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Forum Presentation )
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LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Reported by:
Elise Hicks
APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS
Silva Paz, Chair
Ryan E. Kelley, Vice Chair
Steve Castaneda
Rod Colwell
Roderic Dolega (Absent)
Miranda Flores
James C. Hanks
Arthur Lopez (Richie)
Luis Olmedo
Frank Ruiz
Manfred Scott (Absent)
Thomas Soto (Absent)
Jonathan Weisgall

CEC STAFF
Elisabeth de Jong
Lindsay Buckley
Natalie Lee

CEC PUBLIC ADVISOR
Rosemary Avalos
APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jose Flores
Eric Reyes
Victor Beas
Tom Sephton
Brad Anderson
Welcome and Roll Call 7

Discussion and Possible Action on Lithium Valley Commission Proposed Recommendations Related to Governor Gavin Newsom's Proposed 2022-2023 Budget

Lithium Valley Commission members will present for discussion proposed recommendations and actions to move forward during the current state budget and legislative processes.

Discussion of Possible Approval of Lithium Valley Commission Comment Letter on Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) Planning Phase Draft Guidelines Postponed to 2/24 meeting

Public Comments 70

Adjourn 95
CHAIR PAZ: Good morning, everyone.

Welcome to the Lithium Valley Commission Meeting.

We are providing Spanish interpretation for attendees who are joining us in this Zoom meeting through their computers or tablets. As a reminder unfortunately -- Zoom interpretation does not work for Attendees who are only joining by phone.

I will now invite the representative from the CEC's Public Advisor's Office to give instructions in Spanish on how to access interpretation.

MS. DE JONG: Rosemary has joined us.

MS. AVALOS: (Speaking Spanish)

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Next slide, please.

Just a reminder for all of us Commissioners to please select the English Channel so that everyone can hear us throughout the meeting. Next slide, please.

So now I will pass it over to Elisabeth to give us a welcome and instruction.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you so much, Chair
This meeting is being conducted entirely remotely via Zoom consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-1-22 to improve and enhance public access to state agency meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This meeting is being recorded, as well as transcribed by a Court Reporter. The transcript will be posted to the docket. The recording of the meeting will be available on the Lithium Valley Commission webpage. The Spanish interpretation will not be recorded or transcribed.

Members of the public will be muted during the presentations, but there will be an opportunity for public comment on each Agenda Item and an additional opportunity for public comments towards the end of the agenda.

To provide public comment, please use the "raise hand" feature in your Zoom application. If you called in by phone, you will need to dial *9 to raise your hand and *6 to unmute yourself.

When you speak, please provide your name and affiliation, and please say and spell your name for the Court Reporter. There is a Q&A window in the Zoom application, which you may use.
to type questions and comments, and staff will relay those comments.

We also have a chat function available, but this is to be used only for IT support for other technical issues. Please do not use the chat function to provide comment or questions related to the content of the meeting.

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

Meeting materials, including the Notice and presentation slide deck will be posted online in the Lithium Valley Commission docket and on the Lithium Valley Commission webpage. Thank you. Back to you, Chair Paz.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. We are now going to do Roll Call to determine a quorum.

CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Castaneda.

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Here.

CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Colwell.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yeah.

CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Dolega.

COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: (No audible reply)

CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Flores.
COMMISSIONER FLORES: Present.
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Hanks.
COMMISSIONER HANKS: (No audible reply)
CHAIR PAZ: Vice Chair Ryan Kelley.
VICE CHAIR KELLEY: (No audible reply)
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Lopez.
COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Here.
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Olmedo.
COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Here.
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Paz; I'm here.
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Ruiz.
COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Presente.
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Scott.
COMMISSIONER SCOTT: (No audible reply)
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Soto.
COMMISSIONER SOTO: (No audible reply)
CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Weisgall.
COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Present.
CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. We do have eight members, so we have a quorum. Next slide, please.

This is the agenda that we will be going through today. It has been posted online.
Next slide, please.

This slide is a reminder of the
legislative deadline we shared at our last meeting and it's only for us to, you know, have a context sort of what's approaching and where there might be more of a sense of urgency. So, I want to note that tomorrow -- is it tomorrow? -- no, February 18th, we have a couple days, is the last day for bills to be introduced.

So, for this meeting, I think the majority of the focus will probably be around solidifying some ideas for bills. I know that Assembly Member Garcia is interested in supporting the ideas that come out of this body, and they have a number of bills ready that they can move.

So, for today the more concrete that we can be with our ideas, I think the more successful we will be in advancing those. But also, as a reminder that even though the deadline is February 18th, that is not the only time to shape the bills, like we still have the legislative process that we can go through. Next slide, please. That was the same timeline in Spanish.

Okay, so again, the day of the January Commission Meeting, there was the members'
recommendations made by Commissioners and today we are convening largely to continue our discussion on these recommendations and, like I mentioned earlier, try to define a little bit more on the idea for the legislative actions we might want to take.

In order to do that, we do need to talk a little bit about the process, given the short window and how often we need to say, Commission, I would like to recommend that this body assigns one or more, no more than two, maybe Legislators and request the CEC to support those -- not Legislators, Commissioners -- that we assign no more than two Commissioners and request the CEC to support those Commissioners in a meeting with Legislators, be it Assembly Member Garcia, or Senator Wessel (Phonetic), who have been following activities of the Lithium Valley Commission, and are supportive of our efforts, and sort of assign them to represent the Lithium Valley Commission and the priorities that come out of our discussion today.

My recommendation would be perhaps that it is myself and Vice Chair Ryan Kelley that can take this on and, again, with a request of staff
or support from the CEC staff. So that is the first sort of recommendation in terms of how to move forward with any ideas. Today, though, for this item, I would need a motion and an action in order to delegate that authority. Is there -- I'll open it for a discussion before we go into the actual legislative recommendation.

MS. DE JONG: We have a hand raised from Commissioner Castaneda.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes, Commissioner Castaneda.

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Madam Chair, citing the fact that there doesn't seem to be anybody really stepping up to speak. I can go ahead and make a motion to support your recommendation.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Weisgall?

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah. Before you want to entertain that, I'm prepared today with really a laundry list of, I don't know, eight to 10 specific recommendations. But I guess, no, I guess I'm comfortable. I mean, I guess that's appropriate for the Chair and the Co-Chair to carry the water of the Commission. Yeah. I mean
obviously I will, to the extent folks are comfortable with any role of my recommendations, I'll embellish as much as I can and provide whatever support I can.

And obviously, you know if Legislators want specific input, I can. But, no, no, I'm pretty comfortable with that. I just wanted to think that -- I should have thought that through silently instead of out loud but having done that I guess I'm comfortable with it.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. No, it helps to think it out loud. Again, we would be -- the representatives would only be bringing forth what we as a Commission decide, and that doesn't prevent anybody else from having meetings and doing your own advocacy with Legislators. I see Commissioner Colwell.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yeah, Chair Paz, among the same lines, I think -- thinking out loud like Jonathan -- but it would be good to get an idea of what the Commission is thinking about here. I mean, we're fully aware, I think there was one proposed piece of legislation, but I'd be curious to hear what's on the table, to what specific task, before we make that decision.
Just a thought. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I just want to acknowledge that we do have an Ad Hoc Community, Engagement Committee, and I recognize that this Commission has made a commitment to assuring that community engagement remains a top priority. We have seen a lot at the State level, and we have seen that at the Federal level.

And to the extent possible, I think we need to be aware that we need to create opportunity and onramps for community to be part of and be informing the way that we are prioritizing. And I can see that we can very easily, sort of along this process, make decisions at high levels and exclude community, and it's going to be really important to have the type of facilitation, I know I've been one that's been asking about that, but I'm not the only one, but we do need to bring onboard to the extent possible facilitation to help keep us honest and making sure the community has a voice throughout this entire process.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes. Thank you.
MR. OLMEDO: It's a matter of principle, right, a matter of expectation, it's not necessarily a comment specific to the deliberations and actions that continue. I just hope that those are foundational in the spirit of steps that we take as we move forward.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes. Thank you, Commissioner Olmedo. And, yeah, it's not the intent to leave the community process outside, and perhaps once this body comes up with a set of recommendations that maybe we all agree, by consensus we'll vote on that.

That gives the Ad Hoc Committee like a really good roadmap for the conversations we want to be having with the community, get their input on some of the items that were listed up here, and then there's the legislative process, as well, whether it's Letters of Intent, whether reaching out to the Assemblymember himself. So, yeah, I appreciate that and let's keep that in the forefront as we move forward.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: But, Madam Chair, I have seen models and I would have to go back to the research and try to cite those models, but they're the majority and minority voice to get
recognized. It would be great to see, again, in
the spirit of engagement and diversity of this
Commission that we try to find tomorrow. I'm not
sure that's the way the CEC can be of help, or
other Commissioners who may have seen similar
models, it would be great to think ahead. I'm
just thinking that at some point I think we have
a much greater opportunity to not necessarily be
sort of the majority and that's it.

