

DOCKETED

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Lithium Valley Commission Meeting Action Minutes – June 16, 2022

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on June 16, 2022, at 1:06 p.m. by Lithium Valley Commission Chair Silvia Paz.

Primary Physical Location:

- Calipatria High School, Calipatria, CA

Additional Publicly Accessible Locations:

- Chula Vista Office Center, Chula Vista, CA
- Warren-Alquist State Energy Building, Sacramento, CA
- California Natural Resource[s] Agency, Sacramento, CA
- Franklin Public Library, Franklin, MI

Attendance: Lithium Valley Commissioners

- James C. Hanks (Calipatria High School)
- Luis Olmedo (Calipatria High School)
- Silvia Paz (Calipatria High School)
- Frank Ruiz (Calipatria High School)
- Jonathan Weisgall (Calipatria High School)
- Steve Castaneda (Chula Vista Office Center)
- Roderic Dolega (Franklin Public Library)
- Miranda Flores (California Natural Resources Agency)
- Alice Reynolds (Warren-Alquist State Energy Building)

Vice Chair Kelley and Commissioners Colwell, Lopez, Scott, and Soto were not in attendance. Commissioner Flores arrived at 1:18 p.m. Commissioners Olmedo and Ruiz arrived at 1:34 p.m. Commissioner Reynolds arrived at 2:07 p.m. Commissioner Dolega left at 4:33 p.m. Commissioner Castaneda left at 4:48 p.m. There was no quorum after 4:48 p.m., the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Agenda

The following Agenda items were deferred:

- Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Findings and Recommendations Identified During the Incentives Workshop Held May 26, 2022.
- Administrative Item: Approval of Meeting Action Minutes for the Meetings on March 24, 2022, May 12, 2022, and May 26, 2022.
- Informational Items: Media and Legislative Updates, and Lithium Valley Commissioner Updates.

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=243570>

Workshop on the Role of Existing and New Geothermal Facilities in the Salton Sea Region to Support Reliability, Grid Stability, Resiliency and Clean Energy Goals

The Workshop on the Role of Existing and New Geothermal Facilities in the Salton Sea Region to Support Reliability, Grid Stability, Resiliency, and Clean Energy Goals was conducted with speakers as noted below and followed by a discussion among Lithium Valley Commissioners. Speakers included:

- Erica Brand, Electric Generation System Program Specialist, Siting Transmission and Environmental Protection Division (STEP) at California Energy Commission.
- Jared Ferguson, Senior Regulatory Analyst, Energy Division at California Public Utilities Commission.
- Jamie Asbury, Manager, Energy Department at Imperial Irrigation District.
- William Thomas, Geothermal Resource Director at BHE Renewables.
- Jim Turner, Chief Operating Officer and Director at Controlled Thermal Resources.

Workshop on Overcoming Challenges, Processing, and Production of Lithium from Geothermal Brine

The second Workshop on Overcoming Challenges, Processing, and Production of Lithium from Geothermal Brine included two sessions and was followed by a discussion among Lithium Valley Commissioners. Public Comment was received following both workshops. Speakers included:

- Session I: Panel Discussion with Lithium Extraction Project Developers
 - Jim Turner, Chief Operating Officer and Director at Controlled Thermal Resources.
 - Jon Trujillo, Director, Geothermal Development at BHE Renewables.
- Session II: Challenges and Solutions to Lithium Extraction from Geothermal Brines in the Salton Sea.
 - Michael A. McKibben, Research Professor, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at University of California, Riverside.
 - Tina Shields, Manager, Water Department at Imperial Irrigation District.
 - Abby Rodriguez, Manager, Product and Business Development at Sparkz.

Additional Agenda Items

Planning for Upcoming Lithium Valley Commission Meetings and Activities

- Chair Paz recommended that the June 30 meeting start at 1:00 p.m., with a primary physical location at Calipatria High School. Chair Paz also stated plans during that meeting to continue the conversation on environmental impacts by discussing waste streams including the role of regulatory bodies and mitigation strategies as well as possibly continued conversation on water issues.

- Chair Paz shared plans for the July 21 Meeting to be a full day meeting with a primary physical location at Westmorland Elementary School in Westmorland. Also, tribal perspectives are expected to be on the July 21 agenda.

Voting items

No voting items were considered.

Next Steps

Next meeting to be held on June 30, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom and in person. The primary location will be Calipatria High School with additional publicly accessible remote locations provided in the meeting notice.