

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	20-LITHIUM-01
Project Title:	Lithium Valley Commission
TN #:	245704
Document Title:	Jared Naimark Comments - Earthworks Public Comment August 25, 2022
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Jared Naimark
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/26/2022 9:19:06 AM
Docketed Date:	8/26/2022

*Comment Received From: Jared Naimark
Submitted On: 8/26/2022
Docket Number: 20-LITHIUM-01*

Earthworks Public Comment August 25, 2022

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



EARTHWORKS

August 25, 2022

Earthworks public comment to the Lithium Valley Commission

Dear commissioners,

Below is a copy of the public comment given by Earthworks at the Lithium Valley Commission meeting on August 25, 2022. Thank you for your consideration.

My name is Jared Naimark. I'm the California Mining Organizer for Earthworks, a nonprofit organization that works to protect communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of energy and mining development, while promoting sustainable solutions.

We must transition as quickly as possible to renewable energy, but for a truly just transition, we can't simply replace dirty fossil fuels with dirty mining. Instead, we should reduce impacts on communities by investing in recycling and re-use, rather than new extraction. Where new lithium extraction does occur, we have an opportunity to avoid repeating the harms of the past, and instead meet the highest standards for human rights and environmental protection. New projects must respect Indigenous communities' right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, including the right to say "no." I ask that the commission include in the report, concerns raised in last month's tribal perspective meeting, and the letters submitted by the Quechan Tribe regarding lack of consultation on lithium development.

While direct lithium extraction from brine may be lower impact than other forms of lithium mining, it will still have an impact. Earthworks has been reviewing the literature and available planning documents. We believe there are several areas that merit further investigation, including impacts to air quality, water consumption, seismic risk, and waste management. These potential impacts can be mitigated, but doing so requires transparency. Independent information on these topics should be made accessible to impacted communities so that they can make informed decisions on the future of Imperial Valley and the surrounding region. Earthworks is happy to assist in this effort.

Given these concerns, I support the commission extending the report deadline to December, to give as much time as possible for the public to review and comment on the draft Lithium Valley Commission report before it is finalized.

Thank you,
Jared Naimark

jnaimark@earthworksaction.org
(650) 213-8052

Dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions.

1612 K St. NW, Suite 904
Washington, DC 20006
202.887.1872

EARTHWORKS.ORG

 earthworksaction

 @earthworks