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APPEARANCES

Lithium Valley Commissioners:	Present:
Rod Colwell	X
Roderic Dolega	
Miranda Flores	X
Martha Guzman Aceves	
James C. Hanks	X
Ryan E. Kelley, Vice Chair	X
Arthur Lopez	X
Luis Olmedo	X
Silvia Paz, Chair	
Frank Ruiz	X
Manfred Scott	X
Thomas Soto	X
Jonathan Weisgall	X (partial)
Steve Castaneda	X (partial)

CEC Commissioner:

Karen Douglas

CEC Staff:

Rizaldo Aldas
Gina Barkalow
Linda Barrera
Kelly Beskin
Elisabeth de Jong
Deborah Dyer
Noemi Gallardo
David Gay
Jordan Grimm
Eli Harland
Natalie Lee
Le-Quyen Nguyen
Richard Rojas
Justin Tran
Kourtney Vaccaro
Giana Villegas
Terra Weeks

Public Speakers:

Orlando Foote
Vijay Dhar
Mariela Lora

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 June 24, 2021

1:32 o'clock p.m.

3 MS. de JONG: Welcome to the Public Lithium Valley
4 Commission Meeting. We are going to go ahead and start off
5 this meeting by announcing the fourteenth and final
6 appointment of Lithium Valley Commissioner Castaneda. And I
7 will go ahead and ask if he is able to go and introduce
8 himself to the folks in the meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Well, thank you,
10 Elisabeth. I appreciate it.

11 Again, my name is Steve Castaneda and I'm very
12 honored to be part of this organization, of this group. The
13 work is extremely important. It's been something that I
14 know has been near and dear not only to the folks in
15 Sacramento's hearts but also the people in and around
16 Imperial and Riverside Counties.

17 A little bit about myself, born and raised in San
18 Diego. I moved to the City of Chula Vista and was, I think,
19 you know, very fortunate to be a member of the Planning
20 Commission there for eight years and then I served two terms
21 in the City Council and currently I am an Elected Board
22 Member of the Sweetwater Authority, which is the retail
23 water agency that serves the City of Chula Vista, the City
24 of National City, and parts of the County of San Diego and
25 South San Diego.

1 And so kind of getting back to a little bit of my
2 interest in this particular matter is that our family owned
3 a business for many years in Brawley. And even before that,
4 we, our family used to do a lot of fishing and we used to do
5 a lot of camping out in the Salton Sea many, many years ago.
6 And so, you know, the water and the shore and the
7 environment around with the birds and the habitat and
8 everything is very near and dear to us. And it's -- I know
9 for everyone who is familiar with the area, it's been sort
10 of painful to watch the degradation over the years. And
11 everyone with a lot of anticipation, looking forward to the
12 revitalization, the reinvorgoration of the ecosystem there
13 is something that is sorely needed and it needs to happen
14 very quickly.

15 So when I was informed about this Commission and
16 asked if I'd be interested in applying, I was very not only
17 excited to do that but very heartened as well. So I'm glad
18 to be part of it.

19 So my current business is I own PRM Consulting,
20 Inc., and it is a marketing and public relations firm based
21 out of Chula Vista. We have a number of clients. The
22 Southern California Gas Company is one, but we also work for
23 a number of cities and other local governments with respect
24 to public relations.

25 I am partners with my wife Tanya and very, very

1 fortunate to have her as a partner. And so this is -- this
2 is again a very, very exciting opportunity for me. And I
3 just look forward to learning. As I said, I just learned
4 about this meeting about a half an hour ago, so I will be a
5 very attentive listener and will take some time, but I will
6 assure you that I will -- I will be an active participant
7 and appreciate the opportunity to serve with you all. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. de JONG: Thank you so much.

10 And this meeting is going to be led by Vice Chair
11 Ryan Kelley.

12 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Elisabeth.

13 So hello, everyone, and welcome to the Lithium
14 Valley Commission Meeting. And welcome, Mr. Castaneda.
15 Great to have another Brawley native on the Commission.

16 I also want to wish Chairperson Paz blessings for
17 her new family addition and a speedy return when she is able
18 to.

19 So with that, I will turn it over to Elisabeth as
20 we get started to go through some of our procedural
21 housekeeping matters.

22 MS. de JONG: Thank you, Vice Chair.

23 So this meeting is being conducted entirely
24 remotely via Zoom. That means that we are in separate
25 locations and communicating only through electronic means.

1 We are meeting in this fashion consistent with Executive
2 Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, and the recommendations from the
3 California Department of Public Health to encourage physical
4 distancing in order to slow the spread of Covid-19.

5 This meeting is being recorded as well as
6 transcribed by a court reporter. The transcript will be
7 posted to the electronic docket. The recording of the
8 meeting will be available on the Lithium Valley Commission
9 webpage. Members of the public will be muted during the
10 presentations, but there will be an opportunity for public
11 comment on each agenda item and additional opportunity for
12 public comment towards the end of the agenda.

13 To provide public comment, please used the raised
14 hand feature in the Zoom application to be called on to
15 speak. When you speak, please provide your name and
16 affiliation. If you have called in by phone, you will need
17 to dial star 9 to raise your hand and then star 6 to unmute
18 yourself. Before speaking, please say and spell your name
19 for the court reporter.

20 There is also a Q&A window in the Zoom application
21 which you may type your questions. If you want to provide
22 public comment but are unable to raise your hand in the Zoom
23 application or by phone, then during the public comment
24 portion of the meeting you may type your comment into the
25 Q&A window so we can relay your comment.

1 We'll go over these instructions again during the
2 times for public comment. Please remember to stay muted
3 until you've been called on to speak.

4 We also have a chat function available for IT
5 support. We ask that the Lithium Valley Commissioners use
6 the chat for IT as well. Any other comments are considered
7 substantive to the conversation and made publicly for B-K
8 compliance.

9 I will go ahead and read off your roll call before
10 handing it back to Vice Chair Kelley.

11 So we are going to go ahead and hold this roll
12 call to determine a quorum. I will call your name, please
13 respond if you are present and turn on your camera, if you
14 can.

15 If you're still with us, Commissioner Castaneda?
16 He may have had to step away.

17 Okay. Commissioner Rod Colwell.

18 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Present.

19 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Roderic Dolega.

21 I do not hear a response.

22 Commissioner Miranda Flores.

23 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Present.

24 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

25 Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves is not able to

1 attend the meeting today.

2 Commissioner James Hanks.

3 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Present.

4 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

5 Vice Chair Ryan Kelley.

6 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Present.

7 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

8 Commissioner Arthur "Richie" Lopez.

9 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Present.

10 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

11 Commissioner Luis Olmedo.

12 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Present.

13 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

14 As we heard, Chair Silvia Paz is not able to

15 attend today.

16 Commissioner Frank Ruiz.

17 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Present.

18 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

19 Commissioner Manfred Scott.

20 I do not hear a response.

21 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Present.

22 MS. de JONG: Oh, okay. Thank you.

23 Commissioner Tom Soto.

24 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Here.

25 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

1 And we will have Commissioner Weisgall join us a
2 little late for the meeting.

3 We have at least eight members, meaning we do have
4 a quorum. And also in attendance today we have CEC
5 Commissioner Douglas as well as advisors from both her
6 office and Chair Hochschild's office.

7 I will now hand the meeting back to Vice Chair
8 Kelley.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Elisabeth.

10 We'll review the agenda and its discussion. So I
11 see that we have done a roll call and welcome. We'll come
12 to the past meeting minutes. Information items, to be able
13 to find out media and legislative updates; then the
14 Commission update so the Commissioners will have an
15 opportunity, I believe at three minutes each, to be able to
16 tell what activities they've been performing since the last
17 meeting; then our legislative report and discussion;
18 determination of the agenda topics, speakers, and
19 presentations for future meetings. And this will complete,
20 I think, Terra's presentation that was cut short at the last
21 month's meeting. And then public comment. And adjournment,
22 which could not be -- maybe we could move up on the agenda,
23 I don't know, I'm just joking.

24 So with that, let's go to the administrative item.
25 And, Elisabeth.

1 MS. de JONG: Thank you. So I'm happy to share
2 the minutes of the previous meeting, if any Commissioners
3 request it. And if not, we can open it for a vote, turn to
4 public comments, and then finalize that vote.

5 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Do we have any comments or is
6 there a motion to approve?

7 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Move to approve. Soto.

8 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: I'll second.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: We have a motion by
10 Commissioner Soto, seconded by Commissioner Colwell. Any
11 discussion?

12 Okay, hearing none, I call for the vote.

13 MR. [SPEAKER]: I --

14 MS. de JONG: Thank you -- oh, sorry, before we
15 call the vote, we want to turn to public comment for comment
16 on the minutes -- I'm sorry -- the previous --

17 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Forgot about that, okay.

18 MS. de JONG: -- meeting minutes. So if anyone in
19 the audience has any comments, please raise their hand. And
20 if you called in, please dial star 9 to raise your hand and
21 then star 6 to unmute your phones. And first we'll go
22 through those hands raised on the Zoom application and then
23 the phone.

24 I'm giving it just a second but not seeing any
25 comments.

1 Okay, we do have one hand raised. You should be
2 able to speak, Orlando Foote.

3 Okay. If you're able to, you should be able to
4 unmute yourself.

5 We have a comment or a raised hand from Orlando
6 Foote.

7 MR. FOOTE: Now can you hear me?

8 MS. de JONG: Yes.

9 MR. FOOTE: You can hear me?

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Yes.

11 MS. de JONG: Yes.

12 MR. FOOTE: Okay. Thank you. Just to -- if I
13 wanted to review minutes of prior meetings, where would I do
14 that?

15 MS. de JONG: Yeah. So we post them on the
16 Lithium Valley Commission webpage. We can go ahead and post
17 a link to that in the meeting chat and the opportunity --

18 MR. FOOTE: Now don't --

19 MS. de JONG: -- we do -- oh, go ahead.

20 MR. FOOTE: No, wait -- no, that would be a good
21 idea.

22 MS. de JONG: Okay, great.

23 MR. FOOTE: Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Are there any other public
25 comments?

1 MS. de JONG: All right. Great. So I -- and
2 maybe legal can step in, but I believe we can go ahead and
3 move to the vote. We will provide that link to see the
4 minutes in the -- in the chat.

5 MS. DYER: This is Deborah Dyer. That sounds
6 fine, Elisabeth. You can provide the link when it's
7 convenient on this, on the chat.

8 MS. de JONG: Great. Thank you.

9 We'll do a roll call vote. When I call your name,
10 please let me know if you vote yes or no to approve the
11 previous Meeting Action Minutes.

12 Commissioner Colwell.

13 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes.

14 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

15 Commissioner Flores.

16 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.

17 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

18 Commissioner Hanks.

19 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes.

20 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

21 Vice Chair Kelley.

22 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Yes.

23 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

24 Commissioner Lopez.

25 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Abstain.

1 MS. de JONG: Abstain? Okay. Thank you.

2 Commissioner Olmedo.

3 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes.

4 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

5 Commissioner Ruiz.

6 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.

7 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

8 Commissioner Scott.

9 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Abstain.

10 MS. de JONG: Okay. Thank you.

11 Commissioner Soto.

12 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Yes.

13 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

14 So we have a majority vote yes, the motion passes.

15 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: All right. Thank you,

16 Elisabeth.

17 We now come to public comment, so before we go to
18 the next agenda item we now open the floor to any public
19 comment relating to the last meeting's action items. And
20 these are opportunity for public comment later in the agenda
21 as well.

22 MS. de JONG: We don't see any additional public
23 comments at this time.

24 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay.

25 MS. de JONG: We can --

1 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So a reminder that you will
2 have a comment, as they appear on the agenda.

3 So then we will move onto the Media and
4 Legislative Updates. And I believe, Elisabeth, we will be
5 hearing from the Energy Commission staff.

6 MS. de JONG: We will. First up we'd like to hear
7 from Richard Rojas.

8 MR. ROJAS: Yes. Good afternoon, everyone.
9 Specially for Commissioner Castaneda. I am with the
10 California Energy Commission, in the Office of Governmental
11 and International Affairs. At each of these meetings we
12 provide short legislative updates on bills that may be of
13 interest to the Lithium Valley Commission. And we give you
14 some dates on the -- in the Legislature that have passed and
15 some important dates upcoming, as well as any other special
16 communications with government.

