

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Lithium Valley Commission
<b>TN #:</b>	243226
<b>Document Title:</b>	Meeting Action Minutes for May 12, 2022 Meeting
<b>Description:</b>	Meeting Action Minutes for May 12, 2022 Meeting for the Lithium Valley Commission
<b>Filer:</b>	Erica Loza
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
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# **Lithium Valley Commission**

## **Meeting Action Minutes – May 12, 2022**

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on May 12, 2022, at 1:32 PM by Lithium Valley Commission Vice Chair Ryan Kelley.

Primary Physical Location: Imperial Valley College, Imperial, CA

Additional Publicly Accessible Locations: CA Natural Resources Agency, Sacramento, CA; and 5309 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD, 20814

### **Attendance: Lithium Valley Commissioners**

- Steve Castaneda (Imperial Valley College)
- Rod Colwell (Imperial Valley College)
- Miranda Flores (CA Natural Resources Agency)
- Ryan E. Kelley (Imperial Valley College)
- Luis Olmedo (Imperial Valley College)
- Silvia Paz (Imperial Valley College)
- Frank Ruiz (Imperial Valley College)
- Jonathan Weisgall (Bethesda, Maryland)

Commissioners Roderic Dolega, James Hanks, Arthur Lopez, Alice Reynolds, Manfred Scott, and Thomas Soto were not in attendance. Chair Silvia Paz joined the meeting at 2:03 p.m. and assumed the role of meeting moderator. Vice Chair Kelley left prior to the end of the meeting. A quorum was established at 2:35 p.m. for a portion of the meeting during which time voting items were considered. There was no quorum after 3:12 p.m.

### **Agenda**

Informational Items including the Media and Legislative Updates were moved to the beginning of the meeting. Administrative Items, including the Approval of Meeting Action Minutes for January 27, 2022, February 16, 2022 and February 24, 2022 Public Meetings were moved to the beginning of the meeting, after a quorum was present.

Deferred items were:

- Informational Item: Lithium Valley Commissioner Updates
- Administrative Item: Consideration of the March 24, 2022 Meeting Action Minutes
- Planning for Upcoming Workshops and Meetings: Possible Continuation of Environmental Impacts Workshop and Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction Workshop

### **Presentations**

A compiled set of the presentations identified below has been docketed and can be found here: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/meeting/2022-05/lithium-valley-commission-meeting>

## Economic Impacts Workshop

The Economic Impacts Workshop was conducted during the Lithium Valley Commission Public Meeting and included two panels, each followed by Lithium Valley Commissioner question and answer periods. The workshop included a public comment period.

- Panel: Regional and Local Economy: Current Socio-economic Context
  - Presentations were provided by:
    - Adela de la Torre, President San Diego State University
    - Angelita Ortiz, Interim Superintendent, Calipatria Unified School District
    - Daniela Flores, MPH, Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition
- Panel: Potential State and Community Economic Benefits of Lithium Valley Development
  - Presentations were provided by:
    - Trelynd Bradley, Senior Business Development Specialist, Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
    - Rebecca Terrazas, Director, Imperial County Intergovernmental Relations
    - Cecilia Estolano and Sarah Friedman, CEO and Senior Policy Director, Better World Group
    - Jordan Sisson, Land Use/California Environmental Quality Act Attorney

## Additional Agenda Items

Planning for Upcoming Workshops

- Commissioner Castaneda presented ideas for the upcoming Incentive Workshop which was followed by discussion among the Commissioners.
- Chair Paz requested CEC staff to reach out to Commissioners to identify dates for additional meetings in June and July.

