

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-AFC-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Elmore North Geothermal Project (ENGP)
<b>TN #:</b>	258990
<b>Document Title:</b>	Imperial County Resident Comments
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Fernanda Vega
<b>Organization:</b>	Imperial County Residents
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	9/4/2024

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Water, Hazardous Waste

**Resident Name:** Johanna Espinoza

**Resident City/Town:** Calexico

Comments:

As a resident of Imperial Valley for 22 years of my life, I am directly impacted by climate change, whether it's through the deterioration of the environment and the mismanagement of resources. We have a lot of politicians in office who refuse to adopt climate-resilient policies and who refuse to make the climate change a priority in their agendas.

The connection between the environment's alterations and the health of the community are often overlooked. It's obvious to me (and has been backed up by research) that environmental changes, such as the building of a new geothermal plant, will affect the community's health. In this report written by Earthworks, I read that there are 7 potential hazards for both the environment and communities. I fear that access to potable water could be compromised along with the air quality in our county. We already have enough to worry about with the drying of the Salton Sea and carbon emissions from neighboring cities in Mexico. I don't see the sustainability in adding 3 more geothermal plants in an area that is already so heavily polluted and that already has 11 geothermal sites throughout.

In retrospect, lithium is a more sustainable option than energy sources we've used in the past but we have to look into the intersection public health, environmental health, and sustainability. We need to address the inequities that exist in the present and make sure that the environmental permitting process isn't being rushed at the expense of a county of 180,000. Do not make the Imperial Valley a sacrifice zone.

September 2, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality & Salton Sea Degradation

**Resident Name:** Anthony Cornejo

**Resident City/Town:** Imperial

Comments: I live in Imperial and I am worried about the freshwater consumption that will be used for this project. The Salton Sea is an already struggling body of water as it is gradually drying up; this project has the potential to speed up this process. As the sea recedes, land that was covered with saline water for decades lays bare. This increase in land salinity poses struggles to native plant, aviary life, aquatic life, and to Imperial Valley residents. Hyper-saline levels pose serious health concerns and can increase asthma rates, thus it is crucial that this be considered. Imperial Valley residents already suffer from respiratory issues due to poor air quality, and this will only worsen the problem. In addition, the sea's aquatic life was stocked into it for sport and commercial purposes—creating a diverse ecosystem. However, the sea's salinity levels have only gotten higher due to sea degradation, to the point where it is assumed the only fish species that presently inhabit the Sea are algae eating tilapia. The sea's aquatic population is already staggering, we cannot add on to its disappearance. Furthermore, the Salton Sea is home to the second-most Avian bio-diverse region in North America. This is because the Salton Sea is a rest stop for aviary animals following the Pacific Flyway path. Not only will the degradation of the sea make this stop unsustainable, but the project's construction along with noise and light disruptions will heavily affect this. There must be alternatives so that the Salton Sea's ecosystems are not harmed. More importantly, there needs to be alternatives so that Imperial Valley residents are not harmed.

I am worried about this project and the serious threats that it poses. As a resident, this will not only affect me, but my friends and family who reside here as well. If this project's consumption of freshwater poses harm to our air quality and sea, I am worried about its consequences. I implore that the amount of water that will be used is studied and made

easily *available* to the public. We are the stakeholders. Please consider our struggles and find an alternative that will not impact the Imperial Valley and its inhabitants.

**September 3rd, 2024**

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03**

**Environmental Topics of Concern:** Water Resources

**Resident Name:** Bryan Vega

**Resident City/Town:** Holtville

**Comments:**

Dear Reader,

You and I may not know each other, but I ask that you consider my perspective as you review this comment. The water quality in Imperial County is a significant concern for all of us who call this community home. We are the unfortunate hosts to two of the nation's most polluted rivers, the Alamo and the New River, as well as the long-standing environmental disaster, the Salton Sea. The water quality here poses a threat not only to us, the stewards of this land, but also to the flora, fauna, and the local economy.

As we navigate the clean energy transition, it is crucial not to overlook the environment. I urge you to allocate some of the investments in this region toward water quality studies. This initiative could foster a new sub-economy rooted in the region, creating local apprenticeships and internships to train the next generation of water specialists. By studying and improving our water quality, we can take a meaningful step toward restoring and preserving our water supply.