17 In the weeks behind we had a couple of dates, June
18 4 was the last date for bills to pass out of their house of
19 origin. So all bills that are still alive are now in the
20 second house.

21 June 15, recently, the budget bill was signed and
22 passed.

23 And weeks coming up, July 14 is the last day for
24 the Policy Committees to meet and report bills to get out of
25 their committee and go to Appropriations. And July 16,

1 summer recess begins, so they will adjourn until August 16.

2 There are three bills that we flag that the
3 Lithium Valley Commission may be interested one. The key
4 one is AB 983. That's Eduardo Garcia. And this is the bill
5 that deals with community workforce agreements and
6 authorizes public entities to utilize those agreements for
7 construction projects relating to battery manufacturing and
8 lithium-based technology. It amended on June 15 and the
9 only amendment was a change in the specification. In the
10 previous version, it said, "lithium-based technology," now
11 it says, "lithium-based technology in Salton Sea Geothermal
12 Resource Area," specifically.

13 There are no different supporters or opponents on
14 this bill. The Western Electric Contractors Association
15 thinks that it will cost more money to do the same work, so
16 we'll see if they come off or stay on. And this bill has
17 been referred to the Senate Governance and Finance
18 Committee. There is no date yet set for that hearing. We
19 will keep an eye on it and report to you at the next meeting
20 on that bill.

21 The next two bills are both Henry Stern, AB --
22 excuse me -- SB 423, and this requires the Energy Commission
23 to provide an assessment to the Legislature by December 31,
24 2022. And the assessment is to look at emerging renewable
25 energy and zero carbon resources to support a green,

1 reliable, and resilient electric grid. And so we believe
2 that this bill is seeking to get renewables -- increasing
3 procurement of renewables in the CPUC procurement
4 requirements.

5 And in the findings and declarations on that bill,
6 it calls out that California is the global leader in solar
7 energy and lithium ion battery storage deployment. So any
8 time you look at the term lithium to flag certain bills, and
9 this one came up.

10 SB 551, also Henry Stern. This creates the
11 California Electric Vehicle Authority inside the Governor's
12 Office. And their responsibility would be to corral all the
13 different agencies and make sure everybody is on the same
14 page relative to electric vehicle deployment --
15 infrastructure deployment. It also mentions that one of
16 their responsibilities is to support an improved battery
17 supply chain, including use of lithium from the Salton Sea
18 specifically.

19 So those are the three bills that we're flagging.
20 We'll look for anything that comes up either through a gut
21 and amend or an amendment that brings lithium back in.

22 There is one other point that we would mention.
23 Senator Hueso and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia wrote a
24 joint letter to President Biden on June 9 and it encourages
25 investment in domestic battery supply chain. It's a three-

1 page letter. I think you may already have a copy of that.
2 We have not heard any feedback from the President, but we
3 will keep an ear to the ground and see if we can't learn his
4 reaction to that letter.

5 And with that, I am finished and can answer any
6 questions if you have any.

7 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Are there any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER FLORES: I guess I have some
9 questions just regarding the letter and the actions that the
10 Biden Administration has taken, you know, to make sure that
11 we have a strengthened critical supply chain, and just kind
12 of maybe a thought for us to make sure that this is also
13 something the Commission is seeking forward as we move
14 forward, to make sure that we're in a line with the
15 administration.

16 MR. ROJAS: Thank you. Yeah, we'll keep an eye on
17 any reaction from President Biden.

18 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Hey, Richard, what happened
19 with the Garcia content, lithium content legislation?

20 MR. ROJAS: That is now a two-year bill, so --

21 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Okay.

22 MR. ROJAS: -- that could come up in January of
23 next year and it likely will.

24 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Okay. Good.

25 MR. ROJAS: Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Mr. Rojas.

3 Are there any other questions?

4 All right, seeing none, is the next speaker,
5 Elisabeth?

6 MS. de JONG: Yes. Thank you. So we are going to
7 defer the Media Update to the July meeting, so that should -
8 - that should finish the Media and Legislative Updates
9 agenda item.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. Then we will move on to
11 the Commissioner Updates. Now we will ask each Commissioner
12 to provide an update focusing on their sub-body topics for
13 up to five minutes. Let's be sure to allow for all the
14 Commissioners to give an update before opening up for any
15 discussion and questions. And you don't have to take all
16 five minutes if you don't want to. So I'll turn it over to
17 by order, I guess, and, Elisabeth, do you have a listing by
18 sub groups?

19 MS. de JONG: I do, yes. Actually if it's all
20 right, we could go in alphabetical order if that suits
21 everyone.

22 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: It's good.

23 MS. de JONG: Okay. So, Commissioner Colwell.

24 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thank you, Elisabeth.

25 Boss Chair Kelley asked me to put together a short

1 presentation of the view of the alignment with the Green New
2 Bill and just focusing on the points of alignment from the
3 federal administration to what, how that aligns with Lithium
4 Valley. So before I get started, though, and I think we
5 just got the news that the CPUC just approved a carve-out
6 for a thousand megawatts of new-built geothermal energy by -
7 - to be procured -- delivered by 2026, right. These are
8 ten-year projects. We've been eight years in our project.
9 So very exciting news. I will let maybe Vice Chair Kelley
10 expand on that later on, but it's wonderful news. That
11 literally just came through 15 minutes ago, so really good
12 stuff, so.

13 But thank you for your time. You know we have
14 been extremely busy. This is focused on obviously related
15 to our site, but this is the Lithium Valley as such, if you
16 look at this in context. We'd like to walk through the
17 government's plans, the federal government's plans, how to -
18 - you know, plans to develop a domestic lithium supply
19 chain. Next slide, please.

20 So I might read these word for word. This
21 information available. Basically, this month the federal
22 government released a national blueprint for lithium
23 batteries. This blueprint was produced by the Department of
24 Energy, Defense, Commerce, and State. The document outlines
25 five main goals, which you will see here. On the left,

1 outlined with this very specific ask. Briefly, these are to
2 secure domestic raw materials sustainably, support and the
3 process of these materials which is currently zero in this
4 country. There is very little lithium produced in the
5 United States. Attract cathode and battery and subsequent
6 industries to the United States and localize this supply
7 chain. Support battery recycling. And create jobs and
8 stimulate research and development.

9 Without reading the points, the sub points, these
10 matching capabilities. And just to learn our site, the
11 Lithium Valley as a whole obviously matches perfectly to
12 these particular goals. So we try to spell this out and
13 visualize this document so the fellow Commissioners and
14 public in general can really hopefully understand how well
15 this suits those goals.

16 You know as you can see, these details offered a
17 very clear pathway to achieve these goals at the Salton Sea.
18 So we knew this right now, with the right support. The next
19 slide, please.

20 Yeah. This slide breaks down the production
21 process of batteries through to EVs and energy-storage
22 systems. You know, raw materials production. Materials
23 processing and the opportunity, how it expands into cell
24 manufacturing and actually pack manufacturing. So you can
25 see that, you know, the entire lithium battery supply chain

1 can be supported here in the Imperial Valley. You know it
2 can be supported with green STEM, green electricity, and a
3 ready workforce, jobs ready. We're ready to go. Again, our
4 development is eight years in the making to just about get
5 to day one.

6 You know we are the most sustainable lithium
7 recovery process in the world today. There's just no doubt
8 about it. There are no byproducts to this. That's a very
9 little footprint. So it's -- you know, it ticks a lot of
10 boxes besides being -- also being a very competitive-priced
11 product in the global stage. And when it comes to quartile
12 cost, we're absolutely in the first quartile.

13 The process is a closed-loop system. You know,
14 we'll obviously expand up to that resource capacity. CTI
15 has a resource capacity of 300,000 tons of lithium per
16 annum. So as this -- what's unique about, I guess,
17 geothermal lithium extraction and its integration is
18 basically its scalable nature. It's not an open-cut mine,
19 it's not a salar, it's a situation where as the market
20 demands more lithium, more green lithium, we can scale up
21 along with that demand with an appropriate leading time to,
22 you know, to match that supply. The next slide, please.

23 So that, you know, I think it goes without saying
24 there is an extraordinary opportunity here. Let's say, you
25 know, as Vice Chair Kelley put to me, let's just get to the

1 point, what's really required here, I mean on this approach,
2 I mean what we really need is a collaborative effort from
3 federal and state government, or more effort to streamline a
4 process that's already been -- you know, the permitting
5 process, obviously we're sticking with that, but a lot of
6 the reports have been done so many times, you know, to the
7 left, for example, that's an image of where our Hell's
8 Kitchen Plant will be located. Obviously we still go
9 through the process, but I think there's a lot that can be
10 done with the right support.

11 And, you know, fundamentally there's a window
12 here, this window is closing quite quickly and we don't want
13 the Imperial Valley to miss out again with windows closing.
14 You know it's a two-year window. 2024 is the inflection
15 point, we believe. And there is a window opportunity that
16 we can sort of take advantage of. So really commercial
17 operations today, that's the ideal scenario, and that's
18 really driven by commercial demand for onshore lithium
19 production, contracts.

20 So if there is a way that we Commissioners can
21 think about this and get this narrative to the feds, as you
22 have previously seen, the match to the Green New Deal of the
23 federal government and the great work the State of
24 California is doing here with the Commission is just a
25 wonderful opportunity overall. And with that, I thank you

1 so much for the opportunity.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
3 Colwell.

4 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

5 And, Commissioner Flores.

6 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Yeah, I don't have any
7 updates. But I'm definitely looking forward to a continued
8 discussion and whatever. And I'll pass. Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you.

10 MS. de JONG: Commissioner Hanks.

11 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes. I'd just like to show
12 that those of us that are involved with the known drilled
13 thermal resource, they're busy involved in negotiations on
14 the parcels of land that -- that IAB currently has control
15 of. And although we are under a nondisclosure agreement, I
16 can just say this much, that things are moving quite
17 rapidly. We still have issues with permitting and some
18 issues with some of our geo save responsibilities; but along
19 this same line we have interested parties that are making
20 contacts with us weekly, wanting to know what resources may
21 be available for development, whether private, public, or
22 federal grounds. So we have tried to be as cooperative as
23 we can.

24 It makes it very difficult to be under so many
25 different nondisclosure agreements, but we're -- we're

1 making good headways. And I'd like to voice some of the
2 concerns that Mr. Colwell mentioned, that we have deadlines.
3 There are purchase power agreements within the -- that are
4 dated for development for the geothermal side of it, which
5 is critical for the lithium development. So those things
6 are moving along. I think we're really going to have to
7 concentrate on the permitting aspect, maybe get some extra
8 help there.

9 That's all I have.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Mr. Hanks -- or
11 Commissioner Hanks.

12 Next --

13 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

14 So we move to you, Vice Chair Kelley.

15 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: It's to me?

16 MS. de JONG: Yes.

17 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: All right, so I will be brief,
18 but Rod kind of spoke to it. The action by the PUC today is
19 something that we have been advocating for for quite a
20 while. And we always said that, you know, the Salton Sea,
21 we don't look at as a burden, we look at it as an
22 opportunity. And so now we have -- we should have such a
23 problem, is what we were saying yesterday, now we have a
24 problem. How would we see this kind of development
25 happening now, how can we make it work right.

1 So a few of us were able to get together in the
2 county a couple of days ago and we started talking about
3 this proactively. And I think that Commissioner Olmedo will
4 speak about it, but we had in terms from the community, the
5 county, and industry. And I think that we're talking about
6 how we -- how we will address all these concerns that
7 mutually benefit and bring something back to this Commission
8 to see.

9 And I was also encouraged today through the Salton
10 Sea Authority that the University of California Riverside
11 has got some meaningful information that they have done, and
12 they want to be engaged in our conversation. And so we will
13 include them.

14 But I will leave it at that: We should have such
15 a problem and now we do.

16 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

17 Next up is Commissioner Lopez.

18 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: No updates at this time.

19 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

20 Commissioner Olmedo.

21 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I have no -- no updates
22 other than I want to thank Commissioner Kelley, Supervisor
23 Kelley in making an invitation to having conversations that
24 I think will be fruitful for the larger discussion here at
25 the Commission. Thank you.

1 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

2 Commissioner Ruiz.

3 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: No updates at this time.

4 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

5 Commissioner Scott.

6 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: No -- I don't have nothing at
7 this time.

