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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION

In the matter of,)
)
Lithium Valley) Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01
Community and Tribal Workshop)

COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL WORKSHOP ON THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION OF LITHIUM EXTRACTION IN
CALIFORNIA

Teleconference

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Reported By:
Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

CEC Staff

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Translator

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Public Speaker

Nilda Ruiz

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1

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 October 24, 2022

6:02 P.M.

3 MS. LOZA: Good evening, buenas tardes. My
4 name is Erica Loza. Thank you for connecting and taking
5 time out of your busy days to participate. Before we
6 get started, we're providing interpretation in Spanish
7 and Purepecha. The following slides will give you
8 instructions on how to connect the different
9 interpretation channels.

10 Next slide, please.

11 Daré instrucciones a aquellos de ustedes que
12 quieran escuchar la reunión en español. Hay un
13 intérprete disponible a través de la plataforma Zoom.
14 Para unirse al canal en español, haga clic en el ícono
15 de globo pequeño en la parte inferior de su aplicación
16 Zoom. Seleccione el canal donde dice S-p-a-n-i-s-h.
17 Luego haga clic en la frase siguiente donde dice "Mute
18 Original Audio" para silenciar el audio original. Sí
19 gusta hacer algún comentario, por favor de oprimir el
20 icono de la mano alzada y abierta o envíenos un mensaje
21 en español a través de la función de preguntas y
22 respuestas para ayudarlo.

23 For our English speaker audience, please
24 remember to click on the English option on the globe for
25 the interpretation button. If I could have Max, our

1 interpreter, explain how to join the Purepecha channel
2 in Purepecha, please?

3 MR. OCHOA: (Instructions in Purepecha)

4 MS. LOZA: Thank you. Slide three, please.

5 If you are joining us today via smartphone or
6 tablet, you may need to find the three dots or the more
7 button to navigate to the interpretation option. All
8 attendees should select the channel either English,
9 Spanish, or Purepecha. All members of the public in any
10 language will be given the opportunity to engage in the
11 discussion. The interpreter will assist and translate
12 the public comment into English for the benefit of the
13 attendees in the English Channel. Unfortunately, the
14 Zoom interpretation function does not work for attendees
15 who are only joining by phone, so our attendees on the
16 phone will hear the English channel of this meeting.

17 Next slide, please.

18 So, the California Energy Commission provides
19 administrative support for the Blue Ribbon Commission on
20 the lithium extraction in California. Tonight, we are
21 seeking community and tribal comments on its draft
22 report. Before we get started, I'd like to highlight a
23 few housekeeping and resource items. First, the public
24 meeting is being transcribed by a court reporter. The
25 transcripts will be posted to the docket with a 15-day

1 public comment period, and the CEC will be providing a
2 summary of the information we collect in our discussions
3 and providing it on the Commission's docket.

4 A docket is an online source that houses
5 public information related to the Blue Ribbon
6 Commission's efforts. On the Lithium Valley commission
7 webpage, you will find several resources in English,
8 Spanish, and some materials in Purepecha as well. For
9 example, there are fact sheets on the Blue Ribbon
10 Commission, general Lithium Valley overview, and fact
11 sheets on the draft report. There's also links to the
12 authorizing statute, and links to the Blue Ribbon
13 Commission's report and executive summary.

14 And outside of this webinar, public comments
15 can be submitted at any time or until October 28th for
16 comments on the draft report through the e-commenting
17 system accessed through the Lithium Valley Commission
18 webpage. At the end of the meeting. We will be showing
19 how to submit written comments through the docket.

20 The purpose of today's meeting is for you to
21 share your thoughts and comments on the draft report.
22 Some of you may have specific questions about projects
23 or a process that is not primary -- that is not the
24 primary subject of today's meeting. Therefore, it can't
25 be answered by the CEC team and we will be taking those

1 questions back to the Blue Ribbon Commission.

