

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Lithium Valley Commission
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Community and Tribal Workshop on the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California

October 18 - 21, 2022



Welcome and Introductions



Purpose of Today's Meeting:

- **Learn about the Draft Report and share your thoughts**
- **Public Comment Period Closes October 28th, 2022**

More information can be found on the at:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley>



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Overview of CA's Lithium Valley Vision
3. Presentation on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California and its Draft Report
4. Facilitated Discussion on the Draft Report's Findings and Recommendations
 - a) Group Discussion
 - b) General Discussion
5. Next Steps
6. Adjourn



What is Lithium?

What is the State's Lithium Valley Vision?



What is Lithium?

Lithium is a soft, silvery-white metal that is an essential part of lithium-ion batteries for consumer products including: cell phones, electric vehicles, and energy storage systems.



Lithium Carbonate





What is the State's Lithium Valley Vision?



Lithium Valley is a term used by state leaders to describe the potential world-class lithium industry and economic hub in California -- centered on recovery of lithium from geothermal brine from a Known Geothermal Resource Area in Imperial County



Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California and Draft Report



Background: Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California

Assembly Bill 1657 (Garcia) was enacted in 2020 and created the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California. The legislative findings and declarations for the bill are:

- World demand for lithium is expected to grow as much as tenfold in the next decade, but virtually none is produced in the United States. Almost all of the global lithium supply is mined in Argentina, Chile, China, and Australia.
- The Salton Sea geothermal resource area is well-positioned to become a competitive source of lithium that could satisfy more than one-third of today's worldwide lithium demand, but investment in this resource requires that the technology to recover lithium from geothermal brine on a commercial scale can occur without certain risks and uncertainties.
- There is a national security rationale for developing a domestic supply of lithium. Lithium was listed in the Federal Register as a critical mineral "essential to the economic and national security of the United States" pursuant to the 2017 presidential Executive Order Number 13817 titled "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals."
- The opportunity for lithium production in California has the potential to unleash billions of dollars of new economic infrastructure development.



Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (AB 1657, 2020 (Garcia))



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Tom Soto
LATIMER PARTNERS, LLC



Jonathan Weisgall
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY ENERGY



Alice Reynolds
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION



Background: Tasked to Review, Investigate, and Analyze Eight Topics

1. Geothermal energy development for lithium recovery
2. Market opportunities
3. Electricity grid benefits
4. Technical and economic challenges
5. Safety and environmental protection
6. Economic benefits and environmental impacts
7. Local, state, and federal incentive and investment opportunities
8. Legislative and regulatory changes



Background: Public Process and Engagement

- Over 21 public meetings, with translation and interpretation, on AB 1657 topics and community and Tribal perspectives
 - In-person and virtual meetings at multiple locations in Imperial County
- Establishment of a docket to serve as a centralized location for information and public comments
- Fact Sheets and key documents translated into Spanish, as well as Purepecha

Commission sought to include community and Tribal perspectives to inform its analysis and Draft Report



Draft Report to the Legislature





Overview of Draft Report

Includes 44 draft recommendations that address the 8 statutory topics and reflects community and Tribal perspectives

Structure:

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1: Introduction and Background
- Chapter 2: Lithium Demand, Supply, Recovery and Processing
- Chapter 3: Community and Tribal Priorities and Perspectives
- Chapter 4: AB 1657 Topic Areas – Findings and Recommendations



Proposed Workplan and Schedule

Target Date	Milestone
September 21	Draft Report Posted, 30+ day public comment period begins
September 28	Spanish Translation of Draft Report Posted, Public comment period closes in 30 days
September 29	Commission Meeting with Initial Discussion of Draft Report (Westmorland)
Mid October	Community Workshops Niland (18 th), North Shore (19 th), Salton City (20 th)
October 24	Online Workshop
October 28	Public Comment period closes
October 31	Commission Meeting to Discuss Draft Report, consider public comments, and provide direction to CEC staff on the Final Report (Virtual Meeting)
Mid November	Proposed Final Report Released
November 17	Commission Meeting to Consider and Vote on Final Report
December 1	Commission submits Final Report to the Legislature



Facilitated Group Discussions

Topics

- a) Geothermal energy development for lithium recovery
- b) Market opportunities
- c) Electricity grid benefits
- d) Technical and economic challenges
- e) Safety and environmental protection
- f) Economic benefits and environmental impacts
- g) Local, state, and federal incentive and investment opportunities
- h) Legislative and regulatory changes
 - Community and Tribal Perspectives
 - Outstanding Questions



General Discussion

Group sharing and summary of key comments



Next Steps

Target Date	Milestone
Mid October	Community Workshops Niland (18 th), North Shore (19 th), Salton City (20 th)
October 24	Online Workshop
October 28	Public Comment period closes
Oct 31	LVC Meeting to Discuss Draft Report in more detail, consider public comments, and provide direction to CEC staff on the Final Report
Mid November	Proposed Final Report Released
November 17	LVC Meeting to Consider and Vote on Final Report; Delegate Final Changes to Chair Paz
December 1	CEC submits Final Report to the Legislature on Behalf of the LVC



Submit e-comments

PROCEEDING INFORMATION

Docket Log (20-LITHIUM-01)

Submit e-Comment (20-LITHIUM-01)

Meetings, Notices, and Documents

RESOURCES

AB 1657

Bagley-Keene Guide

CONTACT

[Lithium Valley Commission](#)

916-957-7912

SUBSCRIBE

Add Comment

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For any questions regarding e-commenting, please send an e-mail to e-CommentingHelp@energy.ca.gov, or call 800-822-6228 or 916-654-4489.



Webpage : www.energy.ca.gov/LithiumValleyCommission

List Serv : Lithium Valley Commission

Thank you!

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Adjourn