I think here and knowing how
deliberations occur and how Boards and
Commissions tend to -- or even elected bodies --
I think we have a great opportunity here to
deliver the win-win that everybody is looking
for, right? And I think part of that is in the
way that we as a Commission deliberate and take
action. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, I'm open. Let's
talk more about that for future meetings. Thank
you, Commissioner Olmedo. Vice Chair Ryan
Kelley.

VICE CHAIR KELLEY: Thank you, Chair Paz.
So, I'm in support of the request that is here
and the letter supporting that Regional
Collaboration for Coachella and Imperial. And
then also I shared with Chair Paz and others that
the County of Imperial has an ask, and I would
hope that all of the Commissioners are able to
see that. I will send it to Elisabeth and
hopefully it can be discussed in the next Lithium
Valley Commission meeting.

But those asks are of State and Federal
and I'm hoping that the Commission will recognize
the benefit of what is in that document and
hopefully be supportive and make recommendations
to give letters of support in regards to it.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Commissioner Ryan
Kelley. And I want to take a step back and maybe
summarize. I don't know at what point you jumped
in, but I just volen-told you and myself, and
that's the question before the Commission,
whether they would delegate to us for this short
period of time the Legislative processes to
engage in conversations with our Legislators and
put forth any recommendation that comes from this
body. So that is the request that is before all
of us right now.

I did receive a motion to accept that
recommendation and then I heard from Commissioner
Colwell that maybe we come to a vote on this
after we have put on the table what the potential legislative ideas might be from this body. So that's where we are right now. Thank you.

So, I will honor Commissioner Colwell's request and not ask for a vote just yet. And then if there is no other comment on this, we can come back for a vote. And let me just check with Deborah and/or Elisabeth whether we need to open this section for public comment, or whether we wait until before the vote.

MS. DYER: This is Deborah Dyer. You can wait until before the vote.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay, thank you. All right, so then we will move forward on the agenda, and I think -- let me find my place now -- I'm going to go through a summary of the recommendations that we've heard at the January meeting. And I'm going to propose, even though we did hear some request for allocation of funding, I'm going to propose that maybe we have a larger window for that and that there is still room for us to learn from the Governor's Office like his vision in the budget when they decided to allocate about half a page to Lithium Valley Development, 1) to recognize that that's a great thing, it's created
a lot of momentum and, you know, sense of a right and signals about the importance of Lithium Valley. And in a conversation I was having yesterday, it just dawned on me that before we as a Commission are ready to start making budget recommendations, that maybe we take a step back and hear from the Governor's Office all the details, right? Because in the budget they do mention many of the things that were important for us in terms of stakeholder engagement, incentivizing clean technology, training and education pathways, and other things that have been a topic for us.

So, I'm assuming that there's -- he has already thought out how these things will be resourced and maybe how they would happen in the budget. So, before we start making recommendations of things that perhaps are already there, we engage them in a conversation just to learn more of those details.

In terms of the budget recommendations, my ask of you is that, a) there's two options and I'm open, one, we invite them to do and give us a presentation on all of the details at a future Lithium Valley Commission meeting. Just keep in
mind that, you know, timing, maybe we need to
schedule another meeting just for that. Or, b)
again that perhaps if Commissioner Ryan Kelley
and myself are delegated that authority to go
and, you know, represent Lithium Valley
Commission in this conversation, but maybe we go
and have a preliminary meeting, get all the
details, and bring them back. So those are two
options. I'm open for a discussion on how we
approach the budget recommendation. Commissioner
Castaneda.

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Well thank you,
Madam Chair. And I appreciate your willingness
to go back and look at how we approach this, you
know, because it sounds like with Jonathan -- and
I'm not sure what his recommendations are,
whether they're budget related, or they're policy
related, or whatever. But maybe it is important
that we go through these lists and we sort of
parse out those that are dollar related, that
could go into a budget, and obviously those that
are a policy or some sort of other incentives, or
whatever that might be, incentives always
obviously will have a budget impact.

You know, so I think just kind of
understanding what the playing field looks like and looking at what the balance of everybody's wish list, I'm not in the industry, I'm not in workforce development and things like that, so I'm very interested to hear what are the ideas and give some background on those ideas and allow us as Commissioners to kind of decide how and what we forward. So, thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: That you. Commissioner Weisgall.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: In response to your question, should we ask the State for a presentation, I think we'd be better off, and I'm prepared to lead the discussion if you want, but let's look exactly at -- I mean, I can, you know, pages 71, 72 of the Budget Proposal on Climate Change, and then pages 88-89 specifically on Lithium Valley contain some general ideas and then we've also got the Governor's speech, itself.

I think I would recommend that we -- and those are general points -- so I think if we ask the Administration, they would come and they would say, "Well, here's what we've got in the proposal. What are your ideas?" I think the
burden is on us to flesh out very specific action items that incorporate those thoughts on those pages. You know, they knew a tax credit for certain technologies or an R&D, a new program through Go-Biz, and things like that.

So, I would say that would be a better use of our time. If we wait for the Department of Finance to come talk to us, I'm not sure they'll be able to embellish much more than, "Gee, what sort of loan guarantees? What sort of R&D? What sort of incentives do you want?" So that would be my vote.

So, I'd like to proceed with their ideas and then delegate you two, or whoever we want to delegate. And if that runs into roadblocks, then we'll have a give and take. That would be my recommendation.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Commissioner Colwell.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thanks, Chair Paz. I think, going to Commissioner Castaneda's point about the industry itself, so I just want to maybe relay what's really going on here as far as industry goes.

So, we have -- we're actually working on a submission for a battery cathode facility that
needs to be delivered in 2024-2025. Lithium did subsequently -- they delivered in 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and beyond. And I think the presentation of, you know, giving the Governor's Office an idea of what the drivers are, breaking the two others; Steve mentioned policy and budget related points and I would like to, if we could really focus in on those as two separate items, personally at CTR we would love to focus on policy, how this can be really fast tracked and can we deliver or not, or do we sort of miss a window of opportunity.

Budget related, of course, as you know, related but separate type of presentation, I think we could really hone in on what's really required upfront and get to the purse string side of it, maybe a little later, but just a suggestion. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So, I'm hearing some consensus here. Let's put our items, our lists on the table, and then start the conversation. So, I'm ready to do that. I will start with a summary here on what we heard as far as policy recommendations from last time.

And I did have the support of CEC so, I
want to thank them for that. They helped what
came through, what was said, and helping us think
what fell under each bucket. But again, if we
have a different opinion, we can move those.

So let me start with listing some of the
potential policy recommendations that we heard
last meeting. And the goal of today is for those
recommendations, if we can be very clear, like
what is the policy going to request. So as clear
as we can get on the requests, I think that's
going to be the most helpful for the Legislators.

So, in our last meeting, again, we heard
about one idea around incentivizing green
technology and extending possible green
certifications of different industries for
businesses. That is sort of all that I have and
can recall from the last meeting, so I would rely
on, if one of you made that recommendation or you
recall the context, could you expand a little bit
more on what that meant, what that would look
like, and what is the policy request? And we'll
take them one-by-one like that, that way we
wouldn't have to be jumping back and forth. Yes,
Commissioner Weisgall.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Well, let me give
it a shot here on that green technology. I think that this is one of the new credit proposals that would be administered by the Franchise Tax Board for companies -- and it's general, it's not Lithium specific -- I think it is companies investing in technologies that would mitigate climate change. I think it's what's called like an Innovation Headquarters Credit. I believe the number was $250 Million over three years. And I would imagine that it's the Lithium technologies or chain supply related.

I mean, Rod, you've talked about cathode manufacturing; I imagine something like that could qualify. So, I think really the ask here is what do we think of this proposed new credit. We're obviously not going to say, "Hey, great new credit. By the way, here's where to spend the money, you know, proposal A, B, C." I think it's more, here's the concept of this -- as you said, Chair -- of this green technology.

So, I think, I mean, my own view is I think that's a great idea. But I think that's generally what that credit is getting at. Please, somebody correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that's what you were getting at.
And my recommendation of course is, yes, fully supportive of that proposal.

CHAIR PAZ: Any other hands? Is this what everyone recalls? I just put out a reminder that Commissioner Olmedo had on this topic at the January meeting, so Commissioner Olmedo, is this what you recall? Or your intent from the last meeting?

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Sorry, Commissioner Paz. Can you repeat the --

CHAIR PAZ: Yes, it was around incentivizing green technology and to extend possible green certification of different industries or businesses.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Correct. So, I know that it's an ongoing discussion. There's actually some certifications that are out there, but I'm not really prepared to share the specifics, the specifics on that because we are doing our own research here and my colleagues Comite Civico. We are members of various coalitions that, you know, many of them are concerned about mining in the traditional ways and there's been some certifications that do exists to certify projects, but I'm not sure it's
just on the certification, but about the incentives and investments in making sure that incentives are also being paired up with the best possible technologies.

I did see a bill that is being proposed, I'm pretty sure it still needs more development, and it was proposed by Assemblymember Garcia, and I don't remember the exact number where they were asking for having a updated available technology; this of course is an ask of the Air Resources Board, a requirement that is being asked of the Air Resources Board of these technologies, that's available technologies. I have to go back and read it. I got an alert that that bill was introduced. It would be something similar, you know, have -- (indiscernible) up the incentives, the resources, and the best available technologies which, again, would be a great certification, you know, and a symbol of confidence, right, to all who find it important to be able to get these certifications.

