

DOCKETED

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Lithium Valley Commission Meeting

May 27, 2021





Housekeeping

- Meeting conducted remotely via Zoom
 - Recorded and transcribed by court reporter
- To participate in public comment:
 - By computer: use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom
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- Written comments:
 - Submit through the e-commenting system at:
 - <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Ecomment/Ecomment.aspx?docketnumber=20-LITHIUM-01>



Welcome and Roll Call



Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Administrative Items
 - Approval of Past Meeting Action Minutes
 - Potential Roles and Formation of Sub-bodies
- Legislative Report Discussion
- Determination of Agenda Topics, Speakers, and Presentations for Future Meetings
- Media and Legislation Updates
- Public Comment
- Adjourn



Administrative Items

- Approval of Past Meeting Action Minutes



Public Comment

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Administrative Items

- Sub-bodies



Report Development Process

The Lithium Valley Report will be a concise document summarizing findings of review, discussion, and analysis completed by the Lithium Valley Commission with support from the CEC.

The primary goal is to provide specific policy recommendations to the legislature—along with adequate context and considerations—to ensure the Lithium Valley effort proceeds efficiently, equitably, and in an environmentally conscious manner.



Report Development Process

Commissioner Engagement

All Commissioners will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input on all topics and recommendations included in the report.

General Recommendations for Commissioners

- Participate in public and community engagement meetings
- Research and identify relevant resources, documents, and workshop participants
- Develop, discuss, and finalize policy recommendations
- Review and edit report drafts
- Coordinate with CEC Media Office to respond to public and media inquiries
- Review and approve final version of report



Report Development Process

Sub-Body Recommendations

- With input from all Commissioners and assistance from CEC staff, develop a library of key resources related to the specified topic.
- For workshops on the designated topic, the sub-body will:
 - Work with fellow Commissioners to identify workshop speakers.
 - Develop workshop agendas.
 - Facilitate workshops. This includes making introductory remarks, moderating discussions, and proposing discussion questions, as needed.
 - Work with CEC staff to summarize findings from workshops and outline key points for the report.
- Review and edit relevant sections of the report prior to full Commission review.



Report Development Process

CEC Engagement

- Researching and synthesizing information provided to develop the report, as well as report writing and technical editing.
- Policy analysis and recommendations will be developed by the Commission. CEC staff will write the report sections for Commission review, editing, and approval, based on the direction of the Commission. CEC will capture the Commission's perspectives, but will not impose its own views into the report.
- CEC staff will work with sub-bodies to ensure all Commission, stakeholder, and public perspectives are adequately considered and reflected
- Chair Hochschild, Commissioner Douglas, and/or CEC staff may participate in discussions and workshops, as appropriate.
- CEC staff may contribute subject matter expertise that will inform the report in areas including EV and battery manufacturing and supply chains, electric grid planning, and environmental impacts.



Administrative Items

Sub-Bodies:

- **Furthering Geothermal Development**
 - Luis Olmedo
 - Ryan Kelley
- **Market Opportunities for Lithium**
 - Roderic Dolega
 - Arthur Lopez
- **Benefits of/to Geothermal Plants**
 - Manfred Scott
 - James Hanks
- **Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction**
 - James Hanks
 - Frank Ruiz
- **Lithium Extraction Methods**
 - Jonathan Weisgall
 - Rod Colwell
- **Economic and Environmental Impacts**
 - Luis Olmedo
 - Miranda Flores
- **Importance of Incentives**
 - Jonathan Weisgall
 - Martha Guzman Aceves
- **Workforce Development**
 - Silvia Paz
- **Legislative Regulatory Recommendations**
 - Rod Colwell
 - Tom Soto



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Legislative Report Discussion



Report Outline

CHAPTER 1: Background

- **AB 1657 Overview and Mandates**
- **Lithium Valley Commission Overview**
- **Vision for Lithium Valley**

CHAPTER 2: Areas of Analysis

- **Supporting Development of Geothermal Power**
- **Market Opportunities for Lithium**
- **Benefits of/to Geothermal Plants**
- **Overcoming Challenges to Lithium Extraction**
- **Lithium Extraction Methods**
- **Economic and Environmental Impacts**
- **Importance of Incentives**

CHAPTER 3: Legislative Recommendations and Regulatory Changes

- **Centralized tracking system for project permitting**



Questions for Consideration

Are there additional topics that should be included in the report?

What sub-topics should be included in each section?

What analyses already exist in these areas? Is there quantitative analysis that needs to be completed? What resources, expertise, and/or data would be required?

Are you aware of relevant literature/resources that can support report development?

What work have you engaged on in these areas? What relevant efforts are you aware of?



Chapter 1: Background

- **AB 1657 Overview and Mandates**
- **Lithium Valley Commission Overview**
- **Vision for Lithium Valley**

Suggested sub-topics:

- Community engagement process
- Lithium ecosystem – build supply chain in CA
- Goal setting? (e.g. 5 or 10 year lithium production target)



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

The Lithium Valley Commission shall review, investigate, and analyze the following issues relating to lithium extraction and use in California:



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 1: Supporting Development of Geothermal Power

Actions that will support the further development of geothermal power that have the potential to provide the cobenefit of lithium recovery from existing and new geothermal facilities.



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 2: Market opportunities for Lithium



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 3: Benefits of/to Geothermal Plants

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.



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 4: Technical and Economic Challenges

Methods of overcoming technical and economic challenges currently limiting lithium extraction, processing, and production from geothermal brines.



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 5: Lithium Extraction Methods

Safe environmental methods and standards for lithium extraction from geothermal brines and how this compares to other methods for deriving lithium.



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 6: Economic and Environmental Impacts

Potential economic and environmental impacts to the state resulting from extraction, processing, and production of lithium and lithium-dependent products from geothermal brines.

Suggested sub-topics:

- How to prioritize local benefits; public health; Salton Sea restoration
- Workforce needs and opportunities; training needs
- Infrastructure needs and opportunities



Chapter 2: Areas of Analysis

Topic 7: Importance of Incentives

The importance of, and opportunities for, the application of local, state, and federal incentives and investments to facilitate lithium extraction from geothermal brines, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Use of enhanced infrastructure financing districts or community revitalization investment authorities.
- B. New employment tax credits in former enterprise zones.
- C. Income or franchise tax credits under agreements approved by the California Competes Tax Credit Committee.
- D. Sales tax exemptions for new manufacturing equipment.
- E. Leveraging tax incentives in federally recognized opportunity zones.



Chapter 3: Recommendations

Recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes that may be needed to encourage lithium extraction from geothermal brines

- Including whether the development of a centralized tracking system for lithium project permitting by state and local regulatory agencies would assist with development of the lithium industry.



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Future Meetings Discussion

- Determination of:
 - Agenda Topics
 - Speakers
 - Presentations



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Media and Legislation Updates



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Adjourn



Webpage: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/california-power-generation-and-power-sources/geothermal-energy/lithium-valley>

List Serv: Lithium Valley Commission

Thank you!

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Break

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