Lastly, please be mindful of the decisions you make regarding Lithium Valley. A friendly reminder: 180,000 of us live here, and we love our home. We have no desire to leave, and we accept the responsibility to maintain a healthy environment. Your decisions will have a direct impact on our lives, and we trust that you will make choices that reflect the best interests of our community.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Vega  
Holtville, CA

August 30, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Lack of Water

**Resident Name:** Christopher Gallo

**Resident City/Town:** Niland, Ca.

Comments:

There is not enough water for these plants to operate at what they will require. Either do sea to sea with Gulf of Mexico to salton sea or cancel the plants. How many years can they operate if they dont have the water they need. two or three? The colorado is getting lower, not higher. When they use up all the resources they can and can no longer operate, and profit, then they will just leave with a big mess behind. Sound familiar? Water first!!! Then Lithium. Duh.

Not to mention, air pollution and native lands. Stop repeating the same stories. Create new stories that are not based on greed but on longevity for man and nature.

This does not require investigations, it requires common sense.

Please do the right thing. not the short term thing.

Gallo

310 804 3321

<http://gallodp.com>

<http://www.healdocumentary.com/>

September 1, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality / Pollution

**Resident Name:** Francisco Valladares

**Resident City/Town:** Calxico

To Whom It May Concern:

Air quality is already an issue in the valley, and in the past other industries have come and gone with all the benefit funds without the community having its fair share.



September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality/Pollution

**Resident Name:** Gilberto Manzanarez

**Resident City/Town:** Calexico, CA

I live in Calexico, California, the south end part of the Imperial Valley. Although technically the farthest city from these proposed developments taking place, I still have great concern about the air quality in this county. In Calexico, we have one of the most polluted rivers in the county, the New River, which over decades has caused great harm to our community. This county already has one of the highest rates of asthma in the state, including people like me, who suffer from asthma symptoms daily. I wish to express my concern about a proper environmental evaluation before approving these projects for the health of all of us who will be impacted in this community. I understand these projects are being presented as a separate project from the Lithium proposed developments, but any development that has the possibility to harm our already impacted community should be analyzed thoroughly before any approval, whether it is lithium, geothermal, or any other industry. As a person living with asthma for more of their life, I do not wish to see a further impacted air quality around myself and my neighbors.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:**

**Resident Name: Malik Glasgow**

**Resident City/Town: Seeley, CA**

As a resident of the Imperial Valley, I want to express my deep concern over the proposed geothermal plants in the Salton Sea region, particularly regarding the lack of transparency around water use and the potential impact on air quality.

First, the ongoing silence about how much water these projects will consume is deeply unsettling. We live in a region where water is already scarce and tightly managed, and the absence of clear information since the last public workshop in July leaves us in the dark. The CEC must provide an updated and detailed water assessment before moving forward with any decisions. It is imperative that our community understands the full scope of water usage, including where it will come from and how it will affect local resources. Without this transparency, we cannot trust that these geothermal plants won't further strain our environment.

Air quality is another pressing issue. The Imperial Valley already struggles with significant air pollution, and the new EPA regulations on emissions provide an opportunity to reduce that burden. However, it appears that Berkshire Hathaway has not been held to these updated standards. This is unacceptable. If these projects are to proceed, the CEC must enforce the latest federal air quality regulations to protect the health of our community. We cannot afford to let corporations bypass these standards at the expense of the air we breathe.

While clean energy is vital, it should not come at the cost of our community's well-being. We demand that the CEC prioritize water sustainability and enforce strict air quality regulations before approving these geothermal plants.

September 1, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Other

**Resident Name:** Rafael Valdez

**Resident City/Town:** Brawley

These jobs will be outsourced and there is no way some small certifications provided at Imperial Valley College will be hired for these plants. The Brawley SDSU STEM building isn't even completed yet to fulfill engineering positions at said job site. Berkshire is making false promises, and short-term investments that don't benefit the valley people. Berkshire should be investing in the training and preparation of people for this plant. They also need to invest in a cleanup plan for the deposits of lithium and healthcare that come along with the aftermath of the extraction. Extraction but no investment.

September 4, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Socioeconomics

**Resident Name:** Raul Ureña

**Resident City/Town:** Calxico

Comments:

As a concerned member of the Imperial Valley community, I am deeply troubled by the proposed construction of new geothermal plants in the Salton Sea area. While I recognize the need for clean energy development, it must not come at the cost of the health, safety, and sustainability of our local environment and communities.

First and foremost, there has been a significant lack of transparency regarding water use for these projects. It is unacceptable that the CEC has yet to release any updates on the water assessment, as promised during the July 31st workshop. Water is a vital resource in our region, and any disruption or overuse could have severe consequences. We demand immediate disclosure of water usage plans and a robust strategy to ensure that our already scarce water resources are not depleted.

