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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:)
)
Notice of the Convening of)
The Lithium Valley)
Commission)
_____)

NOTICE OF THE CONVENING OF THE
LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

1:30 P.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

Sylvia Paz, Chair

Rod Colwell

Roderic Dolega

Miranda Flores

Martha Guzman Aceves

James C. Hanks

Ryan E. Kelley

Arthur Lopez (Richie)

Luis Olmedo

Frank Ruiz

Manfred Scott

Thomas Soto

Jonathan Weisgall

CEC STAFF

Commissioner Karen Douglas

Chair David Hochschild

Kourtney Vaccaro

Eli Harland

Terra Weeks

Le-Quyen Nguyen

Gina Barkalow

Elisabeth de Jong

Justin Tran

Rizaldo Aldas

Deborah Dyer

Kelly Beskin

Linda Barrera

Noemi Gallardo

Giana Villegas

Natalie Lee

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

Derek Benson, EnergySource

Dr. Rebecca Paisley, Cornish Lithium

Fernando Leiva, Professor, UC Santa Cruz

Lindsay Buckley, CEC

Richard Rojas

Alexandra Prisjatschew

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Garabedian

Vijay Dhar

Steven Harrison

Eric Reyes

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1:34 P.M.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

CHAIR PAZ: Good afternoon, everyone.

Welcome to the April meeting of the Lithium Valley Commission. My name is Sylvia Paz and before we get started, I'm going to hand it over to Elisabeth de Jong from the Energy Commission and she will provide some brief housekeeping items. Elisabeth.

MS. DE JONG: Thank you, Chair Paz. This meeting is conducted entirely remotely via Zoom. This means that we're in separate locations and communicating only through electronic means. We are meeting in this fashion consistent with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and the recommendations from the California Department of Public Health to encourage physical distancing in order to slow the spread of COVID-19.

This meeting is being recorded as well as transcribed by a court reporter. The transcript will be posted in the electronic docket; the recording of the meeting will be available on the Lithium Valley Commission webpage. Members of the public will be muted during the

1 presentations, but there will be an opportunity
2 to provide public comment on each agenda item and
3 an additional opportunity for public comment
4 towards the end of the agenda.

5 To provide public comment, use -- please
6 use the Raise Hand feature in Zoom to be called
7 on to speak, and when you speak, please provide
8 your name and affiliation. You've -- if called
9 in by phone, you will need to dial *9 to raise
10 your hand and *6 to unmute yourself. Before
11 speaking, please say and spell your name for the
12 court reporter.

13 There is also a Q&A window in the Zoom
14 application which you may use to type your
15 question. If you want to provide public comment
16 but are unable to raise your hand in the Zoom
17 application or by phone, then during the public
18 comments portion of the meeting you may type your
19 comment into the Q&A window so we can relay your
20 comments.

21 We'll go over these instructions again
22 during the time for public comment. Please
23 remember to stay muted until you've been called
24 on to speak.

25 We also have a chat function available

1 for IT support. We ask that the Lithium Valley
2 Commissioners use the chat only for IT as well.
3 Any other comments are considered substantive to
4 the conversation and should be made publicly for
5 BK compliance.

6 I will go ahead and lead us through the
7 roll call before handing it back over to Chair
8 Paz.

9 I will call your name, please respond if
10 you are present and turn on your camera if you
11 can.

12 Rod Colwell.

13 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Present.

14 MS. DE JONG: Roderic Dolega. Dolega,
15 sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: Present.

17 MS. DE JONG: Miranda Flores.

18 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Present.

19 MS. DE JONG: Martha Guzman Aceves.

20 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Present.

21 MS. DE JONG: Great. Thank you.

22 James Hanks. Okay.

23 Ryan Kelley. Okay.

24 Arthur Richie Lopez.

25 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Present.

1 MS. DE JONG: Thank you.
2 Luis Olmedo.
3 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Present.
4 MS. DE JONG: Thank you.
5 Chair Paz.
6 CHAIR PAZ: Present.
7 MS. DE JONG: Frank Ruiz.
8 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Present.
9 MS. DE JONG: Manfred Scott.
10 Tom Soto.
11 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Here.
12 MS. DE JONG: Great. Thank you.
13 And Jonathan Weisgall.
14 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I'm here.
15 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I want to
16 circle back and see if we have Ryan Kelley.
17 COMMISSIONER KELLEY: Present.
18 MS. DE JONG: Great. Thank you. Okay.
19 So, we have at least 8 members, and so we have a
20 quorum. Also in attendance today, from the CEC
21 is Commissioner Douglas and Advisors and Chair
22 Hochschild and Advisors. I will now hand the
23 meeting over to Chair Paz.
24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Elisabeth.
25 MS. LEE: I'm sorry, Elisabeth, and sorry

1 Chair.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Yeah

3 MS. LEE: I just thought, Elisabeth, we
4 should make a note of the challenge with the
5 meeting ID in the notice, very quickly, just in
6 case any of our participants are having
7 challenges connecting through phone.

8 MS. DE JONG: Yes, happily. So on the
9 meeting notice, the meeting ID is listed twice.
10 Please use the first meeting number to join the
11 meeting. The one that is listed under, How to
12 Join by Phone, is incorrect. So if you or -- if
13 you, yourself, or know somebody who is having a
14 hard time joining the meeting, please use that
15 first number that is listed. All right, Chair
16 Paz.

17 MS. LEE: Thank you for that.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Yes. Thank you Elisabeth and
19 again, welcome everyone, it's good to see you
20 virtually. For the agenda today, you will notice
21 that we had a slight rearrangement within the
22 Administrative Items portion of the agenda. We
23 are going to move the topic of Report, Schedule,
24 and Expectations up to occur before the
25 discussion of the Sub-bodies. Other than that,

1 the agenda remains the same with what was
2 published. It was just a slight rearrangement.
3 So if we could move on to the next slide.

4 So the first item on the agenda is to
5 review the minutes. At this point I would just
6 like to open it up for the Commission members to
7 see if you had any questions or edits that you
8 would like to bring up.

9 Hearing none.

10 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Do you want a
11 motion, Sylvia, to approve the minutes?

12 CHAIR PAZ: I can -- yes I can entertain
13 a motion to approve the minutes, and before we go
14 to a vote we will just open it for public
15 comments.

16 COMMISSIONER WISGALL: Okay. Well, I'll
17 so moved if you're ready for a that.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Jonathan. Is
19 there a second?

20 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I'll second it.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Okay. So seeing
22 no discussion, Elisabeth, if we can please open
23 for public comments on the minutes from last
24 meeting.

25 MS. DE JONG: Yes. Thank you.

1 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me. I'm not
2 clear on who seconded.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Frank Ruiz.

4 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you for clarifying.

6 So if you're joining us by Zoom on the
7 computer, please use the Raise Hand feature. If
8 you've called in, please dial *9 to raise your
9 hand and then *6 to unmute your phone line.
10 First we'll go to the hands raised in the Zoom
11 application and then on the phones.

12 All right, I am not seeing any raised
13 hands, so we'll move to vote.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Can you do a roll
15 call for the vote?

16 MS. DE JONG: Yes.

17 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

18 MS. DE JONG: Rod Colwell.

19 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Present

20 MS. DE JONG: Oh, sorry. If you could
21 let us know yes or no, voting to approve the past
22 meeting action minutes.

23 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes.

24 MS. DE JONG: Great. Thank you. Roderic
25 Dolega.

1 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: Yes.

2 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Miranda Flores.

3 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Yes.

4 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Martha Guzman

5 Aceves.

6 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Yes.

7 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Ryan Kelley.

8 COMMISSIONER KELLEY: Yes.

9 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Richie Lopez.

10 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yes.

11 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Luis Olmedo.

12 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes.

13 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Sylvia Paz.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

15 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Frank Ruiz.

16 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.

17 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. Tom Soto.

18 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Yes.

19 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. And Jonathan

20 Weisgall. Jonathon, if you responded I didn't

21 hear you. I'm just checking to see if he's

22 having a technical issus. Okay.

23 Then I just want to confirm with legal,

24 if we don't hear Jonathon, seeing as he was the

25 first one to make a motion, are we okay to

1 proceed with counting the vote with him
2 abstaining?

3 MS. DYER: Yes. Yes, we can do that.

4 MS. DE JONG: Okay. Thank you. So we do
5 have majority vote, so the motion passes.

6 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Next slide.

7 So we've been having conversations about
8 the report and today we want to take an
9 opportunity to discuss the timeline for how we
10 would prepare the report and the expectation.
11 Just as a reminder, the report is due to the
12 legislature on October 1st of 2022. And the
13 legislation does specify what the report needs to
14 address. This does not prevent us from adding
15 items outside of what the legislation is
16 requesting.

17 But to facilitate today's discussion, we
18 have CEC staff who have prepared a presentation
19 on possible structure for the report. So I will
20 invite Terra Weeks.

21 MS. WEEKS: Great. Thanks Chair and
22 hello Commissioners. I've met some of you, but
23 for those of you I haven't met before, great to
24 meet you. I'm Terra Weeks. I'm a senior advisor
25 to Chair Hochschild of the Energy Commission and

1 as of just last week, I've joined the Energy
2 Commission team on this project, and I'll be
3 serving as the project manager for the report.
4 So assisting you all with the actual reports
5 element process. And I just finished rapping up
6 serving as a project manager for the SB 100
7 report, Looking at Achieving 100% Clean
8 Electricity by 2045. So I have at least one
9 other kind of large report under my belt. But
10 I'm really looking forward to diving into this
11 project with all of you.