2 Again, today is focused on soliciting comments
3 on the draft report. And as a reminder, the public
4 comment period on the draft report closes on October
5 28th. The CEC staff have prepared a webinar package
6 that staff is posting it right now on the chat box with
7 keywords that are connected to different draft
8 recommendations to help identify in which section you
9 would like to provide comments.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The agenda for today's meeting is shown on
12 this slide. We will be providing a brief overview of
13 the state's Lithium Valley vision, and provide an
14 overview of the structure of the report. We will be
15 spending most of our time collecting your comments on
16 the draft report's recommendation. Currently there are
17 44. And we will -- have organized this evening around
18 the recommendations. We welcome input on all of the
19 aspects of the report.

20 We prepared a brief poll to help identify the
21 topic to spend more time collecting your comments on the
22 draft report. This poll is to get your opinion and
23 input on the draft report. The poll will automatically
24 show on your screen once it's launched. So please take
25 a moment to answer these two questions. The poll will

1 help us identify where should we spend the most time on.
2 And please scroll down to view all of the options for
3 question two. So, I will give about a minute or two for
4 you to answer these questions.

5 (Pause for quiz)

6 MS. LOZA: Okay we have 6 out of about 30
7 participants. I'll give like another minute so we can
8 try to get more participation.

9 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: I think we're good, Erica.

10 MS. LOZA: Okay. So, these are the results
11 that we received. And I will -- we will work to manage
12 the time accordingly based on these results. So, I will
13 hand it over to my colleague Silvia, to continue with
14 the workshop. Thank you.

15 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you, Erica. Good
16 evening, everyone. Thank you for being here. Let's
17 dive into the brief background and provide a little
18 context about what is lithium, and what is the state's
19 Lithium Valley vision.

20 If we can go to the next slide?

21 Lithium is a silverly, white metal that is
22 essential for lithium-ion batteries for consumer
23 products such as cell phones, electric vehicles, and
24 energy storage systems. Lithium is naturally occurring.
25 It's a key material to make progress in the

1 implementation of a zero-emission transportation and a
2 reliable zero-carbon electricity system that support the
3 goals -- the climate goals in the improvements of air
4 quality and the environment.

5 Next slide.

6 The Lithium Valley is not a geographical
7 space. Rather, it's a concept used by the state to
8 describe a potential world class economic hub that is
9 centered on the recovery of lithium from geothermal
10 brine from one of the locally known Geothermal Resource
11 Areas near Calipatria. Lithium is in geothermal brine.
12 In other words, it is in a hot salty water full of
13 minerals that is around 1.2 miles underground. The
14 geothermal brine in Imperial has more lithium than other
15 areas.

16 Next slide.

17 This opportunity led to the establishment of
18 the Lithium Ribbon Commission -- sorry, the Blue Ribbon
19 Commission on Lithium Extraction in California in 2020.

20 Next slide.

21 Authored by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, the
22 Blue Ribbon Commission was created by Assembly Bill
23 1657. It was supported by the following findings and
24 declarations. World demand for lithium is expected to
25 grow as much as tenfold in the next decade, but

1 virtually none of it is produced in the United States.
2 In other words, only a small amount is produced in the
3 United States. The Salton Sea Geothermal Resource Area
4 is well positioned to become a competitive source of
5 lithium that could satisfy more than one third of
6 today's demand. The development requires investment and
7 removal of barriers.

8 There is a national security rationale for
9 developing a domestic supply of lithium. Lithium has
10 been identified as a critical mineral essential to the
11 economic and national security of the United States.
12 The opportunity for lithium production in California has
13 the potential to unleash billions of dollars of new
14 economic infrastructure and development.

15 The statute tasked the Commission with
16 reviewing, investigating, and analyzing eight topics.
17 Here, we just summarized the language, but there is more
18 detailed language in the statute in the draft report.
19 After its review, the Commission was tasked with
20 providing a report to the legislature with findings and
21 recommendations. The report was due on October 1st, but
22 the Blue Ribbon Commission added more meetings to
23 incorporate additional community feedback and tribal
24 input prior to developing the draft.

25 We are in the right -- I think we are in the

1 right -- I think -- it's the next one, yeah.

2 The statute established the specific
3 requirements of having -- the next slide, please,
4 Jordan? Thank you.

5 The statute established the specific
6 requirements of having 14 Commissioners, which ensured a
7 diverse representation of perspectives. The Commission
8 is made of industry, community organizations,
9 environmental, and policy experts, and state and local
10 representative, and tribal leaders.

