

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	20-LITHIUM-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Lithium Valley Commission
<b>TN #:</b>	243513
<b>Document Title:</b>	Meeting Action Minutes for May 26, 2022 Meeting
<b>Description:</b>	Meeting Action Minutes for May 26, 2022 Meeting for the Lithium Valley Commission
<b>Filer:</b>	Erica Loza
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	6/13/2022 2:20:45 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/13/2022

# **Lithium Valley Commission Meeting Action Minutes – May 26, 2022**

The Lithium Valley Commission meeting was called to order on May 26, 2022, at 1:33 PM by Lithium Valley Commission Chair Silvia Paz.

Primary Physical Location: Calipatria High School, Calipatria, CA

Additional Publicly Accessible Location: California Natural Resources Agency, Sacramento, CA

## **Attendance: Lithium Valley Commissioners**

- Steve Castaneda (Calipatria High School)
- Miranda Flores (California Natural Resources Agency)
- James C. Hanks (Calipatria High School)
- Ryan E. Kelley (Calipatria High School)
- Luis Olmedo (Calipatria High School)
- Silvia Paz (Calipatria High School)
- Alice Reynolds (California Natural Resources Agency)
- Frank Ruiz (Calipatria High School)
- Jonathan Weisgall (Calipatria High School)

Commissioners Rod Colwell, Roderic Dolega, Arthur “Richie” Lopez, Manfred Scott, and Thomas Soto were not in attendance. Commissioner Flores left at 2:26 PM and rejoined at 4:15 PM. Commissioner Castaneda joined at 2:33 PM. Vice Chair Ryan Kelley and Commissioner Hanks left at 5:14 PM. There was no quorum after 5:14 PM. The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

## **Agenda**

Agenda item on Workshop on Incentives and Investments to Facilitate Lithium Extraction from Geothermal Brines and Development of Lithium-Dependent Products and Business was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Informational items, including the approval of the March 24, 2022 and May 12, 2022 Meeting Action Minutes were deferred. No informational items from Media or Legislative.

## **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-0>

## Incentives and Investments to Facilitate lithium Extraction from Geothermal Brines and Development of Lithium-Dependent Products and Businesses Workshop

The Incentives and Investments to Facilitate lithium Extraction from Geothermal Brines and Development of Lithium-Dependent Products and Businesses Workshop was conducted during the Lithium Valley Commission Public Meeting and included two panels, each followed by Discussion Among Lithium Valley Commissioners. After the Department of Energy's presentation, the Commissioners had a questions and answer period. The presentation from workshop included a public comment period.

- Panel: Overview of Federal, State, and Local Incentives and Research & Development Programs
  - Presentations were provided by:
    - Karen Skelton, Senior Advisor to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and Samuel Gillard, Technology Manager in Battery Research and Development at Department of Energy
    - Trelynd Bradley, Senior Business Development Specialist, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz)
    - Daniel Adler, Deputy Director for Climate Finance, California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank), Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
    - Peter Streit, Investment Officer, California Organized Investment Network (COIN)
- Panel: Opportunities and Strategies for New Incentives and Research & Development Programs
  - Presentations were provided by:
    - John Gay, PE, Director of Public Works, County of Imperial
    - Jonathan Weisgall, Vice President, Government Relations, Berkshire Hathaway Energy

## Additional Agenda Items

### Planning for Upcoming Workshops and Meetings

- Discussion of Agenda Topics and Presentations for Future Meetings
  - Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction Workshop
    - Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Ruiz presented their ideas for the upcoming workshop on Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction which was followed by discussion among the Commissioners
  - Chair Paz also requested that the sub-body planning the workshop exploring the Potential Benefits of and Added Value to Existing and New Geothermal Facilities in Areas that Contain Mineral Rich Brines for the State, the Western Energy Grid, and the United States, Including but Not Limited to Grid Stability, Reliability, and Resiliency

- Commissioner Hanks presented ideas on the upcoming workshop of which was followed by discussion among the Commissioners
  - Chair Paz requested CEC staff assist the members of both sub-bodies that provided reports and consider holding the two workshops on the same day or possibly combining both workshops.
  - Tribal Panel
    - Chair Paz gave a brief update on planning for a possible Tribal panel or other options to hear from Tribal communities noting she will continue to coordinate with Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Lopez to explore
  - Continuation of Environmental Impacts Workshop
    - Chair Paz recommended that the Continuation of Environmental Impacts Workshop specifically address waste streams that are associated with the lithium extraction facilities planned and in development, possibly the exploration of environmental considerations in the Salton Sea region as well as other topics of interest to Commissioners, which was followed by discussion among the Commissioners
- Future Meeting Schedule and Locations
  - Chair Paz recommended the following future meeting dates and plans:
    - June 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM, to conduct the Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction Workshop, Role of Existing and New Geothermal Facilities in the Salton Sea Region to Support Reliability, Grid Stability, Resiliency and Clean Energy Goals Workshop, and possibly receive an update on the state budget
    - June 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM to focus on the Continuation of Environmental Impacts Workshop
    - July 21<sup>st</sup> to be a full day meeting from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM and anticipates the meeting to be on the draft report.
    - August 25<sup>th</sup> to be a full day meeting from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM, expected discussion on the final report
    - The September meeting, anticipated for approval of the final report, is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> to support completing submittal to the Legislature by the statutory deadline.
  - Chair Paz and Commissioners discussed locations for future locations and noted school sites that are available in a number of communities. The commissioners identified Calipatria, Niland, and Westmoreland as priority locations.

#### Informational Items

- Lithium Valley Commissioner Updates
  - Chair Paz acknowledged receipt of two letters: the first letter is dated May 4, 2022, addressed to Governor Newsom and other Legislative parties, and sent by multiple organizations and community residents; the second

letter is dated April 26, addressed to the Lithium Valley Commission, and sent by the Peoples Collective for Environmental Justice, San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice and others. Chair Paz requested the CEC explore options to either acknowledge receipt or respond to the letters. .

## Voting Items

### **1. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft Findings and Recommendations Identified During the Economic Impacts Workshop Held May 12, 2022.**

CEC staff prepared a document that summarizes proposed preliminary findings and recommendations identified during the Economic Impacts Workshop held during the May 12, 2022, Lithium Valley Commission Public Meeting.

After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda and seconded by Vice Chair Kelley to approve the Preliminary Proposed Economic Impact Findings and Recommendations from the May 12, 2022, Meeting for Discussion and Consideration by the Lithium Valley Commission.

The vote passed by the following majority roll call vote to approve the Preliminary Proposed Economic Impact Findings and Recommendations from the May 12, 2022 Meeting for Discussion and Consideration by the Lithium Valley Commission

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

## Next Steps

- Next meeting to be held on June 16, 2022 @ 1:00 PM via Zoom and in person, the locations for participation by Commissioners will be determined and provided in the meeting notice.

## 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>
- Climate Change Chapter of the May Revision of Governor Newsom’s Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243297&DocumentContentId=76988>

- Draft Preliminary Proposed Economic Impact Findings and Recommendations – English Version:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243298&DocumentContentId=76987>

- Draft Preliminary Proposed Economic Impact Findings and Recommendations – Spanish Version:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=243299&DocumentContentId=76986>