## Voting Items

### 1. **Accept Action Minutes from January 27, 2022, February 16, 2022, February 24, 2022 Meetings**

Commissioner Weisgall moved to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2022, February 16, 2022, and February 24, 2022 public meetings, and Commission Colwell seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ Steve Castaneda - Yes | ○ Jonathan Weisgall - Yes |
| ○ Rod Colwell - Yes     | ○ Roderic Dolega - Absent |
| ○ Miranda Flores - Yes  | ○ James C. Hanks - Absent |
| ○ Ryan E. Kelley - Yes  | ○ Arthur Lopez - Absent   |
| ○ Luis Olmedo - Yes     | ○ Alice Reynolds - Absent |
| ○ Silvia Paz - Yes      | ○ Manfred Scott - Absent  |
| ○ Frank Ruiz - Yes      | ○ Thomas Soto – Absent    |

## **2. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Support Letter for Imperial County’s Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan**

During prior Lithium Valley Commission public meetings, Vice Chair Ryan Kelley requested that the Lithium Valley Commission consider submitting a letter of support, addressed to Governor Newsom, Senator Hueso and Assemblymember Garcia, for Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan. The Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan and a draft letter of support were made available for the public through the docket. Following discussion during the March 24, 2022 Public Meeting, Vice Chair Kelley and Chair Paz drafted a letter which was docketed and distributed to the Lithium Valley Commissioners on March 30, 2022. A revised draft letter was subsequently docketed on May 11, and the letter was distributed to the Lithium Valley Commissioners. Both the Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan and latest revised draft letter are available for the public through the docket.

Vice Chair Kelley moved to approve the Draft Support Letter for Imperial County’s Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan, which was seconded by Commissioner Weisgall. After discussion of the revised draft letter, Vice Chair Kelley amended his motion to remove the specific reference to Cal-Poly campus. Commissioner Weisgall affirmed his second of the motion, his motion passed by the following roll call vote:

- Steve Castaneda – Yes
- Rod Colwell - Yes
- Miranda Flores - Yes
- Ryan E. Kelley - Yes
- Silvia Paz - Yes
- Frank Ruiz - Yes
- Jonathan Weisgall - Yes
- Luis Olmedo - No
- Roderic Dolega - Absent
- James C. Hanks - Absent
- Arthur Lopez - Absent
- Alice Reynolds - Absent
- Manfred Scott - Absent
- Thomas Soto - Absent

## **3. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Findings and Recommendations Identified During the Environmental Impacts Workshop Held March 24, 2022**

CEC staff prepared a document that summarizes proposed preliminary findings and recommendations identified during the Environmental Impacts Workshop held during the March 2022 Lithium Valley Commission Public Meeting.

After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda and seconded by Vice Chair Kelley to approve the amended Preliminary Proposed Environmental Impact Findings and Recommendations for Discussion and Consideration by the Lithium Valley Commission, with the following changes: Amendments to reflect the recent approval by the CEC of updates to the regulations related to delegation to counties in item C. Include the regions around the entire Salton Sea in item 1 and include funds for public participation program in item 6.

The vote passed by the following majority roll call vote to approve the Preliminary Proposed Environmental Impact Findings and Recommendations.

- Steve Castaneda - Yes
- Ryan E. Kelley - Yes
- Luis Olmedo - Yes
- Silvia Paz - Yes
- Frank Ruiz - Yes
- Jonathan Weisgall - Yes
- Miranda Flores - Abstain
- Rod Colwell - No
- Roderic Dolega - Absent
- James C. Hanks - Absent
- Arthur Lopez - Absent
- Alice Reynolds - Absent
- Manfred Scott - Absent
- Thomas Soto – Absent

## Next Steps

- Next meeting to be held on May 26, 2022 @ 1:30 PM via Zoom and in person, the location to be determined.

## Items of Interest and Resources Referenced During the Meeting

- Items e-filed to the [Lithium Valley Commission Docket](https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01) can be found here: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01>
- Legislation and Media updates by CEC Staff
  - May 12 Lithium Legislation Update: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243034&DocumentContentId=76662>
  - May 12 Lithium Media Update: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243036&DocumentContentId=76666>
- Other Resources provided:
  - Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan Draft Support Letter Clean Version: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243006&DocumentContentId=76603>
  - Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan Draft Support Letter Revised Version: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243005&DocumentContentId=76604>
  - Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241584&DocumentContentId=75550>
  - Proposed Environmental Impact Findings and Recommendations for Discussion and Consideration by the Lithium Valley Commission: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242726&DocumentContentId=76277>
  - Resultados y recomendaciones preliminares sobre el impacto ambiental para discusión y consideración por parte de la Comisión de Lithium Valley: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242748&DocumentContentId=76302>