In addition, air quality is another pressing concern. Despite new, stricter EPA regulations on emissions, Berkshire Hathaway appears to be operating under outdated standards. Our community should not be subjected to higher levels of pollution when federal guidelines offer a clear path toward minimizing harm. We urge the CEC to enforce current federal emissions standards rigorously and hold developers accountable to them.

The impact on cultural and tribal resources also cannot be ignored. Preliminary assessments indicate that local wildlife could suffer as a result of these developments. I strongly encourage the CEC to incorporate comprehensive mitigation measures to protect our environment and the cultural heritage that is inseparably tied to it.

Worker safety must be of utmost importance in any construction project, especially one as complex as geothermal plant development. The risks posed to workers cannot be underestimated, and the highest possible safety standards must be implemented to protect lives.

In conclusion, while the promise of new jobs is appealing, we must not allow the Imperial Valley to be treated as a sacrifice zone in the pursuit of net-zero goals. Clean energy should not come at the cost of our health, environment, and cultural heritage. I urge the CEC to prioritize the well-being of our communities over corporate interests.

August 28, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Tribal Resources

**Resident Name:** Robert Holzman

**Resident City/Town:** El Centro

Hello my name is Robert Holzman,

I have been an Imperial County resident for more than 30 years. I have been following the progress of the reservations in and adjacent to Imperial County. Mining operations can do irreparable harm to tribal resources. Sacred sites are also vulnerable to mining operations. Please, allow the tribes in the surrounding areas additional input on their concerns for tribal resources and cultural sites. Ensure adequate mitigation is required to protect tribal and historic lands and sacred sites.

Sep. 2, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:**

**Water resources, air quality, cultural and tribal resources, lack of long term investment, and negative impact on the local flora/fauna.**

**Resident Name: Sergio Ojeda**  
**Resident City/Town: El Centro, CA**

**Comments:**

Negative impact on endangered species, flora and fauna, in the environment and the disinvested communities has not been properly investigated. The region has already been devastated by a lack of commitment from previous projects and has pushed local flora/fauna to the limits of survival. It seems like this is following the status quo of letting big companies do the least possible damage mitigation at the cost and sacrifice of local residents. In past and recent occasions, valuable resources are exported from a vulnerable region, at the cost of the many and for the benefit of a few.

**Water resources:** The CEC has not disclosed information about water use since the last workshop on July 31st. Despite the CEC stating that they'd publish their water assessment on the docket for the public to comment on, we have yet to receive any updates.

**Air quality:** There are new EPA rulings that are stricter in terms of emissions but as of today, Berkshire Hathaway is not being held to those strict standards. We want the CEC to hold BHE to federal standards.

**Cultural and tribal resources:** the preliminary staff assessment has found that the Elmore North Geothermal Project would harm local wildlife, so we want the CEC to implement mitigation measures to prevent losses.

**Worker safety:** the construction of a new geothermal plant can introduce dangerous working environments, so we want the CEC to implement the highest safety standards so that there is no loss of

lives

**Lack of long-term investments:** BHE has been buying support for lithium extraction by making small-time donations to support local organizations and individuals. We want to see long-term support and investments through community benefits agreements rather than payouts.



September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Transportation, Water Quality, Other

**Resident Name:** Dave Day

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I live in Bombay Beach and I am concerned with the freshwater consumption that these new developments will be using for this project. This community already struggles to pay the high water bills and now that we are competing with Lithium Companies I want to make sure that our communities are not financially impacted by this increased use of water. Please study how much water these companies will be using and how it will affect the community monetarily and their livelihoods. Please find an alternative that won't impact the community.

I am also worried about the increased traffic that these developments will cause, increasing the bad air quality and further damaging the poor infrastructure in our communities. If these developments will be transporting any hazardous waste through our community I am worried that their vehicles will worsen the air quality and disturb the roads that are already in need of fixing. Please study how this increased traffic with hazardous materials and/or lithium will affect our air quality and roads. Please find an alternative that decreases the impact of air quality and infrastructure damages to our roads caused by increased vehicle traffic.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Other

**Resident Name:** Vicky Hernandez

**Resident City/Town:** Niland

I live in Niland and I am concerned with worsening air quality issues in our area. People like myself already struggle breathing in Niland and I am worried that having more activity in this area will worsen the air quality situation. This impact can not only affect myself and my family but the children who attend Grace Smith School. They play outside and some of these students have asthma. I am worried that because of the air quality one of them will have an asthma attack with no medical presence nearby. Please study how the air quality will further burden our community because of the projects and please find an alternative that won't further worsen the air quality situation for our community.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, air quality, cumulative effects, land use/planning, mineral resources, septic system, sewer capacity/solid waste

