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Chair Silvia Paz
Lithium Valley Commission
c/o California Energy Commission

January 27, 2022

Mariela Loera, Policy Advocate
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Delivered via email

Dear Ms. Loera

I would like to thank you and the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (Leadership Counsel) for your interest in the work of the Lithium Valley Commission, engagement in the Commission's activities to date, including the Community Forum conducted in November of last year, and the written correspondence you submitted to the Commission in October and November of last year.

The Lithium Valley Commission is committed to ensuring that the public has meaningful opportunities to participate in its proceedings and provide input to inform, and be reflected in, the report the Commission will submit to the Legislature by October 2022. The Commission is also committed to ensuring that the Leadership Counsel receives a written response to the questions posed in its letter dated October 8, 2021.

The legislation requiring creation of the Lithium Valley Commission did not provide the Commission with funding or support staff. As a result, the Commission relies heavily on administrative and technical support provided by California Energy Commission (CEC) staff to conduct all Lithium Valley Commission activities. I have asked CEC staff to prepare a written response to the questions in the October 8 letter, working with other state agency staff as appropriate. I understand that CEC staff anticipate providing an initial response to at least a subset of the questions by February 2022 and is committed to addressing all issues to the best of their ability.

I am also working with the CEC and my fellow Lithium Valley Commissioners to identify additional materials and community engagement opportunities to facilitate information sharing. I hope that the presentations and conversations at upcoming Lithium Valley Commission public meetings will continue to be informative, provide opportunities for meaningful engagement, and as stated in the October 8 letter, advance a "a community-centered process that influences the final report and reflects the true voices and concerns of the community."

I appreciate your patience as we have worked to identify the best path to address the Leadership Counsel's important questions and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Best regards,

Silvia Paz