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Document Title:	Letter to Lithium Valley Commissioners from Undersigned Organizations
Description:	Letter to Lithium Valley Commissioners from Peoples Collective for Environmental Justice, Sierra Club My Generation Campaign, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Coalition for a Safe Environment, Earthjustice.
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April 26, 2022

Lithium Valley Commission
c/o CA Energy Commission
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
LithiumValleyCommission@energy.ca.gov

Dear Chair Silvia Paz and Lithium Valley Commission Members,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we submit this letter concerned with the Lithium Valley Commission's public engagement process. As organizations that advocate for zero emissions and environmental justice, we want to ensure that the two are not mutually exclusive. We believe that to achieve zero emissions we must ensure environmental justice first and foremost for all communities affected by the transition. For those reasons, it is extremely important that we have all the information necessary about what lithium extraction could mean in Southern California. Specifically, what the environmental, health, racial and cumulative impacts might be in communities that are experiencing multiple other burdens such as poor infrastructure, air quality, water and more.

We would like to request that the Lithium Valley Commission respond to the questions from residents with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (LCJA) from their October 8th letter and respond to questions from Alianza Coachella Valley, Youth Leadership Institute, Pacific Institute, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, Sierra Club, Loma Linda University School of Public Health, and Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) from their December 10th letter and share the response to our organizations as well. It is imperative that the community is adequately informed about all potential impacts of Lithium Valley and meaningfully engaged so that their feedback be included in the Lithium Valley Commission's report due in October 2022.

It is our understanding that the Lithium Valley Commission was created to research and answer questions about the possibility of lithium extraction at the Salton Sea. It is imperative that the Commission is able to continue a public process that is inclusive, transparent and is directly responding to those that are bringing up concerns. We would like to thank the work of the Commission so far in creating bi-lingual meetings however we believe that the forum must do more to answer questions that arise.

We look forward to hearing from you and engaging in this process. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,
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Peoples Collective for Environmental Justice

Yassi Kavezade
Sierra Club My Generation Campaign

Taylor Thomas
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Peter M. Warren
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