**Resident Name:** Tao Rusroy

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I am a homeowner and co-founder of Bombay Beach Biennale. Please research any and all impact to Bombay and Salton Sea.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Hydrology, air quality

**Resident Name:** Robert Quinn

**Resident City/Town:** Niland/Bombay Beach

The Salton Sea is dying, the water loss/evaporation is accelerating, our birds are largely gone, the “new” wetlands are now going to be rezoned for the most part. Our air quality is bad and getting worse. Our fresh water/aquifer level is overtaxed even without the massive amount of acre feet needed for this new project.

Bring salt water to the Salton Sea. Remove High salinity water if possible. Conserve bird habitats. Look into air quality issues from a shrinking sea and failed dust mitigation programs. Create long-term programs for saving the Salton Sea.

September 3, 2024

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715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Population/Housing, Recreation, Schools/Universities, Vegetation, Wildfire

**Resident Name:** Karla D. Alvarez

**Resident City/Town:** Calexico

I am a Calexico resident and have always had concerns since resources to our valley are always at risk and there is always worry about our resources such as water through the Colorado river being taken away, agriculture stopping due to more housing etc. To my knowledge, the saltón sea, close by factories in Mexicali and the New river have contributed to the low quality air in the imperial valley community. Will this new project contribute to worsening our air quality? Does this project affect the agriculture/vegetation of our valley in a way that may cause a reduction in agricultural job opportunities? Is there a chance that the residue/ aftermath/excavation will cause dangerous chemicals to pollute our sources of water and our air quality? Will there be traffic delays due to machinery moving around causing traffic? If so for how long?

What benefits will the imperial valley receive from this project?

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Cumulative Effects, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Noise, Public Services

**Resident Name:** Submitted anonymously

**Resident City/Town:** Imperial County

I'm writing out of concern for my and my community's health and air quality concerns. The air here is already plagued with problems. We don't know what we don't know and it is up to the public to determine what questions should be asked.

Hire professionals to ask these questions instead of relying on an uninformed public.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cumulative Effects,  
Hydrology/Water Quality

**Resident Name:** Submitted anonymously

**Resident City/Town:** Imperial County

I am writing to state my concern that the reduction of the Salton Sea will cause dust pollution and more.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cumulative Effects, Drainage/Absorption, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality

**Resident Name:** Judyth Greenburgh

**Resident City/Town:** Owen's Valley

I am from the Owen's Valley where the Owen's lake was sucked dry by LADWP creating a dust bowl that no mitigation has stopped. LADWP was sued and are currently paying billions of dollars to resolve the problem with no avail. It has been an environmental disaster. They are the future you do not want to become - the Salton Sea is much larger making more of an impact. Don't make the same mistake! Leave the water there! If you want some hard data around this I can introduce you to people.



September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality / Calidad de aire, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Cumulative Effects, Drainage/Absorption, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Schools/Universities, Septic System, Sewer Capacity/Solid Waste, Transportation, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian, Wildfire, Other

**Resident Name:** Janenne Willis

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

Hi there,

I am a frequent visitor to Bombay Beach and have a number of questions regarding the impact of the proposed lithium extraction from the Salton Sea. This is a profoundly environmentally significant area for humans and nature alike. The importance of the community having access to transparent and accurate information in all of the areas I have outlined below is paramount...

Environmental Impact:

- a. What are the potential environmental impacts of the proposed projects, particularly in terms of water usage and pollution? Particularly, how will this project alleviate the all critical receding Salton Sea issue?
- b. How will the project mitigate any potential environmental harm, and are there any alternative methods of lithium extraction that have been considered?
- c. What are the potential impacts on local wildlife and habitats, including the Salton Sea itself?
- d. What steps will be taken to ensure the long-term sustainability and health of the region's ecosystem?

#### Economic Impact:

- a. How many jobs will be created by the project, and what types of jobs are they?
- b. What will be the project's contribution to the local economy in terms of tax revenue, infrastructure development, and other economic benefits?
- c. How will the project affect property values and the cost of living in the area?
- d. How will the project benefit the local community, and what measures are in place to ensure that these benefits are realized?

