

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	20-LITHIUM-01
Project Title:	Lithium Valley Commission
TN #:	242975
Document Title:	Nikola N Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, Inc Comments to the Lithium Valley Commission
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Nikola N. Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	5/9/2022 11:01:21 AM
Docketed Date:	5/9/2022

*Comment Received From: Nikola N. Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.
Submitted On: 5/9/2022
Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-01*

Comment to the Lithium Valley Commission â€“ Nikola Lakic

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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May 6, 2022

California Energy Commission
Docket: Unit, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-1
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
LithiumValleyCommission@energy.ca.gov
Cc: docket@energy.ca.gov

Subject: Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-1

Title: **Comment to the Lithium Valley Commission – Nikola Lalic.**

Greetings, Madam Chair, Paz, and respectful Commissioners:

I am sending my comment prior to the incoming Lithium Valley Commission Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2022, to be included in the record.

A few observations:

As of today, May 6, 2022, the situation of the Salton Sea is very difficult with the attempt of some local leaders to make the situation even worse with serious consequences for the health of the nearby population of several Counties.

It came to my attention the document with the Title “Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (Imperial County LVIP)” with the description of document: “Imperial County plan for Lithium Valley with specific actions of the County of Imperial, the State of California, and the United States Federal Government.” - TN # 241584 - filed on 2/18/2022.
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241584&DocumentContentId=75550>

The mentioned document, written by leaders of Imperial County and approved by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, besides statements about the benefits of economic investment for the County, the State of California, United States Federal Government, - also has a chapter about “Self-Determination”. Here I am including Copy/Paste that paragraph: *“Self-Determination - In its purest form, self-determination is defined as the process by which a person controls their own life. For purposes of the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan this shall be defined as the process by which the **County of***



Imperial controls its economic future as it relates to lithium/rare mineral extraction, processing, manufacturing and renewable energy generation and storage through specific actions that will be taken with intention and transparency. (Added underlining).

Similarly, the GM of the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) Mr. Patric O'Dowd as his predecessor, Mr. Phil Rosentrater, in one of his presentations explained the meaning of the word "AUTHORITY" referring to the name the "Salton Sea Authority". He concluded that the SSA has the right to make the final decisions regarding the Salton Sea – not the State.

My comments:

It is obvious from the statements mentioned above that local leadership specifically the Imperial County, in this instance, wants to acquire control of the fate of the Salton Sea. The SSA, which has several directors representing IID and Imperial County, is under the strong influence (control) of the IID and Imperial County as are members representing Riverside County and CVWD. Such practices (attempts) of leaders of Imperial County to acquire control of the fate of the Salton Sea are highly inappropriate.

The local leadership of the Imperial County, Riverside Counties, IID, SSA, and sadly CNRA keep ignoring (rejecting) a proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea and tirelessly supports the "current course of action" - the "Perimeter/Brine Lake" and related dust suppression projects that are based on the false assumption that importation of seawater is not a feasible concept. The idea of importing seawater was considered a "not feasible concept" for several decades based on old studies without a creative design.

The SSA is formed of members of several counties and organizations. Their record is remarkably horrible. They openly support the project so-called "Smaller Sustainable Lake" or "Perimeter/Brine Lake" – which inevitably leads to the **destruction** of the Salton Sea so that they can proceed with the plan that they are supporting and working on tirelessly for many years which is to get rid-off the Lake so that they can have exposed playa (mostly their – IID - land) for leasing it to companies for the extortion of lithium. Also, they are ignoring the work of the Panel of the independent reviewers whose task is to evaluate the feasibility of importation of seawater and subsequent restoration of the Salton Sea. It is not a secret that they are ignoring the work of the Panel of independent reviewers because they are proceeding with projects that exclude the importation of seawater and restoration of the Salton Sea. They are openly asking governments (State and Federal) for speedy permitting for their ill-conceived projects and



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completely disregarding the incoming report from the Panel of independent reviewers. Such practices are inappropriate and must be stopped.

