

**DOCKETED**

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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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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 FINAL 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). 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 *Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California* (Report) was adopted by the Blue Ribbon Commission at its November 17, 2022, meeting.

### **Background**

The 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:

- 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 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 23 public meetings from February 2021 through November 2022. These meetings provided the Commission an opportunity to learn from representatives of industry, academia, California Native American tribes), community organizations, and 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, 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 Report is posted in the Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01, under TN 247861. When the Spanish translation of the Report is available, anticipated by the end of December 2022, it will also be posted to Docket No. 20-LITHIUM-01.

**Direct media inquiries** to [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4989.

**Direct general inquiries regarding the Blue Ribbon Commission** to CEC staff at [lithiumvalleycommission@energy.ca.gov](mailto:lithiumvalleycommission@energy.ca.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **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), <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01>, or at the [webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley) 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 are 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)," <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](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: Thursday, December 1, 2022, at Sacramento, California.