#### Technological Feasibility:

- a. What is the proposed method for extracting lithium from the Salton Sea, and has this method been tested and proven effective elsewhere?
- b. What are the potential technical challenges of the project, and how will they be addressed?
- c. Are there any risks associated with the proposed technology, and what measures are in place to mitigate these risks?
- d. What is the estimated lifespan of the project, and how will it be decommissioned once it reaches the end of its life cycle?

#### Social Implications:

- a. How will the project affect the local communities living around the Salton Sea edges, including residents, businesses, and other stakeholders?
- b. What steps will be taken to address any potential negative social impacts, such as displacement of residents or disruption of local traditions?
- c. How will the project affect the region's cultural heritage and identity?
- d. What measures are in place to ensure that the project respects the rights and interests of indigenous communities in the area? Have the Torrez Martinez Cahuillan people been consulted deeply and how will they be involved from here?

#### Other Considerations:

- a. What are the potential long-term benefits and drawbacks of the project, and how do these compare to other alternatives?
- b. Are there any regulatory or legal challenges that the project may face, and how will these be addressed?
- c. How will the project contribute to global efforts to transition to a more sustainable energy future?
- d. What are the potential risks of the project, and how will these be managed?

These are just some of the many questions that I could ask. I'm sure more detailed questions will unfold as more information comes to hand.

Thank you, Janenne

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Hazards and Hazardous Material, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Public Services, Schools/Universities

**Resident Name:** Submitted anonymously

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I am a resident of Bombay Beach, I am curious and concerned regarding the positive and negative impacts of this project on the community.

September 3, 2024

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715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Drainage/Absorption, Geology/Soils,  
Hydrology/Water Quality, Recreation, Wetland/Riparian

**Resident Name:** Luke Botting

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

Hello, I am a long time lover of the Salton sea, and property owner in Bombay Beach. I have immense concern as to how much water will be used per year that is extracted from the water table/brine and expelled as steam into the air, and the effects on the water table level and in turn, the Salton Sea and surrounding areas. Have any studies on subsidence been conducted? Will this impact the rate of subsidence in the Salton basin or potentially cause more earthquakes?

September 3, 2024

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715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Noise

**Resident Name:** Renata Carvalho

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I'm Renata, I'm an independent artist and filmmaker, who spends winters in Bombay Beach. Please study the impacts on the quality of life of both people and wildlife of rezoning this area in terms of the increase of noise pollution in the region.

Consider the impacts of all activities to take place with the rezoning: building, manufacture, mining and transportation. Consider mitigation options, like making the roads and railroad far enough from the inhabited areas, having building take place only during business hours.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Cumulative Effects, Drainage/Absorption, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Service, Septic System, Sewer Capacity/Solid Waste, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian, Wildfire

**Resident Name:** Submitted anonymously

I'm a member of a local temporary community. I would like to have a positive environmental impact on the land around the salton sea.

It is crucial to scrutinize these matters due to their potential ecological repercussions, which could influence me, my estate, and the broader neighborhood in various ways, whether directly, indirectly, or through aggregate effects. The significance of these subjects in relation to the local geography and the residents of Imperial County merits thorough consideration in the impact study. I appreciate your acknowledgment of my concerns as part of the assessment process.

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Cumulative Effects, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian

**Resident Name:** Charles Philipp

I am concerned about the environmental impacts and do not believe any mining should take place without a proper impact study

September 3, 2024

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Cumulative Effects, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Schools/Universities, Septic System, Sewer Capacity/Solid Waste, Transportation, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian, Wildfire

**Resident Name:** Ivan DeSol

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I've recently moved to Bombay Beach and am concerned with my own health and well being, as well as that of my neighbors and of the surrounding environment

Extraction technologies are notoriously intrusive and destructive. All options need to be considered as well as the impacts on the environment and residents.



September 3, 2024

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Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural resources, Cumulative Effects, Drainage/Absorption, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Schools/Universities, Septic System, Sewer Capacity/Solid Waste, Transportation, Vegetation, Wetland/Riparian, Wildfire

**Resident Name:** Mark Mack

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I am a stakeholder in Bombay Beach and I am concerned about the dwindling and diminishing Salton Sea, the neglected infrastructure around the sea and in Bombay Beach, the lack of Public Resources in our city- the lack of comfort stations - such as shade areas or a public swimming pool for the summertime heat; the lack of water in the Salton Sea will cause more more irreparable damage to the whole are and to Bombay Beach specifically

Any proposal that does not have measures built in that addresses the replenishment of water to the Salton Sea should be dismissed, any proposal that generates money out of the earth around the Salton sea shall be assessed a tax or directly invested in the area for climate restauration the generation of adequate housing, clean air restoration and community projects benefiting the neglected communities

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**Resident Name:** Joel Arellano

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I'm writing because I enjoy and appreciate the Bombay Beach community. I want to ensure we don't subject the community to another round of devastating environmental, economic, and individual health consequences.