First of all, it is utterly wrong that one person or group of people or one County trying to acquire power and control in order to make the final decisions related to the fate of the Salton Sea which occupies areas of Imperial and Riverside Counties, and it is near to Sand Diego County. If a group of people or one County obtains the power (control), as is the attempt now, to make decisions on the fate of the Salton Sea, then the populations of other Counties would suffer without being able to do anything about it. Shrinking Lake exposes lakebed (playa) on all sides of the Lake and neighboring County. This is a very serious issue that should not be taken lightly, especially since such attempts (practices) come from people with very limited technical knowledge, and who have no desire to learn about new options. There is a serious mismanagement problem. Sorry to say but they have a horrible record and do not care about anything but their minuscule interest. I am reluctant to use those strong words, but their intentions and conduct are well documented – I am just exposing it. Also, they do not understand that they would be better off with the implementation of the proposal for saving and restoring the Salton Sea.

If the “current course of action” is not stopped and if Imperial County and SSA acquire the power to make the final decision on the fate of the Salton Sea then, for sure, the Salton Sea will be lost with tremendous consequences for the environment, the health of the local population, economy, wildlife, etc., and with tremendous liabilities which they would transfer to the State.

I respectfully urge commissioners and everyone that is involved in any capacity of making decisions on the fate of the Salton Sea - not to succumb to big pressure of those who want to get rid of the Salton Sea - but rather to engage, and challenge those who are promising Employment, Tax Revenue, Education, Environmental Improvements, Energy Supply, National Security, etc., and constantly forgetting to mention about losing the Salton Sea and relating consequences that will follow.

I respectfully urge commissioners and everyone that is involved in any capacity of making decisions on the fate of the Salton Sea to **halt** all activities regarding the Salton Sea until the final report from the Panel of independent reviewers is announced. There is much more involved in saving and restoring the Salton Sea than just importing seawater.

I would like to remind commissioners and everyone that are involved in any capacity of making decisions on the fate of the Salton Sea that there is a feasible



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proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea that will provide a clean environment and prosperity to nearby communities with much more local employment than Imperial County promises but is not compatible with the “current course of action”. It is not something that can be just added to the “current course of action” and move on. I did explain in my previous “public comments” in detail why the current course of action is non-sensical and why proceeding with the 10-Year plan would be losing precious time and money. Please read my previous extended comments.

Also, I would like to mention that my systems for the generation of electricity, potable water, and extraction of lithium (in the process – patent-pending application - continuation-in-part) can be used beside the Salton Sea, from Tijuana to Vancouver and the east coast - so my system is in interest not just to the State of California but to the interest of the United States and the World.

To avoid repeating myself, please read my previous extensive comments. I am doing my best but there is a limit to how much I can do with occasional 3-minute public comments or a letter. I would like to remind you that it is your duty to study the subject matter. Reminder: *“The Lithium Valley Commission is charged with reviewing, investigating, and analyzing certain issues and potential incentives, as further detailed in the statute, regarding lithium extraction and use in California;”*

I do understand that some commissioners are focused on the interest of the corporations they represent but, in closing, I would like to say again that the ego, prestige, personal interest, or special interest must be taken out of the equation when dealing with such important issues such as the Salton Sea, clean environment, health of the population, and the economy in general.

I would like to emphasize again that I have nothing personally against any member of any organization that supports the destruction of the Lake, but I strongly oppose their intentions, methods, and conducts. Since I am familiar with the situation, it is my moral obligation to expose wrongdoing.

I intend to forward a copy of this letter to Governor Gavin Newsom, the Honorable Ben Hueso, California State Senate, the Honorable Eduardo Garcia, California State Assembly, and Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of California Natural Resource Agency.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that those who support the destruction of the Lake despite the obvious arguments against it do so at their own peril. Accountability matters.



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Sincerely,

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