11 Next slide?

12 Now focusing on public process and engagement
13 -- next one.

14 Jordan? Next slide.

15 Now we focus on public process and engagement.
16 The Commission conducted more than 21 public meetings.

17 The previous one, Jordan.

18 The Commission conducted more than 21 public
19 meetings, most of them virtual during 2020 and 2021 due
20 to the COVID pandemic. After April 2022 this year, the
21 Commission has held hybrid meetings with physical
22 locations in the communities of Westmorland and
23 Calipatria, as well as in the Torres-Martinez facility
24 in Thermal and in Imperial Valley College.

25 Next slide.

1 And this brings us to the Commission draft
2 report and recommendations to the legislature.

3 Next one. Slide 15.

4 The draft report currently includes 44
5 recommendations for consideration, with several cross-
6 statutory topics required under the law. And the
7 Commission has worked to create the draft report to
8 include the experience of residents in Imperial and
9 Coachella Valleys, and ensure community and tribal
10 voices are represented.

11 Chapter 1 of the report is background
12 information. Chapter 2 provides technical information
13 such as processes related to lithium recovery and
14 processing. Chapter 3 is community and tribal
15 perspective and recommendations. And Chapter 4 includes
16 findings and recommendations for each statutory topic.

17 Next slide.

18 Today, we will be collecting your comments on
19 the draft recommendations for topic areas, tribal and
20 community and perspective, and we will open to general
21 comments on the report in the end.

22 We go to the next one, slide 17. Thank you.

23 We will start this conversation in Section 8
24 of Chapter 4. A statutory topic action that will
25 support the further development of geothermal power that

1 have the potential to provide the co-benefits of lithium
2 recovery for existing geothermal facilities. For those
3 who have the draft report opened already, Staff I think
4 included the report on the chat. So, for those who have
5 the report opened, please go to page 35 and 36 on the
6 English draft, or 38-40 in the Spanish version.

7 And feel free to raise your hands if you would
8 like to provide comments on this specific section of the
9 draft report. We will have around 10 minutes for each
10 discussion topic, so we will have time for up to five
11 participants on each topic. Erica will give us
12 instructions on how to participate in the discussion.
13 Erica?

14 MS. LOZA: We will now take two-minute
15 comments or recommendations on each topic area. As a
16 reminder, to please state and spell your name and state
17 your affiliation unless you want to remain anonymous for
18 the court reporter. Please use the raise-hand feature
19 if you've called in, or please dial star-nine to raise
20 your hand and star-six to unmute your phone line. I
21 will call you in order of the hands being raised and
22 unmute you when you're ready for -- when you're next in
23 line.

24 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you Erica, please go
25 ahead and call in the first participants if we have.

1 MS. LOZA: So far, no hands raised.

2 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Let's wait a little bit to
3 see if we get someone who wants to provide comments.

4 Okay, so perhaps we can move to the next topic
5 area. Thank you.

6 So, our next section is Statutory Topic B,
7 market opportunities for lithium. For those who have
8 the draft open, and I saw that the draft is already in
9 the chat, please go to page 36 and 40 in the English
10 draft, and 40 and 44 on the Spanish version. And feel
11 free, again, to raise your hand in case you want to
12 provide comments. Erica, do you want to move forward?

13 MS. LOZA: Yes. Let's see. As a reminder,
14 please use the raise-hand feature. If you've called in,
15 please dial star-nine to raise your hand and star-six to
16 unmute your phone line.

17 We can give another --

18 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Mmm hmm

19 MS. LOZA: -- twenty seconds to find that
20 button.

21 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: So, like I mentioned before,
22 we will have also general comments in the end. So, this
23 is more specific for the sections from Chapter 4.

24 Okay.

25 MS. LOZA: So far, no hands raised. Do you

1 want to move on to Topic C.

2 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you, Erica. So now,
3 as Erica mentioned, we go to Section 4 from Chapter -
4 Section C from Chapter 4, a statutory topic, the
5 potential benefits of and added value to existing and
6 new geothermal facilities in areas that contain mineral-
7 rich brines for the state, the western energy grid in
8 the United States, including but not limited to grid
9 stability, reliability, and resiliency. You'll find
10 that section on page 40-42 in the English draft, and 44-
11 47 on the Spanish version.