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**Resident Name:** Rachel Uwa

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I am an educator currently visiting Bombay Beach for several months, planning to come back yearly, possibly moving to this location depending on safety hazards of the area as this plan develops. I am concerned about the already poor air quality of this area decreasing as extraction begins, as well as how it will affect soil and crops which may be grown or found naturally, how it will affect the water quality, how it might impact the geology and possibly lead to earthquakes, and all other impacts which may affect the quality of life of inhabitants today and for future generations. Will the increasing effects of climate change also be taken into account? I'm also concerned with noise pollution as currently almost anything loud that happens in this city can be heard all-around from miles away. Will there be changes to city infrastructure that could account for better acoustics/absorption of sound if massive new building or machinery et al. are brought into the area for the extraction process? How much will this extraction process interrupt or affect the daily lives of citizens of this county? Additionally and primarily I am very concerned about the governance of this area and would like to know how local officials plan to ensure that all decisions will be made for the benefit of the people who live here more so than the potential profit that might come in. People deserve to matter more than profits. What will you all do to ensure this holds true above all?

In an ideal scenario a very thorough investigation will run before any definitive development plans are finalized and enacted. The local population should have the opportunity for regular check-ins, updates, and the possibility to interrupt the flow of operations with important concerns as they arise. Additionally, there should be a clear

process in place for whom to contact for support and compensation if and when things go awry.

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**Resident Name:** Christopher J Gallo

Where will all the water come from that the plants need to do their process? Seems impossible. What if they get the water rights then decide it is not enough and abandon the project. Then what will happen? What is the strategy if they take up shop elsewhere? Will they still own the water rights even if they abandon the project?

If they are going to build more plants how do you keep them from contaminating the water tables as they are drilling?

How do you plan on distributing the 80% of the tax dollars and where? Specifically. In the future, will they be able to use salt water for the operating plants and if so where will that come from?

What is the impact on the migratory birds?

What are your plans to refill the salton sea in order to control the dust? What is the impact of the lithium mines/plants and the receding shoreline and the toxic dust that is continuing to be exposed and cause lung issues. ? How will this be remedied?



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**Environmental topics of concern:** Biological Resources, Hydrology/Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mineral Resources, Vegetation

**Resident Name:** Roberto Veliz

**Resident City/Town:** Calexico

I am a Calexico resident worried about the extraction industries that are eager to break ground without taking into consideration the challenges that already exist in the Imperial Valley.

Water consumption is one concern. Will mining companies also have water restrictions during droughts? If not, then I don't think this project should move forward.

I'm also concerned about companies leaving without any accountability or possibly declaring bankruptcy should an environmental disaster occur. Will there be performance bonds or funds in case companies leave an environmental wasteland and injured workers? How can companies be held accountable at the state and federal levels should they damage a delicate habitat?

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Cumulative Effects, Hydrology/Water Quality, Wetland/Riparian

**Resident Name:** Sonia Herbert

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

Sonia Herbert, resident of Bombay Beach since 1974, the need for more water in the Salton Sea is badly needed, the birds, fish, and residents all depend on this beautiful area. You must not dry up this potential recreation area for California.

To bring the Salton Sea back to its normal level would eliminate all the problems now and in the future (toxic) dust, becoming a wasteland. The beauty and scenic view of the water, mountains, are of much commerce coming to our communities, people from all over the world! Drying the Sea would greatly impact the whole region forever.

Elon Musk has a plan to bring in water from Carlsbad California, 75 miles through the mountain, pipe in pipe out, bringing the Sea to a healthy level at  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cost of proposed plans. There is no other way except more water for the sea and less for lithium!



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**Resident Name:** Uwe H. Martin

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I have been a part-time resident and property owner in the community of Bombay Beach since 2017. I originally came here to document the water issues of the American West, Imperial Valley agriculture, and the shrinking of the Salton Sea.

As much as I see the development and permitting of additional renewable energy facilities, mineral recovery, lithium battery manufacturing, and other renewable industries as crucial to the region, I also have deep concerns about the environmental and social consequences this could bring upon our Salton Sea community.