8 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

9 Commissioner Soto.

10 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Not too much other than the
11 fact that, you know, there is a lot of alignment with
12 respect to a number of Biden and Harris initiatives that we
13 sent letters for that Assemblymember Garcia and Hueso sent
14 letters for, and then working closely with those offices as
15 well on enhancing some of the regulatory and legislative
16 framework to create greater incentives for lithium
17 production chains. So all of that said, you know, there is
18 a lot going on but nothing more than that to report right
19 now.

20 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Soto.
22 Anybody else?

23 Elisabeth, or did we go through the list?

24 MS. de JONG: Yes. So now that we've heard all of
25 the Commissioner updates we can move to public comment on

1 both the Media, Legislation, and Commissioner Updates.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. Is there --

3 MS. de JONG: Okay.

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: -- anyone who is going to make
5 public comment?

6 MS. de JONG: So if you're joining us by Zoom on
7 the computer, please use the raised-hand feature and if you
8 have called in, please dial star 9 to raise your hand and
9 star 6 to unmute your phone line. First we'll go through
10 the hands raised on the Zoom application and then if there
11 are any on the phone.

12 I see Vijay Dhar. I have allowed you to speak,
13 you should be able to unmute.

14 MR. DHAR: Can you hear me?

15 MS. de JONG: Yes.

16 MR. DHAR: Yeah. So actually I have been at these
17 Commissioner meetings for several months and I have been
18 hearing about two requests about enterprise zone and the
19 permitting process but, you know, I had actually early on
20 requested that this should be made -- these two topics
21 should be made, you know, part of the agenda and some
22 presentation should be given about all the aspects of one
23 being -- actually being proposed and what can be done about
24 it, but we can't hear this all along on the meetings, but we
25 don't know what we are -- what we can do and what you do.

1 So that was one.

2 I also have another -- another point, that, you
3 know, actually I work for New Energy Nexus and I went to
4 Lithium Valley a couple of weeks ago and went to CGR and
5 also engaged with some Tribes to discuss, you know, things.
6 So I think that because day minus one is today, we should be
7 having community engaged day minus one and we should be
8 talking about that also in some kind of detail. And so I
9 think that should be also brought up on the agenda some time
10 soon.

11 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

12 I don't see any other hands raised at this time,
13 so we'll turn back to you, Commissioner Kelley.

14 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. So at this time we're
15 on to the Legislative Report Discussion. This is a
16 continuation of Terra's presentation from the previous
17 meeting. I did want -- before I turn it over to Terra I do
18 want to elaborate that what Commissioner Olmedo and I spoke
19 about was it's only a couple of days ago but we did have
20 community representative, community-based organizations,
21 county, and industry all in the same room talking about all
22 the impacts of what -- what the industry has seen, what the
23 community wants to see, mitigation, infrastructure,
24 education, and quality-of-life issues as well.

25 So I know it's not much, but from the comment, I

1 do want you to know that we are starting and we are probably
2 a little slow but we're moving in the right direction.

3 And I will turn it over --

4 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Coach here, Kelley, before
5 you turn it over to Terra, can you hear me? It's Jonathan
6 Weisgall.

7 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Oh, yes, Jonathan, I can hear
8 you.

9 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Oh, thanks. Just a clear
10 -- I've actually been listening for the last ten minutes or
11 so. I'm just off a plane at Washington Dulles and I'm in a
12 car, but I just want you to know I'm here. Actually I'll
13 say the opportunity to say I think that -- I think you're
14 under stating the importance of that meeting a couple of
15 days ago. I think it was really a job of getting together a
16 lot of different groups, community, county, industry,
17 environmental justice, and the like, and I'm very optimistic
18 that that group can move forward and I think coordinate very
19 well with this commission on some ideas at the local level.
20 So I just wanted to commend you for putting that meeting
21 together. I think it was very successful.

22 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Weisgall. And the check is in the mail.

24 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Terra.

1 MS. de JONG: If I could just take a second,
2 actually.

3 Thanks for joining us, Commissioner Weisgall. We
4 -- I'm sorry that I overlooked the phone number attendance,
5 but we did do the individual Lithium Valley Commissioner
6 updates. If you have anything that you would like to add at
7 this time?

8 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Not really. I think it's
9 just safe to say we are moving ahead with our lithium
10 demonstration project. We are on target. I was actually
11 there onsite yesterday. We have got our rebar ready to
12 start construction. The site of course is cleared. We are
13 just putting in a roadway next to -- in our Region 1 area,
14 we've got our contractor ready to go for an EPC, Engineering
15 Procurement Construction contract.

16 So really, just in a nutshell, we are underway and
17 we are on target with our -- the first of our two grants,
18 and this being the one from the Energy Commission to show
19 that we can successfully recover the lithium chloride from
20 our geothermal brine. So moving forward. That's my update.

21 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
22 Weisgall.

23 MS. WEEKS: Okay. So I will hope in here. Hi,
24 everyone, again I'm Terra Weeks. I am a Senior Advisor to
25 Chair Hochschild of the Energy Commission and one of the

1 leads for the report, so supporting you all in writing the
2 actual Lithium Valley Commission Report.

3 So we're going to use this time to continue the
4 discussion that we had at last month's meeting. So this is
5 really to help inform the outline. And, basically, what
6 we're hoping to have is just kind of a brainstorm going
7 through the various topics in the statute. And so then
8 after this meeting, we'll compile the discussion from the
9 main meeting and this discussion and help flesh out a draft
10 of the outline that will then circulate for all the
11 Commissioners to review.

12 So we covered quite a few topics last month. If
13 we could go to the next slide, please. Perfect. And so
14 this is the outline of the statutory requirements that I
15 presented last month. And then will you click through -- so
16 we covered a lot of them. We got through quite a bit of the
17 agenda. We just have these three topics left to cover in
18 this meeting. And so those are: Overcoming challenges to
19 lithium extraction, looking at various lithium extraction
20 methods, and then the economic and environmental impacts.

21 And so I just want to quickly note here, I know
22 there was a discussion at the last meeting on the use of the
23 term "recovery" versus "extraction." And so the language
24 here is what is in the statute, although it does also use
25 the term "recovery" in a couple of places, so I think we can

1 continue the discussion on which terms are appropriate for
2 use in the actual report. So for the purposes of this
3 discussion, I don't know if we need to completely nail down
4 the nomenclature quite yet. I think we mostly just kind of
5 want to talk about the various topics or perspectives that
6 you'd like to include for each topic.

7 Okay, next slide, please.

8 So getting into the first of the three topics for
9 this meeting, this is the fourth topic listed in the
10 statute, and it is on methods of overcoming technical and
11 economic challenges currently limiting lithium extraction,
12 processing, and production from geothermal brines. And so,
13 again like we did for last month, I will just kind of open
14 it up for discussion. And, again, this can be just kind of
15 a brainstorm session. So I'll first hand it over to the sub
16 body. That's going to be the lead on this topic, which is
17 Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Ruiz.

18 So I will ask maybe one of you to open it up.

19 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Go ahead, Mr. Ruiz.

20 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yeah. Okay. Some of the
21 conversations we have with community members and community
22 leaders, some of these items, you know, have been presented.
23 And people have questions over the technical -- or the
24 technicalities on the waste stream, extraction, the impact
25 to the environment, the impact to the water table. And I

1 think, you know, that it will be very helpful to compile the
2 information so that we can have a better understanding of
3 what are, you know, -- how can we overcome some of those
4 issues and how can we allow the people, allow the
5 communities to have a better understanding. I think we need
6 to return fair in the process.

7 And of course, you know, another topic that
8 currently comes to the conversation is that the economic
9 challenges and especially how to include the communities in
10 the process. So we understand that communities, especially
11 the Imperial County has been plagued with high levels of
12 unemployment, and so they are concerned that this, the
13 lithium industry, can be a potential win if it is done
14 correctly, if we can create the pipelines for the inclusion
15 of young people to develop the skillsets and perhaps working
16 with some community colleges and other educational
17 opportunities.

18 So another challenge that is usually presented is
19 the -- can these perhaps, you know, make geothermal energy a
20 lot more affordable. Obviously we are dealing with a lot of
21 challenges on the grid, and this can be perhaps make
22 geothermal energy more affordable, more competitive. So I
23 think it will be helpful to -- even though we haven't had a
24 discussion with Commissioner Hanks, I think it will be
25 really helpful to bring as much information so that we can

1 better understand it. And perhaps, looking at other models
2 out there that have been through it, that perhaps can show
3 us the roadmap to success.

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Frank.

5 Jim, do you have more to add?

6 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes, I do, just a little bit.
7 I think on some of the challenges, and I'm thinking more in
8 terms of the site itself, will be the -- some type of
9 certainty from the State of California through -- mainly
10 through the Salton Sea Authority on establishment of what
11 they perceive to be the water elevation of the Salton Sea
12 long term. Also the rate of the playa exposure as seem to
13 be increase over the last few years for whatever reason,
14 whether it's evaporation or whether it's just the ramp-up of
15 the transfers. If there is going to be areas that are in
16 the Known Geothermal Resource Area that's going to be
17 exposed, so we'll be challenged with temporary environmental
18 issues, particularly with air quality, and trying to prepare
19 for that.

20 The other aspect is with the geothermal process,
21 we have skilled personnel, a lot of experience in those
22 areas, but with the lithium recovery, extraction, whatever
23 you want to call it, that's going to be a new area, and I
24 think we are definitely going to need some type of
25 vocational training to prepare for those operations,

1 especially when we get into the battery supply chain. So
2 those -- those are the things that I'm thinking about now.

3 There is -- there is also I think some challenges
4 about different fees that's being considered and so forth.
5 I think -- you know, we have talked to -- as I understand
6 today, there's been meetings with the developers and so
7 forth, but I think at some point in time those that have
8 control of the minerals, mineral rights or agreements should
9 be brought into the fold and make sure that there is --
10 we're not waiting till the last minute and then be all set
11 to go and we have an issue. So I think they need to be
12 included in those meetings.

13 And that's all I have to add.

14 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Hanks.
15 And we have -- from that first meeting, we did discuss
16 expanding to include more voices, and so I know that
17 everybody was looking at that.

18 Terra.

19 MS. WEEKS: Okay. Are there other comments on
20 this topic?

21 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Can I jump in? Jonathan
22 Weisgall here.

23 MS. WEEKS: Sure, go ahead, Jonathan.

24 And then it looks like Rod also has a comment.

25 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Oh, kind of hard to

1 collect my thoughts here while I'm driving a car, but I
2 guess a few. in terms of the challenges, from the industry
3 perspective the goal is to provide as much certainty as
4 possible to make lithium recovery successful. And, you
5 know, Commissioner Hanks talked about education, we've
6 talked about community involvement. I guess I -- I see
7 three big buckets of where the industry wants to be looking
8 for certainty or at least for de-risking.

9 And I think bucket number one is de-risking the
10 technology. I don't think that's really the job of the
11 Commission. Different companies have different
12 technologies. I think the second big bucket is de-risking
13 the production. And I think that includes everything from
14 workforce development, education, community outreach, things
15 like that, a number of the topics actually that Vice Chair
16 Kelley brought together the other day. And then I think
17 the third big bucket -- and actually, you know, maybe
18 included also in that bucket of de-risking production goes
19 the -- the incentives, local, federal, and state. And
20 obviously we have a sub-group looking just at that.

21 And then to me the third big bucket to de-risk,
22 and again speaking from the industry perspective, is the
23 market, the importance of lining up customers and a lot of
24 that of course the California Energy Commission grant
25 requires our company to produce lithium at under \$4,000 a

1 metric ton. If we can do that, we will be able to attract a
2 market. So that's another factor to keep up. But basically
3 those -- you know, these de-risking points of technology,
4 production, and market, I think kind of cover the waterfront
5 of what I see are the overall challenges. Thank you.

6 MS. WEEKS: Great. Thanks, Commissioner.

7 And now, Commissioner Colwell, do you have a
8 comment?

9 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Just a brief comment or
10 maybe a point of direction. I note the NREL Report that was
11 posted today on the Lithium Valley Commission website. I
12 would encourage Commissioners, fellow Commissioners, and the
13 public to review that report. It's a very robust report.
14 And actually it becomes -- it talks about technology, it
15 identifies the attributes of sustainable energy. It really
16 is a great report and particularly well covers this topic 4
17 and many other topics as well. So it's just -- just a point
18 of direction there. Thank you.

19 MS. WEEKS: That's great. And if you'd be able to
20 send us that report, we can make sure it gets docketed and
21 shared.

