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# Information Against the 'current course of action' - and the Solution

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

August 28, 2023

California Energy Commission 715 P Street Sacramento, California 95814 Attention: Noemi Gallardo Commissioner and Presiding Member of the Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock AFC Committee. Docket No.23-AFC-03 <u>docket@energy.ca.gov</u>.

### SUBJECT: Information Against the 'current course of action' - Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP) – and the SOLUTION.

Greetings, Commissioner Gallardo:

Because this is a very important issue and there is a lot of misunderstanding about the situation, I am writing my second comment.

Came to my attention the numerous comments especially on August 24 and 25, 2023 in support of Black Rock projects stating that such projects will be beneficial to Imperial County with 'expenditures' (cost of the projects – not yearly revenue from the projects) from the project estimated to bring \$475 to \$800 million to the local economy, creating over 426 construction jobs and 61 permanent to support maintenance and operation of the facility. (Underlining added). A swarm of similar letters is expected in the following days.

A similar tactic was used during proceedings of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California Pursuant to Assembly Bill 1657. On October 27, 2022, I wrote extensive comments (10 pages letter) in which I indicated the existence of my proposal and urged commissioners to request the "Implementation of a dike around the desired area that is intended for extraction of lithium from geothermal brine". That is one of the key elements of my proposal to prevent the destruction of the Lake. That is not difficult to understand or to implement. The Blue-Ribbon proceedings were initiated and overseen by the CEC. I respectfully urge commissioners to pay attention this time to the substance instead of just to protocol.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251871 filed on August 24, 2023: Title: Imperial Irrigation District Comments - per CEC Request for Agency Review of BRGP Project.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251876 filed on August 24, 2023:



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

Title: Applicant's Response to CEC Staff's Issues Identification Report and Proposed Schedule .

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251886 filed on August 24, 2023: TN251886 20230824T164626 Imperial Valley Community Foundation Comments - Support.pdf.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251884 filed on August 24, 2023: Title: <u>Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce Comments - Letter of Support</u>.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251885 filed on August 24, 2023: <u>TN251885</u> 20230824T165059 Imperial County Workforce Development Board Comments - Support.pdf.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251893 filed on August 24, 2023: Title: <u>San Diego State University - Imperial Valley Comments - Letter of Support</u>. Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251905 filed on August 24, 2023: Title: <u>Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation Comments - Letter of Support</u>.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251900 filed on August 24, 2023: Title: <u>Imperial County Office of Education Comments - Letter of Support</u>.

Here is the link to the letter from IID TN #: 251909 filed on August 25, 2023: Title: <u>Ben Hueso Comments - Support for the Black Rock Geothermal Project</u>.

It appears that all those support letters are initiated by 'someone' because they are repeating the same narrative and numbers. I am sorry that I must remind everyone that the Salton Sea issue is not a political issue or popularity contest and should not be weighed by how many letters are received in support of or against something, especially if people who are commenting are not informed of all options. Those mentioned support letters are missing a very important piece of information and that is that - all those mentioning benefits (426 construction jobs and 61 permanent jobs) will be at the expense of the disappearance of the Salton Sea.

The undeniable fact is that with the continuation of the 'current course of action', the Salton Sea will be <u>smaller</u>, <u>saltier</u>, <u>smellier</u>, and more <u>polluted</u> every year and sooner or later will end up as a cesspool, with unimaginable consequences to the environment, health of the nearby population, economy, etc.

In the document published on August 24, 2023, from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), TN #: 251871, Titled: "Imperial Irrigation District Comments – per CEC Request for Agency Review of BRGP Project", the IID did not provide straight answers to questions from the CEC's letter (TN #: 251662), titled: "Memo re Issues Identification Report ..." filed on August 17, 2023, about where they are going to get necessary water for their projects. (See Segment Water Resources pages 4 & 5).



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

Here is the link to the letter from the CEC's letter (TN #: 251662) filed on August 17, 2023: Title: <u>Memo re Issues Identification Report and Proposed Schedule for the Black Rock Geothermal Project</u>.

They (IID) could not give a straight answer because if proceeding with the 'current course of action' which includes the mentioned geothermal projects that are correlated with the 'Perimeter/Brine Lake' also called 'Smaller Lake' - will not be enough water for those mentioned geothermal projects unless is taken from water that is the only inflow to the Salton Sea which is already shrinking. Also, it is well known that there is no water to mediate so-called dust suppression projects on already exposed lakebeds (playa). That also means "<u>Goodbye</u>" to the Salton Sea. Those who promote the 'current course of action' know that, but the public still does not understand that because proponents of the 'current course of action' avoid giving straight and truthful answers to the public, and state, and federal officials.

