renewables.
  - Topic: State Investments in Workforce Development.
    - Marc Cowan with the California Workforce Development Board.

- Robert Meyer with the Employment Training Panel.
  - Topic: The Landscape of Workforce Development Efforts Related to Lithium Development.
    - Priscilla Lopez with the Imperial County Workforce and Economic Development Office.
    - Efrain Silva with Imperial County College.
    - Danny Machain with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569.
- A Panel Discussion on creating access to economic and job opportunities was moderated by Shrayas Jatkar with the California Workforce Development Board. This was followed by another question-and-answer period among Lithium Valley Commissioners and public comment.
  - Panelists:
    - Chris Benner with UC Santa Cruz.
    - Hector Meza with IBEW 569.
    - Sahara Huazano with Alianza Coachella Valley.
    - Marco Lizarraga with La Cooperativa Campesina.

#### Planning For Upcoming Workshops

- A discussion with Lithium Valley Commissioners led by Chair Paz was conducted on the planning for upcoming workshops. Chair Paz requested the continuation of the environmental impact discussion with a focus on projects that are currently in development and proposed in the region and to include a conversation on public health. Chair Paz highlighted some local agencies that could contribute to the discussion, such as the Imperial County Planning and Public Services, the Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, and Department of Public Health.
- Lithium Valley Commissioner Flores introduced topics for the continuation of the Environmental Impacts workshop.
  - More information about projects that have been currently permitted and what environmental frameworks that they are working under.
  - Digging in more in depth of social justice issues, environmental issues, health impacts in communities.
  - Getting clarity on water use, its impacts and resources within the projects, reaching out to local entities.
- Chair Paz deferred the planning for the Economic Impacts Workshop and Overall Schedule discussion. This was followed by public comment.

#### Informational Items

- Lithium Valley Commissioner Castaneda and Chair Paz discussed the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan that was approved by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors. The document was distributed to the Lithium Commission members for review and discussion in the next meeting.

- Chair Paz updated the Lithium Valley Commissioners on the two CEC Fact Sheets and noted that the CEC completed a Draft Initial Response to the Leadership Counsel that will be soon finalized.

## Voting Items

Item for the Lithium Valley Commission to authorize two members, Chair Paz and Vice Chair Kelley, to meet with legislators and represent the Lithium Valley Commission to discuss recommendations for those items upon which the Lithium Valley Commission reached consensus. Additionally, the Lithium Valley Commission supported the request to the CEC to provide technical assistance to Chair Paz and Vice Chair Kelley and support in scheduling conversations and meetings with legislators and their representatives to explore the recommendations.

*Commissioner Steve Castaneda moved to approve these recommendations, and Commissioner Rod Colwell seconded. The vote passes by a majority roll call vote to approve this item.*

- Record of Votes:
  - Steve Castaneda – Yes
  - Rod Colwell – Yes
  - Roderic Dolega – Yes
  - Miranda Flores – Yes
  - James C. Hanks – Absent
  - Ryan E. Kelley – Yes
  - Arthur Lopez – Absent
  - Luis Olmedo – Yes
  - Silvia Paz – Yes
  - Frank Ruiz – Absent
  - Manfred Scott – Absent
  - Thomas Soto – Absent
  - Jonathan Weisgall – Yes

Item for the Lithium Valley Commission to consider submitting a Comment Letter addressing the need for further consideration of the regions identified in the Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) Planning Phase Guidelines.

*Vice Chair Ryan Kelley moved to approve the submission, and Commissioner Rod Colwell seconded. The vote passes by a majority roll call vote to approve this item.*

- Record of Votes:
  - Steve Castaneda – Yes
  - Rod Colwell – Yes
  - Roderic Dolega – Abstain
  - Miranda Flores – Abstain
  - James C. Hanks – Absent

- Ryan E. Kelley – Yes
- Arthur Lopez – Absent
- Luis Olmedo – Yes
- Silvia Paz – Yes
- Frank Ruiz – Absent
- Manfred Scott – Absent
- Thomas Soto – Absent
- Jonathan Weisgall – Yes

## Next Steps

- Next meeting to be held on March 24, 2022 @ 1:30 PM via Zoom.

## Items of Interest and Resources Referenced During the Meeting

- Items e-filed to the [Lithium Valley Commission Docket](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01) can be found here:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01>
- Other Resources provided:
  - UC Riverside, Our Salton Sea: Where Theory Meets Practice on Inclusive Economic Development: <https://socialinnovation.ucr.edu/our-salton-sea-where-theory-meets-practice-inclusive-economic-development>
  - Draft CERF Letter:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241550&DocumentContentId=75515>
  - CEC February 2022 Fact Sheet on General Lithium Valley Overview:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241853&DocumentContentId=75610>
    - Spanish:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242182&DocumentContentId=75674>
    - Purepecha:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242344&DocumentContentId=75839>
  - CEC Fact Sheet on Lithium Valley Commission:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241854&DocumentContentId=75609>
    - Spanish:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242183&DocumentContentId=75673>
    - Purepecha:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242350&DocumentContentId=75847>