22 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Sorry, Terra. It's already
23 -- already docketed. It's on the --

24 MS. WEEKS: Oh.

25 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yeah, on the site. So

1 thanks.

2 MS. WEEKS: Perfect. Thank you.

3 MS. de JONG: That report can be found for the
4 public, it is in the Lithium Valley Commission Docket.

5 MS. WEEKS: Beautiful. Okay, are there other
6 comments on this topic?

7 MR. [SPEAKER]: I have nothing to waste.

8 (Very faint speaking in background.)

9 MS. WEEKS: I'm sorry. What was that? Oh, um-
10 hum, Commissioner Olmedo.

11 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Just to make a brief comment
12 on the -- I think it would be important to understand, I
13 guess, the parameters such as how industry sees technology
14 and control measures. You know, kind of where that line is
15 drawn. In the whole idea of de-risking. Technology can and
16 has and is many times a matter of public interest because it
17 depends on whether that technology, whether there's a
18 component of, you know, emissions, discharge, efficiency,
19 and so on, and whether that existing, currently exists or
20 perhaps may in the future or perhaps not exists within the
21 regulatory framework.

22 So I know that it's -- I understand Commissioner
23 Weisgall's comment and that's why I think through this
24 process it will probably give an opportunity to find clarity
25 as to where that line is drawn between the industry's

1 interest and the public's interest. Just a general comment.

2 MS. WEEKS: Great. Any other comments before we
3 move on?

4 Okay. Next slide, please. So the next topic is
5 looking at safe environmental methods and standards for
6 lithium extraction from geothermal brines and how this
7 compares to other methods for deriving lithium. And so I
8 will hand it to the sub-body, which is Commissioner Weisgall
9 and Commissioner Colwell to kick this one off.

10 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thank you.

11 I guess I'll jump in, if you're still there,
12 Jonathan.

13 So safe environmental methods, I mean there's been
14 -- I mean in simple terms, I think really basic terms, a
15 previous presentation I put out there, I mean this is not --
16 you know there's three methods of known lithium extraction.
17 One is spodumene. It's, you know, generally in Western
18 Australia, a solid ore body. It's mined out of hard rock.
19 It's about six percent of weights, so for a time you get
20 sort of, you know, six percent of that is the actual
21 spodumene . And then it's shipped to -- usually to Asia for
22 processing, quite a crude process, and then there's your
23 lithium product. So for every, you know, kilogram of
24 lithium that's produced from that there's 15 kilograms of
25 CO2.

1 There's the Atacama, you know large evaporation
2 bodies of water in an area that produces less than, you
3 know, one inch of rain a year that uses half a million
4 gallons of -- per metric ton of lithium produced, and
5 produces approximately seven to seven and a half kilograms
6 of CO2 per kilogram. So that's that side of plus post-
7 processing of course with a footprint of moving all bodies
8 or moving materials approximately, you know, 12,000
9 kilometers to Asia, then back, say, to the United States.

10 Firstly, with, you know, extraction or recovery
11 from geothermal brine, it is another brine resource, just
12 like, I guess, scienacamry (phonetic), except this brine is
13 extremely hot. So with that you have steam and it isn't a
14 true closed-loop system. There is no outside escaping of
15 anything. It's a very -- you know, the process I guess in
16 the geothermal world that's been in operation here for 38,
17 39 years. Known and proven, and again the lithium
18 technology itself is, you know, predominantly an exchange
19 technology. Again, there's nothing new and noble about
20 that. It's been around for 60 years.

21 Applying it lithium, well, yes, it sets
22 challenges. But none of those -- you know, reagents is de
23 minimis to nil. We're using green steam to actually
24 produce. Like most, it's a manufacturing process out of
25 most manufacturing plants. The steam is there. That's one

1 of the fortunate parts and a 100-percent renewable energy
2 that runs it.

3 The organic nature of this, you know, being
4 sustainable in a closed-loop system and producing battery-
5 grade lithium hydroxide or carbonate in real time, right, so
6 not 18 months of evaporation or then sending it to China or
7 where ever it goes, this will produce a better-grade product
8 in really less than an hour, right, in a closed-loop method.

9 We will -- you know, general organic energy use
10 like geothermal powers allocated about, in our instance,
11 about 20, 25 percent of that energy is allocated to the
12 lithium facility. So it is truly 100 percent.

13 So, you know, there's out the byproducts, there's
14 no waste streams at all, to be really clear on this. So I
15 think there's obviously standard for CEQA, NEPA, if
16 applicable, but with CEQA the industry and certain measures
17 that keeps everyone in check. Now beyond just what the
18 standard are, well, of course there are aspects of
19 sustainability which are like water. You know reusing
20 water. In our development, we recapture a lot of that steam
21 in our design and we reuse it, so keeping everything to a
22 minimis, managing the resource properly as it has been
23 managed here for many, many years.

24 So I think that, you know, sharing more
25 information with the public at large on this and answering

1 those questions and getting the sort of -- you know, the
2 idea of an open cut pit mine or, you know, a solar or
3 evaporation ponds or waste products and just clearing -- you
4 know, no pun included -- but clearing the air with that
5 analogy. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Let me jump in. Jonathan
7 Weisgall here. I think Rod did a great job of summarizing
8 those issues.

9 Two points I want to add on top of that. Number
10 one, as -- as DHE Renewables is looking towards production.
11 As I said earlier, our first demonstration plant is going to
12 produce lithium chloride.

13 The second plant, and this involves our Department
14 of Energy grant, we are going to be converting that lithium
15 chloride into lithium hydroxide because that's the final end
16 product for lithium ion batteries. Lithium carbonate is
17 also used, but at this point we're planning to convert the
18 core ingredient to lithium hydroxide. In that regard, we
19 are planning to use electrolysis, not chemical reagents. We
20 think that will be better overall for the environment.
21 Electrolysis simply being the use of electricity to induce
22 a chemical change. So we'll be changing the chloride into
23 hydroxide. But we think from an environmental point of
24 view, that will be better than using chemical reagents. So
25 that's point number one.

1 Point number two. I want to make sure is whatever
2 the industry does is going to be minutely scrutinized under
3 CEQA. And I think it's important to recognize that CEQA is
4 an even more stringent environmental statute than the
5 federal National Environmental Policy Act. I suspect -- I
6 know that in the case of our company, we do not anticipate
7 jurisdiction under NEPA because there will not be a federal
8 land involved, so we anticipate getting approval under CEQA
9 even though that will probably be an even more onerous
10 statute, in general terms. And whether that approval
11 process occurs at the county level or the state level, CEQA
12 is CEQA. It's a rigorous statute and there will be a robust
13 review and of course there is always opportunity for public
14 comment in any kind of CEQA process.

15 So I'm jumping the gun a little bit of where we'll
16 be when we get to the commercial stage, but I think it's
17 important as we talk about the different environmental
18 processes and I think we can all agree that what we're
19 looking at in Imperial Valley is much more benign, almost a
20 hundred percent benign and certainly way ahead of what we
21 see in Western Australia and South America. There still
22 will be the requirement to comply with California's very
23 rigorous environmental statute. Thank you.

24 MS. WEEKS: Great. Are there other comments from
25 other Commissioners on this topic?

1 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Looks like none, Terra.

2 MS. WEEKS: Okay. I actually have a quick
3 question on this, just thinking about the scope of what we
4 would include in the Report, I do think this section
5 hopefully will be pretty straightforward. I think there is
6 a lot of publicly-available information about the various
7 extraction methods. And I think, you know, having
8 developers in this Commission and we can invite others to
9 speak on a panel for this topic in the future, I guess I
10 have two questions. So one is I also understand that Rio
11 Tinto is looking at lithium through boron processing, so
12 that might be just another topic to include in this, so I'm
13 wondering if that's of interest to look at in addition to
14 the mining and evaporation pond processes.

15 And, secondly, just kind of thinking about
16 speakers for future meetings, wondering if it would make
17 sense or if anyone has connections to companies utilizing
18 the other extraction methods to just talk about, you know,
19 lessons learned or potential overlap, not necessarily in the
20 actual process of deriving the lithium but thinking through
21 transportation or building the supply chain or regulations.
22 So just kind of tossing those out as questions.

23 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes, Terra, just to weigh
24 in there, I mean, yes, we can bring in a technology plan or
25 an engineering company to the panel and talk about the

1 process itself.

2 You know Rio, of course Rio is doing tilings from
3 boron, that the byproduct of the tilings of that project.
4 I'm sure they would be keen to talk about that as well, and
5 that's a very unique type of opportunity that they're very
6 advanced on.

7 MS. WEEKS: Commissioner Weisgall, were you going
8 to jump in too?

9 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Did we lose Rod?

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: No, he finished, Jonathan.

11 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Okay. Terra, this is
12 Jonathan. A couple of quick thoughts. I mean we are the
13 Lithium Valley Commission, so I think the focus obviously is
14 the geothermal brine at the Salton Sea, which, you know, as
15 folks know from our meetings, is unique in the world mainly
16 because of it's extremely high temperature and high silica
17 content, but there are other factors as well. That said,
18 there could be lessons learned.

19 There is a company called Standard Lithium that is
20 looking at doing something similar, analogous at least from
21 a business model point of view, to what we're trying to do
22 in Arkansas. And by that I mean there is already brining
23 production occurring, so there is commercially-viable
24 brining operations in Arkansas. But that brine does have
25 lithium, and you have a company there that is essentially

1 trying to do that bolt-on technology that, you know, the
2 developers are talking about at the Salton Sea, a geothermal
3 brine. But it's a different kind of brine. But that said,
4 there are -- you know, there could be lessons. I certainly
5 -- I could contact that company.

6 I think Rod, you know, Rio Tinto is using -- you
7 know, it's a different source all together, much like in
8 Nevada they're looking at clay, but, you know, it may be
9 worth looking at. So, Terra, I will follow up with you at
10 least with respect to Standard Lithium, which is a new
11 company working on brine in Arkansas, just to see if there
12 maybe some lessons learned there. It's not a bad idea.

13 MS. WEEKS: That's great. And, you know,
14 obviously defer to you all, Commissioners. And I think it
15 does make sense to focus primarily on the Salton Sea region,
16 so I was just kind of throwing that out as suggestions, but
17 feel free to take it or leave it.

18 Okay, any other comments on this topic?

19 Okay, let's move then to the final topic for this
20 meeting. So this is looking at potential economic and
21 environmental impacts to the state resulting from
22 extraction, processing, and production of lithium and
23 lithium-dependent products from geothermal brines. And some
24 of the potential sub topics have already been addressed in
25 previous meetings, include: How to prioritize local

1 benefits, looking at public health specifically; Salton Sea
2 restoration; also looking at workforce needs and
3 opportunities, including the training needs or apprentice
4 programs; and then looking at infrastructure needs and
5 opportunities.

6 And so the sub-body for this is Commissioner
7 Olmedo and Commissioner Flores. So I will open the floor to
8 either one of you to take the lead.

9 COMMISSIONER FLORES: I will let Commissioner
10 Olmedo go first.

11 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I was going to say the same
12 thing. You beat me to it.

13 Well, you know we have had quite a bit of
14 discussion on this, and I'm -- I actually had an opportunity
15 to talk to at least a couple of the Commissioners
16 independently, just general conversation about kind of the
17 vision. And part of the discussion is, you know, we've had
18 examples already of Reno Energies. And some of those have
19 really turned into undeliverable promises, you know, wind,
20 for example; solar is another one, displacing agriculture
21 land and affecting critical jobs where if some prescribed to
22 sort of the low-skilled narrative, are jobs that were there.
23 So I think here there is a great opportunity to design, in
24 particular the -- those projects that are looking to build
25 maybe some, the ones that have already been here for a

1 while. There is a long history and track record.

2 So I think it's going to be important to dive into
3 that data, right, and some of the operations that already
4 have existed and better understand what -- when we talk
5 about public health, we understand that there is a mission
6 and trying to at least make this a better process where the
7 public can understand when we're talking about steam
8 operation, we're a regulatory agency discussing pollutants
9 generated in these operations. All of that has a value and
10 we need to understand what that value is. Is there a risk
11 to a fence-line community? What is that risk? How can that
12 be de-risked? And how can there be a coexistence?

13 I think it's also fair that in my role, bring in
14 and elevating the community's voice. And what does that
15 mean? Bring in these conversations about the experience to
16 the fence-line communities or at least within the perimeters
17 of what we would consider the impacts on.

