

DOCKETED

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Lithium Valley Commission

Meeting Action Minutes – March 24, 2022

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on March 24, 2022, at 1:30 PM by Lithium Valley Commission Chair Silvia Paz.

Attendance: Lithium Valley Commissioners

- Steve Castaneda
- Roderic Dolega
- Miranda Flores
- James C. Hanks
- Ryan E. Kelley
- Arthur Lopez
- Luis Olmedo
- Silvia Paz
- Frank Ruiz
- Manfred Scott
- Thomas Soto
- Jonathan Weisgall

Commissioner Rod Colwell was not in attendance. Commissioner Luis Olmedo was absent during roll call but joined shortly after. Commissioner James Hanks left before the meeting was concluded. California Public Utilities Commission Representative is currently vacant.

Agenda

The following items were deferred:

- Planning for Upcoming Workshops
 - Economic Impacts Workshop
 - Schedule for Future Workshops
- Administrative Items
 - Approval of Meeting Action Minutes for January 27, 2022; February 16, 2022; and February 24, 2022, Public Meetings.
- Informational Items
 - Media and Legislative Updates
 - Lithium Valley Commissioner Updates

The workshop item “Overview of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and environmental review of geothermal and lithium extraction projects and the responsibilities of public agencies” was moved to after the workshop item, “Public participation and engagement in CEQA and opportunities for addressing environmental justice concerns in the review of geothermal facilities and lithium extraction projects”.

Presentations

A compiled set of the presentations identified below has been docketed and can be found here:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242466&DocumentContentId=75965>

Environmental Impacts Workshop

The second Environmental 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: Public participation and engagement in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and opportunities for addressing environmental justice concerns in the review of geothermal facilities and lithium extraction projects
 - Presentations were provided by:
 - Dr. Paul English with the Public Health Institute
 - Dr. Jonathan London with the University of California, Davis Department of Human Ecology/Community and Regional Development and Environmental Health Science Center
 - Lisa Belenky with the Center for Biological Diversity
 - Jose T. Bravo, Executive Director of Just Transition Alliance
- Panel: Overview of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and environmental review of geothermal and lithium extraction projects and the responsibilities of public agencies
 - Presentations were provided by:
 - Eric Knight with the California Energy Commission
 - Noemi Gallardo with the California Energy Commission
 - Jim Minnick with Imperial County Planning and Development Services

Additional Agenda Items

- Discussion of topics for future environmental impacts workshop
 - Chair Paz asked commissioners if there were any topics for future environmental impact that have not been addressed. No commissioners gave comment.
- Continued Discussion and Possible Action on Lithium Valley Commission's Proposed Recommendations Related to Governor Newsom's Proposed 2022-2023 Budget
 - Vice Chair Ryan Kelley presented information on the Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan and requested that the Lithium Valley Commission provide a letter of support identifying recommendations that they feel comfortable supporting. Chair Paz and Vice Chair Kelley agreed to draft a letter for consideration by the Lithium Valley Commissioners at a future meeting.

Next Steps

- Chair Paz proposed to schedule an additional meeting in April. The scheduled April meeting will be held on April 28, 2022 @ 1:30.

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>

- Resources provided:
 - Staking Claims and Shaking Hands: Impact and Benefit Agreements as a Technology of Government in the Mining Sector.” The Extractive Industries and Society 2 (3): 590–602. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2015.06.001>
 - Preliminary Proposed Workforce Development Findings and Recommendations for Discussion and Consideration by the Lithium Valley Commission: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242291&DocumentContentId=75795>
 - Documento Resultados y recomendaciones preliminares sobre el desarrollo de la fuerza laboral para su discusión y consideración por parte de la Comisión de Lithium Valley: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=242351&DocumentContentId=75851>
 - Imperial County Plan for Lithium Valley: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=241584&DocumentContentId=75550>