12 So for today, I'm going to walk through
13 an initial outline draft, report process, and
14 timeline. And these are meant to serve as a
15 starting point for discussion and planning. And
16 they can absolutely be revised moving forward.

17 So first, our proposal for the report
18 outline, and we propose we break it into 3
19 different chapters. So the first chapter, shown
20 here, is essentially an overview and background.
21 So it starts with a description of the bill and
22 associated mandates. Then describes the
23 Commission, its history and an overview of the
24 public engagement process that will be used to
25 inform the report. And then lastly, an outline

1 of your vision for the Commission, including kind
2 of high-level goals and opportunities. Next
3 slide, please.

4 So Chapter 2 will really be the bulk of
5 the report. And the statute requires the
6 Commission to review, investigate, and analyze
7 the seven topics listed here regarding lithium
8 extraction and use in California. So I'll note
9 that this language on the slide here is slightly
10 abbreviated to fit on the slide and there is a
11 little, though actually not that much more detail
12 in the actual statute.

13 So those seven areas, just running
14 through them are: Supporting development of
15 geothermal power to provide the co-benefit of
16 lithium recovery; market opportunities for
17 lithium; the benefits of geothermal facilities
18 for the State, western grid, and US, and these
19 include things like grid stability, reliability,
20 and resilience; fourth is overcoming challenges
21 currently limiting lithium extraction,
22 processing, and production; next is extraction
23 methods from geothermal brines and how this
24 compare with other methods for lithium
25 extraction; economic and environmental impact

1 resulting from extraction, processing, and
2 production; and then lastly, looking at the
3 importance of local, state, and federal
4 incentives and investments to facilitate lithium
5 extraction from geothermal brines. Can you go
6 ahead and click, Elisabeth? Thanks.

7 And so following discussions with Chair
8 Paz, we have identified a number of other
9 important factors than can be integrated either
10 as overarching themes or sub-topics to these
11 larger topics. And so these include public and
12 community engagement, local impacts and benefits,
13 infrastructure needs, and then work force needs
14 and considerations.

15 And so I think a goal for possibly next
16 month's meeting would be to flush out these
17 topics in more detail and dive deeper into how
18 you'd like them to actually be addressed in the
19 report. Next slide, please.

20 And so the final chapter will outline the
21 legislative and regulatory recommendations that
22 may be needed to encourage lithium extraction
23 from geothermal brines. And again, this section
24 is also required by the statute, and it
25 specifically calls out looking at whether a

1 centralized permit tracking system would be
2 beneficial.

3 And then we would have a concluding
4 section and that is the draft outline. So this
5 is pretty bare bones. I really doesn't add much
6 beyond the statutory requirements, but of course
7 we can make additions if there are other topics
8 you'd like to include. And again, the statute
9 provides pretty minimal direction on how each
10 topic should be addressed. So I, again I think
11 at next month's meeting, we can maybe discuss
12 each topic in more detail. Next slide, please.

13 So now some suggestions for the report
14 development process. So what I propose is that
15 we dedicate time during these monthly meetings to
16 discuss each of the seven topics for the report.
17 And again, we can add topics if needed. So for
18 the meetings, we would use the first portion for
19 regular Commission business and then reserve, you
20 know, maybe half the meeting or so for a workshop
21 on one specific topic. And so the workshop could
22 include presentations from Commissioners,
23 bringing in external panelists, group discussion,
24 or kind of however you all would want to format
25 them.

1 And then we would assign one sub-body,
2 which we'll discuss more next in the agenda, to
3 each topic areas. And so that sub-body, which
4 we're tentatively planning to have two
5 commissioners per sub-body. So they would prep
6 for and facilitate the workshop on that specific
7 topic and then also guide the report section on
8 that topic.

9 And then on our end, we're working to
10 assemble CEC staff to assist with report writing
11 and development. And so essentially, we'll plan
12 to put together a small team for each topic area
13 to assist the sub-body for that topic. And then
14 depending on needs for subject matter expertise
15 or quantitative analysis that needs to happen, we
16 may seek additional resources, either from other
17 agencies or perhaps bring on an external
18 consultant. Can you click, please.

19 And then each sub-body will most likely
20 distill specific legislative and regulatory
21 recommendations from their section, but I would
22 propose that all recommendations then come back
23 to the full Commission for discussion before
24 being solidified for the report. Next slide.
25 Thank you.

1 And so as for timeline, we have a year
2 and half, so we're in good shape. I would say
3 short term priorities for the next couple months
4 are assigning the sub-bodies and then finalizing
5 the report outline. So once that's done, we can
6 work on planning the topic-specific workshops.
7 And again, using the monthly meeting times for
8 these. I would suggest also using one meeting to
9 discuss the report recommendations.

10 And then report drafting can occur in
11 parallel with those workshops. So we can start
12 with possibly a series of basically white papers.
13 So each sub-body would kind of oversee that
14 topics white paper and then we can compile them
15 for the full report.

16 And then I'd recommend ensuring the draft
17 report is released at least three or four months
18 before the final, just to make sure we have some
19 buffer time if there are changes that need to be
20 made. And then of course, the report is due to
21 the legislature Oct. 1st, 2022. So again, this
22 is very loose at this point, and we'll work with
23 you to better define specific milestones and
24 deliverables. Next slide, please.

25 And so this is my last slide. I just

1 want to propose -- or pose a couple questions to
2 the group. And I think we'll be able to discuss
3 a lot these at next month's meeting, so hopefully
4 you'll be able to just spend some time between
5 now and then thinking about some of these
6 questions.

7 So first, are there additional topics
8 that should be included in the report? What sub-
9 topics should be included in each chapter? Is
10 there any quantitative analysis that needs to be
11 completed, and if so, what resources, expertise,
12 and/or data would be needed? Are there
13 additional workshops you would like to hold?
14 Will any topic require more than one workshop?
15 Are there activities in addition to workshop that
16 you would like the Commission to partake in to
17 support report development? And then lastly, do
18 you have relevant literature or resources that
19 can support report development? And for this
20 one, we are going to start collecting materials
21 for a lit review shortly. So if you do have any
22 resources to share, please send them to the
23 Lithium Valley Commission email. And we'll post
24 that email at the end as well.

25 So I believe Chair Paz did want to take a

1 moment and just see if anyone has initial
2 reactions to the outline, and specifically to the
3 first question about additional topics. So I'll
4 hand things back to the Chair for now.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you Terra. So I hope
6 that, you know, the outline that has been
7 presented reflects some of the conversations that
8 we've had in the previous two meetings. We've
9 had conversations about a vision and there's a
10 section on vision in this report. And then there
11 are topics that we discussed at the last meeting
12 when we were discussing report structure. Most
13 of the items that we discussed fell in alignment
14 with what the legislation is requiring us to
15 cover, and there were a few that we added. And
16 those again, were reviewed by Terra. It was
17 around workforce, infrastructure, and outreach,
18 and maybe I'm blanking on the other one. And so
19 but I hope again that those are captured. You
20 may not see them directly as chapters, but we can
21 consider adding them as sub-sections.

22 So just off the top of your head right
23 now, if there are any additional topics that
24 maybe you felt we mentioned at the last meeting
25 that were not captured here, or just general

1 reaction that we can just take some time to
2 discuss. And I see Tom Soto with his hand up.
3 So Tom.

4 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Sure. Thank you,
5 Sylvia. Terra, that was a really great -- great
6 overview. It's very difficult to incapsulate all
7 of this and, you know, it's like a -- it's like a
8 three-year long email thread that at the end of
9 the day will mean something.

10 As we move forward, and I'm just putting
11 this out for discussion purposes, you know this
12 is such a broad mandate. And whether we could
13 lean on the office of GoBiz in the -- from the
14 governor's office, and you know, perhaps get some
15 support from them.

16 As well as, you know when I look at this
17 I think of somebody like Lenny Mendonca who would
18 be really great at commenting on it. And whether
19 they have any resources like MacKenzie, who would
20 be willing to maybe, you know, pro bono some of
21 this work and help us think this through, given
22 all the tremendous amount of data that they have
23 in this space, I think it could be -- it could
24 prove useful. So I don't know whether, you know
25 perhaps the Secretary's office, or the Chair's

1 office from CEC could outreach to GoBiz and talk
2 to Dan Adler or any of the folks that are there.
3 Or may it's something that Lenny, although he's
4 no longer there, might be interested in
5 volunteering for.

6 And then the other thing is looking at UC
7 Riverside, and you know they have the Center for
8 Social Innovation, and whether they might be
9 helpful in adding to this bandwidth. So those
10 are just two thoughts that, you know maybe we
11 could begin to consider.

12 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Tom. In our
13 conversations in planning for this meeting, those
14 topics did come up and what the CEC staff is
15 doing right now is looking internally and also
16 considering what other agencies we can tap into
17 and what resources might be available. So I
18 think yeah, you're right in line and in a future
19 meeting, once we have a little bit of that more
20 flushed out, we will have just an update on what
21 the resources available to us are.

22 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Okay. That's cool.

23 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Luis?

24 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. Just I
25 wanted to highlight that environmental impacts

1 can sometimes be seen from habitat, wildlife, or
2 just interaction with the environment, but I
3 would recommend that we also highlight public
4 health, given that it's such an important topic
5 for the Region. So that would be the only other,
6 at this point, you know recommendation that seems
7 to me is really important to have that.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Luis. Yes. So
9 we'll make note of that and for the next meeting,
10 if there's anything else that you or others are
11 considering as additional sub-topics, you can
12 bring those forth. Jonathon.