12 So, feel free to raise your hands if you have
13 any comment on that section. So, remember that that
14 section also have the findings. In the end of each
15 section, we have the recommendations as well.

16 Okay. So --

17 MS. LOZA: Okay. As a reminder, please use
18 the raise-hand feature. If you've called in, please
19 dial star-nine to raise your hand and star-six to unmute
20 your phone line.

21 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Let's give one more minute
22 to see if we have comments on this one.

23 So, remember, also staff posted the workshop
24 package. That will help you as well. You don't need to
25 go to the report, that can help you also in the small

1 document to find the recommendations that we are
2 talking.

3 Okay, let's go to the next slide. Slide 20.

4 So, our next discussion is on Section D. A
5 statutory topic, methods of overcoming technical and
6 economic challenges currently limiting lithium
7 extraction, processing, and production for geothermal
8 brines. Please go to page 43-45 in the English draft,
9 and 47-49 in the Spanish version.

10 And also, feel free to raise your hands if you
11 would like to provide comments on this section of the
12 draft report. And also you can submit your question
13 through the Q&A box.

14 Erica, do you want to explain how to -- the
15 instructions to raise your hands and provide comments?

16 MS. LOZA: Yes. As a reminder, please use the
17 raise-hand feature. It looks like a regular hand on the
18 bottom of your screen. If you've called in, please dial
19 star-nine to raise your hand and star-six to unmute your
20 phone line. You also have the option to use the Q&A
21 feature.

22 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Okay. Go to the next slide.

23 So, we move to Section E, a statutory topic,
24 safe environmental methods and standards for lithium
25 extraction from geothermal brines, and how this compares

1 to other methods for deriving lithium. Please go to
2 page 45-51 in the English draft, and 49-57 on the
3 Spanish version.

4 And again, feel free to raise your hands if
5 you would like to provide comments on this section of
6 the draft report. And Erica, could you please call the
7 first participant if we have?

8 I think everybody wants to go to the general
9 comments.

10 MS. LOZA: Okay. So far, no hands raised.
11 Checking the Q&A box, there are no questions.

12 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Okay. Okay, let's move to
13 the next one. Our next discussion is on Section 3 --
14 sorry, F. A statutory topic, potential economic and
15 environmental impacts to the state resulting from
16 extraction, processing, and production of lithium and
17 lithium-dependent products from geothermal brines.
18 Please go to page 52-64 in the English draft, and 57-71
19 on the Spanish version. And again, feel free to raise
20 your hands if you would like to provide comments on this
21 section of the draft report.

22 Erica, can you see if we have comments?

23 MS. LOZA: We have one Q&A, but it was, "We're
24 testing to see if this is working." And yes, it does
25 work.

1 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: So perhaps we can wait.

2 MS. LOZA: Yes. We can wait

3 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: And see if they are going to
4 write.

5 MS. LOZA: Okay, we got one. It was one by
6 Jasmyrn Phillips. It says, "A portion of the Salton Sea
7 KGRA is currently underwater, but will likely become
8 exposed as the lake continues to shrink. We have seen
9 plans to expand the geothermal and lithium facilities on
10 the exposed playa. Is there a mitigation provision that
11 would restore the aquatic habitat on the playa next to
12 the facilities? And what would be the water source for
13 the habitat?"

14 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: If the person who submitted
15 the comment wants to kind of provide, kind of rephrase
16 the questions and provide kind of recommendations
17 instead, it's welcome. It's very welcome, that way the
18 staff can kind of consider that comment as a
19 recommendation or suggestion from the recommendation.

20 MS. LOZA: Yes, definitely also feel free to
21 raise your hand so I can unmute you and you can have the
22 oral recommendation if you'd prefer.

23 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Okay. Let's go to slide 23.

24 Okay, yeah. Our next discussion is on Section
25 G, a statutory topic -- the importance of opportunities

1 for the application of local, state, and federal
2 incentive and investment to facilitate lithium
3 extraction for geothermal brines. Please go to page 64-
4 66 in the English draft, and 71-74 on the English
5 version. And again, please feel free to raise your hand
6 if you would like to provide comments on this section of
7 the draft report, and also to write through the Q&A box.