I am especially concerned about and ask you to study in-depth: The water levels of the Salton Sea and connected issues, including air quality, wildlife, ecosystem services, etc: How much water will be used? Where is it coming from? Will it further reduce inflow into the Salton Sea? By how much? How will this affect the water levels of the Salton Sea over the next 30 years? How will the reduced inflow be mitigated to prevent Salton Sea water levels from further falling? Who pays for the additional water needed for the development? How much is paid by the users per acre-feet? Who profits from the water sale? Is the water sale to companies taxed, so that communities of the Salton Sea benefit? At which rate? How many acres of Playa will fall dry due to the development? How will the Playa be covered to prevent hazardous dust? Who will be liable for any damages caused by the dust? How do you ensure that benefitting companies will be

held liable for any damages caused directly, indirectly, or cumulative, instead of taxpayers shouldering the bill? How do you ensure resident access to the Salton Sea? Air pollution from playa dust, traffic, industries, etc.

How much additional light pollution is expected and how do you mitigate it? What kind of impacts are expected on groundwater and aquifers? What chemicals are used in the process of mining the resources? What are their environmental impacts? How do you ensure transparency about used chemicals and prevent companies from claiming proprietary rights to this knowledge?

Is there any danger of land subsidence due to the extraction?

What kind of waste is produced by the industries? Where will it be discarded? How do you ensure the safe transport of hazardous waste?

What happens with existing wetlands in the area? How will they be protected? Will they be accessible to the community?

What is the long-term plan to prevent stranded infrastructure?  
What is the overall project cleanup agenda?

How do you ensure that cleanup costs don't fall upon the town/county/state people and taxpayers?

How will the companies involved be held responsible for any environmental disaster, no matter how big or how small?

These topics listed above are of great concern because of the environmental impact this development could have on me, my property, and the surrounding community, be it direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts. The analysis should consider the impacts of these topics because of the importance of the impact on the geography, and affected populations within Imperial County.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my suggested topics for analysis. I am looking forward to seeing my comments reflected in the draft of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Review for the Lithium Valley Specific Plan.

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**Resident Name:** Amanda Simons

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

On behalf of myself, Amanda Simons, visitor to Bombay Beach and supporter of the community who resides there, I am pleased to offer scoping comments for Imperial County's Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the proposed Lithium Valley Specific Plan Project (Project) (SP22-0001).

We understand that the Lithium Valley Specific Plan and PEIR is intended to provide a framework and guidance for the necessary infrastructure and facilities and streamline the development and permitting of additional renewable energy facilities, mineral recovery, lithium battery manufacturing, and other renewable industries within an approximately 51,786-acre area adjacent to the Salton Sea. Currently, the California Energy Commission is seeking the community's comments about the effects this project might have on the environment and suggestions as to alternatives, mitigation or ways the project may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts.

Other concerns are: the future levels of the Salton Sea body of water

The long term plan to prevent stranded infrastructure

Overall project cleanup agenda

Making sure that cleanup costs don't fall upon the town/county/state people and taxpayers

The companies involved will be held responsible for any environmental disaster, no matter how big or how small.

These topics listed above are of great concern because of the environmental impact that it will have on myself, my property, and the surrounding community, be it direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts. The analysis should consider the impacts of these topics because of the importance of the impact on the geography, and affected populations within Imperial County.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my suggested topics for analysis. I am looking forward to seeing my comments reflected in the draft of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Review for the Lithium Valley Specific Plan.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, other

**Resident Name:** Olga Garcia

**Resident City/Town:** Niland

Les Pedimos su apoyo para mejorar a Niland pues nada más vienen y ponen sus empresas y Niland sigues igual. Y ahora con el litio va haber más enfermedades y nos van acabar el agua, y eso no nos lo dicen y ellos saben el impacto.

Que va a tener Niland, y hay personas que nos representa pero no hacen por Niland, solamente por Calipatria y Niland sigue olvidado. Les pido por favor que nos ayuden.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Other

**Resident Name:** Rita Flores

**Resident Town:** Niland

Me impacta saber que nos están preguntando y que nos están tomando en cuenta y ustedes saben todo lo que va a pasar si ponen el litio, pues nos afectará en salud, aire contaminado, y por eso va a ver muchas enfermedades, además nunca se ven mejoras. En Niland solo vienen y instalan sus empresas pues nunca nos comunican qué beneficios tenemos. Les pido por favor que tomen en cuenta todas nuestras formas y nos ayuden a hacer mejoras a Niland.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Land Use/Planning, Other