As far as the conversations, somebody actually does that. Those are associations that are dedicated to that and there are auditors that actually do that within the petroleum industry,
within the aerospace industry. Those are two ways, specific conversations that I was having with the actual auditor of this. And I think these auditors are hired by the Association, so you get a certification. Again, a lot of this is fairly new to me. I'm not really prepared to put forward a proposal, but I think a lot of this should definitely be a conversation that this Commission should put forth. I'd hope to hear from others, this is something along the lines --

I'm sorry, Madam Chair Paz, if I went in a different direction of what you were saying --

CHAIR PAZ: No, no, no, I think let me just try to clarify because I think I'm hearing the same thing, and I just want to make sure if we can capture the intent today where, you're right, like a lot of this is going to have to be built out further and we'll have an opportunity for that.

But if I'm hearing the intent, is that there is a way, like a visual way, through a certificate of some sort, right, that can be displayed maybe in different industries or businesses, and if they have this certificate or display symbol, it means that they are utilizing
green technology and good environmental business, in that sense. And then, they're paired with this maybe incentive to do that, right, incentives for businesses to be maybe certified. If that incentive doesn't match from what I heard from Commissioner Weisgall, but it potentially could be a credit, you know, of a proposal credit that is managed by the Franchise Tax Board, you know, I think in my head they sound like those two ideas go together and based on what I have here in the language. So, the intent would be that there is an incentive for these businesses to become certified and the public know that these are green businesses using green technology, things like that. Did I capture the intent correctly?

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madame Chair, it sounds like we're saying the same thing. Mr. Weisgall, is that...? I mean, we are saying it a bit differently, but it sounds about right.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Agreed.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Colwell, and then Commissioner Castaneda.
COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes, thank you, Chair Paz. I think, too, Jonathan's point and Luis's point, I mean, a tax credit -- just remember, we're nearly 15 tons less CO2 than hard rock mining, so a metric ton would produce Lithium from Lithium Valley.

So there are measures, very accurate measures to what has been measures on geothermal power, but taking that across to green Lithium and sustainable Lithium that has been proven, the technology is there, it's clean and green, and regardless of what anyone says there is a direct CO2 abatement for that and I think that can be measured, whether it's a tax credit, or REC, or whatever it may be. So, thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Castaneda.

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Thank you, Madam Chair. And you know, when I was on the City Council in Chula Vista, I represented the City for eight years at Hinkley and I can't remember exactly what it stands for now, but basically it's an international organization that consists of cities that are prioritizing green technologies and policies that reduce greenhouse
gases, and so forth. And as part of that, there are those kinds of programs, and one is like Clean Cities. I know when I was working on the childhood obesity issue, we tried to further a Green Star sort of a certification for restaurants that didn't use trans fats and, you know, used different kinds of ingredients that were locally sourced and so forth and so on.

So, there's a lot of examples in virtually every kind of consumer industry that there is, but I think Rod is right and Jonathan that, you know, we have a technology and we're investigating a technology that will revolutionize the industry and basically remove carbon footprints. So, there are ways to measure and evaluate that.

So I think that's directly the kind of thing, and maybe, you know, I can do a little bit of research on some of the green cities and some of the attributes of those programs can be sort of morphed into what we're talking about.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes, that's a great idea. As I was hearing about this, it reminded me of something similar. So thank you, Commissioner Castaneda.
So there are some of you that are very quiet and, again, because I'm going to try to take these recommendations sort of in this package, I just want to hear -- so I'll call on you if you have nothing to say or to add, it's fine, but if you do find a concern with the conversation, I would also like to hear that. I see another hand, and then I'll call on some of you that I haven't heard from. Commissioner Colwell.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Chair Paz, one statement in the Governor's budget by the Governor was the term "mitigation," and I think it's a very very clever term and to a general audience and other fellow Commissioners, mitigation meaning that if we could accelerate permitting, for example, and fast track to meet a 2024 delivery that we have taken on here, the mitigation could be spent to Salton Sea repair or this idea of royalties that we brought up at the last Commission meeting, would give cover and not be basically a project to bid up equal to or better quality around the Salton Sea, just say for example, instead of doing a salt mitigation project on CTR, probably it might be best better...
invested in, say, a new river project, or a DWR project, or perhaps in Imperial County, or whatever it may be, it was brought up in the budget. There hasn't been really discussion about that, but I think it's a very intelligent term that was used by the Governor to be able to get on time, because time is sort of everything here, and also meet expectations, you know, environmental to a better state or better quality.

So, I just wanted to throw that one in if we're finished with the Tax Credit part of the discussion, or we still have that open. And it could be a combination of both, you know what I mean? That could be blended into the same piece of legislation -- I'm not the legislative type, but I do certainly get the concept and I think it's a very intelligent way that the Governor had pitched that at the budget. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I'll come back to that one. Let me stay a little bit just from some Commissioners that I haven't heard from on the incentives and certification. So, Commissioner Ruiz, is there anything you'd like to add on?
COMMISSIONER RUIZ: We need to have a better understanding exactly what the green energy certification, you know will entail, for us to really take a better approach. Obviously, we need to examine the communities and see what are the benefits, what are the processes, where, to get those certifications done, how it will impact on both ends, economically and how viable this is, and how enticing it will be for all the industries to benefit from it, for the communities to benefit from it, to reduce carbon emissions, and whatnot.

So, I say let's dig in a little deeper and let's be a little more dialectic on it.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Yes, and we can do that, Commissioner Ruiz. I think right now it's just getting an idea of this consensus on just some of the ideas that then we can take them at next step and building out. Or, you know, having both conversations with our Legislators. But I hear you, there is a lot that we need to go on in terms of the research and finding out how this would be of benefit. Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I wasn't sure if this is where Commissioner Ruiz was headed, but I
think it's going to be important to not just simply rely on certifications. After all, many of these certifiers are for-profit, or chamber, commerce type of businesses that may not necessarily be paying attention to the disadvantaged community or environmental justice, you know, concerns. And I think that we should have a focus on -- a laser focus -- on the location, the locality, the demographics, the vulnerabilities, the disadvantages, the socioeconomics. I think that -- I'm not really sure there's a certification that has really taken in consideration many of our experiences here, locally, our geography. There are just so many things that I think should be brought to discussion at some point to the Commission.

CHAIR PAZ: Yeah. Maybe the bill or potential policy is going to have to be to create a certification process because potentially none exists, that in the creation of that certification process, again, it's not only for the Lithium industry, it could include -- it's a certification process for different industries and businesses that can then be proud of saying "we're a green business," or, "we're a green
industry."

So maybe that's as far as we're going to go in terms of creating this, and so all of this is, again, really good conversation and where I want us to get to today is where do we have consensus so that we can move forward. If we don't have consensus on anything, we don't have to move forward on anything. And individually you all as Commissioners may continue with your proposals and then presenting to Lithium Valley Commission, as appropriate. So again, I thought there was a desire for some early actions from this Commission, so if that is the case I think that's the goal for today. So, I do want to hear, are we feeling --

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Well, I think we have to start somewhere, you know. And the details with respect to, I think, what Commissioner Olmedo is referring to are extremely important and they need to be baked into the system. But at least we need to create a system in order to do the baking, right? So I think that generally we all agree. I think that the details are something that obviously there's a lot of people up in Sacramento and throughout the
state that will work on that, and we can
certainly be part of that. But I don't know that
really at this level, and at this point, what the
resources and timely how we can design a program.
I just don't think we can do that right now.

CHAIR PAZ: I agree.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madam Chair.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: May I? And I like
the way that you framed it around -- I think it
would be fair ask, I mean, it's similar to what
Commissioner Castaneda is saying. We add it to
the list of asks. I think it would be a fair
ask. This is a new industry, a new opportunity,
and I'm not saying it's a new industry, it's a
new opportunity. It's an opportunity driven by
federal and state policy and local policy. I
think that it merits a customized approach to a
certification, something that would certainly
help the industry thrive, help our community
thrive. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay, so then moving on to --
well, I think, Commissioner Flores, I just want
to make sure if there is anything you would like
to add.
COMMISSIONER FLORES: No, thank you.

Thank you for asking, Chair.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay, thank you. Am I missing anybody who has not spoken on this idea? Commissioner Hanks, is there anything you wish to add to this conversation around green certifications for industries and businesses, and an incentive for that?

COMMISSIONER HANKS: No, I'm just trying to catch up with the rest of you. It's almost like you're speaking a different language than me. So, I'm trying to, you know, I don't know whether I need to put my arms up and ward off the punch or whether I need to participate and need get involved -- I'm still not on the same page, really, with everybody.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay, thank you. And I'll just summarize because I don't know at what point you jumped into the conversation. But to summarize the conversation we have been having, is the potential of this body recommending as a policy idea or exploring -- I'll use the word "exploring" a policy idea -- that looks into the development of a certification process that then industries and business could be incentivized to
use and those incentives could be down the line
of potential tax credits, and it would be a
visible way of showing which industries are green
industries, which businesses are green industry.
So that's the concept right now.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Chair?

CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: I have a question.

So would that incentive be on state and federal
land, or just on state land?

CHAIR PAZ: Good question. I think right
now we're talking about state policy. I will
rely on somebody else who can speak more to like
any better processes than how those would be
influenced. But right now, we're speaking about
state policy. Commissioner Weisgall.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: My gut feeling is
that it would not apply to federal lands. I
think that gets us over to the whole federal
area. I'm ready to talk, by the way, about more
ideas, but you want to keep hearing from other
Commissioners, so --

CHAIR PAZ: I just want to make sure that
everyone has a chance to speak. Commissioner
Lopez, is there anything else?
COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yeah. I just think, you know, because we have some tribal lands that are down in that area that I think if we're going to look at any type of incentive, I think it should be for the whole community.

CHAIR PAZ: Uh huh. Good point. And we'll note that so that in conversations we don't forget that. Thank you. All right, anyone else? I don't see any other hands.

Okay, so let's move on to the next proposal. And I feel that on this there is a consensus. There will be ideas, investing -- we don't need to go back to the slide, thank you. There was the idea of investing in vocation around higher education and develop STEM and environmental literacy at all grade levels to build a local educated workforce.

I think there's probably several of you that brought this topic. Right now, if you are one of them, if you can give us sort of what the intent of the bill would be, that way we can get clarity. Yes, Commissioner Weisgall.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I guess it would be -- the specific ask would be more funding from the -- and I'm sorry, I'm just blanking right now
on the state agency -- but more funding directed for that specific training. We've got, I mean, the state has very good training programs.

Individual companies can apply, so we're certainly looking at that, but I think either an increase in the budget, or an earmarking in the budget for Lithium Valley specific training.

That would be my sense of the specific ask there to embellish. I mean, we're all in favor of that workforce development and of course that will be the topic of our next meeting. But that, I think, would be the specific point I'd raise.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. I certainly haven't been the expert in the room. I know Commissioner Weisgall has continually brought up the need for workforce training, development; I mean, I continually hear that from him.

The only thing I would add, and I want to also acknowledge Commissioner Kelley's desires to bring institutions of higher education, Polytechnic expertise here to the Valley. I certainly support all of that.

What I would add is, first of all, it's a
little bit unclear if we're talking about a
trailer bill, we're talking about a policy bill,
but I think there's different tracks and
different deadlines for those. And I wasn't
sure, I wasn't very, from the onset of the
presentation, so it would be helpful to get that
clarity.

We're talking about, in any direction,
investment in education. I often utilize the
reference of certain areas in our state become
hubs for workforce development, or innovation,
for a polytechnical and all these types of jobs.
I think we don't minimize risk, or we create risk
when we are customizing a workforce for a
specific industry.

Now, that's not to say that we shouldn't
have a track to create the workforce or
certification programs, but I think we need to
speak, you know, as an employer -- but I also
speak to many small and large employers -- there
is a workforce shortage in this country, in this
state, in this region, and our communities all
across the board, from nonprofits to retail, the
industries of discussion here in this Commission.

We need to be able to create a workforce
that not only works here, but a workforce that
would be able to transfer anywhere in this entire
state. We can't just focus on one part of the
state, or coastal areas of the state. We need to
start building institutions of higher learning
here in our own backyards, our own communities.

So, I would say if this became an ask,
which I hope it does, I'm fully in support of
creating a workforce, a certified customized
workforce, but only part of the larger workforce
that we should be building here. If we are
working from north to south, from east to west,
then we're going to be able to tackle this
workforce shortage that is out there right now.

Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner
Ruiz.

COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes. Following the
comments of our Commissioner Olmedo, if some
things, you know, might appear to me and perhaps
is an opportunity to perhaps, you know, discuss a
little bit more. I think it is important to
develop the workforce initiative and also
parallel to it, you know, bring more higher
education initiatives, as well.
But what is not clear to me is what kind of training is required for the people that will go through these processes. I know that we talk about a certain number of jobs that will be offered by this industry, but how many technicians would we need? Will it all be high level positions, hydrologists, or maybe half of it will be territorial jobs, or -- so I think, you know, I just don't have it quite clear and the things we need to have a good understanding in order to really shape it accordingly and make sure that the workforce, the higher education initiatives, do represent those needs and wants.

CHAIR PAZ: Uh huh. Thank you, Commissioner Ruiz. And you are right, at the next workshop on the 24th will be -- save all your questions if they're not answered to the presentations that people will be either on a panel or a presenter will be there to start answering those questions.

So for the sake of moving this particular track forward, though, it's a question that Commissioner Olmedo asked in terms of the timing and the tracks, and if there is somebody from the CEC staff that can tell us the difference or some
of the timeline for budget trailer bills, so something like this could potentially be legislated, or it could be a budget trailer bill. Is there a different sort of timeline for that?

MS. GRIFFIS: Hi. This is Seanna from the OGIA. So there is a different timeline for a budget trailer bill versus a general legislative proposal. I think we're all aware of the deadline for Friday for new bills to be introduced. That's not to say that we can't introduce bills after the deadline, but that it becomes -- I've gotten an amendment and it's a completely different process, but there are two separate timelines for the budget trailer bill and a legislative proposal.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay. So what does the timeline for a budget trailer bill look like?

MS. GRIFFIS: I can get more information on that and submit your way, but I do know that there is the revise coming up for the budget, and I believe that that is in May, so that is when the budget undergoes a revision. For a revision process, there's an option we can get in the trailer bill.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. So we'll
get more clarity on that process but, yes, we do have a little bit more time and right now what I'm hearing from everyone is there is an interest -- or everyone who has spoken -- is that there is an interest on building a workforce, but keeping in mind that our region requires a workforce in many areas, many industries, with transferable skills.

So, it would benefit this region to take a broader look at workforce development and that being inclusive of the Lithium, but not only thinking about one sector, which is the Lithium extraction process.

I think we can probably all agree around that. And then we can mark that as an interest we have and details will come later, but the intent is to strengthen the workforce.

Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. I want to go back to the comments that Commissioner Ruiz had mentioned. I completely agree and I'm assuming that most would agree that we need the full array of educational opportunities.

You know, there are staff forums such as this Commission has done. It's high risk, but a
lot of times we leave the community voice out but reading the comments I've been reminded that there is a lot of -- there are organizations out here already providing those types of trainings. So higher education, polytechnic, and they have a role. We have a lot of institutes that are providing trainings, as well. You know, I'm just thinking right now, like Field is one of them, La Cooperativa Campesina is another, Center for Employment Training, you know, there's just a number and it goes on and on and on of institutions that are in our neighborhoods, in our community, providing certifications, providing soft skills, and it's so important to bring in the community expertise. You can't beat that, you know, because regardless of the challenges, economics, socioeconomics, there's resiliency that happens in our communities and we need to make sure that we need to bring it into these conversations to the extent possible so we're not just thinking in the one track, but we're seeing the whole picture. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Weisgall.
COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Just a quick embellishment of my earlier point. The agency I was thinking of was the Employment Training Panel. It's a joint business labor, it's a state agency that funds training programs, and in the conversations we've had with them, we've been very impressed by their flexibility, kind of a willingness to let individual employers use their tools, but to provide reimbursement for worker training for both existing and new workers.

So that's one example where I think increased funding might be useful. So just that's a footnote to my earlier comment. Thanks.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. And, yes, ETP will be presenting. So again, I think this is a good foreshadowing of all the good discussion we're going to have on the 24th. ETP will be presenting on their program, as well.

And maybe, I mean, the next point, which is a reminder of Commissioner Olmedo's comment, is this idea of capacity for community engagement. And I think I did hear we're moving maybe towards some budget requests, but maybe there's some legislative ideas that could also enhance the ability for community to be engaged.
not just in this Lithium Valley Commission
because, I mean, I'll remind us all that we're
done soon after the report is submitted, but this
industry and workforce and all these items will
continue.

So, I know that there have been bills in
the past considering via Assemblymember Garcia
around community workforce agreement. We have in
the Governor's budget there's mention of
community benefits, so they give communities
benefit agreements. And in my research in the
past year, now I'm learning more about both of
these two processes.

They happen behind closed sessions,
right, it's an agreement mostly between labor and
the employer. And there's a reason for that,
because these are legal agreements, but maybe the
question has been what is the -- it was A.B. 983
by Assemblymember Garcia, thank you Lina.

And the question is how we make these
processes so that there is more community at the
table, right? And it can be for processes that
are going to outlive this Commission, so it is a
worthy, I think, request and opportunity to
explore how we do that.
So that's another possibility to continue exploring and see if this Commission wants to go in that direction, ways in which there could be community benefit agreements, community workforce agreements, with a pathway for direct community engagement. So, it's community, labor, and industry, not only labor and industry.

So again, I've learned it's not going to be an easy task because of the legalities, but we still can continue to explore that potential policy language. Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes, Madam Chair.

I'm going to support that, and I apologize in advance that sometimes my explanations take a little longer than -- I wish I had the perfect words, and fewer words, but I don't and that's just the reality.