8 And also, if you have any questions that you
9 wanted to rephrase as a recommendation, that's also
10 welcome so that way the staff can take notes related to
11 recommendation and take to the October 31st meeting.

12 Okay. Okay, let's go to the last AB 1657
13 topic area, that is recommendation Section H, a
14 statutory topic recommendation for legislative or
15 regulatory changes that may be needed to encourage
16 lithium extraction from geothermal brines. Including
17 whether the development of a centralized tracking system
18 for lithium projects permitting by the state and local
19 regulatory agencies could assist with developing the
20 lithium industry.

21 For this recommendation, you can go to page 67
22 in the English draft, and 74 and 75 on the Spanish
23 version. And feel free to raise your hands if you would
24 like to provide comments on this section of the draft
25 report.

1 MS. LOZA: As a reminder, please use the
2 raise-hand feature. And if you've called in, please
3 dial star-nine to raise your hand and star-six to unmute
4 your phone line.

5 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Okay. Remember that you
6 also -- you can find the recommendations per section in
7 the appendix in the end of the draft report.

8 Okay, let's -- now we have the general
9 comments. Oh no, actually, sorry. We now move to the
10 recommendation for Chapter 3. Chapter 3 focuses more on
11 community and tribal priorities and perspectives. So,
12 you will find those recommendations on page 29-31 in the
13 English version, and 31 and 33 in the Spanish version.
14 No, sorry. I was reading. So, for community
15 perspective you will find in page 29-31 in the English
16 version, and in the Spanish one, page 32 and 34. So
17 let's go first with the community perspective, and later
18 and then we go in to the tribal one.

19 So, if you have any comments, please feel free
20 to raise your hands and also you can add your comments
21 through the Q&A box.

22 Also, I want to mention that staff posted the
23 draft report in English, in Spanish, and Purepecha on
24 the chat. And also we provided the webinar package in
25 English and in Spanish. So, in case you want to -- that

1 have some keywords that can help you with your comments
2 as well.

3 Okay. So also, for the tribal perspective, we
4 -- you can find on page 31-33 in the English version,
5 and page 35 and 36 on the tribal -- in the Spanish
6 version.

7 Let's give some -- a few minutes to see if we
8 have comments on community perspective and tribal
9 perspective? You will find those perspective -- you
10 know, that discussion on Chapter 3 of the draft report.

11 Okay. So, perhaps we can move to the general
12 comments. So, this is the opportunity to provide
13 comments on any section or chapter of the draft report.
14 Could be the executive summary, could be the
15 introduction. In Chapter 2, they talk about more like
16 the technical information and it's open to any type of
17 comments. So please, feel free to raise your hands and
18 or provide comments to the Q&A box.

19 Erica, do you want to explain how to provide
20 comments?

21 MS. LOZA: Yes. So, as a reminder, please use
22 the raise-hand feature. On the bottom of your Zoom
23 screen, you should see an open palm. If you've called
24 in, please dial star-nine to raise your hand and star-
25 six to unmute your phone line.

1 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: So, remember that this is
2 the structure of the report. So, we have the executive
3 summary, we have Chapter 1 that is, like I mentioned
4 before, introduction and background. Chapter 2 is
5 lithium demand, supply, recovery, processing. Chapter 3
6 is more kind of focused on the perspective of community,
7 tribal priorities and perspectives. Chapter 4 is the AB
8 1657 topic areas, findings and recommendations. And we
9 have also Chapter 5 that is more kind of the conclusion.
10 And we have the appendix, where we include some kind of
11 complementary information relative. One of them is the
12 recommendations as well.

13 Okay. Okay, so we can go to next steps.
14 Perhaps the -- yeah. Next slide.

15 So, thank you again everyone for your comments
16 and input. This slide shows a summary of the
17 Commission's next steps. Remember that public comments
18 runs through October 28th, it's this Friday. And the
19 Commission also will meet on October 31st. This is an
20 online, or virtual meeting, to consider public comments
21 and provide direction to the CEC on modifications for
22 incorporation in the final report.

23 The final report is anticipated to be released
24 in November for Commissioner consideration on November
25 17th, and submitted on December 1st to the legislature.

