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To: To Whom It May Concern (Imperial County Board of Supervisors)

From: Lorey Cachora (Vice President) 

Subject: AB 52 Consultation Process

We are a non-profit organization and we are submitting this letter on behalf of the Quechan Tribe in support. On July 21, 2022, I attended the Geothermal Lithium Extraction meeting at Thermal California held by the selected Valley Commissioners for the project. Several of the points presented that morning were negotiable; some are not. I realize this world has become a technological world and the need to increase energy matters.

In the last forty years, I attended several conferences on the future of technology and energy matters. At the time everyone, whether sponsored by government, industry, environmentalists or other activists, someone will address the assembly with these words; "There are many problems with technology and we need to acknowledge them," but the problems are not rooted to the technology themselves, they are caused by the way we have chosen to use them. Machines do not cause problems, people do.

I began to glimpse the problem in 1973 when I saw how excited the world and society became about the new cell phones they carried in their holster. Then the cell phones and other technologies developed by the world eventually created a marketing war to access these powerful new instruments that spoke pictures into the brains of the whole population, but the outcome was predetermined. We should have realized it was a foregone conclusion that corporations, the government, and the military would inevitably control cell phones, Televisions, and other technology. Because of the technology's geographic scale, its cost, the astounding power of its imagery, and its ability to homogenize thought, behavior and culture, large corporations found modern technology uniquely efficient for ingraining a way of life that served (and still serves) their interest.

Now, in its national crisis, the government, corporations and the military find technology a perfect instrument for the centralized control of information and consciousness. Meanwhile all others the poor, the underprivileged, and all other contenders for control of technology have effectively fallen by the wayside.

The Native people in America such as the Quechan people have not seen changes in cultural destructions undertaken 500 hundred ago, today it is the modernization of technology, energy matters, resources, and minerals have changed to mad mega technology destroying the world's resources and robotizing its people. We are onto something so monstrous that it is almost literally invisible to those who stand to become millionaires. Technology and mineral extraction itself is Megatech it hollows out humans and annihilates everything natural whether it is the soil, sea, or water.

The Quechan people in America have witnessed assaults on our region and it continues today. Although the military actions against tribes may be over in the United States, more subtle through equally devastating "legalistic" manipulations continue to separate tribes from their land and their sovereignty. There are still million tribal people in the United States if not more today. Significant numbers of them continue to live in wilderness and desert region here and far north. My last visit, they are still engaged in traditional subsistence practice on the same lands where their ancestors lived for several millennia's. Quechan people also live in a traditional manner, while suffering varying degree of impact from the so-called Western expansion of technological society.

Quechan ancestors once said, "Americans were scattered all over Europe; here they incorporated themselves into a system of population and carrying along with them great mass of arts, science, vigor, and industry but they will become distant by the power of different climate they inhabit." "When they first arrived, they were limited in their intent as well as their views; but suddenly alter their scale; two hundred miles formerly appeared a very great distance, it is now a trifle to many Native American beliefs and culture."

This is important that if you are a foreigner and now a citizen in America's Government, Industry, or as elected official to know exactly what the Quechan people are doing and aims to do. This way there is none of the mindless hostility of the present or mindless optimism about the future of the Quechan people protecting their native culture. At present, they are actively seeking a consultation on the Salton Sea project to have the opportunity to participate fully to disapprove or approve the project since the tribe also manages their water and related cultural resources.

Therefore, this formal letter is to advise you with the best of my knowledge that the Lithium Extraction Project and the Imperial County Board of Supervisors connected with the project to comply with both the letter and spirit of Federal Laws, regulations, and policies relating to Quechan people of Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. In addition, affirm a formal consultation between Imperial County and the tribe, as stated in AB 52 Consultation Process. The Quechan Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe.

To be clear on one thing, I am the author of this letter, and have advocated for the tribe in legal cases related to tribal culture and practices, and at my age. I have seen many changes in the legal systems and the works, but regardless of that, the Quechan tribe seeks to maintain efficient, effective, and strategic management of their cultural resources to ensure the continued protection of their tribal traditional sites and cultural archives. Although we continue to function within the boundaries of our soil for thousands and thousands of years in the country, county, city, and states, that now assert sovereignty over us, we still assert our rights.

Thank you in regards to this matter.

cc; Quechan Tribe
Quechan Cultural Committee
California Energy Commission