18 You know there's also the discussion about
19 investments in the Salton Sea. I know that that's been
20 often a selling point for the economic and environmental
21 impacts or, therefore, a mitigation or perhaps for
22 restoration. I know that those terms keep getting
23 interchanged.

24 There is a long history of how we got to the
25 situation at the Salton Sea, and that within itself we'll

1 have to have considerable discussion about and in that
2 research about what are the impacts happening right now when
3 we bring in speculation, right. And what are the impacts of
4 the conditions of the Sea and how we got there.

5 The revenues that could be generated and that
6 perhaps maybe are being generated by geothermal, because of
7 my understanding that the methods that are being proposed, I
8 think we all understand that, I would leave myself open in
9 case I mischaracterize or misunderstand somewhere around
10 there, I'm always open to being corrected, but you need to
11 have a geothermal in order to have a lithium extraction and
12 operation. So we're going to have to look at the history of
13 how the lithium and how the geothermal has -- has operated,
14 there's a significant amount of data, and how that will
15 change with the lithium extraction in terms of will that
16 create an increase, will that create a decrease. Economic
17 and environmental impacts have a lot to do also with crater
18 to cradle -- or cradle to grave, you know, which concepts
19 will be used in this process.

20 So I'll just -- you know, I'll leave it there. I
21 have yet to meet with the Commissioner that we'll be working
22 together on this. Yeah, I will pause there.

23 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
24 Olmedo.

25 Commissioner Flores, did you have some comments?

1 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Yeah. I was going to say,
2 Commissioner Olmedo, that that's definitely something on my
3 mind that we need to either -- because I know that, you
4 know, brought up the topics of these impacts to the
5 community, and I know I'd like to personally hear more of
6 the experiences other communities like them, you know,
7 pretty far away up here in Sacramento. So just definitely
8 looking forward to working with you.

9 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: On that of course.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Are there any questions?

11 MS. WEEKS: Looks like Commissioner Castaneda has
12 a comment.

13 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you, Chair Kelley,
14 if I could. Obviously I'm new, I haven't been exposed to
15 any of the previous discussions and conversations that have
16 been going on, but I think Mr. Olmedo makes some very good
17 points regarding the history, the impacts, a lot of things
18 that have occurred in the Imperial and Riverside Counties,
19 in and around Salton Sea that have had a deleterious impact
20 on -- on the community.

21 And I'm just wondering, because just what I was
22 able to read, is there going to be an opportunity within the
23 purview of this Commission to have that sort of community
24 conversation where we can sort of air out, you know, what
25 potential benefits there are, what potential impacts there

1 might be, and things that, you know, we certainly hear from
2 the neighbors to understand what they matter -- and then the
3 economic issues as well.

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So, Commissioner Castaneda, we
5 -- we only touched about a conversation that happened a few
6 days ago, but it included people from around the valley, but
7 community members and community based from the north end,
8 Calipatria. And we invited some people from Niland and
9 Westmoreland to join. They were unfortunately not there,
10 but at the next meeting.

11 I know on this agenda it will be talking about
12 some community engagement that we should probably -- and I
13 know that Elisabeth will probably be speaking about that at
14 the end on our agenda, but we are engaging that. And where
15 you're talking about how we probably -- and Luis would agree
16 -- where we have been -- we have been so eager to get
17 anything here that we haven't really paid attention to how
18 it could benefit us, right. So we're trying to take a
19 different approach now and we're trying to be more direct
20 but open and transparent with industry, the community.

21 And, look, nobody is going to succeed if you can't
22 get out to Mullet Island, so there's got to be some bridges
23 repaired and there's got to be a road fixed, so there are a
24 lot of things, but we're starting that conversation.

25 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Are there any other comments,
2 Terra?

3 MS. WEEKS: I don't see any hands raised.

4 Anyone else want to hop in here?

5 Okay. So that wraps up this topic area or this
6 agenda item, rather. So after this meeting, as I said, CEC
7 staff will review the discussion from last month's meeting
8 and then this discussion and start to flesh out the draft
9 report outline. And so then we'll send that around for
10 Commissioners to review hopefully ahead of the next meeting.

11 And, again, that can be a living document, but
12 just give us some pointers to look to as we start thinking
13 about workshops and potential speakers.

14 And I actually want to reply to a comment that was
15 in the chat, there was a question around the order of the
16 topic area. And I just want to mention the way that they're
17 ordered in this presentation is how they're ordered in the
18 statute, but I think there is a lot of opportunity to kind
19 of shift things around. Some topics may even be combined,
20 you know, especially as we start breaking things down into
21 sub-topic areas. So I don't think this order is set in
22 stone, it was just helpful to get the conversation going.

23 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you.

24 So at this time we -- before we go to the next
25 item, we will open the floor for public comment related to

1 the Legislative Report discussion. And, remember, you will
2 have the opportunity for public comment on other items of
3 the agenda as well.

4 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

5 If you're joining us by Zoom on your computer,
6 please use the raised hand feature. And if you have called
7 in, please dial star 9 to raise your hand and then star 6 to
8 unmute yourself.

9 First we'll go through hands raised in the Zoom
10 application and then the phone.

11 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Anyone wishing to make
12 comment?

13 MS. de JONG: I had seen a raised hand from
14 Orlando but earlier.

15 I did allow you to speak if you wanted to go ahead
16 and make your comment.

17 MR. FOOTE: Yes, ma'am. Very briefly, and maybe
18 it's some backpeddling that is inappropriate at this point,
19 but there is always in the gorilla in the room which is the
20 involvement and stability of water availability for the
21 entire process, not just obviously geothermal but the
22 extraction process related to lithium. And I think I heard
23 a very brief reference to water, but nothing very -- nothing
24 comprehensive. We have obviously a great deal of
25 controversy still pending in connection with current

1 litigation involving IAD, involving the utilization of water
2 for what purpose. And I wondered if that had -- that had
3 introduced some instability that might not have preexisted
4 that, that would now currently be involved in this current
5 lithium development activity.

6 MS. de JONG: Thank you so much for your comment.

7 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So I think that might be
8 something that could be addressed, Mr. Hanks could bring
9 back to the next meeting to be able to -- we -- I think
10 locally we know about the industrial water allocation and we
11 know that IAD has the ability. What Mr. Foote is bringing
12 up is a challenge to that distribution, an equitable
13 distribution, which at this moment IAD prevails in an
14 appellate court.

15 Commissioner Hanks, do you want to comment now or
16 do you want to provide more next month?

17 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Well, I like the way you guys
18 put that target on my back. No, I just -- this has been an
19 ongoing issue. As you say, right now we have a favorable
20 ruling from the appellate court. And today, I believe,
21 there may be a conference at the Supreme Court level to see
22 whether it moves on or not.

23 MR. [SPEAKER]: That's correct.

24 COMMISSIONER HANKS: But we have -- we have been
25 making plans since about 2007, 2008 for geothermal growth

1 and also the possibility of mineral extraction. So there
2 have been the challenges on our equitable distribution plan,
3 and that's what's being sought after. But since 2010 to now
4 we have asked our growers to participate in the voluntary
5 conservation program, and they have been very successful in
6 the amount of water that they are conserving, not only on
7 the farm but in the system too.

8 So we believe we're going to be in pretty good
9 shape on it, if we get cooperation from the weather. With
10 this drought hanging over us, I don't know whether anyone
11 has the answers for that, but we have a very strong water
12 right.

13 We also have a strong desire to use that water in
14 our service area, which the Known Geothermal Resource Area
15 is in our water service area. So we think where we're at,
16 we've lined up about as well as we can and we think we'll be
17 able to do that and at the same time we are providing
18 incentives to our growers to conserve water, so that's been
19 a big plus. And I think when it comes down it's not going
20 to be the same issue that we had in 2010, when there was
21 this unknown. We keep hearing about certainty here, and I
22 can guarantee you that our growers want certainty on their
23 water. So we have been looking at those challenges. I
24 think we have aligned ourselves quite well for it, along
25 with other land uses that have come in that have created the

1 opportunity to move some of that water. So I think we're
2 going to be in good shape.

3 I haven't been given a fixed number from the
4 developers themselves, but we -- we have -- we have kind of
5 an idea what it may be, but I've been waiting for them to
6 come forward and put in a request for service and then we'll
7 know pretty much what that amount is.

8 But keep in mind this is not all going to be
9 developed at one time. It's over a period of time and it
10 gives us some timeframes to adapt and work out some
11 agreement with our water users.

12 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: And, Mr. Hanks -- or,
13 Commissioner Hanks, you know, I think that Mr. Foote is --
14 it's something that's relative to us because we discuss it
15 in Imperial Valley and may not be known to the other
16 Commissioners or those that are listening, but the
17 availability of water is there for industrial development.
18 And IAD has set that aside. Yes, there have been
19 challenges, but nothing is in jeopardy at this moment, so I
20 think we can move along --

21 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yeah.

22 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: -- and hopefully if anybody
23 has -- wants to learn more about it, they can reach out to
24 us.

25 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes. I think -- I think that

1 we're in good shape, Commissioner Kelley.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Hanks.

3 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: And Jonathan Weisgall with
4 one quick comment here which is while I don't think the
5 industry knows exact numbers for water use, our goal is to
6 use order of magnitude 95 percent less water per ton of
7 lithium produced than is used in the South American process.
8 And that's our target.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Weisgall.

11 COMMISSIONER HANKS: That's a good number to hear,
12 yes.

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Elisabeth, are there any
14 comments or public comment?

15 MS. de JONG: Yeah, thank you for asking. We
16 don't have any other hands raised, but we have received a
17 few messages in the chat that I just want to draw our
18 attention to.

19 One question said: Any idea of what percentage of
20 total U.S. projected lithium needs to electrify nearly
21 everything that 300 tons will provide.

22 Again that is if we have a quick response or
23 that's something that we could consider to answer in a
24 future workshop.

25 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: I think that I'm sure our

1 industry guys have a feeling of how much the domestic supply
2 is today and what it's going to grow to, so they might be
3 able to respond to this or provide it to you, Elisabeth.

4 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I'll just -- Jonathan
5 here, a quick --

6 MS. de JONG: Yeah.

7 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: -- nutshell. World use
8 today is roughly 300,000 tons. Most analyses, Bloomberg and
9 others would -- would project a tenfold growth in the next
10 decade. That would get you to three million tons.

11 The geothermal brine at Salton Sea with --
12 speaking for our company, which -- which has 10 of the 11
13 existing plants in that area, we anticipate being able to
14 produce 90,000 metric tons. That would more than take care
15 of domestic U.S. use for the foreseeable future. But,
16 again, if there is a gigantic increase in electric vehicle
17 production, not to mention, you know, battery use for
18 electric storage on the grid, the U.S. numbers may well go
19 up as well. But as I said, that's for existing geothermal.

20 The lease rights that Cal Energy, that our
21 subsidiary has in the -- in the Known Geothermal Resource
22 Area adjacent to the Salton Sea could actually produce as
23 much 300,000 metric tons, so that's just speaking for one
24 company. But those are -- those are some rough numbers. I
25 hope that responds to the question.

1 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

2 And Commissioner Colwell also raised his hand.

3 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yeah. I think Jonathan
4 covered that well globally. We're seeing local -- localized
5 demand just for the order sector as at 2024 being
6 approximately 120,000 tons per annum lithium hydroxide. So
7 there's a specific number there. I hope that helps, hence
8 the expedition of this, you know, to expedite this process
9 to do that.

10 MS. de JONG: Okay. Thank you.

11 Another comment that was written in, Terra
12 actually addressed it, but I will go ahead and read it for
13 the record and so everyone is aware. The comment says: I
14 want to raise this topic, and this is in regards to the
15 environmental and economic impacts, number 6, and is not
16 higher up in the Report, would you consider it as such a
17 large topic and perhaps the most important should be split
18 into two, environmental impact and economic impact studies.

19 And the second part of that question is about if
20 environmental could be split into economic as separate
21 sections since they are both very big and important pieces.

22 As I mentioned, I believe that was already
23 addressed, and unless someone has additional comments.

24 Okay. I don't have any other hands raised at this
25 time, Commissioner Kelley. Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So at this time I would like
2 to entertain a break for anybody who needs to stretch their
3 legs or use the facilities. And I would recommend 15
4 minutes, if that is agreeable.

5 Okay, not hearing any -- any dissent, then how
6 about 3:20 we reconvene.

7 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes.

