

**DOCKETED**

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**For Consideration by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California**

**List of Proposed Condensed Recommendations**

As of 10/28/2022

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Permitting</b>		
1.	(State and Local Agency) Establish a Lithium Valley priority permitting process that includes additional agency support for projects identified as essential to the growth of Lithium Valley.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Legislative or Regulatory Changes</li> </ul>
<b>Transmission Planning and Investment</b>		
2.	(State Agencies) Accelerate state planning for investment and upgrades in transmission for geothermal power plants in Imperial Valley to be online in 2024 and over the next decade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geothermal Power/Lithium Recovery</li> <li>• Potential Benefits re: Geothermal Facilities /Grid Stability</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development and Incentivizing Investment</b>		
3.	(Economic Development Zone) Establish a regional economic zone centered on public-private partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> </ul>
4.	(Regional Competitiveness) Identify a regional planning area and investment zone, not limited by traditional city or county boundaries, but instead reflecting the region across counties that have similar or integrated economic activity. Require that state programs recognize this region to support competitive participation in state and federal funding programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Topics</b>
5.	(Investment) To stimulate investment, development, and innovation, consider indexing the volume-based extraction tax to market prices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> </ul>
6.	(Investment) Leverage existing support for research and development, start-up companies, and expansion of lithium battery and battery component manufacturing and recycling, especially cathode production using lithium produced through environmentally preferable methods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> <li>• Overcoming Technical and Economic Challenges</li> </ul>
7.	(Supply Chain) Foster collaboration across the supply chain of lithium related technologies by creating networks, meetings, and other forums that regularly bring business, research, Tribes, communities, and government agencies together to identify short- and long-term economic opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcoming Technical and Economic Challenges</li> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> </ul>
8.	(Imperial County) Establish a business service center in Imperial County to facilitate access to business development incentive programs to benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, small businesses, and entrepreneurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>
<b>Circular Economy and Environmentally Sound Sourcing</b>		
9.	(State Agency) Support development of a circular lithium economy based in California, with environmentally responsible sourcing of raw materials, requirements for product design that support recovery, reuse and recycling of materials, and development of effective recovery infrastructure, built with the assistance of public-private coalitions and effective community engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> </ul>

	Recommendation	Topics
<b>State Agency Initiatives and Programs</b>		
10.	(Eastern Riverside County) Fund, from sources other than Imperial County, a health impact study to be carried out by an academic institution or public agency relating to increased development in the Salton Sea KGRA of geothermal power plants and DLE facilities and related, processing, production, and related manufacturing activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Safe Environmental Methods and Standards</li> <li>• Environmental Impact</li> </ul>
11.	(Local and State Agencies) Provide resources for local and state agencies to proactively seek and leverage existing federal funding opportunities to invest in infrastructure in the Salton Sea region, including funding made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (H.R. 3684) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (H.R. 5376).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for Incentives/Investments</li> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Overcoming Technical and Economic Challenges</li> </ul>
12.	(State Agency) Establish a centralized permit and regulatory reporting tracking system for California projects that extract lithium from geothermal brine and lithium-related projects, such as lithium battery component manufacturing and recycling. Identify and authorize the most appropriate state agency(ies) to establish and oversee a program requiring that entities recovering and producing lithium in California report the operations of their facilities across a set of metrics, such as water use, emissions, waste produced and managed, and make the information accessible to and understandable by members of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcoming Technical and Economic Challenges</li> <li>• Legislative or Regulatory Changes</li> <li>• Market Opportunities</li> <li>• Safe Environmental Methods and Standards</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Potential Environmental Impacts</b>		
13.	(State Agency or Academia) Require and fund a study on whether increased geothermal development and DLE – and anticipated related development – would result in cumulative environmental impacts beyond those addressed in project level environmental review and, if so, include recommendations to avoid, reduce, or minimize those impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Environmental Impacts</li> <li>• Safe Environmental Methods and Standards</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Tribal</li> </ul>
14.	(State Agency, Academia, or IID) Require and fund a water study of projected cumulative infrastructure development of geothermal power plants and DLE facilities and related water use, sources, and availability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Environmental Impacts</li> <li>• Safe Environmental Methods and Standards</li> </ul>
<b>Workforce Development</b>		
15.	(State Agency) Require or establish incentives for developers to enter into, and continue entering into, project labor agreements, implement High Road principles, and prioritize local hiring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>
16.	(School Districts and Trade Schools) Invest in creation of curriculum, courses, and certification programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) at local schools and colleges to advance critical knowledge and skills across all grade levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>Community Benefits and Safety</b>		
17.	(Imperial and Riverside Counties) Invest in repairs, improvements to critical infrastructure and housing needed to support the success of lithium recovery, lithium processing, and lithium-dependent product manufacturing and recycling in the Salton Sea region, with a focus on the infrastructure and communities closest to geothermal powerplants and DLE facilities. Investment decisions should consider community priorities and include opportunities for participatory budgeting that includes public process and community involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Economic and Environmental Impacts</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>
18.	(Local Agencies) Require and provide funds for the formation of a community advisory council to provide input and guidance on community priorities such as community benefits agreements, actions to protect public health and safety, and infrastructure improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Safe Environmental Methods and Standards</li> </ul>
19.	(CEQA Lead Agencies) Make information available and provide education to residents and affected businesses and service providers regarding the materials and processes used in DLE and lithium processing facilities, the final and intermediate products created, and any waste streams that must be managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Safe Environmental Methods and Standards</li> </ul>
<b>Outreach and Engagement</b>		
20.	(Tribes and Communities) Provide capacity building funds, such as grants, and other resources (e.g., childcare for parents to attend meetings) for Tribes and community members to engage with federal, state and local permitting agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Tribal</li> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> </ul>

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Topics</b>
21.	(Local and State Agencies) Establish standards for state and local permitting agencies to provide communities and Tribes with plain language written communications about geothermal power plant and DLE facility applications, the permitting processes to review the application, and post-approval monitoring and enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Tribal</li> <li>• Legislative or Regulatory Changes</li> </ul>
22.	(CEQA Lead Agencies) Develop best practice guidance for lead agencies when initiating communications and consultation with Tribes (e.g., making multiple attempts through different methods, such as mail, email, telephone); providing reasonable time for Tribal governments to evaluate written materials; and, recognizing the specific cultural, historical, public health, and ecological context of the Salton Sea region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative or Regulatory Changes</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Tribal</li> </ul>
23.	(Local Agencies) Engage a local coalition of public agencies and residents to identify whether additional actions are needed to protect public health and safety as well as improvements needed to attract new, sustainable business development and economic activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential Economic Impacts</li> </ul>