13 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: One more. Maybe
14 just putting it on the list since this report
15 won't be going to the legislature until what,
16 October of next year, feasibility and challenges
17 of lithium recycling. We may want to add that.
18 I mean we're talking about lithium production,
19 but lithium recycling may also emerge, and I
20 think that the -- I think our mandate may be
21 broad enough to include that. So let me just
22 throw that out as a possibility.

23 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Jonathan. Let me
24 scroll down to see if I see any other hands.

25 MS. DE JONG: You have one hand raised.

1 Commissioner Guzman Aceves.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Oh, thank you. Martha.

3 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you,
4 Sylvia. I may have missed this in the earlier
5 slide, but I think one thing that may be helpful
6 is to have a good analysis of what is the
7 expected levels of extractions. And it could be
8 something that's scaled, you know, tiered, tied
9 to levels investment, or tied to level of
10 geothermal production. I think it would be good
11 to kind of have that, not just these more, not
12 that they're abstract, but if we have kind of
13 barriers and things like that, it would be good
14 to just be more specific about what we're talking
15 about in this region.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Yes and I recall
17 we had -- we got a little bit into that
18 conversation when we were discussing the
19 structure of the report and so we're making a
20 note of that, in terms of adding specific goals,
21 and maybe considering like the, you know, phases
22 and stages for how we can get there. So thank
23 you, Martha.

24 Luis, is that another hand up, or is that
25 from the last hand?

1 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. No, I do
2 have something else. And I'm sure this will
3 continue to grow as we think of other things, but
4 I think maybe Commissioner Weisgall may have
5 alluded to some of it. But I think it's
6 important to look at the, often referred to as
7 the cradle to grave, but I think you know, more
8 responsibly, the cradle to cradle approach of
9 what the life cycle of the process of procuring
10 the product, to market, to somehow repurpose it,
11 right. So I think that will be important to have
12 that in there. I, again, I think as we dive into
13 these different topics, these sort of sub-
14 categories and deeper dives that we probably want
15 to take as we look at the overall life cycle of
16 what the industry will look like.

17 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I don't see any
18 other hands. Again, we will have an opportunity
19 to go deeper into the sub-sections and how we
20 want this to look. But I think at this point we
21 can open it for public comment and see if anybody
22 from the public has any comments on the report on
23 Schedule and Structure.

24 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. So I just want
25 to pause briefly, to recognize that Commissioner

1 James Hanks was able to join us. So welcome.

2 And in the public comments, if you are
3 joining us by Zoom on the computer, please use
4 the raise hand feature. If you've called in,
5 please dial *9 to raise your hand and then *6 to
6 unmute your phone line. First we'll go to hands
7 raised in the Zoom application and then on the
8 phones.

9 And I see a Michael. I am granting you
10 the permission to speak. You should be able to
11 unmute.

12 MR. GARABEDIAN: Good afternoon. I'm
13 Michael Garabedian. I'm in Lincoln, California.
14 I know there'll be more discussion of this later,
15 but I would suggest that the various ecological
16 sciences that might be involved or affected by
17 that, be incorporated in the process at the
18 outset. So that goes into defining the other
19 aspects of the -- of the project and what it is,
20 what the project description is, having this kind
21 of input before that point.

22 I know the Commission has its own CEQA
23 process, and I'm actually trying to think a bit
24 ahead of that. And I'm not sure how it's
25 integrated in projects, but it seems to me this

1 would be the time for the sciences and not just
2 the engineering, and geology and so forth, but
3 including that.

4 Thank you for chance to comment.

5 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I have one more
6 hand raised. Vijay Dhar.

7 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: The host would like you
8 to unmute your microphone.

9 MS. DE JONG: I'm sorry. Here we go.

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You can press *6 to
11 unmute.

12 MR. DHAR: Yeah. This is Vijay Dhar
13 from --

14 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: You are muted.

15 MR. DHAR: -- so I was rethinking maybe
16 we -- also we talked about the social
17 integration. Results of technological innovation
18 sector, but maybe those may happen in silos so
19 it's important to bring them together. So
20 technology innovation applies social, and social
21 observations are included in the technologic
22 innovation. So all of that actually be able to
23 solve some of the problems that were talked
24 about; public health and, you know,
25 environmental. This is all, you know this is all

1 going to lead to the circular economy concept, so
2 zero risks and 100% value extraction using
3 social. So it could be a collaboration between
4 social and technological innovation, basically.

5 So that kind of angle should be brought
6 in because 2030s and 40s it will be more about
7 circular economy and we have to lay the
8 foundation of that, and this cannot support. So,
9 you know, that can be applied for other things
10 elsewhere in the country also.

11 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. All right, I
12 don't see any other hands raised. So back to
13 you, Chair Paz.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So for this next
15 section we are finally, I think after trying to
16 talk about this for three meetings, get to the
17 conversation around the creation of sub-bodies as
18 sort of a structure that can help us delve deeper
19 into each of the sections of the report. But
20 before we make any decision on the sub-bodies,
21 I'm going to invite Deborah to just give us some
22 background on the, you know, the legal sort of
23 implications around creating sub-bodies. And so,
24 Deborah.

25 MS. DYER: Thank you, Chair -- thank you

1 Chair, Paz. So my name is Deborah Dyer and I'm
2 an attorney with the CEC's Chief Counsel's
3 Office. Good to see you all here again.

4 At the first Lithium Valley Commission
5 meeting I presented an overview of the
6 Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, which you hear us
7 refer to as BK. So I'm not going to talk too
8 much about that this time. I don't want to take
9 up too much time. I just want to focus on a very
10 narrow issue, and that is, how does Bagley-Keene
11 apply to sub-bodies. Next slide, please.

12 So just a quick recap about what we
13 talked about in February. We talked about how
14 the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requires that
15 the public's business be conducted in public.
16 And we talked about how Bagley-Keene's open and
17 publicly noticed meeting requirements apply
18 whenever a majority of the LVC -- the Lithium
19 Valley Commission members congregate to hear,
20 discuss, or deliberate upon matters within the
21 Lithium Valley Commission's jurisdiction. Next
22 slide, please.

23 So today, the matter of sub-bodies is on
24 the agenda, and for purposes of this discussion,
25 I'm going to call all sub-bodies, all bodies

1 within the Lithium Valley Commission sub-bodies.
2 When we say sub-body, that could include
3 subcommittees, advisory boards, advisory
4 commissions, work groups, subgroups. The name of
5 the sub-body, what it's called is not important
6 for Bagley-Keene purposes. What a group is
7 labeled will not change whether or not
8 Bagley-Keene applies to that group.

9 So the answer to the question before us
10 today is that BK applies to Lithium Valley
11 Commission sub-bodies if they are created by
12 formal action of the Lithium Valley Commission
13 and if they consist of three or more persons.
14 Next slide, please.

15 So the two important parts of that answer
16 is -- we can answer by breaking it down into two
17 parts. How is the sub-body created and how many
18 members does the sub-body have? So as to the
19 first question, how is the sub-body created, that
20 goes to whether it was created by formal action
21 of the Lithium Valley Commission. So formal
22 action is when a body authorizes or directs the
23 creation of a new body. The authorization or
24 direction could be done via motion, ordinance,
25 resolution, designation of members to that

1 sub-body, or any similar action. For example, if
2 today the Lithium Valley Commission said we want
3 to create a sub-body to look into environmentally
4 safe extraction methods, and a motion was made,
5 and a vote was taken, and Commissioners
6 volunteered to be on that sub-body, that is a
7 sub-body created by formal action. Go to the
8 next slide, please.

9 So here it is in its simplest form. If
10 the Lithium Valley Commission creates the
11 sub-body by formal action and the sub-body has
12 three to seven members, then Bagley-Keene applies
13 to that sub-body. If the sub-body was not
14 created formally by Lithium Valley Commission and
15 has seven or less members, Bagley-Keene does not
16 apply. And the number seven is important here
17 because seven is less than a majority of the
18 entire -- the entire body. Then if the sub-body
19 has less than three members, regardless of how
20 it's created, Bagley-Keene does not apply. So
21 that would be one or two members.

22 And when we say the Bagley-Keene applies,
23 that means that the body would have to follow
24 Bagley-Keene's publicly noticed meeting
25 requirements. So notice of the meeting and an

1 agenda would have to be published at least 10
2 days prior to the meeting, and it also means that
3 the public has the right to attend and
4 participate in that meeting. So it creates a
5 much more formal structure for that meeting.

6 And when we say Bagley-Keene doesn't
7 apply, it means that the meeting can be less
8 formal, less structured. A notice and agenda
9 does not have to be posted, and the rules
10 regarding public participation don't apply. That
11 means that the form of communication can also be
12 less formal. It can be via telephone call, or
13 Zoom, or Skype, or in person. However that body
14 wants to meet. So that in no way prevents a body
15 that BK doesn't apply to from noticing the
16 meeting and inviting the public, but it only
17 means that you don't have to.

18 So the Lithium Valley Commission has the
19 option of determining how you want to proceed,
20 and you can use any combination of these three
21 options. And however you decide to proceed, CEC
22 staff is going to be here to help you navigate
23 the applicable Bagley-Keene requirements.

24 So Chair Paz, thank you. That's all I
25 have on this topic.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Well first, I
2 would like to see if there are any questions for
3 clarification before we go into a discussion
4 about how we want to proceed. So are there any
5 questions for Deborah? Okay. I don't see any
6 hands.