8 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Thank you.

10 (Recess taken from 3:05 to 3:23 p.m.)

11 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Does it look like we've got
12 the majority back, Elisabeth?

13 MS. de JONG: I think maybe we could just confirm.
14 Commissioner Olmedo, are you there?

15 Great.

16 And, Commissioner Castaneda?

17 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: I am here.

18 MS. de JONG: Okay, great. I believe that puts us
19 at a quorum then, so I think we can proceed.

20 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay, so the next item is the
21 Future Meetings Discussion. And this is determining agenda
22 topics and speakers for our future meetings. We talked
23 about this last month in regards to kind of setting the
24 table that we are going to start having some more dialogue
25 about these breakout groups. So we're planning to spend

1 about half of our monthly meeting time to hold these
2 workshops on designed topic areas. And this would be one
3 and a half to two hours during each monthly meeting to
4 discuss specific topics to the workshop. And the CEC is
5 going to run through some proposals for a workshop format.

6 So, Terra, are you online and ready to go through
7 some ideas?

8 MS. WEEKS: Yes, I am here and ready.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay.

10 MS. WEEKS: Okay. So could we go to the next
11 slide, please?

12 Okay. So I wanted to just provide a sample
13 template, just to give folks a sense of what we mean when we
14 say workshop. And so this is really just a starting point,
15 and you're absolutely able to amend this to suit your needs
16 or you can go with a different format all together. This is
17 really just to kind of get ideas about what types of people
18 we might want to invite to attend these workshops and speak,
19 or how we might want to structure the discussion.

20 So a typical -- (phone chimes) -- oh, I'm sorry.
21 A typical workshop might include opening remarks by the sub-
22 body members on that topic, followed by any Commissioner
23 presentations if Commissioners have information on that
24 topic that they'd like to share. We then might have a
25 presentation by an expert which could be an overview of a

1 topic or possibly a deep dive on one particular facet. And
2 then that could be followed by a panel of experts and
3 stakeholders. And we would encourage you to have panels
4 representing numerous viewpoints.

5 So in addition to some of the ones listed here,
6 including environmental, community representatives, EJ and
7 equity groups, industry, academia, you may also consider
8 representatives from local, state, or federal government
9 representatives; workforce representatives; utilities;
10 California Tribes; or others. So these are just some --
11 again, some ideas to get you started.

12 If it's appropriate, I think it would be great to
13 have a member of that sub-body moderate the panel. And,
14 again, CEC staff is available to help prep questions or help
15 with any logistics there.

16 For Energy Commission workshops, we often ask
17 panelists to present for a couple of minutes and then follow
18 that with a moderated Q&A, but that's just one model.

19 And then within each of the workshops, so each
20 workshop will be focused on a specific theme. So, you know,
21 one could be on looking at the different types of lithium-
22 extraction methods, one could be on environmental impacts,
23 one could be on economic impacts, and so forth. But we
24 would propose maybe thinking about some overarching themes
25 for the workshop, such as thinking about the community

1 impacts and workforce considerations across all of those
2 topic areas.

3 So Elisabeth now is just going to run through a
4 couple more logistical notes about our role in supporting
5 you with these workshops.

6 MS. de JONG: Thank you, Terra.

7 So to prepare for each workshop, CEC staff will
8 reach out to the sub-body Commissioner on the topic of the
9 upcoming workshop. We have been and will continue to
10 collect input on potential speakers, topics, presentations,
11 and materials to cover for each topic. We will share that
12 information and work with the sub-body Commissioners to hold
13 the workshop and create the agenda.

14 So the CEC will provide a time line to ensure that
15 all agenda and details are arranged in time for the public
16 notice to go out, according to the Bagley-Keene Open
17 Meetings Act. And the CEC will also assist in ensuring that
18 any guest speakers and panelists are given access to the
19 meeting for their participation.

20 So with that, I will turn back to you, Vice Chair
21 Kelley.

22 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. Thank you, Elisabeth.
23 So you caught me when I was trying to do two things. Sorry
24 about that.

25 So some workshops, relaying recommendations for

1 upcoming workshops, we've got lithium-extraction methods.
2 We heard some of that. I think Terra mentioned other
3 methods, the bromide extraction in other locations. But
4 specifically probably we want to focus on what is being
5 proposed in this area, of Lithium Valley.

6 Furthering geothermal development. I think that,
7 you know, we have started the conversation here, we might be
8 able to have something relatively soon.

9 Marketing opportunities for lithium. I'm not sure
10 who's on that, but that is an important thing. Rod touched
11 on some of the -- and I think Commissioner Soto as well --
12 on the attention that Lithium Valley and geothermal brine
13 lithium is getting in Washington, D.C. And Secretary
14 Granholm's comments from a few weeks ago are very
15 encouraging as well. So marketing and also being able to
16 enlighten more people about what this -- what this could
17 mean, not just for Imperial County and Riverside County or
18 California or the nation, but the world.

19 And then the economic and environmental impacts
20 that we talked about earlier.

21 Are there any -- is anybody having a schedule of
22 maybe having those extraction methods at our next meeting in
23 July? Would that be possible, Rod and Jonathan?

24 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I think so. I mean,
25 again, let's think this through. I'm less interested -- I

1 mean it's up to the other Commissioners. I'm not sure what
2 we're going to gain by learning what Standard Lithium is
3 doing with bromine in Arkansas with different kind of brine.
4 I'm just -- I think we have a pretty full plate.

5 It -- you know, it might be -- it might be better
6 for maybe one of Rod's engineers or one of our engineers to
7 talk about what, you know in a general sense, what we're
8 planning to do that can do a somewhat -- you know, not
9 overly technology-deep drive, but -- deep dive, but
10 something that -- that is informative. So, anyway, those
11 are preliminary thoughts. I'm not wedded to any of that.
12 I'm just --

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: I think I'm in agreement with
14 you, Jonathan, is that we should probably be talking about
15 what we're -- what applications would be used here, --

16 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah.

17 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: -- the variations between
18 yours or Energy Source or Controlled Thermal Resource, or
19 Matt, for that matter.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, yeah.

21 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: That what -- what could be
22 applied here, what's being contemplated in the pilot
23 projects.

24 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, I think explain
25 them. And, by the way, I've sat through a Standard Lithium

1 presentation and got kind of, I don't know, I guess amused
2 as they talk about, hey, this is Arkansas, you know, we can
3 permit anything, there is no problem, and there is a big
4 huge workforce here. And, you know, gosh, there all this
5 chemical work and this is just this huge industrial area, so
6 adding on some lithium is not a big deal, blah-blah-blah,
7 along those lines. You know, we don't -- who care -- I mean
8 that's Arkansas.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Rod, do you have any comments?

10 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: You know, if it's
11 technically based, I mean specific to the extraction or
12 extraction methods, I mean we probably ought to have our
13 engineers or have the vendor explain at a level the process,
14 if you like, and basically how it works. And maybe, you
15 know, if it was five minutes granted by the Commission or
16 ten minutes, we would have our engineer explain it at 60,000
17 feet, you know, the process. And I think that that -- if
18 you're amenable to that, we could certainly organize
19 something.

20 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: I would appreciate that. And
21 we could calendar it for the next meeting. And if they
22 could also talk about the waste stream. I know that was
23 discussed earlier. What is the -- what is the residual of
24 any of the processes with lithium.

25 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Right. We've got out deal

1 with that because there is none, so great.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. Thank you.

3 And then furthering geothermal development for
4 August, it's you and I, Luis. Do you think that we would
5 have some stuff to be ready for presentation and the panel,
6 as Terra put down? We could invite some of our colleagues
7 to be on that panel, we could follow that format. What's
8 your -- what's your view on that?

9 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. I think it's -- I
10 think it's a topic that will need a little more discussion
11 as to what angle, what approach are we going to take into
12 producing and document that, that will adequately capture
13 what we're trying to inform in terms of furthering
14 geothermal development. When I see furthering geothermal
15 development, I feel like into the future. What are the
16 projects into the future. I'm not sure we're giving a fair
17 assessment of existing geothermal. And I wonder if we need
18 to -- to make that clear as to what we're trying to
19 accomplish with furthering geothermal development, given
20 that what -- we're talking about both, existing and future.

21 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So I have no --

22 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: The end goal -- the end goal
23 is lithium.

24 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Yeah, I --

25 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Can't just be thinking

1 lithium in future projects, right? We're thinking lithium
2 into existing projects, --

3 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Sure.

4 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: -- because at the end of the
5 day it's clear that the lithium is going to come from brine
6 that is generated through geothermal development. So I
7 would like us to -- I would like to propose that we think
8 about it in that way.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Sure. I am not opposed to
10 that. We can -- I think that we can do it in the August
11 meeting. And you and I can get together and talk about more
12 about that inclusion. And regarding geothermal development,
13 you know we're having a conversation about some other
14 things, but in regards to geothermal development, furthering
15 it, either existing or new production, I think we could be
16 ready for it in August.

17 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: That's correct. As a sub-
18 category to furthering geothermal development, while I'd
19 like to propose that, we -- we identify someone, here is a
20 good presentation and help us better understand the
21 differences in the geothermal, because I understand there
22 are differences. There is no one geothermal alike.

23 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Um-hum.

24 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: So it would be interesting
25 to see, you know, the efficiency of each and every

1 operation, and then I would be able to have a better-
2 informed ability to -- to our goal of putting forth a
3 recommendation.

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. So we'll just keep it
5 on the calendar for August. And, Luis, you and I will talk
6 about it after the meeting. Sound good?

7 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: Yes, of course.

8 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay.

9 MS. de JONG: We have a hand raised.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: A question?

11 MS. de JONG: Commissioner Hanks has a hand
12 raised.

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Oh, Commissioner Hanks.

14 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yeah. I just wanted to add
15 in I've had some dealings with some of the engineers. I
16 think Jim Turner would make a great presenter. He's very
17 familiar with the geothermals in the local area.

18 Likewise the question came up about the water
19 availability. I might arrange for our energy manager here
20 to go over more on we'll-serve letters and availability.
21 That would -- that would probably come under the
22 environmental impacts, economic/environmental impacts.

23 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. And then marketing
24 opportunities for lithium; is Commissioner Dolega or Lopez,
25 are they on?

1 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yeah. We're going to have to
2 set up a meeting this upcoming week and go over it.

3 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. Do you feel comfortable
4 about a September time line?

5 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: I think we could reach that.

6 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. Thank you.

7 And then October, we have penciled in economic and
8 environmental impacts. And that would be Commissioner
9 Olmedo and Commissioner Flores. Any feedback on that
10 availability for an October meeting?

11 COMMISSIONER FLORES: That makes sense.

12 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: It does seem kind of far to
14 think about when we're talking about environmental impacts.
15 I know there is a lot of eagerness from environmental
16 groups, environmental justice. I see the eagerness to
17 engage. I think that the sooner we create platforms, and I
18 think that we don't have to wait till we have the
19 discussion. I think we need to bring the environmental
20 justice conversation basically to every area of the
21 potential topics, in every topic that we're discussing. I'd
22 like to recommend that, that we bring the environmental
23 justice conversation.

24 I am most committed to seeing this path forward
25 and seeing how there's -- we can achieve both a new economic

1 revenue streams, revenues, jobs. Much of everything we talk
2 about, there is an environmental justice component. And I
3 think we really should commit. Again, that's what I'm
4 proposing, that we commit to bringing the environmental
5 justice conversation to every topic. In fact, it shouldn't
6 just read economic and environmental impact, every topic
7 should have an environmental justice component to it, a
8 discussion to it. That's what makes sense to me. We either
9 do it, in creating a space for the environmental justice or
10 we have a discussion between -- you know, we all just create
11 that space, you know however we want to do it, but I just
12 want to make sure that I elevated that, --

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Sure.

14 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: -- that interest.

15 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: I think, you know, in the
16 format that Terra is sharing, nothing precluding you or
17 Commissioner Flores from initiating more conversations now,
18 but in October on the agenda would be a block for a panel
19 discussion of people that you and Commissioner Flores have
20 identified that could speak to some of the economic and
21 environmental impacts, and some of the things that both you
22 and Commissioner Flores have also recognized. So I agree.
23 You know I think in every aspect the impacts of methods or
24 new development or marketing, we'll always be thinking about
25 how this is going to relate on the land and on people. But

1 this -- this is a good conveyance to be able to have a
2 focused moment to have some indepth conversation about that.