1 We appreciate your participation, and information on
2 future meetings can be found on the Lithium Valley
3 Commission webpage. And in the next slide, Erica is
4 going to explain a little bit about how to submit
5 comments or written comments through our docket system.
6 Erica, do you want to -- yeah.

7 MS. LOZA: Yes. Okay, whenever -- if Jordan,
8 can you share the Google page? Perfect, thank you.

9 So, on your favorite web browser you can
10 search the word Lithium Valley Commission and you can
11 see the link on the webpage or like the top three
12 choices. You should look for the end .ca.gov, as Jordan
13 is hovering over the first link. Once you click on that
14 link, you'll find the Lithium Valley Commission
15 homepage. And on the top right portion of your screen,
16 you'll see those two links under the preceding
17 information. So, let's see.

18 You'll see the docket log link and the submit
19 the e-comment link. So, when you click on the second
20 link, the e-comment link, it'll take you to another
21 page. There you'll be able -- we're going to ask for
22 the contact information with the name and email, and
23 then you'll be able to add your comments. So just as
24 Jordan is doing so now.

25 Really, this page is only asking for the name

1 and email, everything else is optional. The title is
2 also a required area for us. And you can either type
3 your comment underneath that, or you can submit a Word
4 document or a PDF file where Jordan is hovering now.
5 And once you're all set and ready, you can go ahead and
6 finalize and review your document by agreeing and
7 clicking that orange box at the bottom of the screen.

8 So, if you can go back, Jordan, on the
9 homepage we can click on the first link and that will
10 take you to the docket log, where you'll find all of the
11 documents submitted from the public, Commission staff,
12 and stakeholders. So, this is where you'll see all of,
13 like, any relevant information for the Lithium Valley
14 Commission. If you can go back to the homepage again.

15 Thank you. Below the related links on the
16 yellow box, there's a subscribe option. I recommend
17 putting an email in case you want to receive
18 notifications. When someone is docketing a new item,
19 you will receive that notification through your email so
20 you will always be up to date. Thank you.

21 Oh, I see there's two questions. Perfect.

22 Okay, so the first one is from Marissa. "Did
23 the CEC or the LVC write the Draft Report?"

24 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: So, like you know this is a
25 Blue Ribbon Commission on lithium extraction in

1 California draft report -- so, all the report is based
2 on what the discussion and all the workshops the
3 Commission conducted during this two year period. Since
4 2021-2022, there have been over 21 meetings collecting
5 input from stakeholders and experts. And CEC, as a body
6 that supports the Commission, they helped to write the
7 report but based on the Commission input and discussion.

8 Can you read the next one?

9 MS. LOZA: Yes. The second one is from
10 Jasmy. It says, "Since a portion of the Salton Sea
11 KGRA is currently under the lake will likely become
12 sites for the geothermal and lithium facilities, I
13 recommend that aquatic habitat and wetland restoration
14 alongside the facilities be prioritized over tillage and
15 revegetation as dust abatement methods."

16 Thank you.

17 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: And also, we have a --

18 MS. LOZA: Yes. We have another comment from
19 John Cubit. It says, "Why isn't the Commission
20 conducting more public information about the lithium
21 extraction methods planned for the Salton Sea area?
22 The Commission is failing to inform the public about the
23 facts, but huge amounts of false information are being
24 spread on local social media."

25 Okay.

1 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you, Erica. Also, we
2 have a raised hand.

3 MS. LOZA: Yes. Nilda Ruiz, you should be
4 able to unmute yourself.

5 MS. RUIZ: Thank you, Erica. I just have a
6 recommendation on Section F. I think it's the one on
7 the environmental economic impacts, it's Section F.
8 Economic impacts number five, where it speaks about
9 requiring and funding the formation of a community
10 advisory council to provide input and guidance on
11 community benefits agreements, and provide funding to
12 the community capacity building.

13 My recommendation is for at least half of that
14 community advisory council to be -- to represent the
15 North Imperial communities of the West Shores area,
16 Calipatria, Niland, Bombay Beach, and Westmorland. So,
17 for at least half of that community advisory council for
18 those members who represent those communities. That's
19 it. Thank you.