7 So now I think we can proceed on how, you
8 know, we would like to assemble ourselves for the
9 purpose of getting the report done. And the way
10 that I think I've been hearing from you and the
11 way I've been interpreting the sub-bodies, is
12 that this is an opportunity to be more like a
13 working group, right. Where each sub-body would
14 be considering and going deeper into each of the
15 sections of the report. They can do peer review.
16 Think about public engagement and at what -- at
17 what point do we want to get input, how will we
18 go about public engagement for each of the
19 sub-topics.

20 I know there was, for example,
21 conversation about doing s literature review on
22 some or all, you know maybe what one of the
23 sub-bodies would decide to do is that they want
24 to then ground truth that literature review. Say
25 okay, this is what it says, but does it apply to

1 our local context? Does it apply to the Salton
2 Sea region? And consider again opportunities for
3 public engagement, workforce considerations,
4 infrastructure, etc.. And the benefits that I
5 see to keeping the sub-bodies to two people is
6 that you can meet as your schedules allow, you
7 can be on the same page and always talk to each
8 other, and versus if we added a third or more
9 people, then you would have to remember that you
10 cannot talk to more than the majority of the
11 members of that sub-body. So all of those other
12 considerations.

13 The one sort of drawback that I saw when
14 we were discussing this is that sometimes we
15 might feel, or members of the public might feel,
16 right, that we're missing out or not entirely in
17 on all of the conversations. But there is, as
18 Terra mentioned, there would be monthly reporting
19 out. The entire body would be able to weigh in
20 on the different spaces where those sub-groups
21 are, continue to give input, as well as the
22 members of the public during these monthly report
23 outs. So I think that's the way in which we can
24 balance it.

25 So again, my recommendation would be that

1 we have two people volunteer for each of the
2 sub-bodies, if that sounds good to you all. But
3 I guess at this point, I can open for discussion.
4 Rod.

5 COMMISSIONER COLDWELL: Yeah. Thank you,
6 Chair Paz. So the sub-bodies, are they designed
7 to be directed at each of the eight topics of the
8 report, right. So, you know, from one to two to
9 three. So basically the sub-groups we'd form on
10 who felt, or the Commission felt, would be
11 appropriate to the delegate that response. Yes.
12 Okay. Thank you.

13 CHAIR PAZ: Correct. Yes. And there is
14 a total of 14 commission members. And there's
15 seven sub-bodies right now. Again, we could add
16 a sub-body later on if we felt that it was
17 necessary. But right now sort of the math works
18 out fine where everybody could be in one of the
19 sub-bodies, two per sub-body.

20 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: I guess two, you
21 know, two of us wanted to put a hand up, I mean
22 obviously it goes without saying it, community
23 engagement, employment, and all of those factors
24 need to be considered in all of the sub-bodies.
25 I think that's a given, Chair Paz.

1 CHAIR PAZ: Correct.

2 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: You know, and
3 looking at the general sort of skill set, you
4 know I'd be happy to open the conversation about
5 my hand up to be part of the legislative,
6 legislative and regulatory process.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: I'm happy to bring
9 in outside help as needed, and happy to,
10 obviously, join other Commissioners, or
11 Commissioner, if others were appropriate to that.
12 And there's probably other parts, but I just
13 thought I'd just put that on the table and see
14 what the other Commissioners had to -- had to
15 say.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Rod. And maybe
17 just a question for Terra here. We did have the
18 conclusion as being like legislative
19 considerations. I don't see it as a sub-body,
20 but is that the same or does it fit in with the
21 incentives piece?

22 MS. WEEKS: Yes. And my recommendation
23 was to keep that separate. So basically have
24 these as the seven substantive topics, and then
25 have the recommendations eventually come out of

1 those topics, and then have the whole Commission
2 as a group discuss recommendations.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

4 MS. WEEKS: But I think if the Commission
5 wants to have that as an eighth topic area, I
6 mean I'm totally open to that. I think it's
7 really up to you.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm. Jonathan.

9 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I've been -- you
10 know, I'm based in Washington, D.C.. I've
11 already been talking on, both to the
12 administration on Capitol Hill about federal
13 incentives and I, Sylvia, I don't know if I sent
14 you, but I know that I had sent Commissioner
15 Douglas a slide deck and I've done some memoranda
16 on incentives, so both state and federal. So I
17 think I could probably make my best contribution
18 there.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: If you're looking
21 for volunteers in sub-bodies, so put you down for
22 that, if you would.

23 CHAIR PAZ: Ok, perfect. So incentives I
24 have Jonathan, and I think my question remains
25 whether in the incentives there's legislative

1 implications where Rod's expertise might come in.
2 Rod, and that's up to you. Unless, you know, the
3 Commission wants to add an eighth body that's
4 considering the legislative recommendations
5 that -- Luis.

6 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. The
7 incentives, I just wanted to just make sure that
8 we're looking at the whole picture because I
9 think while incentives have been beneficial to
10 kick start, you know, startup projects,
11 incentivize, you know, in this case, try to
12 encourage and incentivize this new extraction of
13 lithium in the community, what's the connection
14 there? And I think we need to continually assure
15 that that there's equitable investment. And what
16 is that going to come from?

17 And historically, you know it's always
18 been about sort of, you know luring industry or
19 business to you know, perhaps economically be
20 depressed areas, like Imperial. Let's get this,
21 you know, up and running. I know there's a lot
22 of excitement and enthusiasm, but the community
23 is always waiting and see well what's in it for
24 us. And why can't that incentive be extended to
25 what does the community want too?

1 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

2 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: You know, we've
3 seen solar, we've seen biofuels. You know, we've
4 seen wind energy. I mean the list goes on. And
5 you know it's always, you know it's like
6 communities waiting. Well, what's in it for us?
7 Is there infrastructure? Is there is investment
8 in our communities and where's that going to come
9 from? So I think as, and I appreciate those who
10 do have expertise like Commission Weisgall, that
11 have access. And I would ask that that that
12 access be extended so we have a complete
13 conversation, right.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

15 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: A whole
16 conversation. I'm not trying to say, you know,
17 put this back on the industry because at the end
18 of the day, there's always going to be that
19 feeling as oh we push too hard, they're going to
20 go somewhere else. Well it shouldn't be like
21 that, you know, because they think now industry
22 is more socially responsible and they want to
23 invest in areas like Imperial where the
24 resources, the land is affordable. You know
25 the -- it's, you know, all the elements are

1 there. No pun intended. But I think that it
2 would be helpful. And I would ask those
3 commissioners who have that expertise to, you
4 know, help those of us who come in with sort of
5 the community lens, let's see what we can do
6 together to bring -- broaden the conversation.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm. I hear you, Luis.
8 And yes, the I mean, as you can see here, we
9 haven't gone deeply into what the subtopics might
10 be, but we have identified a few that we
11 envision, and I envision could be thorough like.
12 And that would be like the engagement piece, the
13 workforce piece, the infrastructure piece, things
14 that could be incorporated under many of these
15 sub-bodies. And the intent is that we can have a
16 structure where there can be, you know movement
17 and working group outside of the monthly
18 meetings, but it's still in our monthly meetings.
19 We all get to weigh in and give direction and
20 sort of try to come to consensus about, you know
21 what each of the elements under the report are
22 going to be considered, so.

23 I see a few other hands. Rod and then
24 Tom.

25 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Thank you. Sorry,

1 Tom. I think I jumped in ahead of you there. So
2 just going on to the point, I think sub-section
3 eight, you're totally correct. I misread that.
4 But really, I would happily put my hand up for
5 sub-section, so section six and four. I think
6 the, you know, political and economic
7 environmental impacts obviously a very pertinent
8 and of course to, you know, Commissioner Olmedo's
9 comments as well, you know, with engagement. And
10 really planning a Greenfield Development, it's
11 like a subdivision on the basin of the Salton Sea
12 playa, which is a real problematic, you know, air
13 quality health, etcetera. Absolutely directly
14 links to sub-section eight.

15 So we'd happily, given that we're the
16 developer really out in the -- in the playa, I
17 guess, happily to contribute to that particular
18 section. So section six, sub-section eight. And
19 also happy to put my hand up to help with Section
20 four, methods of overcoming technical and
21 economic challenges. Obviously, Jonathan's
22 probably just as, or better qualified for that.
23 So just wanted to again, put my hand up to be
24 part of those two groups.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Tom.

1 BOAR MEMBER SOTO: Sure. Thank you. You
2 know, I'm a big supporter of incentives. And,
3 you know, if I were to be active with any of the
4 above, I would say it's market opportunities and
5 incentives. You know my, listen, the fossil
6 fuels industry and coal, they get over \$600
7 billion a year in incentives and subsidies and
8 tax credits. We certainly don't have that much
9 within the renewable sector.

10 And we should be looking at things like
11 the Jobs Act that President Biden is putting out.
12 And there are considerable incentives there, for
13 example, that would help to boost what we're
14 trying to do with lithium on a sustainable level.
15 By the first and foremost is the fact that you
16 have a standalone production tax credit for solar
17 storage or for storage overall, and that doesn't
18 have to be part of a integrated solar platform.
19 So, you know, in the future, we could have, you
20 know, full lithium ion storage that could be, you
21 know, given additional tax credits on their own
22 that could help to spur economics within the
23 industry. So all of that said, I think it's
24 important for us to not only acknowledge the need
25 for incentives but to help to champion some of

1 those that will bring good economics to the
2 valley.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So let me maybe
4 go down by -- one by one of -- the goal of today
5 is to try to identify the volunteers for each
6 one. So if I just call your name from those of
7 you who haven't -- I haven't heard from and you
8 can tell me which of the sub-bodies you would
9 like to be a part of.

10 So let me, I'm going to start at the
11 bottom of my screen list. Martha.

12 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: I
13 think -- thank you. I think perhaps the
14 incentives and supporting development.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. Luis.