3 So are you good with October scheduling?

4 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes, absolutely. Sorry I
5 didn't respond to that. Yes, I'm okay with that. And to me
6 we are just getting started. I think the discussions will
7 become richer and hopefully we'll stay productive. That's
8 the goal. But, again, I just wanted to share that with all
9 the members. I hope that there is support to negotiating in
10 every discussion an environmental justice conversation. And
11 we can find ways, and I'm happy to -- I'm here to support
12 this whole process. And I will just leave it for how we
13 could do that. You know I respect everybody's assignment
14 here, our positions as Commissioners, but I do want to be
15 able to help in any way that I can. If there is anyone who
16 feels I could be of hope, I certainly look towards the
17 community for advice as well. Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner
19 Olmedo.

20 So we've gone through an idea for the next four
21 months of scheduling. Terra and Elisabeth, I think we have
22 concurrence with the sub-groups with that. That calendar
23 can be marked, unless there is any other comment from
24 Commissioners.

25 No? Okay. Then we move on.

1 MS. WEEKS: Just to hope in here. This is
2 perfect. So we'll work with the sub-bodies to figure out
3 speakers and logistics for these workshops. So we'll be
4 reaching out to each of you to get these scheduled and
5 coordinated.

6 And just a reminder, so this is just to kind of
7 get things started, and of course we're not leaving off the
8 other topics, but we'll just work on scheduling those at a
9 later date.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Oh, thank you kindly.

11 So we'll carry on to the Community Engagement.
12 This discussion, we've heard requests about the Lithium
13 Valley Commission to hold a community engagement meeting,
14 and wanted to take a moment to review ideas suggested thus
15 far and see if we can determine a few more details for an
16 event. Ideas considered: Calibrating with Assemblymember
17 Garcia's office to hold a Lithium Valley Commission meeting
18 in the Salton Sea region, to introduce the Lithium Valley
19 Commission and describe its mandates and solicit public
20 input. And the timeframe could be in the fall.

21 That must be somebody that doesn't live here that
22 put that calendar in the fall. Whether -- whether the event
23 may be virtual or in person will depend on the factors and
24 health conditions, impact covering, and travel to the
25 region, the status of the laws governing California's public

1 meetings. And, you know, things are starting to open up.
2 So we'll also have to take into consideration the logistics
3 and expenses for Commissioners and the staff to travel and
4 host. So we might benefit from a discussion about what
5 communities we could engage, what information we want to
6 hear from or they want to hear from us, what community input
7 and engagement we hope to generate to support our work.

8 If we're in a situation where we travel and it's
9 not permitted, we want to look at the input of Commissioners
10 and how important it is to hold in-person meetings. There
11 is a lot to do. Shall we plan for something in the fall?
12 What are we looking for? Where would we go? And -- and the
13 logistics of us coming from different areas to meet in a
14 certain spot. I'll open it up for conversation.

15 MS. de JONG: So while it's quiet, I just want to
16 jump in and just also mention that if we're in a situation
17 where travel is not permitted or encouraged, we wanted to
18 look for input also from the Commissioners on how important
19 it is to hold in person. We'd like to accommodate that, but
20 it would -- it may not be in our control. So if we're able
21 to hold it in person, we want to consider holding an in-
22 person meeting or may want to consider holding an in-person
23 meeting later than the fall to accommodate those
24 restrictions being lifted.

25 And I also just want to mention, because we've

1 heard comments about translations and interpretations
2 before, we are planning to provide interpreting services
3 starting with the July public meeting, and we'll determine
4 the need for that moving forward based on the use. This
5 includes translations for the public meeting notice. And we
6 intend to offer those services for any public community
7 engagement events as well.

8 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So then comments about
9 scheduling a community engagement, timing, location,
10 logistics.

11 I'll start it out. How about Bombay Beach in
12 September?

13 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I just drove by it
14 yesterday and it looked like there would be plenty of room.

15 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: What about Calipatria in
16 October?

17 MS. WEEKS: Vice Chair, it looks like there are a
18 couple of hands raised.

19 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Sure, sure.

20 MS. WEEKS: So it looks like Commissioner
21 Castaneda.

22 COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you, Terra, Mr.
23 Chair, appreciate it. Yeah, I think it's obviously the
24 rules and safety, and all those things are our first
25 priority, but I think it's going to be incredibly important

1 as we move into these various communities that we do this in
2 person. I just -- you know, I mean I think we've all seen
3 sort of the break down in terms of communication with
4 respect to the communities that, quite frankly, will be the
5 most affected by whatever we decide whatever ultimately is
6 done. And so I just would not want to be in a situation
7 where we're having these very important discussions and
8 folks aren't there because they don't know how to connect,
9 or whatever.

10 So, you know, I think I would encourage just as
11 much as possible that we do that, I guess. And obviously
12 you know facility availability and what's there. I don't --
13 Bombay Beach, I'm not sure. September, you know, somewhere
14 with good air conditioning I guess and so -- (laughing).
15 But October it starts to get a little bit more, you know,
16 friendly in terms of being outdoors, and so forth. And so
17 I'm willing to do whatever, but I have enough experience in
18 these kinds of things where I just know that these kinds of
19 meetings, when we're out specifically giving that kind of
20 information to the public and trying to solicit feedback and
21 participation, it's always a challenge, you know, without
22 doing it personally.

23 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Um-hum. Agreed.

24 Terra, is there another comment or another raised
25 hand?

1 MS. WEEKS: Yeah, there also Commissioner Olmedo.

2 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: So this is a very important
3 agenda item, you know, for me. I think it's going to be
4 important to look in a couple directions. You know one is
5 there are very actively engaged groups around the Salton
6 Sea, from both the north end and Imperial Valley that could
7 provide some really good input and recommendations.

8 We don't want to make the same mistakes that have
9 been made throughout the Salton Sea effort. CNRA, the
10 California Natural Resource Agency might also have some best
11 practices. They have, you know, been in the trenches and
12 have dealt with some harsh criticism about how they in the
13 past have managed community engagement. So those would be
14 two recommendations. I would propose it before going out
15 and doing these community engagement meetings that we create
16 an agenda item and invite, like I said, established groups
17 that are engaged on the Salton Sea and the community,
18 foremost. Not just the Salton Sea but that have roots in
19 the community that understand the diversity of the
20 community.

21 And I would check in with CNRA too also, so we
22 don't make the same mistakes they did in the past. They're
23 doing a lot better, but there were a lot of mistakes early
24 on in the community engagement model that was implemented
25 early on.

1 We want to make sure we do this right. You know,
2 I mean we don't have to make the same mistakes.

3 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Understood. There might be
4 some advantage to talking with Natural Resources about their
5 experience. I think, though, that we are very aware of, you
6 know, the area, the community, and being able to do
7 outreach, so we can help in that respect too, meaning the
8 county.

9 As far as locations and timing, are there any
10 comments?

11 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Ryan, let me jump in.
12 Jonathan. I think that -- I do think it's a good idea. And
13 I could kind of see two parts to this. One part would be
14 sitting down somewhere for the actual meeting, and I don't
15 know where that could -- I mean, you know, El Centro may be
16 the closest from a logistical point of a view with a room
17 big enough, I don't know. But the second part I think would
18 make sense would be to get a bus and give a tour to the
19 Commissioners of the geothermal facilities.

20 And, you know, Rod's been talking a lot about what
21 he's doing and I think seeing his lithium operations would
22 be terrific. It will be under construction. I think the
23 later in the year the better. We're aiming for March for
24 actually commissioning our lithium recovery demonstration
25 project, so a November, December -- later in the fall there

1 would be probably more to see at least on lithium
2 demonstration. But obviously our geothermal plants have
3 been up and running for 35 years, so we can give that tour,
4 and possibly bring in Energy Source.

5 But, anyway, I would -- if there is going to be an
6 onsite meeting down in Imperial County, I think one
7 component should be taking Commissioners around and giving a
8 tour of the existing geothermal facilities.

9 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: And let me -- Jonathan, I
10 understand that and I would offer that, and Commissioner
11 Hanks will probably want to comment on this as well, but
12 Calipatria Unified School District has -- they have venues
13 and they have seating. They have hosted --

14 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah.

15 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: -- a Public Utility
16 Commission's meeting in the past, and so I know that there
17 are venues that would be accessible to the resource area and
18 be able to conduct a meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, and that's within
20 five miles of our plants. So I think that would -- that
21 would be preferable to El Centro. I'd like to offer up our
22 facilities, but our biggest conference room can hold, you
23 know, 10, 12 people, something like that. It's not going to
24 be able to handle this kind of a meeting.

25 MS. de JONG: Elisabeth here. I just want to jump

1 in and
2 clarify that on our end, at least on the CEC side of things,
3 if we're looking to do a community-based meeting in the fall
4 it's more likely that we would need to hold that a solely
5 virtual event. But if we want to consider other -- the
6 possibility of an in-person meeting, we kind of wanted to
7 get some feedback, if there is an opportunity to do a little
8 bit further out, to be able to accommodate those travel
9 restrictions.

10 And I do just also want to add that with this
11 Lithium Valley Commission, there is no budget for travel, so
12 I wanted to throw that out for consideration out as well,
13 but thank you. And this is a great discussion so far.

14 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So --

15 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Well, the other way --
16 I'll just jump in really quickly -- the other way we could
17 do this would be, and I assume there wouldn't be a Bagley-
18 Keene problem, would be just offering up a tour of
19 geothermal facilities for as many members of the Commission
20 who can get down there on a given date. I mean clearly,
21 clearly this Commission, I mean folks who haven't seen
22 geothermal facilities ought to go see them and see how they
23 work. So I think that would be an important component.

24 So whether we do that as part of a community
25 meeting or part of a next Commission meeting, or just kind

1 of look, we got a field trip planned and let's pick a date.
2 And as much Commissioners as can make it, we'd love to have
3 them. And if that's the case, then we could do it at all at
4 our facilities. We could do a lunch in our conference room
5 and get it done that way. And I'm sure Rod could show us
6 his facilities and maybe even do the Energy Source Feather
7 Stone Plant also.

8 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Yeah. So I would -- since
9 Elisabeth mentioned there was no money, I think we are all
10 in agreement, unless somebody is objecting, that we do need
11 to have a community in-person meeting. And if that's first
12 quarter, second quarter of 2022, based off of the guidance
13 that the Energy Commission is following from OSHA and CDPH,
14 then that's when it's allowed. But unless somebody is
15 objecting, I think it is absolutely necessary that we have
16 an in-person meeting in the area.

17 MS. de JONG: We have a hand raised from
18 Commissioner Olmedo.

19 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I just wanted to support the
20 idea, Commissioner Weisgall.

21 I also want to -- you know I have seen where these
22 types of tours can be very productive, get to kind of see
23 operations where we a lot of times don't have access to.

24 I also wanted to offer that it would be a great
25 opportunity to carve out a space to bring in local

1 advocates, whether it's -- you know because that way they
2 have time one on one or group settings and have access to
3 Commissioners and have more indepth conversations. They
4 would begin to kind of get to know ourselves. And we can
5 try to identify them. Some of them participate on a regular
6 basis. But it would be great to have that kind of component
7 built into our tour.

8 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So I think that, Elisabeth,
9 unless somebody speaks up I think we're all in agreement
10 that we would like to have an in-person meeting with the
11 support of the Energy Commission, if that's possible. And
12 that would, based off of what your guidance allowing you
13 either fiscally or by safety protocol.

14 And then in regards to what Jonathan offered and
15 Luis just spoke about, you know we have done those before
16 and through partnership with CGR, Cal Energy, Energy Source,
17 and the community, we can make that happen and we can invite
18 the members to be able to come for a tour of the Known
19 Geothermal Resource Area and see geothermal in operation.
20 I'm willing to help make that happen.

21 MS. de JONG: Thank you. And we do have another
22 hand raised from Commissioner Ruiz.

23 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yeah. I support both ideas.
24 Whether we do it virtually or in person, I think -- well,
25 you know to do it in person, maybe a combination of both.

1 But one thing that we really have to keep in mind,
2 we need to advertise well in advance for people to plan
3 accordingly and -- but we help those people to really get
4 the message, using all the different venues of
5 communications and social network and whatnot. That was one
6 of the biggest issues for us when putting those community
7 meetings together, the message was not percolating through
8 the different layers of the communities. So if we are going
9 to do it, let's make sure, you know, that I'm not opposed to
10 in person or virtually, or whatever you want to do it, a
11 combination of both, but we have to make sure, you know,
12 that we allow people to really know in advance.