I would like to say that it's been over 25 years that I've been in this Environmental Justice journey, and I remember years ago where time and time, over and over, trips to Boston, trips to D.C., trips to the coastal areas, and people didn't know where Imperial was. That has changed. People are knowing where Imperial is. People know where East Coachella is.
And so, one thing that I think is really important is that, while policies and politics have now understood where our communities are, for some reason the bureaucracy is a little slower catching up and continues to sort of utilize the old model of reaching out to their immediate network that operate in Sacramento, operate in D.C. So, any time they're cooking up new strategies, new funding proposals, new initiatives, that we tend to persistently in our communities -- I know you know this very well, Chair Paz in your work, as well, and on social justice -- but we always end up just being a "check the box." Just make sure you have the local EJ or the local social justice and then you can come after these dollars.

I would like to make sure that, as part of these budget asks, I ask for support of the Commission to consider making an ask for resources allocated, to assure that local communities have -- and I'll borrow the words of Commissioner Kelley -- you know, self determination.

We need to have a community plan, a community plan that includes labor, community
plans that includes multi-stakeholders that are now represented and necessary in this Commission, whether it's from education, repeat labors, social justice, environment, you know, workforce development. I mean, there's just so many stakeholders out there that need to be part of this, and we need to have a community plan.

In an ideal world we would have the government plans and we would have the industry plans. And for the first time, perhaps, or very few times, have a community plan. In order to achieve that, we need to have a funding that is made available, competitive funding to make sure that it is sort of built in a way that can be drawn down to help develop reports, look into socioeconomics, the vulnerabilities, the workforce development.

We need to have that done in order to create a level playing field for our communities, to have the wind -- wind plant. And if we can get an Environmental Justice advocate such as myself to believe that that is possible, if any time ever there's a possibility it is right now. We have the right state administration, we have
an appetite for transitioning away from fossil fuels. The opportunity is right now, but we need a community plan and that should be a definite ask of the budgeting process and through hopefully the support of this Commission to put forward such an ask. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. And there have been great examples of community plans in some of like urban areas. I know Los Angeles has put forward their community plan as well as Long Beach. And, yes, I like your idea.

Most of these examples have been funded through philanthropy, so I'm curious -- and maybe this is something for us to continue exploring and, again, making the request from the CEC to help us explore options on how this could be institutionalized so that, just like cities and counties make their plans, that there's a way and support for communities to have community plans.

Thank you. I see Commissioner Castaneda.

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Well, thank you very much and, Commissioner Olmedo, thank you very much because I think that, for me, this is the kind of forward thinking that we need to have, and we need to instill.
And maybe it's a Lithium Valley Commission 2.0 or something like that, but there needs to be investment that looks well beyond just the recovery and the processing and moving it out. We need to look at this as a far-reaching industry and an economy that will transform Imperial County.

I know that we've been talking about it, bits and pieces, but those kinds of plans really involve everything from environmental and economic justice, to the kind of workforce, to infrastructure, to the kinds of partnering with, you know, perhaps our neighbors across the border for manufacturing, and things of all those kinds of nature that looks way out into the future because, I mean, we only need to look at what we pay when we go to the gas pump right now.

I was watching some news, a report on what's going on, obviously, in Ukraine and an expert in terms of gas prices was on. Gas is only going to go up and he said, look, even if the Ukraine situation is resolved, he said gas prices are not going to go down, they're going to continue to rise. And he said OPEC is pumping on all eight cylinders and they can't keep up.
Our strategic reserve is basically down to 29 days of supply. So, you know, we are just not -- not only did we not want the oil to continue to be the behemoth in energy, but we just don't have it, but we just don't have it, even if that changes.

And I think that we're at the center of the Universe here and I think that we really need to be very very visionary, visionary for what's fair and what's right from the locals, visionary on what is right and what is the best investment for our state and our nation.

So, I think that that is a grand ask, I think that the state should fund that kind of an effort, it should be a multi-year sort of a work-in-progress, but we need to start now because, you know, I mean, obviously we're kind of nipping at the edges right now. And I think that we need to really look at what this will mean 20 years from now.

And then all the things we're talking about are included in that, so that would be my preference, that we have this -- at least start the discussion and start the advocacy for that kind of an analysis and that kind of a working
CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I want to be mindful of time because we said this was going to be a short meeting, and this is good conversation, good ideas surfacing.

So, two reminders: first, any of the attendees who are putting comments in the chat, just a reminder to use the Q&A section so that your comments can be recognized during the public comment section, or you can also wait and raise your hand during public comment. And then for us as Commissioners, we still have another item that we're going to have to vote.

So far, let me summarize some of the things that I'm hearing as potential ideas. The idea being incentivizing green technology and extended possible green certification; the investment and the attention to workforce development -- and when I'm reading this in summary, I'm taking into account all the comments that have been made to expand on those items.

And then we then we talked about the suggestion similar to Assemblymember Garcia's previous bill on Community Workforce Agreements, so something that will expand and give access to
community members to be part of and at the table in those processes.

And then from there we went into just the recognition that there needs to be some level of investments for community planning so that our communities have the ability to self-determine their path, where they want to go.

So those are so far, I think four or five ideas. I know that Commissioner Weisgall, you had a few that we wanted to put forward, so I will give you now time to do that. And again, these conversations are going to be ongoing. So Commissioner Weisgall.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Thanks. Why don't I do this. I'll tick them off quickly, I mean each one. We don't have the time to go into great detail but let me just outline the different ideas.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: One would be a state investment tax credit similar to the federal program that already exists for solar energy, with a direct pay to the Developer. It would mimic the federal program.

A second would be a series of loan
programs generally coordinated with the
Department of Energy's Loan Program Office.

The third would be, I would call it
instead of "Buy America," "Buy California" and
kind of a domestic content labeling or
requirement. Assemblymember Garcia is already
working on that. That's A.B. 1397, which would
require -- this would be state contracts that
include electric vehicles, but disclosing the
source of the Lithium, or mandating a certain
percentage of Lithium and batteries to be
produced in California by certain dates. So that
was point 3.

Point 4, again, this requires more
embellishment, but amending what's called CDLAC,
the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee,
to include Lithium development, geothermal
development, possibly amending the California
Pollution Control Financing Authority to include
tax exempt private equity bonds, again, for
Lithium geothermal.

As we already discussed, fleshing out
that the budgets propose new Climate Change
Mitigation Credit. That's the one that would be
administered by the Franchise Tax Board. Another
new tax credit proposal from the Governor's Office itself, which I think we should support, would be this GoBiz administered tax credit for green energy technologies that could include supply chain with Lithium. I believe that -- I want to say $100 Million for three years.

A very specific ask, and this could actually be in the form of a state grant, but we've talked about this. I know that Co-Chair Kelley has that in the County's ask, but basically this high tech laboratory in Imperial County to provide the fast turnaround chemistry analysis that will be needed as this industry grows, when we'll be measuring in parts per billion, not per million, kind of an R&D facility lab, not overly expensive, but that's an example of a specific kind of a state grant.

So that's a laundry list and, again, I can embellish, but I don't think we really have time, but I'd love to and maybe what I could do would be for next meeting just try to get something in writing if you'd like. But those are my ideas -- or some of them.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Any comments, reactions?
COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Madam Chair, I like them. Obviously, I'm not in the industry, I'm not sure what it takes to operate or to create something like this, but it sounds all reasonable and it doesn't sound like anything that hasn't been done in other industries by this state or by the federal government in the past. So that's it. And I think that we've got a pretty good list.

And I think that really, we should have a general statement about the need for forward planning with respect to Lithium and a Clean Energy based economy in the Inland Empire and in the Imperial County and start to work to see if we can get some resources to see that through.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madam Chair, I do want to go through these bullet points I had mentioned earlier that were put in front of me, if there's a few minutes, I hope you'll entertain that list.

CHAIR PAZ: Let me first see if we are done reacting or commenting on Jonathan's list, and then we'll start another list. Commissioner
COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thank you, Chair Paz. I think Jonathan's nailed it. I mean, in specific detail, as usual. I'd just like to reiterate the mitigation discussion and add that to the list.

CHAIR PAZ: Correct.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Jonathan and I and the others can detail that out at the next meeting. The next meeting we're going to have, as you know, the workforce which, again, we spent some time on today, but the workforce in very specific details next time around. But we'll add that out and then we're very very clear on our asks, right? Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Commissioner Weisgall noted around mitigation and expedited permitting, which was the idea that you brought forth earlier. Commissioner Ruiz.

COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yeah. I like the items that Commissioner Weisgall and the mitigation. I haven't seen all the items that Commissioner Colwell presented.

I would love to take the time when possible to go over them one by one, diving in a
little deeper to understand exactly what the implications of them are.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes. Thank you. So Commissioner Weisgall, if there's anything in writing that you want to provide us, you can send them to Elisabeth and then she can share. That way we can get a better idea on your requests.

My one reaction to both the ideas listed and the budget regarding expedited permitting, and some of these sorts of incentives to stabilize the industry, and I think it's good, right, that the industry knows what to expect and it's more clear and there's support for that.