20 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you, Nilda. And that
21 -- I just want to read the recomm-- the recommendation
22 Section F, the potential environmental economic impact
23 to the state resulting from extraction, processing, and
24 production of lithium from geothermal brines in lithium-
25 dependent products. So, Nilda's comments were related

1 to the recommendation. Right, Nilda?

2 MS. RUIZ: Yes.

3 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you.

4 Okay, any other comments before going to end
5 of the meeting?

6 MS. LOZA: No, but for John's question, I
7 think it can be --

8 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Okay --

9 MS. LOZA: -- raised right into a
10 recommendation, if you want to raise your hand, John,
11 and --

12 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: What is the -- let me see
13 the -- what is the question?

14 MS. LOZA: The question is, "Why isn't the
15 Commission conducting more public information about the
16 lithium extraction methods planned for the Salton Sea
17 area?"

18 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: So, perhaps it's more kind
19 of if we go to Chapter 3, that is focused on community
20 perspective. Perhaps a recommendation related -- we can
21 read the recommendations that are included in this
22 chapter and see if the Commission included that
23 recommendation where they want to inform the public and
24 want to provide kind of more information to the public.

25 For example, let me see if we can go to the

1 recommendation to see if the report already. So, for
2 example, go to page 30, and that is the recommendation,
3 like I said before, from the community perspective.
4 They say, "Require and fund the CEC or another state
5 agency to continue community coordination, education,
6 and engagement activities centered around lithium
7 recovery and geothermal power plants' individual direct
8 lithium extraction projects in Imperial County."

9 So, there is like a different recommendation
10 relative to the community, and think it could be related
11 exactly to education and to help people kind of
12 understand, you know the community to understand the
13 projects and what is lithium. So, I think that that
14 could kind of answer the question.

15 So, like I said before, if we go to page 30,
16 on Chapter 3, community perspective, you can find
17 information relative to that.

18 Okay.

19 MS. LOZA: Okay, we have a hand raised by
20 Nilda. You should be able to unmute yourself.

21 MS. RUIZ: Thanks, Erica. Just one more
22 recommendation. On Topic B, market opportunities for
23 lithium, recommendation number -- Sorry, I'm heading
24 back -- on Number 2, where it says, "Continue to provide
25 research and development funding to advance lithium

1 recovery technologies and develop next generation
2 improvements to existing technologies, with a focus on
3 ensuring the long-term success of the planned
4 facilities."

5 I agree with this recommendation for the most
6 part, with just a little caveat that this is -- that any
7 improvements are done in a way that will not sacrifice
8 environmental safety for--and public health.

9 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Thank you, Nilda. And did
10 you say Recommendation B-4 is the what -- which one,
11 which number?

12 MS. RUIZ: B-2.

13 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: B-2.

14 MS. RUIZ: Mmm hmm.

15 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: And remember that also you
16 can find related to public health discussion, you find
17 in Recommendation F. They have a lot of discussions
18 related to environmental. And also, I think E where we
19 discuss also about CEQA. So, there is kind of many
20 discussions relative to public health as well. Thank
21 you, Nilda.

22 Okay. So, will we give one more minute to see
23 if we also someone want to write a comment on the Q&A,
24 or also raise a hand?

25 Erica, do you want to explain how we can --

1 how people can raise their hands to participate? Just
2 kind of the last call before concluding the meeting?

3 MS. LOZA: Yes. Okay. As a reminder, if you
4 would like to make a recommendation or comment, please
5 use the raise-hand feature. There's an open-hand palm
6 on the bottom of your screen. If you've called in,
7 please dial star-nine to raise your hand and star-six to
8 unmute your phone line.

9 MS. PALMA-ROJAS: Okay. So. Thank you,
10 everyone, for your participation and comments. And
11 remember to submit your written comments by this Friday,
12 October 28th. Remember that the submission period ends
13 at 5:00 P.M.. After that time, no more comments will be
14 received because the system also closes at 5:00 P.M..

15 And, thank you and see you on October 31st.
16 Thank you very much.

17 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 6:47
18 P.M.)

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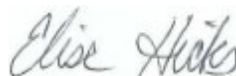
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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 4th day of November, 2022.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT
CERT**2176

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I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

November 4, 2022