16 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: So I've already
17 made my comments. It's -- did you want me to
18 give you a more specific?

19 CHAIR PAZ: Would you like to volunteer
20 for one of the sub-bodies?

21 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Oh. Yeah. I'd
22 like to sort of the expanded on the incentives.
23 I'd like to help out there.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: And environmental

1 impacts, as well. Economic and environmental
2 impacts.

3 CHAIR PAZ: So right now I'm just, what
4 I'm going to do is just write everybody's
5 interest and then we're going to be -- have to
6 figure out if there's -- if we're going to only
7 do two, how we solve that issue because
8 incentives, I already have four people interested
9 in.

10 Okay. So you said, Luis just to capture,
11 you said incentives and environmental impacts,
12 right? Luis?

13 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Again, I apologize.
14 I didn't -- what was the question?

15 CHAIR PAZ: I just want to clarify that I
16 captured your interests right. Economic,
17 environmental impacts and incentives were the two
18 that you were interested in.

19 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes. That is
20 correct.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I'm sorry. I had
23 someone walk in my office. I apologize.

24 CHAIR PAZ: It's okay. Miranda.

25 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Yeah. I'd like the

1 economic and environmental impacts and
2 incentives.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. James.

4 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madam Chair, I just
5 want to --

6 CHAIR PAZ: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

7 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Again, I'm not
8 really sure that both benefits and incentives
9 fully characterize what I had explained earlier.
10 So you can dive into benefits as well, and then
11 we just try to figure it out along the way and --

12 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: -- see if the
14 definitions and divisions of these bullet points
15 and this work under these sub-categories.
16 [indiscernible].

17 CHAIR PAZ: Sounds good. I added you
18 there. Thank you. James Hunt.

19 COMMISSIONER HUNT: Yeah, I would like to
20 be put on overcoming challenges and also
21 benefits.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER HUNT: That's all.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Frank Ruiz.

25 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I would like to be

1 part of the environmental impacts. Maybe this
2 can, you know, be a separate section, but I see
3 it, you know, just being one. So I would like to
4 be part of the economic environmental impacts and
5 perhaps overcoming challenges.

6 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. And I think I've heard
7 from Rod. Ryan.

8 COMMISSIONER KELLEY: Yeah. Sylvia, I
9 would like to join supporting development and
10 incentives.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Okay. Okay. So
12 let me just review that I have everything right.
13 For supporting development --

14 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: Hey Sylvia, this is
15 Roderic.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Did I miss someone?

17 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: Yeah.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Oh, there we go.

19 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: So yeah, no. I
20 think market opportunities and incentives would
21 be most relevant for me.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Okay, Roderic.

23 MS. DE JONG: And also, Richie Lopez.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. Richie.

25 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yes. You're

1 breaking up.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Yes. Do you have a
3 particular interest in either of the seven sub-
4 bodies.

5 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Personally, probably
6 marketing opportunities.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. Did I miss
8 anybody, before I review? And Tom, I see your
9 hand up. Do you have a --

10 COMMISSIONER SOTO: I was just saying
11 that it's -- it looks like there's a lot of folks
12 have populated incentives.

13 CHAIR PAZ: And if you go down from
14 there, I think you got plenty. I could do
15 overcoming challenges because it doesn't sound
16 like there's a lot of folks there. Happy to do
17 that, and market opportunities.

18 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Is that okay?

20 CHAIR PAZ: Well, you would be, market
21 opportunities currently have two people.

22 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Okay.

23 CHAIR PAZ: And so that's overcoming
24 challenges. The one where we don't have anybody
25 is under extraction method.

1 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Boy, I don't, you
2 know I'm not -- that's too mechanical for me.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Technical. Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER SOTO: You know, but you
5 know if -- I'll stick with incentives and market
6 opportunities or overcoming challenges.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER SOTO: So, of those three,
9 whatever you feel you need me to jump into, say
10 so.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER SOTO: I could also do
13 supporting development -- supporting development
14 benefits as well.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Tom. So let me
16 review and maybe Elisabeth, you can be my fact
17 checker here, see if I captured everything. Oh,
18 before I do that, Jonathan.

19 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, just real
20 quick. I mean, you know I frankly don't think we
21 need somebody on extraction methods. I mean,
22 there's nothing we're going to recommend to the
23 legislature. And you know, we can discuss the
24 extraction methods in, you know, in 15 minutes.
25 It's -- this Commission's not going to come up

1 with any suggestions or recommendations that I
2 can think of, so I'm not so sure we need to have
3 that. Just some ideas.

4 COMMISSIONER SOTO: I would agree.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. All right. So let me
6 see if I captured everything right. Under
7 supporting development, I have Martha and Ryan,
8 and if needed, Tom. Under market opportunities,
9 Roderic and Richie. And I think that was another
10 one, if needed, Tom. Under benefits, I knew I
11 was going to do this, I have Luis and I might
12 have missed the other person because I wrote I
13 benefits instead of the name. Elisabeth, do you
14 have who besides Luis?

15 MS. DE JONG: Commissioner Hanks.

16 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. Under
17 overcoming challenges, we also have James Hanks
18 and Frank Ruiz. We don't have anybody for
19 extraction methods. Economic and environmental
20 impacts, I have Luis, Miranda, and Frank. And
21 under incentives, we have Martha, Luis, Jonathan,
22 Tom, Ryan, Roderic. I don't know if I missed
23 anybody on that one.

24 MS. DE JONG: I just want to go back to
25 the economic and environmental impacts. I

1 believe we also have Rod Colwell on that one.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. And under
3 incentives, did I capture everyone, or did I miss
4 some?

5 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Miranda. I want to
6 join that one as well.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Miranda. Okay. Thank you.
8 And I haven't signed up for any of them, but my
9 interest is in the economic, sort of impacts.
10 And I don't know, again, there was a potential
11 recommendation that those could be two separate
12 ones. We currently have four. If I added my
13 name, that would be five of us. So maybe and I
14 think this is -- I hope we did talk about this,
15 but Deborah, maybe considering our options on how
16 to move forward, I mean there's only three, four.
17 Well, we have four of them with two people, but
18 then the rest of them have more than two.

19 MS. DYER: I think that maybe what would
20 be good is to discuss this more in depth offline
21 with you, Chair Paz.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

23 MS. DYER: And come up with a proposal or
24 some ideas.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. So then what I'm

1 hearing is perhaps we can use this interest list
2 as is, noting where everybody, you know, ideally
3 wanted to -- wanting to serve. We can use some
4 time between now and the next meeting to figure
5 out the best case scenarios for making all these
6 sub-bodies work and then bring that back before
7 we decide, and we vote on them. So does that
8 sound right to the rest of the commissioners?

9 Yep, Rod.

10 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Sorry, just again,
11 agreeing with Jonathan's comments about
12 extraction methods. I mean that's nothing new
13 and novel, and it's probably not really of
14 interest to the commission itself, but the, just
15 to comment, the recommendations to legislative
16 and regulatory, could that be inserted as its own
17 body? I mean, that's probably one of the biggest
18 frames across all of these sections, really. I
19 guess the other way around, if we focused on it
20 as a group, shared with the commission and all of
21 these subgroups will be part of, you know,
22 ultimately be part of that. Just a -- just a
23 thought.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. Frank.

25 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yeah, I think I

1 follow in the comments of Commissioner Colwell.
2 Maybe we can make economic and environmental
3 impact two separate categories and then not
4 eliminate extraction leave it for everyone to
5 discuss it, then we can have the seven
6 independent categories.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. So from those of you
8 who are listed under economic and environmental
9 impacts, and we'll just do a quick poll right
10 now. Luis, if we broke this up, would you be an
11 environmental or economic? Where would be your
12 interest?

13 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I find benefits,
14 economic and incentives. It seems like there's
15 some work to be done there as to, you know, where
16 the overlaps and where they're covering the
17 spectrum of definitions. So I certainly would
18 like to follow those and stay with them until we
19 refine it further if need be. Definitely want to
20 be environmental impacts. And I do -- I am
21 looking at, again, the entire spectrum.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

23 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: And you know, it
24 certainly could include health under.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

1 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: And I propose
2 adding a health one. But could be that and all
3 the way through permitting, regulating and so on.

4 CHAIR PAZ: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: So I definitely
6 want to be in those.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Yeah. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I hope -- I like to
9 stay on both.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Yeah. I just want to
11 see -- I'm not removing anybody from anywhere. I
12 just want to see if we broke up number six into
13 two sub-sections, then if we have two members for
14 each because right now there's four listed.

15 Well, I didn't list myself, I would be the fifth.
16 But if we can figure it out then I can plug in
17 wherever I'm needed. So if again, just what I
18 heard from Luis is if we split number six into
19 two, he would stay with environmental impacts.

20 Miranda, would you have a preference if
21 we split it between economics and environmental?

22 COMMISSIONER FLORES: I'd like to be part
23 of both as well,

24 CHAIR PAZ: Both as well. Okay. So
25 splitting it might not solve it. Frank.

1 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: I will be a little
2 more flexible given the work that I do in my
3 networks, I will prefer environmental impacts.

4 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. So okay. We're going
5 to have to come back and revisit then how we can
6 best shape this. But this is a really good
7 start. At least we have an idea of where
8 everybody's interests are. And then we'll
9 discuss how to make this feasible, both in terms
10 of resources and making sure that all the sub-
11 bodies have everything they need to be
12 successful. So we'll come back, and we'll leave
13 it at this for now. Luis.

