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**Berkeley Lab Comments - CEC Workshop on Lithium Valley (24-OIIP-02)**

See comments attached.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



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November 15th, 2024

Jonah Steinbuck  
Director of the Energy Research and Development Division  
California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 24-OIIP-02  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Comments on the Workshop on Lithium Valley

Director Jonah Steinbuck,

On Friday, November 1, 2024, Commission staff hosted a workshop regarding Lithium Valley. Patrick Dobson participated in the workshop and provided a few questions/comments during the workshop. Berkeley lab has summarized those questions/comments here and provided an additional comment.

Berkeley Lab is interested in understanding the expectation of the time it would take to go from a proposed transmission line to getting all of the permits and environmental reviews, right-of-way approvals, securing financing, and actual construction? Having access to transmission is critical for the proposed geothermal expansion projects (as well as any other renewable energy projects) in Imperial Valley.

Additionally, we are interested in better understanding the efforts undertaken by the State of California and GoBiz to help facilitate financing of the Lithium Valley projects. With the current drop in lithium prices, these projects may find it more challenging to obtain financing to build their facilities.

Lastly, can the CEC provide information about current plans for avoiding the usual boom and bust issues of mineral development - what happens to the community once the mineral resource has been exhausted? We encourage the CEC to include this in the long-term planning efforts.

Berkeley Lab appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments in regards to the Workshop on Lithium Valley.

The following individuals contributed comments: Patrick Dobson

Sincerely,  
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