In the document (TN #: 251876), titled: "Applicant's Response to CEC Staff's Issues Identification Report and Proposed Schedule" written by the applicant's attorneys Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP, they (Applicant's attorneys) did not provide a straight answer to the Commissioners' question about where they were going to get the necessary water for the mentioned projects. In the letter (TN #: 251876) in Segment II (B). WATER RESOURCES - On page 3, the Applicant's attorney deflected responsibility and referred to the Imperial Irrigation District ("IID") stating that "...the Applicant is working very closely with the IID to handle any concerns they may have and ensure that the questions are answered in a timely manner".

In the same document (TN #: 251876) in Segment II (A). CULTURAL RESOURCES / TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES – On pages 2 & 3, the Applicant's attorneys state: ...." The Applicant is actively engaged in high-level discussions with local tribal representatives to understand and address their concerns. Currently, the Applicant is in the process of arranging a meeting with the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians and the Chief Executive Officer of BHE Renewables, LLC that is set to take place as soon as September. While those discussions are not concluded, the Applicant is confident that good-faith discussions will ensure that potential impacts to tribal resources are identified and addressed appropriately. In addition, the Applicant is also confident that such discussions will recognize the job and other economic opportunities this project will provide to tribal members".

That is not a straight answer. The Applicant's attorney and the IID can 'dance' around this issue as much as they want trying to avoid the straight answer, but the fact is that the tribal communities around the Salton Sea will suffer the most if the 'current course of action' continue and if the Salton Sea is lost (shrinks) and the lakebed is exposed with a frequent toxic dust storm.



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

The good news is that we <u>do have</u> a feasible architectural plan – my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea that successfully deals with all raised issues including limited inflow of water from Colorado River. Unfortunately, my proposal has been systematically ignored by several key officials of several agencies and suppressed its existence from the public, state, and federal officials for 10 years. I wrote about it in numerous public comments.

Without going into details about the reasoning behind such ridiculous and illegal conduct by some officials, I would like to emphasize again the need for a speedy evaluation of my proposal by a knowledgeable expert (or team of experts). That is because of the obvious and well-documented 'collapse' of the University of California Santa Cruze (UCSC) Panel of independent reviewers by breaching the fundamental factor of their task - by losing their impartiality.

NOTE: The UCSC Panel collaborated with Tetra-Tech to promote their proposal which is the 'Perimeter/Brine Lake' on which they worked for 20 years. The key members of Tetra-Tech instructed the principal investigator of the UCSC Panel to exclude my proposal from further evaluation because my proposal contradicted their 'masterpiece'. The Tetra-Tech concept consisted of a smaller, saltier, smellier, and more polluted Lake with an exposed lakebed (playa) that would need to be constantly mitigated (facilitated) with hay bales. The UCSC Panel with Tetra-Tech and their influential friends very possibly initiated and crafted ridiculous criteria to exclude my proposal from further evaluation without logical explanation. Also, Tetra-Tech presented themselves as State policy authority. For clarification – The concepts collected by the SSMP or advice (opinions) by the "experts" from Tetra-Tech and Pacific Institute do not represent policies of the State of California. They are just advice and, in this case, "wrongful advice" because the policy of the state of California is clear in supporting initiatives towards a clean environment, clean air, clean water, resiliency to climate change, clean renewable energy, protection of the health of the population, and economy.

Also, the UCSC Panel conveniently reduced their original scope of evaluation for the restoration of the Salton Sea to only importation of the seawater and then hired additional 'experts' for that small segment of the whole project for the restoration of the Salton Sea. And then wrongly concluded (again without logical explanation) that the importation of seawater is not a feasible concept. Their work, for which the UCSC Panel has been paid \$2,500,000 by the State, is a travesty. Such manipulative and illegal conduct must cease. To prevent problems in future in case someone tries to use the UCSC Panel's Report as a reference (as a legitimate previous study), I respectfully urge the State (Governor, CEC, CalEPA, CNRA), based on my previous written comments with verifiable evidence (videotape), to abolish the UCSC Panel's Report.



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

The restoration of the Salton Sea is of enormous importance not just for the local population but for the environment - clean air, clean water, clean renewable energy, and the health of the nearby population. The restoration of the Salton Sea includes the issues of energy, environment, and a new source of water. Therefore, I respectfully urge the State (Governor, CEC, CalEPA, CNRA) in cooperation with the Federal government to finish the original job and appoint the appropriate team of experts (preferably several teams of experts) who are independent and will not succumb to anyone's pressure, to evaluate my architectural plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea (whole plan – not just a convenient segment).