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So I think as far as an in-
14 person meeting, Elisabeth, that would be participating by
15 the Energy Commission staff, that we can -- we can defer
16 that based on knowing the flexibility and funding for the
17 Energy Commission. But outside of that, what Jonathan has
18 offered and what we're willing to take on, we will try to
19 start a tour using our knowledge and contacts to make that
20 happen, and offer it to the Commissioners. Does that sound
21 good with everybody?

22 And we'll wait for the cooler weather, until
23 October.

24 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Ryan?

25 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Jim Hanks. Yeah, we'll --
2 we'll help you set that up, anything that you need we'll be
3 sure to help.

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Hanks.
5 Yeah, you were going to be the second call. The first one
6 was I was going to have to tell my wife I wasn't going to be
7 around for a day.

8 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yeah, I was -- I was thinking
9 we might even sponsor dinner at Stockman's, or something.

10 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: That sounds good.

11 MS. WEEKS: This is Terra just hopping in. So I
12 just want to clarify, our -- for State employees, our travel
13 restrictions are still kind of in flux, so we're not
14 actually sure when we'll be able to travel again. We
15 absolutely want to support an in-person meeting, but it
16 looks like we can tentatively plan one for the spring and
17 we'll just kind of keep you updated as that progresses.

18 So because that may still be a ways away, I just
19 want to propose consideration of doing a virtual event
20 sooner, just to get community members engaged earlier in the
21 process, although it would have to be virtual. But I think
22 we can make that a success. Then, as Elisabeth mentioned,
23 we could also have interpretation services for that virtual
24 event, to try to connect to more members of the community.
25 So just for -- I think we can plan for some --

1 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Sure.

2 MS. WEEKS: -- meeting in the future, but if we
3 want to also do a virtual one, we can do that sooner.

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So, Terra, I appreciate that.
5 I do want to let you know, though, there are a couple of
6 things that probably Luis was touching on or Frank was about
7 the community here. A community meeting, it can't be during
8 business hours. It's usually after 6:00, when people are --
9 those that have regular business hours are able to attend
10 the meeting. And it's -- that means if you're traveling
11 from out of county, that's an overnight. So just for your
12 logistics, to be aware that that's where we see success, is
13 when we're making it accessible and -- accessible to the
14 people that actually can use it.

15 MS. de JONG: We have a hand raised from
16 Commissioner Olmedo.

17 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah, now good points about
18 the outreach. And the sooner materials are made, you know,
19 I'd be happy to provide input. My input comes from my
20 colleagues. They have been doing outreach and engagement
21 for a very long time, so I'd be happy to provide some
22 advice.

23 As well, I see Vice Chair Kelley has signaled that
24 we -- this is a disadvantaged population, hard-to-reach
25 population. There is usually an enormous amount of

1 barriers. To put a meeting together, if it's not done
2 right, you just may end up with the same of us, and I don't
3 think that's the goal of a community-engagement meeting.
4 So, you know, we have time to think about all the experience
5 that exists here.

6 Also important, I do want to offer also, you know,
7 cohosting wherever we can. You know we're here, those of us
8 who are here in a logistical situation where we can provide
9 cohosting support, so I'd be happy to have that conversation
10 with Vice Chair Kelley, Commissioner Hanks, or anybody else,
11 but be more than happy to cohost a meeting, a tour, anything
12 that helps the community-engagement component.

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So, Terra, I'll ask. Does
14 that answer the questions that you're looking for in regards
15 to community engagement?

16 MS. WEEKS: I think it kind of answers them. So
17 just to summarize then, you know, I think there -- I would
18 agree there is a lot of value of doing an in-person meeting.
19 And on our end too we're already thinking about how to host
20 meetings outside of work hours. I think that's a really
21 great point. We want to make sure that we're making it
22 accessible to a lot of the community, so.

23 So just to summarize then, I think we'll plan for
24 an in-person. I mean others are welcome to host a meeting.
25 Again, the CEC won't be able to support it if it's in person

1 until early next year. So, you know, we can continue the
2 conversation to solidify dates, but I think if we want, if
3 you want the Energy Commission to support and we can run IT
4 and logistics and just help with general coordination, that
5 would need to be early next year, it looks like.

6 And then so I think maybe folks can just noodle on
7 the idea of having a virtual meeting in addition to the in-
8 person meeting, and so that could be done sooner. We don't
9 need to definitively decide that today, but maybe folks can
10 just continue ruminating on that.

11 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Great. We're talking about
12 probably trying host then a site visit for Commissioners in
13 the fall. And if -- if the Energy Commission or
14 Commissioner Douglas wants to come, more than welcome. I
15 think the internet is not very -- it's relatively weak at
16 those locations. So we wouldn't be able to remote, put you
17 on a Surface Pro and walk you around. Or maybe -- maybe
18 Jonathan will tell me different, but my experience is your -
19 - it's not a very good signal out there.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: No. No, it will be tough.

21 MS. WEEKS: And I think that's fine to have that
22 as a separate meeting or tour. You know, I think we would
23 probably -- our Legal team would have some advice on the
24 Bagley-Keene issue.

25 But just another idea too, and this is probably

1 something to think about for next year, but our media team
2 would like to do a media tour as well and maybe offer to
3 legislators or their staff a tour of the facilities or an
4 in-person meeting. So that's just something else to think
5 about, but that's probably down the road a bit.

6 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Okay. So then we'll move on
7 to Public Comment. Is there anyone wishing to -- before we
8 go to the next agenda item, anybody wishing to make public
9 comment related to the future meeting planning? Or the
10 opportunities for public comment later -- or you will have -
11 -

12 MS. de JONG: Okay.

13 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: -- focused on that later
14 opportunity.

15 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

16 So, yes, if you're joining us by Zoom on the
17 computer, please use the raised hand feature. If you've
18 called in, please dial star 9 to raise your hand and star 6
19 to unmute your phone line. First we'll go through the hands
20 raised in the Zoom application.

21 Orlando Foote, I have allowed you to speak. If
22 you want to go ahead and unmute.

23 MR. FOOTE: I'm sure it will come as a shock to
24 everybody, but I really don't have anything to add at this
25 point.

1 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: It is shocking.

2 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

3 Sorry, did you have something else to add?

4 Okay. So we do have another comment from Vijay
5 Dhar. You should be able to unmute yourself.

6 MR. DHAR: Yeah. Actually I had asked earlier
7 about requesting for including enterprise zone discussion
8 deep dive and permitting deep dive and community engagement,
9 and I heard a lot of good discussion and a lot of good
10 feedback about the community-engagement part, but I did not
11 get any response about the other two items.

12 The permitting part was actually included in the
13 fact sheet coming from DOE this last week, after the book
14 was published. And so I heard about that problem across the
15 country.

16 And I also know that there are some experts who
17 have very good, bright ideas about how permitting can be
18 improved for the twenty-first century. You know it's a
19 very age-old permitting process.

20 So I think we need a deep dive for both,
21 enterprise zone and permitting process. I did not get any
22 response about how that can be scheduled into your agenda
23 and stuff. And I know that Rod's team has got some experts
24 on that. Thank you.

25 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

1 Commissioner Weisgall, did you raise your hand to
2 respond to that question?

3 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, I'll just respond
4 briefly. That that falls within the purview of our sub-
5 group, part of it does this enterprise zone on incentives.
6 And those discussions are beginning. And as soon as you
7 want to, I mean I think what you were looking at, Elisabeth
8 and Terra, was just trying to do the next four sub-group
9 meetings, but if you want to add the fifth on incentives,
10 please do. I believe I'm taking the lead on that and I
11 forget with whom right now.

12 But, anyway, yeah, I mean there are -- there is a
13 whole lot of things that can be done with existing laws,
14 state laws. There's more that we can look at for suggested
15 state laws. And then there is potential for federal
16 incentives as well. All variations of what would be part of
17 an enterprise zone. So certainly from my perspective as a
18 Commissioner, that is a front burner priority, no question
19 about it. I think we just didn't have time to cover it in
20 any detail today.

21 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

22 I see hand raised for LCJA ECV Office. You should
23 be able to unmute yourself.

24 MS. LORA: Yes. Thank you. This is Mariela with
25 Leadership Council. I just want to say thank you for this

1 conversation and it was really nice to hear and thank you
2 for advocating for the need to have in-person community
3 engagement.

4 And I also wanted to throw out the idea of
5 extending the tour to community members. Or if really not
6 possible for legal reasons, or whatever, the possibility of
7 having a virtual tour that's accessible to the community as
8 well. So I just wanted to throw that out there too. Thank
9 you.

10 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

11 Okay. I'm just looking through, we have a few, I
12 think, written comments. And we did get one comment in,
13 just mentioning that the Annual Geothermal Rising Conference
14 will be held in San Diego this year. That's October 2021
15 and that will be in San Diego.

16 And let me see if there are any other... There is
17 one other comment here from an anonymous attendee that says,
18 "Notices of public meetings have not been received over the
19 Lithium Valley Commission list serve, so please try to make
20 sure that the meeting schedule is distributed in advance.
21 Thank you very much."

22 That was provided from an anonymous attendee. If
23 you would mind -- if you wouldn't mind, please email us at
24 lithiumvalleycommission@energy.ca.gov, and we'd be happy to
25 help troubleshoot that, as you should be receiving those

1 notices.

2 All right. I believe -- let me do one last check
3 here. Looks like all are -- yeah, I believe that that
4 answers all of the public comments on this community-
5 engagement event.

6 I will turn back to you, Vice Chair Kelley.

7 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Elisabeth.

8 So now we come to a General Public Comment. Now
9 we'll open for public comments on any item.

10 And so back to you, Elisabeth.

11 MS. de JONG: Yes. Thank you.

12 So just to remind everyone, please raise your
13 hand, use the Zoom raise-your-hand feature. And if you have
14 called in, dial star 9 to raise your hand and then star 6 to
15 unmute your phone.

16 I will start by mentioning in the chat earlier we
17 had a comment from a Greg Kelly. If you're -- if you're
18 still listening and able to speak, raise your hand and we'll
19 unmute you. Ryan -- or, sorry, Greg Kelly expressed
20 interest in being considered to be included in the industry
21 construction input for further discussion.

22 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: So, Elisabeth, I did respond
23 to that directly to Mr. Kelly, and gave him information to
24 share with me. And I would coordinate his inclusion in some
25 of that conversation.

1 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

2 And we do have a hand raised from Orlando Foote.

3 MR. FOOTE: One last comment, very quickly. It
4 seems to me that the bridge between community involvement
5 and workforce development is -- is clear as it could
6 possible be. And to the extent that those could be combined
7 in some fashion, it seems to me might be -- might move
8 things forward even more quickly than they are now.

9 MS. de JONG: Thank you.

10 I do not see any other comments at this time and
11 so I will turn back to you, Vice Chair Kelley.

12 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: All right. Well, thank you
13 for allowing me to occupy for one meeting. And I appreciate
14 all your input. I also appreciate every one of the Energy
15 Commission for putting up the guiderails on everything I was
16 trying to do and making sure I didn't get in any trouble, so
17 I appreciate that. Thank you.

18 And I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

19 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Motion.

20 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Lopez.
21 A second?

22 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Second.

23 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Mr. Weisgall, Commissioner
24 Weisgall, thank you for the second.

25 All those in favor, just by an audible "aye"?

1 [COMMISSIONERS]: Aye.

2 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Have a pleasant --

3 MS. de JONG: Thank --

4 VICE CHAIR KELLEY: July 4th.

5 MS. de JONG: Thank you. We'll see you all July
6 29th.

7 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thanks, Elisabeth.

8 MS. WEEKS: Thanks, everyone.

9 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Hey, Terra, bye.

10 MS. WEEKS: Bye.

11 (Whereupon, the Commission Meeting was adjourned at
12 2:48 o'clock p.m.)

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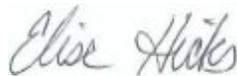
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of July, 2021.



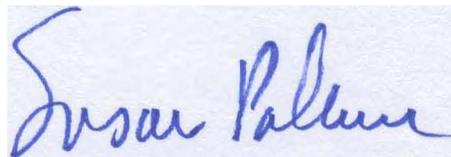
ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of July, 2021.



Susan Palmer
Certified Reporter
CERT 00124