

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OIIP-02
Project Title:	Informational Proceeding on Lithium Valley Vision
TN #:	261622
Document Title:	Notice for February 19th Workshop on Lithium Valley Vision
Description:	Notice for public workshop on February 19, 2025 as part of the Lithium Valley Vision Informational Proceeding.
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



Notice of Workshop on Lithium Valley Vision Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Morning Session (Hybrid)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In-person at:

California State Capitol, Hearing Room 127
1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Remote Access via Zoom:

See Attendance Instructions.

Afternoon Session (Virtual Only)

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Remote Access via Zoom:

See Attendance Instructions.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a workshop to discuss potential strategies, actions and policies to: 1) help ensure lithium production from the Salton Sea region is competitive with global lithium supplies and prices; and 2) facilitate expanded geothermal and lithium production in the region in a responsible and locally beneficial manner. This workshop is being conducted by Lead Commissioner Noemi Gallardo in the Informational Proceeding on Lithium Valley Vision (Docket No. 24-OIIP-02)(Lithium Valley Vision proceeding).

The public can participate in the workshop consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Agenda

This is the third workshop for the Lithium Valley Vision proceeding. At this workshop, attendees will hear from experts on global lithium market conditions and trends; current state of affairs for direct lithium extraction technologies and geothermal resource potential in the Salton Sea;

opportunities and challenges for Salton Sea’s entry into the lithium market; and what policies, incentives, or standards might help attract and expedite responsible and successful development.

There will be a period for the public to ask questions and make comments at the end of each workshop session, while written comments will be accepted for the period identified below following the workshop.

Morning Session: (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

- Opening Remarks from Dais
- Session 1: Evaluating Lithium Valley’s Competitive Position in the Global Lithium Market
- Session 2: Creating Market Demand for Lithium and Geothermal from Salton Sea
- General Public Comment on Morning Sessions

Afternoon Session: (1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

- Session 3: Lowering Entry Barriers to Geothermal and Lithium Development
- Session 4: Lithium Valley Research and Technology Needs
- General Public Comment on Afternoon Sessions
- Closing Remarks from Dais

Background

“Lithium Valley” is the term used to describe a world-class lithium industry centered on recovering lithium from geothermal brine in the Salton Sea region. This includes expanding geothermal energy production, conservation efforts, and economic development with substantive benefits for local residents.¹ Located in the Eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley, near the Mexican border, this region contains some of the largest lithium deposits in the world. Recent analysis from

¹ Paz, Silvia (Chair), Ryan E. Kelley (Vice Chair), Steve Castaneda, Rod Colwell, Roderic Dolega, Miranda Flores, James C. Hanks, Arthur Lopez, Luis Olmedo, Alice Reynolds, Frank Ruiz, Manfred Scott, Tom Soto, Jonathan Weisgall. 2022. Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-300-2022-009-F

the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that there's enough lithium in the region to support over 375 million batteries for electric vehicles (EV)².

Assembly Bill 1657 (AB 1657) (E. Garcia, Chapter 271, Statutes of 2020) authorized the CEC to establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California, known more commonly as the "Lithium Valley Commission." The Lithium Valley Commission explored opportunities and challenges surrounding lithium recovery and adopted a report with findings and recommendations that provide a pathway for the state's Lithium Valley Vision, Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (see link below). The report, which was submitted to the state legislature in December 2022, recommends accelerating transmission planning, improving permitting, securing funding for infrastructure investments, incentivizing economic development to support industry growth, and increasing job training, among other actions.

The report found that interest in, and support for, the development of domestic lithium sources — specifically lithium recovery from geothermal brine in Imperial County — are occurring at the local, state, and national level.³ The report also found that members of communities and tribes near and culturally affiliated with the Salton Sea and Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area are deeply interested in and concerned about possible impacts to the environment, cultural resources, and public health due to increased development of geothermal power plants and lithium recovery. There is also interest and support for the economic development, job creation, and business opportunities available to the community and tribes.⁴

On February 14, 2024, the CEC instituted an informational proceeding for the Lithium Valley Vision and designated Commissioner Noemí Gallardo as Lead Commissioner of this proceeding. Through this proceeding, the CEC seeks to collect additional information and perspectives to determine the most effective pathways to advance the Lithium Valley Vision. The proceeding will enable the CEC to establish a record of input from multiple perspectives, including those of local residents, government, California Native American tribes, industry, community groups, academia, the public, and other interested participants to help develop recommendations for a more strategic plan to advance the Lithium Valley Vision. The ultimate outcome of this proceeding will be a set of recommendations for state and local government to consider to ensure successful development of the Lithium Valley Vision.

This proceeding specifically seeks to:

² Dobson, P., Araya, N., Brounce, M., Busse, M.M., Camarillo, M.K., English, L., Humphreys, J., Kalderon-Asael, B., McKibben, M.A., Millstein, D., Nakata, N., O'Sullivan, J., Planavsky, N., Popineau, J., Renaud, T., Riffault, J., Slattery, M., Sonnenthal, E., Spycher, N., Stokes-Draut, J., Stringfellow, W.T., and White, M.C.A. (2023) Characterizing the Geothermal Lithium Resource at the Salton Sea. LBNL Report LBNL-2001557, 350 p.

³ IBID

⁴ IBID

1. Identify the entities currently implementing Lithium Valley Commission recommendations and establish a coordinated approach between those entities to fulfill and track progress on the completion of those recommendations;
2. Work closely with the County of Imperial and other local jurisdictions, as well as communities and tribes, to develop a shared Lithium Valley Vision;
3. Determine how the Lithium Valley Vision ties into the state's climate and clean energy goals;
4. Develop recommendations to align resources and efforts towards the shared Lithium Valley Vision and the state's lithium economy;
5. Identify how to remove barriers to building out infrastructure required for the Lithium Valley Vision; and
6. Explore whether new legislation is needed to fulfill the Lithium Valley Commission's recommendations and the Lithium Valley Vision.

For more information about the Lithium Valley Vision, visit this webpage:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/lithium-valley-vision>

For more information on Lithium Valley Commission and its report, visit this webpage:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley>

Attendance Instructions

In-person participants may join the **morning session** of the meeting at **California State Capitol, Hearing Room 127**, 1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Masks and social distancing are encouraged, but not required.

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/83678948066?pwd=usu6pxEcP6aDfAzYinFkis8MBVOs0a.1> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID **836 7894 8066** and passcode **825330** and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID **836 7894 8066** and passcode **825330**.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed

captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment.

The CEC encourages public comments upon the proceeding. Please see the following instructions for providing oral and written comments.

Oral comments and questions will be accepted at the end of each workshop session. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on February 27, 2025. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system for written comments. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket [24-OIIP-02](#) at

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=24-OIIP-02>.

Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 24-OIP-02 and Lithium Valley Informational Proceeding in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

Written comments may also be submitted by mail. Please mail a paper copy to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 24-OIIP-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor: The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries: Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Technical Subject Inquiries: Email LithiumValley@energy.ca.gov.

General Inquiries: Email LithiumValley@energy.ca.gov .

Commissioner and Advisor Attendance

CEC Commissioners and their advisors will be present at this event. **All parties and interested persons in any applications for certification of powerplants pending before the CEC who are participating in this workshop are asked to abide by any ex parte rules applicable to those proceedings limiting** communications to Commissioners and their advisors about issues in controversy in those proceedings that may require prior notice.

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at the CEC Docket Log for 24-OIIP-02,

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OIIP-02>.

When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Lithium Valley subscription. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: February 7, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

Subscriptions and Distribution:

Lithium Valley; Docket 24-OIIP-02; Energy Research and Development; Geothermal Energy;