But on the other hand, I also want to make sure that we are incorporating into some of these requests, especially when we are using public dollars, the prospective of what are then the benefits to the community. So let's balance the benefits to the industry with what is it that the community wants, what assurances, what benefit, what is needed in return because, again, we're requesting the use of public resources, so it only makes sense that there is a direct benefit to multiple stakeholders, both from the EJ community, from the Environmental community,
from just the general community as a whole. So that would be -- again, we're not going to get to all the details right now, but something that I would like for us to balance these requests with, that there's also going to be a direct benefit to the community as the state decides to allocate public dollars towards supporting the industry.

So, I will move on to Commissioner Olmedo, who has another list of proposals.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah, I'm just going to read it as is and there seems complimentary, some of these may or may not apply.

Allocation of funds to advance local recruitment via local advertising and job fairs. Prioritization of local workforce attributed to both existing geothermal facilities and any new geothermal facilities. Paid training for newly hired workforce. Living wage for new and existing hires. Infrastructure: county roads near geothermal facilities are unkept or consist of dirt roads. Allocation of funds to construct new roads and maintain current county roads. A rainy day fund
-- emergency infrastructure needed on the north end of Imperial County, fence line communities to geothermal facilities lack emergency services. Fire trucks, ambulances need adequate and well-kept roads to safety travel for emergency responses. EJ Trust Fund, EJ being Environmental Justice. Monies needed to fund projects and offset any environmental damage caused by geothermal facilities. Projects include construction of green spaces in Salton Sea, region Imperial County, new bike lanes, walkable neighborhoods, funding of electric school and public buses. Campaign to emphasize the use of electric vehicles, reductions of VMTs, Vehicle Mileage Travel, or multi-model transportation. That's the list.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Commissioner Olmedo. Any reactions, comments?

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Well, I sort of know a little bit about budgeting. There's a lot of specifics in there, but I don't know, how would we -- I mean, up in Sacramento, they're not going to price all those things out, so doesn't it have to kind of flow through the county or something like that, to basically understand what
the value is of all of those? Because they're all very worthwhile and I think incredibly important improvements, and that's why I'm kind of -- I'm not really interested in supporting a piecemeal approach to community justice or, you know, mitigation or -- I think it really needs to be very very overarching with a lot of time spent on specific elements that can value all of these items and understand their relative importance, and have a community involvement component to that. And unfortunately, that can't really be done in a 30-minute meeting. I mean, this is very important.

So, I do a lot of planning, I don't know that we can do this piecemeal because I just don't know that the work up in Sacramento is going to get done to actually quantify what all that would take. And I don't know, Commissioner Olmedo, are those projects and those initiatives, are they in some other document somewhere that has been kind of analyzed and looked at what the values are and what the costs would be and to put that in more of a specific ask of the State Budget Process?

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Commissioner
Castaneda, I first want to agree with you, I think the small work that needs to be done, I think I'm understanding your concern about the piecemeal, and this is just an indication of how important it is to engage the community. The community knows best what the challenges have been, what the concerns are. At this point, I mean, I asked the Commission, I asked the CEC, the Energy Commission, the Energy Commissioners, the legislator, the Governor's Office and the community themselves.

I think we need to have a space -- and this goes back to the other ask about having the resources in place, and perhaps this would be sort of a breakdown of being able to have the resources necessary for the community to put its plan together, right?

COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Right and I will support you on that. There is actually no question. But I think that, you know, I just want to make sure we don't miss anything and that we don't put it in such a form or in a fashion that it really doesn't get looked at seriously because it doesn't have a dollar amount to it, and it isn't broken down. So maybe we forward it
and we have a discussion with whomever is at the CEC, or at the Budget Office, or whatever, and we figure out how we get -- or the Assemblymember's Office -- and we figure out how to get it in a situation where we've attached the value to it, so it can actually go into a line item in the Budget process.

So, again, I think that's a tremendous start and I'll support it, and let's just see how we get it done.

CHAIR PAZ: Yeah. And I want -- what's coming to mind when I hear the list that Commissioner Olmedo is reading, two things: 1) the importance of investments in this region to be able to support any type of industry. I think part of the reason why the Eastern Coachella Valley and Imperial County, Imperial Valley, are still mostly rural, agricultural, is because we don't have the infrastructure to be able to sustain new industry. We don't have the infrastructure to sustain new housing. That's one of the most expensive costs to housing, the infrastructure. So maybe there's something around infrastructure that can be looked at, you know, a more direct holistic approach. So that's
one thought.

The other thought is there is another item in the agenda related to the CERF planning dollars and I think the way that the CERF has been created, the intent of the CERF is for these community plans to be built by a diverse stakeholder group, right, that would include EJ, that would include labor, that would include industry, that would include community.

So, we'll get more into that discussion and maybe recommendations to ensure that the intent of the CERF really benefits our communities and the plan that Luis Olmedo has put forward through the list that he read because I think that's not the only way, but definitely a start, and the more tangible stuff that I see is within that CERF process. So, we'll get to that in the next item on the agenda.

Commissioner Colwell and then I'm going to ask for a motion for some actions.

Commissioner Colwell.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Okay, thank you, Chair Paz. I'd like to just change the gears a little bit to Steve's point and Luis's point. I mean, both -- and we understand infrastructure,
housing, training, jobs, everything that's required. But without a revenue to start with, we've got nothing and at the end of the day, you know, we are where we are because the market may be a transition, the new white gold and the whole bit. So that really should be part of it. We touched on it at the last meeting, but where's the revenue going to come from? Because I'm sure the Governor's Office with the purse strings up there aren't going to throw money at something right now without a proven way or how they're going to get repaid. I mean, it's just a fundamental business, something that really needs to be balanced into this conversation. It shouldn't be all just take. We get it, we all get it, we're all in the thick of it here and would like to add that in as important so we get some balance back into the conversation. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Correct. Thank you for that reminder. So it's this parallel track both of them, very important, one getting to market and successful so there's a revenue source and not forgetting that there's, you know, these things need to be given the same thought and attention
and hopefully moving on parallel tracks.

So great conversation. I need a motion. And I will -- there as a motion earlier. I will sort of tell you as best as I can the type of motion that I need, and then you take it from there.

So, I need a motion that would request the CEC staff to support us in identifying sort of next steps, what's the best vehicle or options for some of these conversations? Because we started with some very clear policy items, but then we went into some gray areas where we might need to explore more direction.

So, I would need a motion to request the CEC to support us in continuing to develop these ideas, concepts, and the intent that has been shared here today and to designate Vice Chair Ryan Kelley and myself to carry on those conversations, representing the Lithium Valley Commission on these items that we've so far gotten some consensus around.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: I'll second the original motion, Sylvia.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay. So, Steve Castaneda, does your motion still stand after the
discussion? Well, we'll come back before we solidify that. I think we can do public comments and then we'll come back and confirm the motion and do the roll call.

So, Elisabeth, can you open the item to public comment?

MS. DE JONG: Yes, thank you Chair Paz.

So if you're talking to us by Zoom on your computer, please use the "raise hand" feature. If you've called in, please dial *9 to raise your hand, and then *6 to unmute your phone line.

And the reminder that, if you are writing in your comments, please be sure to send them only via the Q&A and not in the chat windows to ensure that they are addressed and recorded.

Comments or questions from the chat window will not be read during the public comment.

Participants are limited to three limits to comment total, so that includes the written and/or verbal comments. I'm going to the raised hand. Jose Flores, you should be able to unmute yourself.

MR. FLORES: Good morning. Thank you, Chair Paz, a very enlightened conversation on the Lithium Valley Commission and the going on's in
our Region of the Salton Sea.

My concern is obviously it's great to see the momentum and everything is coming along very quickly, but that in a way is also my concern. In regard to the name of efficiency at times, public engagement is truncated due to deadlines. And again, I'm not naïve, I know in the real world there have to be deadlines, but for many decades in our county, in the name of deadlines they've been able to kind of get away with certain things of not engaging directly and having a dialogue with our community, of our entire county or valley.

Although it may be convenient at times to go fast, we see the finish line. I believe truly we can go further as a community with equitable community engagement.

Again, as a lifelong resident of Imperial Valley, I've been able to see certain communities in our county that are more affluent, benefit with certain projects, while other communities rarely see these positive gains, but they're affected by many environmental issues. So again, just the status quo of at times not being able to slow down when it's needed to engage the
community, and things go on as usual. In the outskirts of the bigger cities in Imperial County they're kind of left by the wayside, conduct a self-fulfilling Prophecy, and I truly believe rising tides lift our boats, but for many decades not all boats have risen the way that they should be with certain projects. So that's just my concerns. Hopefully you're able still this time to truly engage the community and everyone benefits, especially communities that have been neglected in the future (sic). Great conversation, hopefully it continues. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next raised hand is Eric Reyes. You should be able to unmute yourself.

MR. REYES: Yeah, hello. Great conversation, as Mr. Flores just stated. Just a couple of comments and a couple of questions. I put some questions also in the Q&A, so I won't repeat those.

