

DOCKETED

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Lithium Valley Commission
Meeting Action Minutes – January 27, 2021

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on January 27, 2021, at 1:30 PM by Lithium Valley Commission Chair Silvia Paz.

Attendance: Lithium Valley Commissioners

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

Commissioners Miranda Flores and Thomas Soto left the meeting before the conclusion.

California Public Utilities Commission Representative is currently Vacant.

Presentations

A compiled set of the presentations identified below has been docketed and can be found here:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241299>

- This meeting had a total of 125 attendees.
- CEC Commissioner Karen Douglas discussed the areas of Governor Newsom’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 that are related to Lithium Valley and Geothermal activities.
- Lina Malova consultant to the Select Committee on California's Lithium Economy, which is chaired by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia. Reiterated the need to examine the environmental and public health impacts related to developments in Lithium Valley and voiced the Assemblymember’s support for the state pursuing funding through the budget. Ms. Malova also voiced that the Assemblymember Garcia believes the Lithium Valley Commission should engage relevant stakeholders such as Regional Water Board, local Air Districts, the local Public Health Director, and others to provide input for the benefit of the local community.
- Lithium Valley Commissioners discussed how they might respond to the governor’s proposed budget with a set of recommendations that the Lithium Valley Commission identifies to help advance the vision of Lithium Valley.
- The discussion was followed by a discussion of updates to the process to plan for upcoming workshops. As a reference for future workshops, Chair Paz presented a proposed plan for the workforce development workshop.

- Chair Paz led a discussion on updates to the schedule of meetings and workshop topics. The upcoming workshops are planned as follows:
 - February:
 - Workforce Development
 - March:
 - Continuation of Environmental Impacts
 - Economic Impacts
 - April:
 - Benefits of/to Geothermal Plants
 - May:
 - Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction
 - Incentives
 - June/July:
 - Finalize all Legislative Regulatory Recommendations
- Lithium Valley Commissioners held a discussion on the development of initial findings and recommendations for the legislative report.
- Chair Paz led a discussion on further community engagement strategies. Commissioner Olmedo proposed an ad hoc committee on community engagement. Discussion included the status of the responses of the questions submitted by the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability through the docket, and the fact sheets requested by Chair Paz during the December public meeting. The fact sheets are in draft form and under review by the CEC and will be posted to the docket when finalized.

Voting Items

1. Approve December Meeting Action Minutes

Commissioner Jonathan Weisgall moved to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2021 public meeting, and Commissioner Rod Colwell seconded. The item was approved by a roll call vote of 11 commissioners in favor of approval.

- Record of Votes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve Castaneda - Yes ○ Rod Colwell - Yes ○ Roderic Dolega - Yes ○ Miranda Flores - Unavailable ○ James C. Hanks - Yes ○ Ryan E. Kelley - Yes ○ Arthur Lopez - Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luis Olmedo - Yes ○ Silvia Paz - Yes ○ Frank Ruiz - Yes ○ Manfred Scott - Yes ○ Thomas Soto - Unavailable ○ Jonathan Weisgall - Yes
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Next Steps

- Next Lithium Valley Commission meeting scheduled for February 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>
- Legislation updates by CEC Office of Governmental and International Affairs
 - Chair Paz reported there are no legislative updates for January
- Media updates from CEC Media and Public Communications Office; articles relating to lithium can be found here: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241333&DocumentContentId=75291>
- Other Resources provided:
 - Geothermal Rising Conference 2022, <https://geothermal.org/events/2022-geothermal-rising-conference-grc>
 - CalGEM, Oversight of drilling, operations, rulemaking, updated regulations, www.conservation.ca.gov