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Imperial County
Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan
Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP)

Resolution of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors adopting the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP) and authorizing the County CEO and/or his/her designee to begin implementation
County of Imperial Lithium Team

- Chair of the Supervisors Jesus Escobar
- Supervisor Ryan Kelley
- Ben Salorio, Interim County CEO
- Eric Havens, County Counsel
- John Gay, Public Works Director
- Priscilla Lopez, Director of Workforce & Economic Development
- Jim Minnick, Director of Planning & Development Services
- Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, Intergovernmental Relations Director
- Michael Abraham, Assistant Director of Planning & Development Services
- Gilbert Rebollar, Public Information Officer
- Blanca Acosta, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan (LVIP)

- Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan outlines the specific actions that the County of Imperial will take and provides our request(s) of the State and Federal Government to encourage economic investment in our region.

The goal of the plan is to generate investment resulting in career and economic opportunities for Imperial County residents.
Over the past few years, industry, community groups and local/regional government officials have been engaged in both informal and formal meetings/communication regarding the economic potential for lithium & other rare mineral extraction and geothermal energy production in Imperial County.

The LVIP takes into account the information received by literally over 100 different participants and provides a roadmap of action of the County of Imperial and the requested actions of both the State and Federal Government.
Actions of the County of Imperial

- Create Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan Subcommittee (2 members) of the Board of Supervisors & internal working group of County CEO, Counsel and Directors
- Seek voter approval to establish remuneration for lithium/rare mineral mining and power generation/storage to provide appropriate financial benefits to the County and community organizations that further the economic interests of the region and address environmental/infrastructure impacts
- Encourage Processing Vertical Integrated Investment by providing tax credits for lithium/rare mineral processing and manufacturing
- Establish a Lithium Valley Project Ombudsperson to work directly with lithium/rare-mineral mining and renewable energy generation industry representatives
- Explore economic viability of an Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) to finance infrastructure improvements.
- Provide leadership (Subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors) and professional staff resources to work directly with the State and Federal Government on their portion of the Investment Plan.
Requested State of California Actions

- Delegate planning and permitting authority of Geothermal Development up to 99.9 Megawatts to the County of Imperial. (Currently limited to 49.9 Megawatts)
- Provide Direct Funding County for the Lithium Valley Specific Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report ($5,000,000)
- Direct Funding to the County of Imperial for the Lithium Valley Development Office for a period of ten (10 years) beginning with the FY 2022-23 State Budget
- State of California Support and Assistance in creation of an Imperial County Severance Tax or Resource Levy (remuneration) for critical minerals.
- Support and Funding ($100 million) of a Cal-Poly campus in Imperial County (or expansion of current/past efforts) to include educational opportunities in engineering, geology and chemistry for which to train/support the lithium industry in Imperial County
- Support and Seed-Funding a reference lab for lithium purity testing
- Go-Biz Tax Credit Carve-Out for Lithium, Geothermal ($25 million over 5 Years)
- Executive Order or Legislative Action exempting lithium/rare-mineral and geothermal producers from additional compliance from CEQA after PEIR and SP
Requested Actions of the Federal Government

- **Roads & Bridges**: Imperial County needs an allocation of $50 million to provide for road and bridge infrastructure to portions of the region where lithium/rare-mineral mining and renewable power generation occur.

- **Railways**: $1 billion of railway upgrades in the form of additional tracks, loading and siding/spur infrastructure.

- **Electrical Grid**: $500 million in funding offsets for grid upgrades and wheeling charges from energy producers.

- **Environmental Remediation**: $500 million in direct funding and/or loan guarantees for companies that desire to build/operate End of Life Recycling and Reuse facilities in Imperial County.
County Board of Supervisors Press Conference

- The Imperial County Board of Supervisors will host a Press Conference at 10:00am on Friday February 18, 2022 in the Board Chambers to present the Lithium Valley Economic Investment Plan and discuss plan specifics.

- The County Board of Supervisors, County Executive Staff and Department Directors will be available at that time to discuss the plan and implementation.