

DOCKETED

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Lithium Valley Commission Meeting Action Minutes – July 21, 2022

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on July 21, 2022, at 9:08 a.m. by Lithium Valley Commission Chair Silvia Paz.

Physical Locations:

- Westmorland Union Elementary School, Westmorland, CA
- Torres Martinez Tameka Gym, Thermal, CA

Attendance During Morning Session: Lithium Valley Commissioners

- Silvia Paz (at Thermal)
- Steve Castaneda (remote)
- Roderic Dolega (remote)
- Miranda Flores(remote)
- Arthur Lopez (at Thermal)
- Luis Olmedo (at Westmorland, arriving at 10:07am)
- Alice Reynolds (remote)
- Manfred Scott (at Thermal)
- Thomas Soto (remote)
- Jonathan Weisgall (remote)
- Commissioners Colwell, Hanks, Ruiz, and Vice Chair Kelley were not in attendance.
- There was a quorum during the morning session, from 9:08 a.m. to 12:38 p.m.

Attendance During Afternoon Session: Lithium Valley Commissioners

- Silvia Paz (at Thermal)
- Steve Castaneda (Remote)
- Miranda Flores (Remote)
- Arthur Lopez (at Thermal)
- Alice Reynolds (Remote)
- Manfred Scott (at Thermal)
- Jonathan Weisgall (Remote)
- Luis Olmedo (at Westmorland, arriving at 2:03 p.m. and leaving at 5:44 p.m.)
- Commissioners Colwell, Dolega, Hanks, Ruiz, Soto, and Vice Chair Kelley were not in attendance.
- There was a quorum during the afternoon session, from 2:03 p.m. to 5:44 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Agenda

The following Agenda items were deferred:

- Administrative Item: Approval of Meeting Action Minutes of the Meeting on June 30, 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=244178>

Tribal Session: Tribal Perspectives on issues related to the work of the Lithium Valley Commission

Speakers included, but were not limited to:

- Thomas Tortez Jr., Chair of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Jesus Arguelles, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Gloria McGee, Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- Preston Arrow-weed, Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- Lorey Cachora, Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- Faron Owl, Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- Bobby Wallace, Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Alan Hatcher, Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
- Carmen Lucas, Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
- Courtney Coyle
- Jordan Joaquin, President of Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

Community Session: Community Perspectives on issues related to the work of the Lithium Valley Commission

Five topic areas were developed with representatives from local community organizations and discussed during the meeting. Speakers included, but were not limited to:

Community Engagement / Information Sharing

- Elizabeth Jaime

Community Benefits / Investment

- Monique Ureña
- Angel De Dios
- Cecilia Armenta

Workforce Development

- Richard Cordero
- Simon Canales
- Carlos Gonzalez

Water

- Adriana Torres

Environmental Impacts and Public Health

- Cecilia Armenta

Additional Agenda Items

Planning for Upcoming Lithium Valley Commission Meetings and Activities

- Chair Paz led a discussion on the potential roadmap to finalize the report to the Legislature.
- Commissioner Castaneda made a motion to request extended time and additional resources for public outreach, and Commissioner Lopez seconded, but a quorum was not present, so the motion had no effect.

Voting items

No voting items were completed. As noted above one motion was made but had no effect.

Next Steps

Chair Paz stated that the CEC staff committed to work towards releasing the draft report in mid-August and that the draft will be made available to the public and tribes.

Chair Paz adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.