

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	20-LITHIUM-01
Project Title:	Lithium Valley Commission
TN #:	246171
Document Title:	Notice of Availability of the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California
Description:	Notice of Availability of the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (Lithium Valley Commission).
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Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	9/21/2022 5:03:49 PM
Docketed Date:	9/21/2022

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Sacramento, California 95814

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CEC-70 (Revised 11/2021)



IN THE MATTER OF:

*Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction
(also known as the Lithium Valley Commission)*

Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON LITHIUM EXTRACTION IN CALIFORNIA (LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION)

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (Blue Ribbon Commission, or Commission), also known as the Lithium Valley Commission, was established pursuant to Assembly Bill 1657 (AB 1657, E. Garcia, Chapter 271, Statutes of 2020).¹ The Commission was established and convened by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to review, investigate, and analyze eight specific topics relating to lithium extraction (also referred to as lithium recovery) in California and submit a report to the Legislature, documenting its findings and any recommendations developed after conducting the required review and analyses. The *Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California* (Draft Report) is posted for public review and comment.

Background

This Draft Report was developed to meet the requirements of AB 1657, which took effect on January 1, 2021, and directed the CEC to convene and establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to review, investigate, and analyze the following eight topics identified in statute:

- Actions that will support the further development of geothermal power that have the potential to provide the cobenefit of lithium recovery from existing and new geothermal facilities.
- Market opportunities for lithium.

- The potential benefits of, and added value to, existing and new geothermal facilities in areas that contain mineral-rich brines for the state, the western energy grid, and the United States, including, but not limited to, grid stability, reliability, and resiliency.
- Methods of overcoming technical and economic challenges currently limiting lithium extraction, processing, and production from geothermal brines.
- Safe environmental methods and standards for lithium extraction from geothermal brines and how this compares to other methods for deriving lithium.
- Potential economic and environmental impacts to the state resulting from extraction, processing, and production of lithium and lithium-dependent products from geothermal brines.
- The importance of, and opportunities for, the application of local, state, and federal incentives and investments to facilitate lithium extraction from geothermal brines.¹
- Recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes that may be needed to encourage lithium extraction from geothermal brines, including whether the development of a centralized tracking system for lithium project permitting by state and local regulatory agencies would assist with development of the lithium industry.

The Blue Ribbon Commission held its first meeting on February 25, 2021, and since that time, held over 20 public meetings. These meetings provided the Commission an opportunity to learn from representatives of industry, academia, California Native American tribes (Tribes), community organizations, public entities, as well as residents from Imperial and Riverside counties, and the general public. All meeting documents including agendas, background materials, presentations, transcripts, action minutes, and public comments, and other materials related to the work of the Commission, are available in Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01, which can be accessed on the webpage titled "Lithium Valley Commission" at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley>.

The English version of the Draft Report is posted in the Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01, under TN 246170. When the Spanish translation of the Draft Report is available, anticipated by early October 2022, it will also be posted to Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01. The public comment period on the Draft Report will end thirty (30) calendar days after the Spanish translation of the Draft Report is posted. A notice will be issued specifying the date the public comment period will close.

¹ Assembly Bill 1657 states this topic includes, but is not limited to use of enhanced infrastructure financing districts, as defined in Section 53398.51 of the Government Code, or community revitalization investment authorities, as defined in Section 62001 of the Government Code; new employment tax credits in former enterprise zones; income or franchise tax credits under agreements approved by the California Competes Tax Credit Committee; sales tax exemptions for new manufacturing equipment; and leveraging tax incentives in federally recognized opportunity zones.

Public Comment and Community Engagement

Oral comments on the Draft Report will be accepted at upcoming community and tribal workshops during the month of October 2022 and future Blue Ribbon Commission meetings, both in-person and through remote access. Further notices and details about the community engagement meetings will be posted to Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01.

Written comments on the Draft Report must be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m., thirty (30) calendar days following the posting of the Spanish version of the Draft Report. A notice will be issued specifying the date the public comment period will close.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information voluntarily provided (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system for submitting written comments. Visit the [e-commenting page](#) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01>), which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s). Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number **20-LITHIUM-01** and "**Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California**" in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

If preferred, a paper copy may be sent to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Public Advisor and Other CEC Contacts

The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participating in Blue Ribbon Commission meetings. To request interpreting services, reasonable modifications, or accommodations, contact the Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 957-7910. Requests should be made

as soon as possible but at least five (5) days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on the availability of service or resource needed.

Direct media inquiries to mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

Direct general inquiries regarding the Blue Ribbon Commission to CEC staff at lithiumvalleycommission@energy.ca.gov.

Availability of Documents

Notices and documents for this proceeding are posted to the docket which can be accessed at [Docket Log No. 20-LITHIUM-01](#), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01>, or at the [webpage](#) titled "Lithium Valley Commission" at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley>.

When new documents, comments, or other information is posted to the docket, an email will be sent to the Commission's list subscription. To receive these notices about the Commission, subscribe on the webpage titled "[Lithium Valley Commission](#)," <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley>, through the subscription portal located in the right column of the webpage. Manage existing list servers or sign up for others at [CEC Subscriptions](#), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at Sacramento, California.