14 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Madam Chair,
15 again, I want to bring back, again, I'm not
16 really sure how everyone else is thinking about
17 it, but it looks to me that Benefits, Economics,
18 and Incentives deserve a conversation of all
19 interested individually or together, so that we
20 can better understand whether they need to be
21 separate or whether they need to be part of one
22 conversation.

23 CHAIR PAZ: We will -- that was my
24 daughter in the background. We will take that
25 into consideration. So again, we'll go back,

1 take everything that we've heard and bring it all
2 back in a cleaner way more streamlined. But
3 thank you, everybody.

4 Then if there are no more comments, we
5 can probably now open the conversation to public
6 comment.

7 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. So if you're
8 joining us by Zoom on your computer, please use
9 the raise hand feature, and if you've called in,
10 please dial *9 to raise your hand or *6, and
11 then, sorry, and then *6 to unmute yourself.
12 First, we'll go through the hands raised in the
13 Zoom application and then on the phone.

14 Okay, I see one hand raised. Benicia, I
15 have permitted you the permission to speak. You
16 should be able to unmute.

17 MR. HARRISON: Yes, this is Steven
18 Harrison, TerraLithium. I was volunteering to
19 work on the lithium extraction policy. I've been
20 involved in extracting mercury from the
21 geothermal brines from in the Salton Sea for the
22 last 10 years and worked on lithium for over 20
23 years. Also, TerraLithium would like to make a
24 presentation to the Commission. Thank you.

25 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. All right, I

1 don't see any other hands raised. We'll turn back
2 to you, Chair Paz. Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry to
3 Chair Paz, I think you're muted.

4 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you for that. I -- so
5 on this next item is for us to consider the Rules
6 of Order. I know those were posted and everyone
7 received a copy of them. And before we go into
8 this discussion, I would again like to invite
9 Deborah to give us a little bit of the context
10 and what made it into the Rules of Orders and
11 what didn't. So Deborah.

12 MS. DYER: Thank you, Chair Paz. Mostly,
13 I wanted to follow up on a question that was
14 raised at the last meeting regarding delegates
15 and proxies. And we analyzed the statute
16 enabling the Lithium Valley Commission and we
17 found that it does not authorize the LVC to
18 utilize delegates or proxies. And for that
19 reason, we would strongly advise against using
20 those methods if a commissioner cannot attend the
21 meeting. And for that reason, we have not
22 included anything regarding delegates or proxies
23 in the Rules of Order as they are proposed at
24 this time.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you for that.

1 So again, I hope that you have had some time to
2 review it. Deborah has been able to answer the
3 question on the delegates and why we didn't see
4 it. I know that was my first question when I saw
5 the draft. And other than that, I mean, I can
6 take any comments, edits, or a motion if we feel
7 comfortable adopting these now.

8 Martha.

9 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Thank you.
10 Just to clarify on what the guidance was on. So
11 Deborah, were you saying there's no -- you can
12 have an alternate, but the alternate cannot vote
13 on your behalf? Do I understand that correctly?

14 MS. DYER: What we concluded was the
15 statute does not permit delegates or alternates
16 as it stands. There's -- it's always possible to
17 have someone attend the meeting to, you know,
18 take notes and report back to the Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Mm-hmm.

20 MS. DYER: But there's nothing in there
21 that allows the alternate or delegate to be
22 counted towards the quorum or towards the vote,
23 so.

24 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Okay.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Are there any other questions

1 or subsections of the rules of order that
2 you -- any of you would like to discuss further?
3 I don't see any hands, so before I call for a
4 motion, maybe I'll do it. I'll delay that ask,
5 go to public comment, give you a little bit time
6 to digest, think it through. And then when
7 I -- when we come back from public comments, I
8 will ask for a motion. So Elizabeth.

9 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. So if you're
10 joining us by Zoom on your computer, can you
11 please use that hand raised feature? And if
12 you've called in, please dial *9 to raise your
13 hand and then *6 to unmute your phone line.
14 We'll go to the hands raised first and then the
15 phone.

16 Not seeing any immediate hands raised.
17 Okay. Chair Paz, that looks like no public
18 comment on the Rules of Order at this time.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So at this point,
20 I will request a motion for a vote to approve the
21 Rules of Order as-is and acknowledging that it
22 can be updated with information or as needed in
23 future meetings.

24 COMMISSIONER SOTO: So moved. Tom.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Tom. Is there a

1 second?

2 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Second.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Who was the second?

4 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Richie.

5 CHAIR PAZ: Oh, thank you Richie. Can we
6 do roll call, please?

7 MS. DE JONG: Yes. So when I call your
8 name, please let me know if you vote yes or no to
9 approve the Rules of Order as is. Rod Colwell.

10 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yes.

11 MS. DE JONG: Roderic Dolega.

12 COMMISSIONER DOLEGA: Yes.

13 MS. DE JONG: Miranda Flores.

14 COMMISSIONER FLORES: Yes.

15 MS. DE JONG: Martha Guzman Aceves.

16 COMMISSIONER GUZMAN ACEVES: Yes.

17 MS. DE JONG: James Hanks.

18 COMMISSIONER HANKS: Yes.

19 MS. DE JONG: Ryan Kelley. Ryan, if
20 you're speaking you're on mute.

21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [indiscernible].

22 MS. DE JONG: Okay. I will skip Ryan.
23 Richie Lopez.

24 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Yes.

25 MS. DE JONG: Luis Olmedo.

1 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yes.

2 MS. DE JONG: Sylvia Paz.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

4 MS. DE JONG: Frank Ruiz.

5 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yes.

6 MS. DE JONG: Tom Soto.

7 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Yes.

8 MS. DE JONG: Great. Thank you. And

9 Jonathan Weisgall.

10 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yes.

11 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. We have a

12 majority vote, yes. And so the motion passes.

13 I'm going to go ahead and change back to

14 the --

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Thank you.

16 So this next item on the agenda is to

17 discuss a request that's come before us in the

18 previous two meetings for having some form of

19 community engagement early on in the process. I

20 know that when we've been discussing and thinking

21 about sub-bodies, you know there's going to be

22 opportunities to engage them in the report

23 itself. But I think what I heard from the last

24 meetings is that there is a want or desire from

25 community members to hear from us, to listen, you

1 know, to you know, the community, answer
2 questions. So the idea and again, this is where
3 we can start and then you can all give us more
4 direction from that.

5 But the idea is that we could have a,
6 maybe a, well there's two options. We could have
7 an additional Commission meeting with all of us.
8 All right, that is maybe times different needs,
9 where we partnered with Assembly Member Garcia
10 and others. And we notice the meeting at the
11 Commission meeting, following all the
12 Bagley-Keene. And we meet with -- for the
13 purpose or the agenda would be just to have a
14 conversation with the community, hear from them,
15 introduce ourselves to them and the purpose of
16 this Commission. So that's option one.

17 I think option two would be if, depending
18 on again, how many of us want to be there. If
19 there's less than at least seven people that, or
20 seven or less who want to be there, we wouldn't
21 have to add like another formal meeting agenda
22 and we could just coordinate with, again,
23 Garcia's office or other partners we want to
24 consider and schedule more like a round table
25 conversation. Obviously, this meeting would be

1 via Zoom, for now. And then we can decide, you
2 know, the purpose of the meeting and how to
3 structure the agenda, what kinds of
4 presentations, if any, should be given it there.
5 So I think those are more or less like the two
6 options.

7 And I would just like to open it for
8 discussion. Maybe there's a third option that
9 I'm thinking. But open it for discussion about
10 whether we were to schedule, it would require,
11 you know, us doing some background to schedule
12 another meeting, adding another Lithium Valley
13 Commission meeting for the purpose of just having
14 a community meeting or doing something that would
15 require less than a majority of us and partner
16 with Garcia in either scenario. So what are your
17 thoughts?

18 MS. DE JONG: You have a hand raised from
19 Jonathan Weisgall.

20 CHAIR PAZ: Jonathan.

21 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I feel like this
22 is Jeopardy. I you know, on balance, if we're
23 going to do this, I think we should, you know, go
24 all out. I mean have the full Commission. I
25 mean, you know, you could poll people and you

1 could say which commissioners are not interested
2 in attending a community workshop, but I'm
3 guessing that you would have eight or more. But
4 I mean, you could do it that way. I mean, you
5 can say, look, is anybody not interested? And
6 maybe if you had enough that got it at -- I get
7 our magic number is at seven or below. It is
8 seven is the magic number without Bagley-Keene.

9 I mean, you could just sort of poll all
10 of us and say, who's not interested. And that
11 would answer your question. But my gut would
12 tell me that it should be a -- it should be all
13 of us because there could be questions of certain
14 members, you know, Jim Hanks, you know, what do
15 you think about this or Ryan Kelly or Martha, you
16 know, whatever. And I guess -- I guess I think
17 to discharge our responsibilities, we should all
18 be available to answer questions from the
19 community. That's my gut feeling. Not a strong
20 feeling, but that's where I would come at.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Rod.

22 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: I think Jonathan's
23 nailed it. That's exactly where I was heading.
24 I think we all have a responsibility, each and
25 every one of us. So you know, between Jonathan,

1 and I, and other developers, the community, you
2 know everyone's representative can answer
3 questions. But also, you know, we can coordinate
4 a presentation. So I'll be in favor of
5 that -- of the full Commission being available
6 for that.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Are there any
8 other hands up?