**Resident Name:** Aristeo O U

**Resident City/Town:** Niland

Soy residente de Niland, el pueblo que el tiempo olvidó. Tenemos problemas con la Salton Sea, geotérmicas, y engordas de ganado. Y la planta eléctrica que trabaja con gas natural, con la agricultura, herbicidas, pesticidas, fertilizantes y ahora la planta de litio que va a traer otro problema con el agua. La calidad del aire no es buena en estos momentos. Adultos y niños sufren de asma y pronto habrá personas muriendo de cáncer de pulmón.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air quality,

**Resident Name:** Maria Ramirez

**Resident City/Town:** Niland

Yo entiendo que el litio nos va a perjudicar porque se necesita mucha agua pues yo lei un reportaje que en los lugares que sacan litio le perjudica a toda la comunidad y pues el pueblo se queda sin agua y en la sequías afectan a la comunidad en la salud y todo. No constante con toda la contaminación que tenemos con las plantas térmicas y las planta de gas, todos los insecticidas que les ponen a las siembras, se dice que el Valle Imperial es el más contaminado de esta zona y ahora nos quieren poner el litio y pues va seguir la contaminación, más grave se va a poner el pueblo. No contaste con eso las plantas que viene a poner sus negocios aquí no ayudan a Niland en nada, y si ayudan queremos saber en dónde están las ayudas porque el pueblo siempre ha estado igual lo único que se sabe que mueren muchas personas de cáncer y asthma y demás enfermedades.



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**Environmental topics of concern:** Wildlife

**Resident Name:** Daniel Guerrero

Daniela Guerrero, retired. My concern is for the local wildlife which is dependant on the environment, wetlands, the Salton Sea, and their surrounding desert area. The wildlife and their habitat should be disturbed as little as possible. Destruction of the habitat would have a direct impact on the local wildlife. A plan for reducing the impact on the environment and wildlife. Displaced wildlife may not survive. Find a method to commit the most minimal impact.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air quality, other  
**Resident Name:** Emmarosa Silva

Emmarosa Silva, I'm writing as a concerned citizen about the small particles, smaller than small teh people may breathe & hurt their lungs. Especially asthmatic people or any one. OUtreach is needed not only having these meetings, we need door to door outreach to ask residents about their health might. - This is a big project and planning takes years studying, environmentalist, geologist doctors, meteorologists - I've advocated for the New River since 2003. I was in committees that turned to dust and became all business. 21 years of my life I've known the dangers and know what will happen with such polluted exposure. My alternative for you is to have no action until proper & ethical mitigations with research, community discussions, and transparencies about moneys, spendings, dangers, and benefits. Do not take action until the communities know how your future projects will impact them.

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RE: Docket Nos. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Hydrology/ Water Quality

**Resident Name:** Stephanie Cate

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

I'm concerned about air quality impact and where the source of all the water needed for lithium production is planned to originate from. I would like answers to these above concerns. Where the water needed for lithium production is taken from is a great concern given the precarious water supply shortage in the area already. Will groundwater be contaminated? Will water be taken from agriculture? Desalination plant for self sufficient water usage, is the suggestion offered. And aid in maintaining and increasing water level in the Salton Sea for the benefit of wildlife and community.

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**Environmental topics of concern:** Air Quality, Cumulative Effects, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use/Planning, Population/Housing, Public Services, Transportation

**Resident Name:** Gilberto Manzanarez

**Resident City/Town:** Calxico

My name is Gilberto Manzanarez, a resident of Calxico. I want to share my concerns on the minor space being designated for conservation and area for community opportunities. Quite frankly, many of the people I've talked to share a common sentiment, the solar panel expansion and project did not benefit the greater communities of the valley. This is an opportunity for the county to do this project right by the valley and the people. Do not place the people and the environment second to profits.

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**Resident Name:** Ben Tricklebank

I live in the area and I am concerned about how the plans might impact the surrounding communities and environment.

Open to other reasonable courses of actions

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**Resident Name:** Sophia Mickelson

**Resident City/Town:** Bombay Beach

Hi I'm Sophia and I am a resident in Bombay beach. My concerns are for the long lasting impact of this development specifically on the environmental wellness of the salton sea and for the residents who the development will affect.

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**Resident Name:** Amélie Ramon

i am Amélie, i am concerned by the environmental impact of this development

I am concerned about the long lasting effects of the environmental topics listed

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Resident Name: Kate Calderwood

I am a resident of Imperial County and want to preserve the area's current environmental state and improve it. I am a former County Planner and architectural designer.

No action alternative where the project isn't permitted