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Additional submitted attachment is included below.
Existing Cumulative Environmental Exposures and Poor Health Outcomes in Coachella/Imperial Valleys

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3/24/2022
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Lithium Valley Commission Meeting
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History of Poor Health Outcomes in Eastern Coachella/Imperial Valleys

Emergency department visits due to asthma, Both sexes, All Ages/Races, Imperial County

Age-adjusted rates per 10,000

Year


California  Imperial County

TrackingCalifornia.org
History of Poor Health Outcomes in Eastern Coachella/Imperial Valleys
History of Poor Health Outcomes in Eastern Coachella/Imperial Valleys

Figure 5. Age-adjusted ED visit rates per 10,000 for lower- and higher-poverty ZIP codes in the Coachella Valley, 2016-2018. COPD includes ages 25+ and MI includes ages 35+; all other conditions are all ages. Includes 95% confidence intervals.
Environmental Exposures

Census tracts around the Salton Sea are in top 2 deciles of cumulative impacts according to Cal/EPA (CalEnviroScreen 4.0) “disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution”
Best Practices: EIR vs. HIA

California Supreme Court (2019): EIR must show a “reasonable effort to substantively connect a project’s air quality impacts to likely health consequences”

However: A Health Impact Assessment is “a more complete analysis of health effects [which] would consider all potentially significant direct, indirect, and cumulative health impacts associated with the proposed action and alternatives.” (Human Impact Partners, 2022)

“Health Impact Assessment provides a framework... to determine the potential positive and negative effects of a proposed policy, plan or development project on human health and how those impacts might be distributed within the population. (Dannenberg, et al 2006)
Winners and Losers

Winners: Reduction of Unemployment: Health Benefits
Note: Consideration of Occupational Health Hazards

Losers: Asthmatic children:
Potential for increase in degradation of air quality and other hazards

More needs to be known about environmental and health impacts of geothermal mining