

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	20-LITHIUM-01
Project Title:	Lithium Valley Commission
TN #:	244168
Document Title:	Daniela Flores Comments - Lithium Valley Survey
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Daniela Flores
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/21/2022 3:49:41 PM
Docketed Date:	7/21/2022

Comment Received From: Daniela Flores
Submitted On: 7/21/2022
Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-01

Lithium Valley Survey

I would like to share some documents prepared by Imperial Valley Equity & Justice Coalition a local group that advocates for environmental and social justice, health equity, and civic engagement. IV residents Angel and Monique provided paper copies of the preliminary findings from their lithium valley survey and I would like to make that available to everyone online. We also want to invite people to complete the lithium valley survey.

Lithium Valley Preliminary Findings: <https://bit.ly/LVSfindings>
We invite everyone to complete the survey: <https://bit.ly/LithiumV>

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

LITHIUM VALLEY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Imperial Valley
**Equity & Justice
Coalition**

ABOUT US

Geothermal and automaker businesses and investors have taken interest in the Imperial Valley region because of the fact that a mass supply of lithium has been found in the area south of the Salton Sea. Lithium is a prime mineral needed to create batteries that power electronic devices such as smart phones, computers, and electric cars. As our country moves towards a focus on electric vehicles, the demand for lithium has increased at a very extreme rate and its value has increased exponentially. Experts say that the amount of lithium found in the Imperial Valley could satisfy the majority of this demand.

Two out of the three main companies that aim to extract lithium at a commercial scale in the valley are against a tax that can potentially bring millions into our communities. The state approved tax plan states that the companies will be taxed on a three-tier per ton basis instead of a gross receipt tax (percent tax on sales). The flat tax will ensure that our communities benefit from this business endeavor. We use this survey to help inform how the tax revenue is used. We plan to present these findings to the state and local governments to show community engagement on the topic and understand what the community wants from the revenue provided by this project.

IMPERIAL VALLEY EQUITY AND JUSTICE COALITION

THEMES

The Data:

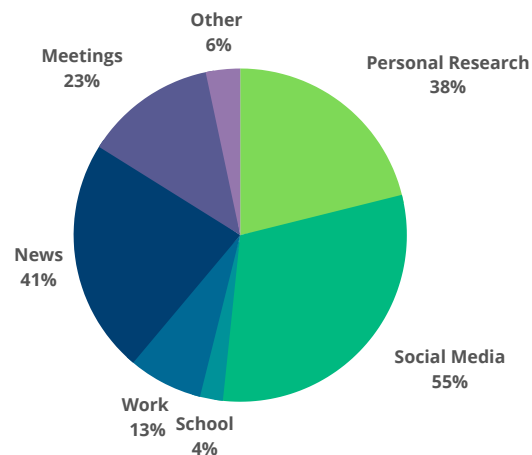
We categorized over 100+ responses into the following categories. Below we display key themes that folks presented within their responses as to how they would like to see tax revenue used.

Themes:

1. Communications
 - Key finding: folks want to be directly talked to about Lithium and they want to have accessible chances to engage, especially the north end.
2. Basics (Lithium 101)
 - Key finding: people want to learn the basics of lithium like the history of the tax, the environmental effects, lithium extraction process, etc.
3. Skepticism
 - Key finding: people expressed their distrust with all forms of government and the need for oversight committees.
4. Opportunities
 - Key finding: folks want there to be academic opportunities for all ages and an expansion of those opportunities through physical academic spaces.



Where do people get their Lithium information from?



IMPERIAL VALLEY EQUITY AND JUSTICE COALITION

THEMES

The Data:

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Themes:

5. Environmental Justice

- Key finding: folks want there to be oversight with the environmental aspects of lithium and have concerns on the health potential health effects.

6. Tax

- Key finding: folks are questioning the tax allocation categories proposed by Imperial County and they fear the lack of oversight with the distribution of money.

7. Infrastructure

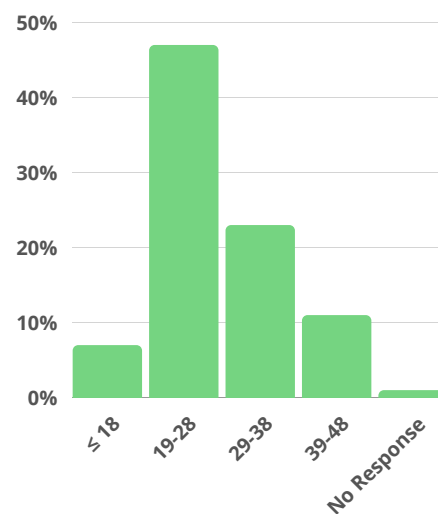
- Key finding: folks want there to be improved transportation countywide through student-focused transportation and support for alternatives to transportation. As well, improve North end roads.

8. Housing

- Key findings: people demand for a community benefit that includes affordable housing and housing projects, as well as rehabilitation/transitional programs and cooling centers.



Age of Respondants



IMPERIAL VALLEY EQUITY AND JUSTICE COALITION

THEMES

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Themes:

9.Environmental

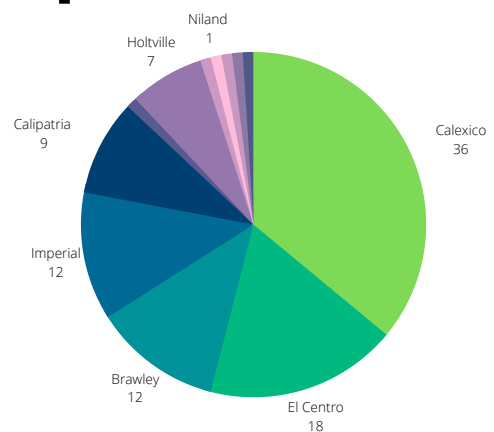
- Key finding: people demand for Salton Sea restoration and beautification with emphasis on greenery to be a public benefit to lithium extraction.

10. Recreation

- Key finding: people want to use tax revenue to create spaces for youth beyond sports (arts, entertainment, etc.)



Cities the respondents live in:



"Community owned apartment complexes for farm workers, lithium workers and general north county residents"
-Survey participant

IMPERIAL VALLEY EQUITY AND JUSTICE COALITION

SOLUTIONS

The Data:

We categorized over 100+ responses into the following categories. Below we display key themes that folks presented within their responses as to how they would like to see tax revenue used.

Solutions:

1. Living Standard

Key finding: People want improved roads and cities structure.

2. Communication

Key Finding: People want communication with all parties involved with this, and it starts with rebuilding the trust with transparency and involvement.

3. Job Force

Key Finding: People want there to be full commitment with local buisnessss and organizations involved with the tax and extraction process. The job forced should be supported with training, and it should come from the valley.



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LITHIUM VALLEY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Imperial Valley
**Equity & Justice
Coalition**

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY:

"The influx of tax revenue could have great potential in changing life for the better in the Imperial Valley - if used in an efficient and conscious manner"

"Should be investing in cooling centers"

"Used to build affordable housing"

"...unincorporated areas of Bombay Beach etc...I would like to see programs and research to provide assessments and avenues for our community members to actively participate and be engaged in the development and implementation of said decisions."

"[tax revenue] should be used to invest in public transportation infrastructure and routes for the valley and maybe a trolley system from Calexico to El Centro, Imperial, Brawley, and Calipatria using the existing railroad lines. But overall better routes, faster routes and more frequent routes for the older and poorer people who rely on it for work, school and medical appointments. Definitely regional connectivity with Salton City and Niland areas to help them get to better services. "