NOTE: I am emphasizing the evaluation of <u>my</u> architectural plan. I do not mean to be disrespectful to the authors of the competing original 10 proposals from 2017 and an additional 7 proposals from 2021, but I would be glad to explain to them why a canal would not be a good solution for the importation of seawater and why just importing seawater would not solve the problem and therefore their concepts would not be a good solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

The Applicant(s), could and should, depart from the current awkward situation and stop proceeding with projects that diminish the existence of the Salton Sea specifically now that there is a feasible architectural plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea that will be beneficial to Applicants and especially to the BHE Renewables, LLC., because of possibility to expend their role, not just to geothermal projects, but additional engagement in the whole project of the restoration of the Salton Sea – the project which can be considered as a project of the century which besides unique architectural plan that provides the solution for difficult issue of limited inflow from Colorado River but also implements several breakthrough technologies (hydro, solar, geothermal) that will sooner or later change energy industry worldwide.

I and my attorney are in the process of contacting the Applicants and BHE Renewables, LLC., to let them know officially of the existence of my patented concept for the restoration of the Salton Sea that would be very beneficial for them and all stakeholders and offer them licensing agreements. I would be glad to help Applicants in redesigning their plans.

# A few words about MY WORK and the PROPOSAL for the RESTORATION of the SALTON SEA:

My proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea – terminal Lake in California - involves an architectural plan which incorporates several breakthrough technologies in the energy industry which I have invented and modified to incorporate local conditions of the Salton Sea area with the final product – the self-sustained long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea. It might be considered a project of the century costing only about \$15 billion and generating at least \$500,000,000 in revenue per year just



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from clean renewable energy – in addition to revenue from other activities including tourism.

Here I will just summarize the subjects of my breakthrough methodologies:

- I am the inventor of the new system for harnessing geothermal energy (a completely closed-loop system) which is not limited to geothermal reservoirs.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for drilling deeper and wider wellbores.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for harnessing solar energy (thermooptical solar system) having the "power unit" with pistons, which is at least several times more efficient than Photo Voltaic (PV) systems.
- I am also the inventor of the new system of cross-country pipelines for importing seawater or other fluids, having the "in-line pump" as segments of the pipeline for uphill routes, and having the "in-line generator" as segments of the pipeline for downhill routes with the "Delta Power Plant" at the last section.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for using the pipeline as a foundation for solar panels which eliminates expenses for purchasing or leasing huge sections of land, which is an expensive requirement for conventional solar facilities on an industrial scale. My system decentralizes the conventional centralized systems.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for the desalinization of salty water using solar and/or geothermal energy to generate electricity and having potable water as a free byproduct, and concentrated brine to be used to produce Lithium.
- After the accident offshore of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, and a failure of the "Blow Out Preventer" (BOP) in the Macondo well, it became a challenge how to stop uncontrollable bursts of crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico and prevent disasters of epic proportions. Out of over 3,000 proposals and many universities and laboratories participating, my proposal for controlling dysfunctional "Blow out Preventer" was used to stop uncontrollable bursts of crude oil. By July 15, 2010, the Macondo well was successfully sealed, if only temporarily, for the first time in 87 days. That was only 34 days after my submission. The implementation of the control valve on top of the dysfunctional BOP was televised on CNN.



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

 I graduated from the School of Architecture, University Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, North Macedonia, in 1982, and immigrated to the United States in 1983, as a student at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, Taliesin West in Arizona, and Taliesin East in Wisconsin. The University Cyril and Methodius – School of Architecture - consists of nine semesters, around 38 exams, plus graduate work which takes an additional 5-6 months. I am proud to say that my graduate work scored 10 out of 10, which is rarely given.

My mission is global – which is licensing technologies worldwide to capable companies/contractors with means. The Salton Sea project is a small part of it, but it is an important part. It is imperative to save the Salton Sea and our environment despite unreasonable opposition. I am providing a solution and the "know-how" to the desperate situation.

Also, I am including links and a summary of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea. They are divided into five segments for easier understanding. Each of the segments (phases) is essential for the final product of the self-sustained Salton Sea.

On February 6-8, 2023, Stanford University hosted Geothermal Workshop (SGW 2023). I made three presentations at the SGW 2023. The subject of the SGW 2023 was 'Geothermal' and had limited time for presentations, therefore, I did not submit two papers about harnessing the solar and hydropower in more detail.