I'm thinking that what we're lacking here is a true model that affects our community engagement, but there are models out there and one of the comments put in by Rafael Aguilera was
the High Road Workforce Development Model, and that is inclusive at all points of community engagement, community groups that bring out the minority voice, and they're part of the process. And they're part of moving the community forward on these initiatives. Therefore, they're basically in charge of ensuring that there's an equitable process because that's what we work for, right? As equity partners.

And we ensure that industry and institutions are doing their share to be inclusive and be equitable in our community. So, I think that's what you need to create is a model and I'm hoping that's something that's moving forward.

And someone said, "You're putting the cart before the horse." I think I've heard that many times, but I think with a committee that is as economically challenged and correlates with educationally challenged by the lack of institutions, I think we have to open up our minds to the elite universities also wanting to learn that technology. I did put that in the Q&A.

There's no reason why we have to limit
ourselves to certain universities only because they're convenient and they're close, but I think there's universities that are world class, we have world global investors, right? Berkshire Hathaway and CTR, these are world class investors. We should have world class universities that are interested in the mining, extraction and this technology that has never been done at this massive scale. I'm sure they want to learn and become partners. It's something that we need to have as an option.

And obviously, as a community advocate, we feel that there's growth industry and EJ mitigation and enhancements. I think we need to include not just mitigation, but enhancement that can create green jobs, that's where it's all going. There's outreach that we can do, teach the public about electric cars and every single other product that uses Lithium batteries, which is massive, and that people don't know, and it's only going to increase.

So, I want all those to be included as you move forward. And thank you for the conversation. And I do believe we do need another public outreach, we had one in November,
and it was excellent. And I read CTR's comments regarding trying to answer them, and it seems to me they also want more of this type of public engagement. Thank you.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next raised hand is Victor Beas. You should be able to unmute yourself.

MR. BEAS: Hi, good morning, everyone.

I'm Victor Beas. I'm an Imperial Valley resident. And I just would like to also mention that this committee has 16, 17 seats, or -- and I've seen only in those -- every meeting, they're only like five or six persons participating. So, I would like to see more of the rest of the committee to participate. I mean, there are some different levels of expertise, and I haven't heard the opinion of the tribal representatives here. And well, IID should be participating more and I actually -- the Commissioner just, you know, I don't know if he's busy or he's trying to keep a low profile, I don't know. But I haven't seen some of the very important members of this committee participating more. I mean, pretty much the industry, I mean, Mr. Colwell, Mr. Weisgall, Commissioner Castaneda, of course
Commissioner -- Chair Paz, and Mr. Olmedo, and I think there should be more participation of the Commission because the more voices on this, it's going to be better to get a different perspective, different opinions, and it's going to be better for everyone. Of course, the community, everyone is mentioning that, so I'm not going to get in that. But, yeah, I would like to see more participation of the rest of the Commissioners in these discussions. And that's pretty much it. Thank you.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. The next raised hand is Tom Sephton. You should be able to unmute yourself.

MR. SEPHTON: Thank you, Chairman Paz and members of the Commission. Just a quick suggestion. The Governor has identified Lithium and Lithium Valley as part of a push toward making a difference with climate change. The state does see a benefit in that and would also have a direct benefit in its tax base.

My suggestion is to go to the Governor and the Legislature with your subcommittee, or whoever you want to appoint, and strongly push the state to put in a grant program to support
some of the necessary infrastructure improvements needed to help this work in the Imperial Valley, things like roads, rail connection, water delivery infrastructure. These could be helped upfront by the state before the plants are built and the wells are drilled, and the Lithium production is underway. And the state does get a benefit from doing so, so I would suggest taking that to the state. And also, suggestions like high quality land services which currently you have to go far away for. That could be state funded and installed in the Imperial Valley.

Thanks.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Now I'm going to the comments that were written and submitted by the Q&A window.

The first set of questions, it's from Consuelo Alejandra Marquez. It says: "Joined a bit late, but what is the budget going towards? How is it going to be used to support your community? I thought this Commission wasn't a deciding body on whether or not Lithium extraction was going to occur. What is the money from the budget going towards? How is it going to help the community? Will there be
prioritization of the ECV and Imperial Valley workers? New work brings new worker migrations within the country. So that's my question."

And a couple more. "When you talk about policy, what does that refer to? Community-driven policy? Policy that will help drive the project forward. Or policy that'll give protection to the true community and the lands?"

And the final question from Consuelo.

"In terms of training and workforce, is this workforce truly sustainable if it's extraction industry-focused, i.e., if the Salton Sea is left dry and resources are no longer extracted, are we back at square one?"

Another question submitted by a Q&A from Hector Meza, IBEW569: "We also have labor unions in IV from Electricians, Pipefitters, Steel Workers, and on and on. All Apprentices receive FREE TRAINING for 4-5 years of education, hands on training and good paying wages for all."

And comments written into the Q&A by Eric Reyes: "The workforce development and higher education investment is essential to success and must be vetted to meet the industry needs and, just as important, the worker skills 'Eder to b'
competitive in other regions and industries, as well as within our communities around the Lithium development. The community needs to be aware of the opportunities and offered equal access to those opportunities." And also, Eric Reyes said: "Also, I ask why are we limiting ourselves to certain universities when we have global investors? The technology is on everyone's radar as to the effectiveness in the massive scale being proposed and other world class universities will want to study and learn and be a partner. MIT, Colorado University of Mines, etc. are all options to consider."

All right, another comment submitted to the Q&A by Kay Wolff: "The health dangers to the immediate community, as well as all of Southern California, cannot wait for the Lithium industry to generate taxes and fees in the distant future. The state should require funds UP FRONT to immediately address the restoration of the Salton Sea with a goal to begin mitigation of health dangers. WE CANNOT WAIT ANY LONGER."

And from Luis Lopez in the Q&A: "Allocation of funds to advance local recruitment via local advertising and job fairs, prioritization of local
workforce attributed to both existing geothermal facilities and any new geothermal facilities. Paid training for newly hired workforce. Living wage for new and existing hires. Infrastructure (county roads) near geothermal facilities are unkept or consist of dirt roads. Allocation of funds to construct new roads and maintain current county roads or Rainy-Day Fund. Emergency Infrastructure needed for North End of Imperial County fence line communities to geothermal facilities lack emergency services. Fire trucks, ambulances need adequate and well-kept roads to safely travel for emergency responses. EJ Trust Fund monies needed to fund projects and offset any environmental damage caused by geothermal facilities. Projects include construction of green spaces in Salton Sea region and Imperial County, new bike lanes, walkable neighborhoods, funding of electric school & public buses."

And there's just a little more: "Is there a local workforce recommendation coming from this commission? In agreements with labor unions, there is usually a local hire provision where local workers who are eligible for jobs based on their work skills be offered the job first, so
they fill locally as many jobs they are capable of, and at times there are percentage guarantees of workers locally in developments. Is this commission making a recommendation?

And finally, an anonymous Attendee submitted: "This comment is from Mariela Loya with Leadership Counsel. First, in terms of a bill proposal specific to community workforce and community benefits, it is crucial that, as you start drafting a plan for community engagement you ensure that these conversations are also had with community. If you are already thinking about the possibility of this, community not only needs to be informed, but needs to be included in the context of these agreements given that they would be the ones to hopefully benefit from these. Second, whatever information or draft bill proposal language you all have, please share in the public docket for the public to review. Third, in terms of the next item on CERF, when it is important to have interregional coordination and analysis to address shared impacts experienced across regions, geographical landscape, geographical similarities, and intersecting regional economies. And 2) strategic investments
and transitions must repair environmental harm
injustice and exclusive."

Ah, sorry, there's one more comment here.
Luis Lopez says: "Community needs to be at the
forefront of conversations and decision making."
I do not see any other comments submitted
at this time for public comment. So back to you,
Chair Paz. Sorry, Chair Paz, it does look like
you're on mute.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I know that some
members of the Commission have a hard stop, so
right now I will quickly summarize the motion that
was before us and confirm that Steve Castaneda had
made a motion to request the CEC to support us in
exploring these ideas further and the options, I
mean, meetings with Legislators, as well as
delegating Vice Chair Ryan Kelley and myself to
work with the CEC in these meetings with the
Legislators to bring forth what we've heard from
you all. So, there's a motion and there was a
second by Rod Colwell.

So, Elisabeth, can you do a roll call
vote, please?

MS. DE JONG: Yes, I can. And sorry to do
this Chair Paz, but if we could just maybe restate
the votes just to be clear, especially with a new
request going to the CEC. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: The motion is to request the
CEC to support us in meeting with the Legislators
and further exploring the options where we saw
consensus of that request from the CEC and two
members of this Commission who would be delegated
that authority to work with the CEC and meet with
the Legislators in representing the Lithium Valley
Commission on the items where we found consensus,
would be Vice Chair Ryan Kelley and myself.

So, we have a motion by Steve Castaneda
and a second by Rod Colwell.

MS. DE JONG: All right. Thank you. So I
can move to do roll call vote?

When I call your names, please let me know
your vote, yes, no, or abstain.

MS. DE JONG: Commissioner Castaneda?
COMMISSIONER CASTANEDA: Yes.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Commissioner
Colwell?

