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Blue hydrogen

Thank you for organizing this workshop on Lithium Valley. I appreciate the information that has been shared so far. I serve on the Lithium Valley Academic Taskforce and have been providing feedback on the Specific Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report. Supervisor Kelley's mention of "blue hydrogen" in the presentation was the first I have heard of this in the context of Lithium Valley. This is concerning because of well known greenhouse gas emissions associated with blue hydrogen. The Lithium Valley Final Baseline Report (Section 7.1.5) specifically distinguishes between blue and green hydrogen, noting that blue hydrogen involves hydrocarbons and methane with an output of carbon dioxide that "does not reduce energy dependence on gas and perpetuates a development model based on fossil fuels" (p. 97). This does not seem consistent with the guiding principles of Lithium Valley that are focused mainly on promoting clean energy and climate change mitigation through electrification. Moreover, it is not clear how green hydrogen or other uses like biofuel are going to be integrated with geothermal and other green industrial developments. Similar to geothermal DLE, green hydrogen may have a significant water footprint, which is of course a key concern for cumulative impacts in this area in the context of drought planning for the Colorado River.

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