9 MS. DE JONG: Commissioner Oldmedo.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Luis.

11 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. So Madam
12 Chair, the only other at this point idea that I
13 have is that we would combine the workshop as a
14 Lithium Commission meeting, a formal meetings.
15 Then I think that we would be able to offer both,
16 have the Commissioners there as well as the
17 presentations that are going to be offered to the
18 community.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

20 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: And I think that
21 that might be a way to meet the requirements --

22 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

23 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: -- that are part of
24 the Bagley-Keene.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

1 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: I'll leave it to
2 the experts.

3 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Any other
4 comment? So unless, you know, I hear otherwise,
5 what I'm taking away is we should have a formal
6 meeting of the Commission. And we'll figure out
7 maybe, Elisabeth, do you think you can support us
8 in just finding a day that would work for most of
9 us to be present. Again, having it -- the reason
10 why I think we are going to have to schedule
11 another one is not just because of the contents
12 specific that I think the community wants to hear
13 about, but also the timing. Like we wouldn't be
14 able to start a meeting at 1:30 and expect the
15 community members to be there. So it would have
16 to be a meeting later in the day or I don't know
17 if possibly a weekend. But Elisabeth, is that
18 support that we can get from you in trying,
19 figuring out the best availability of the -- this
20 body to meet with the community?

21 MS. DE JONG: Yes. So the CEC will work
22 to support setting up this additional meeting.

23 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. And then in terms
24 of the type of meeting I was thinking
25 informational, right. We can talk about why this

1 group was assembled, what the requirements are.
2 And I think some of the conversations that I've
3 been hearing from the community, or areas of
4 interest, still remain around the environmental
5 impacts with extraction, things of that nature.
6 So as we're thinking about having short
7 presentations, I would recommend that it's around
8 that, and the other one is around the social
9 impacts. Right. Like how can we -- how do
10 communities interact in the process? What are
11 the impacts to community? So those are
12 potentially two. We don't have to decide on
13 those, but that's just coming in. What I'm
14 thinking, we could have informational, some
15 additional, you know, presentations on extraction
16 and social impacts. And then just listen to
17 what, you know, the community desires, their
18 vision for the Salton Sea. That type of thing.
19 So, Jonathan.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I would just
21 volunteer, we held one large community town hall
22 meeting, I think it was March 9, and then did
23 another meeting through the auspices actually of
24 Assembly Member Garcia's office. I put together
25 some slides for that and would gladly volunteer

1 to have them. I think it would be again, you
2 know, we'll go through the details, but I think
3 it'd be nice for us to make a presentation to the
4 community to start. And a lot of the slides I
5 have relate to those environmental impacts. So
6 I'll get those to you, Sylvia.

7 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Or we'll work
9 with staff on that. Delighted to help that.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. Thank you. So I think
11 these are, and thank you, Mr. Hanks, I know he's
12 going to have to leave shortly for another
13 meeting but thank you for being here.

14 So then our next step is just to find a
15 date and then start planning for this other
16 meeting. And we're going to have support from
17 the CEC for this additional meeting.

18 So if there's no other comments, that we
19 can open it for public comment, Elisabeth.

20 MS. DE JONG: Yes. And thank you. So if
21 you're joining us on -- by Zoom on your computer,
22 please use the right hand feature and if you've
23 called in please dial *9 and use to raise your
24 hand and then *6 to unmute your phone line.
25 First we'll go to hands raised in the Zoom

1 application.

2 We do have one hand raised from Eric
3 Reyes. You should be able to unmute.

4 MR. REYES: Yeah. Hello. Eric Reyes
5 from Los Amigos de la Comunidad Imperial Valley.
6 And I do feel it should be an official Commission
7 meeting because people will want to know who the
8 Commissioners are if they're not familiar with
9 those. We know some of them locally, but not all
10 of them. And also to have Assemblyman Garcia
11 available, or his staff, and also for the federal
12 level, maybe Raul Ruiz or someone. So how that
13 interconnects with the lithium at the federal and
14 state level as well. Thank you.

15 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I do not see
16 any other public comments at this time.

17 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I think that was
19 a good -- I think that was a good comment from
20 the caller.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

22 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: I certainly have,
23 In fact I just met with -- met with a
24 Representative Ruiz a couple of weeks ago. Also
25 Juan Vargas represents, you know, Imperial

1 County, Ruiz is Riverside. And but the Salton
2 Sea is actually divided between the two of them.
3 But I think that's a great idea. And I'm
4 guessing that Assembly Member Garcia would be
5 delighted. So I think that's a great idea.

6 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So, again, we'll
7 bring that back with more details, or you'll be
8 hearing from CEC staff around the dates and other
9 logistics for that meeting.

10 Moving on to presentation. So as you
11 recall, we've had several presentations in the
12 past that give us a perspective and the status of
13 where lithium is in the Salton Sea. For this
14 meeting we've invited additional panelists to
15 give us their, maybe a more global perspective on
16 lithium detailing their projects, current status
17 of development, the touch of infrastructure
18 that's needed to support lithium development
19 including the full supply chain development
20 plans, and the respective workforce or skilled
21 labor needs or other related topics.

22 So the panel, we will hear from Derek
23 Bensons with EnergySource, Dr. Rebecca Paisley
24 with Cornish Lithium, and UC Santa Cruz professor
25 Fernando Leiva, who has experience with Lithium

1 development in Chile. So again, I want to thank
2 all of our panelists and we will start, I
3 believe, with Derek Benson.

4 MR. BENSON: Great. Can you hear me
5 okay?

6 CHAIR PAZ: Yes, we can.

7 MR. BENSON: Okay. Thank you. I am
8 Derek Benson, chief operating officer for
9 EnergySource Minerals. Appreciate the
10 opportunity to speak. So thank you,
11 Commissioners and all who are in attendance here,
12 virtually.

13 A little background, EnergySource
14 Minerals is a -- is a sister company, if you
15 will, of EnergySource. We developed the Hudson
16 Ranch, now known as the Featherstone Plant. That
17 is what you see in the -- in the picture here.
18 So that is the geothermal power operations. The
19 minerals facility will be co-located adjacent to
20 this facility just immediately to the west,
21 around there.

22 So I wanted to, you know, briefly cover
23 the topics the Commission asked. Kind of talking
24 about what our infrastructure needs are, you
25 know, what our development timeline looks like.

1 But one of the things, you know, I really want to
2 focus on because I think I've heard a kind of a
3 theme and a thread through the discussion today,
4 you know, about some of the environmental issues,
5 attributes. And you know, one of the other
6 important aspects here is we're talking about a
7 resilient US based supply.

8 So one of the great things about geothermal,
9 obviously, there's a lot of latent heat still in
10 the residual brine. That certainly helps with
11 our downstream mineral recovery process. But I
12 think inherently, you know brines, alternative
13 brines if you will, but any brine can have a
14 lower environmental impact if we look at doing a
15 selective lithium extraction technique. So
16 rather than use, you know, hard rock mining,
17 which has, you know it's energy intensive or, you
18 know, evaporative ponds, which while they do
19 benefit from solar evaporation, they're
20 inefficient, they're somewhat unreliable and that
21 they're relying on the weather. So we addressed
22 a number of those issues here, you know, with
23 a -- with a selective lithium extraction
24 technique. So next slide, please.

25 So I touched on this, you know just a

1 second ago, but when we commissioned an
2 independent, you know, third party life-cycle
3 analysis for our unit operations. And what we
4 see is the smallest carbon footprint of any
5 lithium production technique. It's the lowest
6 unit water user of any lithium production
7 technique. And then equally important, it has
8 the smallest land footprint by, arguably, orders
9 of magnitude.

10 So we're looking at a process that will
11 fit, you know approximately on a 30 acre site.
12 When you talk about a hard rock mine, you know
13 it's a hundred-fold bigger, and when you talk
14 about an evaporation pond, you're talking about a
15 thousand-fold bigger footprint. So in all of
16 these metrics, we certainly believed those to be
17 the case, but you know, to maintain some
18 independence, we commissioned that third party
19 study and it sort of validates the metric. So I
20 think as you think about, you know, industrial
21 development in California, in the US, having that
22 being done responsibly is very important. And I
23 think, you know, as you -- as you look to
24 automakers and end users of lithium products, be
25 they computers or cell phones, you know, it's

1 important to have a lower environmental footprint
2 and impact. And, you know geothermal brines are
3 certainly able to deliver, you know, in those
4 metrics that, you know, in product, you know,
5 consumer product manufacturers that are dealing
6 with. You know, that's something consumers are
7 more attuned to and we're able to respond. So
8 next slide.

9 So I'll try and be brief, I know we only
10 have, you know, a few minutes for the intro. But
11 you know, we began the development exercise back
12 in 2016, looked at a number of technologies, and
13 then ultimately ended up pursuing a solution that
14 was, you know, a number of commercially available
15 processes and combined those together to form a
16 solution that would work at the Salton Sea. And
17 then over a few years we did pilot work,
18 completed a feasibility study. Certainly this is
19 probably the right moment to once again thank the
20 CEC for a engineering grant that was given to us
21 a few years back that we used to do some basic
22 engineering. And that certainly was helpful as
23 we defined cost, project scope, those kind of
24 things.

25 So where we sit today is kind of moving

1 full speed ahead with an anticipated start of
2 construction very early 2022. And a construction
3 period that looks around 22, 24 months. So
4 delivery is beginning in early 2024 is our
5 current time planning. Next slide.

6 So the -- a question was raised like,
7 what are our infrastructure needs? And obviously
8 the part of the county we're at, we're sort of up
9 near Niland, just off the Salton Sea. So we're
10 the northeastern most facility out there,
11 northeast of Berkshire's facilities. And as you
12 look to, you know, the future and you know
13 I -- there's been a lot of discussion over the
14 years of what, you know, what a fully developed
15 mineral recovery ecosystem might look like. One
16 of the infrastructure needs would be rail access.
17 And it's not critical for day one. But
18 obviously, as you go forward, rail is a more
19 efficient way to move, you know, goods and
20 services in and out.