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I believe
Commissioner Dolega is not present. Commissioner
Flores. It looks like Commissioner Flores is not
present. Okay, Commissioner Hanks? I don't hear a vote. Vice Chair Kelley? I don't hear a vote from Vice Chair Kelley. Commissioner Lopez?

COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yes.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Commissioner Olmedo?

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Chair Paz?

CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Commissioner Ruiz?

COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I don't believe Commissioner Scott is available. I don't believe Commissioner Soto is available. And I believe Commissioner Weisgall has stepped away. I just want to check if he's available for this vote.

Okay, Chair Paz, I just want to take a second right here. I don't believe that we have a quorum at this point in the meeting, so if the CEC legal team could chime in?

MS. DYER: This is Deborah.

MS. DE JONG: I did count six votes, so that's the total from my count.

MS. DYER: That is also where I counted
and so we do not have a quorum, which means that we cannot take that vote.

CHAIR PAZ: So, we can take this up at the next meeting. I mean, we're meeting, what, in a week?

MS. DYER: Correct.

MS. DE JONG: It is scheduled February 24th.

CHAIR PAZ: Okay. So maybe during that meeting we'll just go through the vote, we probably do have the discussion and it was a really good discussion, so we'll move it for then and that would apply for the next item on the agenda, which is the letter for CERF. I think we're probably going to just have to wait on that one, too, and just put it in the top of the agenda for next meeting.

MS. DYER: Chair Paz, this is Deborah. You can still discuss that second item on the CERF letter, you just couldn't take a vote unless there is a quorum present.

CHAIR PAZ: Yes. I'm just concerned that if we don't have a quorum and we have a discussion with less than a quorum, you know, just how that vote is going to look. I think I'd rather have a
discussion when there's more members, that way we can be transparent and, you know, just get everyone who can vote on it. Thank you for that suggestion.

So given that we no longer have quorum, we will move the vote to next meeting, and we will also discuss the CERF letter at the next meeting and consider a vote then.

MS. LEE: Chair Paz, I just want to make the note that CEC Team is working internally. We did not agendize these items for consideration on the 24th, but we're working internally to identify what our options are for your action.

CHAIR PAZ: Perfect. Thank you.

MS. DE JONG: You do have a hand raised from Commissioner Olmedo.

CHAIR PAZ: Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes, Madam Chair, I know that we might be able to take a deep dive and discuss or have action. Is there an opportunity maybe to facilitate a conversation about it, even though we won't potentially take action today? Do we have the time, first of all? And if we do, would you entertain discussion on it? And be sure it's specific.
CHAIR PAZ: Yeah, I mean, I don't know where the rest of the Commissioners are. It is an important topic and I thought that if we started a conversation now, we would almost have to rehash the conversation before we get the rest of the Commission to vote on it. So I can give a summary and then maybe make a request so that we can be prepared if we can add it to the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madam Chair, just because -- I feel like decisions have been made, decisions continually being made --

CHAIR PAZ: Correct.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: -- I think it is time we try this, have a conversation that, if my understanding of it is correct, like planning and GoBiz at the Governor's Office, would at least be able to hear where the Commission is at, or individual Commissioners would be at.

CHAIR PAZ: That is a good point. So let me give you the summary and then we can have as much of a discussion as you all feel and if you have time, but we won't be able to vote.

So again, the brief summary is that there is a Community Economic Recovery Fund that is being administered I believe under three agencies,
GoBiz, EDD, and the Governor's Office of Funding and Research. And there is about $500 million that were allocated in last year's budget with the intent of creating inclusive, equitable community economic recovery plans from two different regions.

So, the intent is very well welcomed, that I've heard nothing but, you know, just positive things about the need for these investments and the needs for economic recovery plans for our region.

The challenges that I've heard, and to know, but the public comments have already passed, so we would be submitting a letter after the fact. But we've heard from communities on the ground, and they have already submitted in their public comment is the challenges with having the Salton Sea Region split between two regions, so part of the sea would fall in what is called the Inland Empire Region, so that's Riverside and San Bernardino County, at large, and then the southern end of the sea, which is Imperial County, would fall with the southern border region which includes San Diego and Imperial County.

There are challenges as have been
referenced in some of the public comment with regard to a region of the Salton Sea that has so much in common with like the industries that we share, the workforce that we share, and the challenges that we share both in terms of infrastructure, many of the things that came up in our conversation, right? These are shared items between specifically Eastern Coachella Valley, Imperial Valley, and if we split the region the way that we're split right now, it just becomes so much more difficult to come up with a cohesive plan that's really centering our community's needs and our voice.

We would then have to negotiate and find a way for -- well, Imperial would have to do that in the context of San Diego; Eastern Coachella Valley would have to do that in the context of Riverside, Imperial, and then potentially we could end up with two plans, one in Coachella and one in Imperial that don't even talk to each other, right?

So those are the risks and, again, they have been voiced in one way or another during public comment by organizations on the ground.

The letter that is in front of you,
hopefully, that you've received and was also posted to the docket, is a draft that is asking the three agencies to reconsider, and that they keep the Salton Sea Region together.

So that's a summary of this item. It would be great if everyone, since we cannot vote, for everyone who is still here, and communicate to the others, to take this letter, look at it, this only talks about the region itself, but then there's guidelines that could strengthen the equity piece and making sure. And those are not part of this letter, it's just about the region.

Commissioner Olmedo.

COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah, Madam Chair. I have nothing more to add. I think everything you just stated is just sort of a shared experience, shared concern. Historically -- again, I think that speaks to comments I made earlier on the previous conversation that, you know, I think well intended characterizations of our community keep pulling us into these larger regions that are irrelevant to our community. You know, we have so many factors that are more aligned with Imperial and Eastern Coachella Valley, and I trust your advice, Chair Paz. I've mostly experienced
Eastern Coachella Valley, it's very similar to Imperial Valley. But that's why I referenced it in those terms, but if so many programs continue to miss the mark, you know, whether it's the Census, whether it's redistricting, and I'm just very pleased with the most recent, finally we've been heard, about the experience of Salton Sea, our air shed, you know, our economy, it's tied to agriculture. There's just so many things that anyone who is paying attention would realize this is the region, right? I mean, the only other way that our region would be moving in different directions is what we have historically suspected, and that is that we are very attractive, vulnerable, disadvantaged characteristics that might help, you know, more fluent or communities that can benefit from our socioeconomics, but not necessarily benefit us back. So, I look forward to this being brought back for action, but I hope that the proper agencies making these decisions are listening to the conversation. Thank you.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Deborah, I see your hand up.

MS. DYER: Yes, Chair Paz. For purposes of process, I would recommend that you announce
that this meeting is being continued to February 24th at the next LVC meeting and that will carry this agenda item to that next meeting. And we will work on the appropriate Bagley-Keene notices that need to be posted.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Do we need a vote to continue -- oh, well, we don't have a quorum, so no. Thank you.

Okay, so unless there is any further discussion from the Commissioners, we will continue this meeting into the meeting on the 24th.

COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Have a good day.

CHAIR Paz: Thank you. I believe we need to open for public comment before we adjourn, Elisabeth?

MS. DE JONG: Yes, thank you. Okay, so if you're joining us by Zoom on your computer, please use the raised hand feature. If you have called in, please dial *9 to raise your hand, and *6 to unmute your phone line.

I will go first to the hands raised in the Zoom application and then any phone callers, and any written comments. I do have a phone caller with the last three numbers 637. You
MR. ANDERSON: Hi, yes. My name is Brad Anderson and I live in the Coachella Valley. I just wanted to just make a comment that I appreciate the efforts taking place by this Commission and I came in really late today, so I'm just going to hang on for your next meeting and I'll be participating in that one. Thank you very much.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. And just a reminder that a recording and transcript of these meetings are posted online after the meeting. We do have another hand raise from Eric Reyes. You should be able to unmute yourself.

MR. REYES: Yeah, just continuing the conversation, one thing I have asked before and locally also and with industry is a comprehensive economic studies, analysis of all the incendiaries of businesses also, so we can target investment and small business development around that without really having the know how of everything that's going to be involved and what supplies are going to be needed. We can really make an investment into that small business development. I think that would be great if we
could have something like that put into the
Governor's budget, which they can do very easily,
but it would really be helpful for us on the
ground as to what our asks will be and where we
can help the community access an opportunity.
Thank you.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I see a hand
raised from Eric Reyes.

CHAIR PAZ: I think that was him.

MS. DE JONG: Yeah, okay. Sorry. It did
pop up again, but all right. Thank you. I do
not -- oh, let me see, I did get a written in
comment by Q&A from Victor Beas. "No quorum to
vote. As I said previously, we need to see even
more engagement in the rest of the Commission."

All right, I don't see any other hands
raised or written comments at this time. So back
to you, Chair Paz.

CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, everyone. We
don't have a General Public Comment, do we?

MS. DE JONG: I believe that we just held
the public comment.

CHAIR PAZ: So, we are ready to adjourn.
This meeting is being continued to the meeting on
the 24th (of February) and I will see you all
there. Thank you for the discussion.

(The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.)
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 14th day of March, 2022.

ELISE HICKS, IAPRT

CERT**2176
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

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 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.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367  
March 14, 2022