Here below are links to my papers from the Stanford Geothermal Workshop (SGW 2023) where I made three presentations on February 7, 2023, each lasting 30 minutes including Q & A. Although 90 minutes was a short time for a substantial material, I am thankful for such an opportunity. It is a summary of the larger material ... It is worth seeing it.

Papers - Segment (I) - Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea.

<u>Click here to see</u> or click the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oowNJNodUNIfT\_Jg5byczZTKbm1z9glW/view?usp=sharing.

Papers – Segment (II) – Harnessing Geothermal Energy in the Salton Sea Area.

<u>Click here to see</u> or click the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W8Au4FTwwJf8NaBBxfFTDfub5golqLtv/view?usp=sharing.

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Papers – Segment (III) – System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores.



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

<u>Click here to see</u> or click the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BgS5RzXerJym0YGVajK7HFEyKbr-O3XL/view?usp=sharing.

PowerPoint Presentation – Slides – are bigger files. I am including links to them below.

The slides are summaries of the papers and are easy to review after the papers are read. In the text of the papers, I referred to certain illustrations (See Fig. so and so), which are in a separate segment. In the PPT files, the illustrations are smaller, and on the right side of the slide, there is a short description (summary – PowerPoint).

I have included all files on my website <u>www.GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> => OUR TECHNOLOGY => Presentation at Stanford University.

PowerPoint Presentation – Slides – Segment (I) – Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea. Click the link below:

PowerPoint Presentation – Slides – Segment (I) – Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea.

PowerPoint Presentation - Slides - Segment (II) - Harnessing Geothermal Energy in the Salton Sea Area. Click the link below:

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<u>PowerPoint Presentation – Slides - Segment (II) - Harnessing Geothermal</u> <u>Energy in the Salton Sea Area</u>.

PowerPoint Presentation - Slides - Segment (III) - System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores. Click the link below:

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PowerPoint Presentation - Slides - Segment (III) - System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores.

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For more information and for those two additional segments about harnessing **solar** and **hydropower** please visit the page <u>PRESENTATION AT EL CENTRO</u>." It is just above the link "Presentation at Stanford University".

Here are all five links from my website to be handy. Here are Segments I-V.

The segment about Harnessing Hydro Power is presented here as Segment II.



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The segment about Harnessing Solar Energy is presented here as Segment III.

The segment about Harnessing Geothermal Energy is presented here as Segment IV. And

The segment about the System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores is presented here as Segment V.

Here are the links:

Harnessing Energy and Water in The Salton Sea (**Segment I**) (System for Importing Seawater). Here is the link:

6+(I) Importing Seawater - May, 2019.pdf - Google Drive. or:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PWZbInYIV2dHnFXQqVwZwV56P6rqPZHI/view?usp=sharing.

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Harnessing Energy and Water in The Salton Sea (**Segment II**) (Harnessing Hydro Power).

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wEoi3VNNscX6SkH7dWlrmNMZO7oRb5vu/view?usp=sharing.

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Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea (**Segment. III**) (System for Harnessing Solar Energy).

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZLuZbt6RsLo3x19x2sKB\_XVPjkJJuNwv/view?usp=sharing.

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Harnessing Geothermal Energy with the Self Contained In-Ground Geothermal Generator and Self Contained In-Ground Geothermal Heat Exchanger (**Segment IV**) Harnessing Geothermal Energy in The Salton Sea Area. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wgRUgmib\_Si-odYmWV8F5TILOL-U7R7I/view?usp=sharing.

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Harnessing Energy and Water in The Salton Sea (**Segment V**) (System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores). https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aig8tuELSdkvfFakK-SEMvyW-bUQd76r/view?usp=sharing.

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The architectural plan is a comprehensive design. In order to be understood it needs to be studied as a whole by people preferably with an engineering background. Also, it is an art.



## The summary of the summary of my proposal:

The architectural plan successfully restores and refills the Salton Sea to the level of the 1950s and the '60s and reestablishes huge wildlife sanctuaries despite reduced inflow of water from the Colorado River.

By redirecting the New River and Alamo River back to Mexico before it gets polluted with fertilizers and pesticides, it provides an option for filling up the Laguna Salada – dry Lake in Mexico - and reestablishing flaw in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez). Everyone should love that. In return, through negotiation by the 'International Boundary and Water Commission' (IBWC) and their counterparts in Mexico, through a treaty to negotiate a corridor with a service road for a pipeline for importing seawater into the central section of the Salton Sea. Since such a solution is of great interest to us (USA) and to Mexico, the negotiation should not be a difficult task. We could exchange at least the same amount of water, although, through negotiation, we could have an opportunity to get 1,000,000 acre-feet of seawater and to keep a certain amount from the Colorado River. Also, it would be an opportunity to negotiate 100 years deal with an option to renew the deal after 100 years. This solution would save us around \$100,000,000 per year that otherwise we would need to pay for importing 1,000,000 acre-feet of seawater. I elaborated on it in more detail in original papers submitted in 2018 following the Request for Information (RFI) issued by the State in 2017.

Also, it is important to mention, that I, as the author of the Architectural Plan and the inventor of a new system for the desalinization of salty water using geothermal and/or solar energy, should be included as a part of the team of the IBWC as a contributing consultant during a negotiation with Mexico because my presence would improve our leverage because by using my system (methodology) Mexico can provide potable water for nearby city Mexicali that desperately needs potable water and concentrated brine that can be used to produce lithium. Both elements are in demand. The same system that I am proposing for the Salton Sea.

Also, an essential part of my proposal is that by dividing the Salton Sea into three sections, we would need water from the Colorado River only for farmlands and for balancing the evaporation of the North Lake and South Lake. That is in harmony with the reduced inflow of water from the Colorado River as required by the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and possible additional reductions in the future because of drought.

Also, it is important to mention, that an essential factor of my proposal is utilizing a dike around the desired area allocated for the extraction of lithium to provide dry land and prevent the destruction of the Salton Sea as would be the case with the 'current course of action'.



Email: <u>nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com</u> Ph: 760-347-1609

Also, it is important to mention that the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea would cost only about \$15,000,000,000. It can be completed in about 5-6 years and would generate at least \$500,000,000 in revenue per year - out of the blue – literally. The revenue numbers in my papers are conservative. A more realistic revenue estimate would be about \$1,000,000,000 per year. That is in addition to achieving a clean environment, a substantial amount of potable water, lithium, tourism, and other activities that generate revenue.

**NOTE**: Those who make policies need to understand that the Salton Sea situation is unique in the whole World. The depression of over - 220 feet below sea level is in a <u>desert</u> about 200 miles from both - the Gulf of California (San Felipe) and the Pacific Ocean (Long Beach). In the area, there is a prevalent geothermal source and many sunny days throughout the year.

Importing seawater and using those natural sources (geothermal and solar), as I explained in my proposal, the Salton Sea can and should become a hub to produce potable water that can be used in many applications. Although I have explained the function of the feasible concept with a pipeline diameter of 48", through which can be imported about 1,000,000 acre-feet of seawater from the Sea of Cortez and about 2,000,000 acre-feet from Long Beach, the system can be multiplied – something for future generations to do.

Think for a moment about the alternative – the current course of action – the disappearance of the Salton Sea – exposed lakebed (playa) – toxic dust storms, degrading environment, the health of the population, and economy.

This is a rare opportunity that should not be ignored as was the case in the last 10 years.

In case of evaluation of any proposal, including my, I respectfully urge Commissioners to use very simple criteria. Here is a sample:

**A)** Solution must be viable and technically sound for the importation of seawater whether from the Sea of Cortez or the Pacific Ocean or both.

**B)** Solution must be viable in stopping pollution of the Salton Sea.

**C)** Solution must be viable in respecting the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) because of the limited inflow from the Colorado River.

D) Solution must be viable in providing wildlife sanctuaries.



E) Solution must be viable in reducing the salinity of the Salton Sea.

**F)** Solution must be viable in providing conditions for tourism and other activities to benefit the local population, employment, and economy.

**G)** Solution must be viable in harmonizing existing projects for the extraction of lithium from the geothermal brine and the restoration of the Salton Sea which includes the importation of seawater.

**H)** Solution must be economically viable having a positive ratio of cost expense for the project and revenue generated from the project.

**I)** If there are several proposals having similar but different parts or technologies, then, they should be evaluated by comparison on each difference including cost, feasibility, efficiency, and revenue generated.

J) The patent law and priority date must be respected.

### In Closing:

I would like to point out that I am not against the projects for harnessing geothermal energy and extraction of lithium, but the projects need to be implemented responsibly without destruction of the Salton Sea. My proposal provides such a solution.

I would be glad to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Nikola N. Lakic Graduate Engineer Architect / Inventor Geothermal Worldwide, Inc. 78-365 Hwy 111, #402 La Quinta, CA 92253 01-760-347-1609 01-760-333-3851 cell www.GeothermalWorldwide.com nlakic@Geothermalworldwide.com