21 And so it's not something we as a project
22 developer really have the bandwidth right now to
23 address. It's certainly something that, you
24 know, as we get the project up and running, we'll
25 look to find cost effective ways to get materials

1 in and out, and rail is certainly one of those.
2 Now rail exists in the area, but you know, their
3 improvements would need to be there.

4 Second, you know we as part of our
5 project program, you know, in going through the
6 California Environmental Quality Review, you know
7 all of the impacts are reviewed and, you know
8 during construction, you know, movements to and
9 from the site during operations, you know, you
10 have to look at the traffic.

11 And so one of the things, you know, we
12 will have to do is make some road improvements.
13 What problematic, I guess, as a word, is that,
14 you know, we spend a lot of time worrying about,
15 you know, putting in a traffic turn lane and
16 these kind of things, which we don't disagree
17 will be needed, but doing them incrementally, you
18 know, may not be the most efficient way. And
19 certainly from a, you know, an engineering and
20 time perspective, it does tie up a number of
21 individuals or consultants that we use to make
22 sure those things happen. But it's done little
23 by little, project by project. And looking at
24 more holistically, I think would certainly be
25 advantageous.

1 And then -- and then lastly, this
2 is -- this is just a, you know, a minutia in the
3 whole system in terms of infrastructure. But
4 you know, thinking about, you know, the digital
5 divide that we have, certainly that part of the
6 region, we suffer from a just a terrible Internet
7 service. And so the providers on, you know, my
8 apologies, but we constantly lose communication.
9 And so that's just something that we need to
10 address in the long term. So next slide.

11 The comment here I just want to make is
12 that obviously, you know, it's important as
13 we -- as we look to go forward, a number of
14 issues have emerged in the global supply chain.
15 You know, issues between the US and China trade
16 relations, a boat getting stuck in the Suez
17 Canal, you know, everything. You realize how
18 integrated we are, but also how fragile some of
19 these systems are. And so, you know, we
20 would -- we would love to induce, you know, the
21 full battery supply chain here. But, you know,
22 we just remain focused on executing as a -- as a
23 primary resource project and hope that, you know,
24 it's you know, as we build and as auto, you know,
25 consumer demand for electric autos increases

1 that, you know, inherently that that's coming.
2 And we'll see if it happens to co-locate or
3 regionally, we get that development. But for
4 now, we remain focused on, you know, delivering a
5 project and not necessarily, you know, up and
6 down the supply chain, but certainly, you know,
7 kind of active in the dialogue there. Next
8 slide.

9 The other issue we were asked to kind of
10 touch on real quick, kind of our workforce needs.
11 Let me give you a sense of the construction
12 effort here. We're looking at about a million
13 work hours during the construction phase. Again,
14 you're looking at, you know, 22 to 24 months. So
15 it's a meaningful amount of work, meaning the
16 amount of workers. And, you know, so that's a
17 big economic, you know, benefit of the project.
18 Once operational, we're looking at about 60 full
19 time positions, you know, on site, from you know,
20 the plant manager down through the control room
21 operators, chemists, engineers, maintenance
22 technicians, mechanics, you know pretty diverse
23 group and a pretty good salaried mix of workers
24 there.

25 And obviously, you know, with a project

1 like this and the economic activity is
2 additionally, you know, falls to that, sort of
3 that 3X multiplier between services, support, you
4 know, major maintenance events, all those kind of
5 things add to the real employment generated by
6 the project, you know, transportation, logistics
7 certain there. So, you know, it generates a lot
8 of economic activity once operational, not just
9 to in construction. Next slide I think might be
10 it.

11 So I just wanted to be quick and brief
12 and, you know, happy to answer questions in the
13 next phase, but again, thanks. Thanks for your
14 time.

15 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Derek for that.
16 Next we have Dr. Rebecca Paisley.

17 DR. PAISLEY: Hi. Thanks for inviting us
18 today, or this evening now, for me. I'm worried.
19 I've only got five minutes. So it's just very
20 much a whistle stop tour with the hope of
21 answering a few questions later on in a panel
22 session. If we skip straight over the next
23 slide, please.

24 A disclaimer to read at your leisure.
25 Oh, sadly none of the photos have come up. What

1 a shame. Imagine a nice, pretty photo of
2 Cornwall in the sunshine there. So we are
3 Cornish Lithium. We're a private company founded
4 in 2016 by our CEO, Jeremy Russell and our
5 interest in responsible extraction of lithium and
6 other battery vessels across Cornwall. And so
7 we've gone about this by securing mineral rights
8 of the region. We have about 15% of Cornwall now
9 covered by our mineral rights, and then are
10 funding our exploration programs through a series
11 of shareholders and crowdfunding. If we can go
12 the next slide, please.

13 Again, sadly, the photos haven't to come
14 up. We have four major exploration streams, but
15 I will just focus on, I will skim over the
16 hard-rock lithium, and then we'll talk a little
17 bit about our geothermal exploration. So our
18 hard-rock lithium in these Mica minerals that are
19 found in the granite underlay's of the County of
20 Cornwall. And if we can go to the next slide,
21 please.

22 One back. There we go. We are currently
23 undertaking a second drill campaign. It's been
24 going on for a few weeks now and we can -- it
25 will continue for a few weeks more in the hope of

1 achieving a JORC compliant resource in the St.
2 Austell region of Cornwall. There's a photo of
3 an open pit in the slides when they're presented
4 online. And we're working with a company called
5 Imerys who have been previously mining this
6 region of China clay. And we have also been
7 working with a company called Lepidico and have
8 now agreed to an exclusive license for their
9 processing route to process the mica minerals
10 from Cornwall using this L-Max hydrometallurgical
11 process.

12 And we have really successful test work
13 last year with over 90% extraction of our lithium
14 and production of battery grade lithium
15 hydroxide. And so this project is moving pretty
16 quickly. And the real benefit of this, this
17 project for Cornish Lithium and for Cornwall in
18 general, is that we are redeveloping at
19 brownfield sites. You know, this is already an
20 open pit and there's a series of open pits. You
21 can actually see them from space if you go onto
22 Google Maps. And we also have a huge amount of
23 pre-existing infrastructure in the region because
24 Cornwall's had 4000 years of mining, you know the
25 last 18th, 19th centuries, tin and copper, and

1 today with the China clay region. And so we can
2 really redevelop the area that's already there
3 and we have great access to ports with railways
4 and various road infrastructures. If we can go
5 to the next slide, please.

6 So artisanal exploration, which I guess
7 we are all here to talk about today. We have two
8 major exploration streams at Cornish Lithium. We
9 call them our shallows and our deeps. Shallow
10 being about, well everything under about two
11 kilometers of drilling. And then deep geothermal
12 is, I guess more familiar to people on this call,
13 that's the lithium plus geothermal power. We've
14 got rapid with progression on both fronts,
15 really. This year has been largely about
16 consolidating our exploration efforts and
17 understanding resource estimation in Cornwall for
18 that. And also, direct lithium extraction
19 testing, which again, I think quite a few people
20 on the call are very familiar with and those who
21 aren't, more than happy to talk about that in any
22 panel session later.

23 But we've really been focusing on trying
24 different technologies to understand what works
25 best for the chemistry of the waters in Cornwall.

1 They're quite unique and they're very different
2 to those that are found in the Salton Sea. And
3 as part of that, we've been awarded some funding
4 from the UK Counsel, well UK Co-counsel for the
5 local government authority of a few -- several
6 million dollars to progress that development by
7 the commissioning of a pilot plant by March 2022.
8 So it's just about 11 months now, and that would
9 be a lithium pilot plant that can run in
10 conjunction to a geothermal power plant. And
11 that called the GeoCubed Project, which we're
12 promoting right now with a hopefully a test plant
13 that will be presented at the G7, which is
14 happening in about six weeks' time now. And if
15 we can go to the next slide, please.

16 Yes, supporting infrastructure. So I
17 think the last two slides I'll skim through, but
18 this is probably where the UK and the US diverge
19 in terms of our infrastructure. The UK -- the,
20 well we're both interested in ultimately
21 producing lithium that can be used in these
22 electric vehicles. And the UK has a very strong
23 automotive industry that you know employs over
24 800,000 people. But we don't have a lot of that
25 value chain prior to an electric vehicle being

1 produced in the UK.

2 And what's become apparent since Brexit,
3 so in the last four or five months is what's
4 called the Rules of Origin. And in the UK now,
5 if you were to sell electric vehicles, at least
6 50 to 60% of that vehicle has to be made in the
7 UK to avoid any export fees. And so that means
8 that essentially the electric vehicle battery has
9 to be produced in the UK. And so there is a
10 rapid kind of increase in R&D and investment into
11 the earlier parts of that value chain, which
12 includes, you know, your material extraction,
13 which is what you want my day job is, but also
14 that material refining, cathode production, and
15 then getting those Gigafactories into the UK.

16 What we do have, though, is a huge amount
17 of existing infrastructure, ports are obviously
18 very close. You know, I can cycle from the south
19 coast to the north coast of Cornwall and back in
20 under two hours. It's 20 miles there and back
21 where, you know it's -- everything's very
22 condensed in comparison to the US. And one thing
23 that has also come up in terms of supporting
24 infrastructure, which I think is lacking
25 globally, is a lot of high quality accredited

1 assay labs that can analyze lithium. And the
2 kind of standardization of analyzing lithium
3 globally is not yet -- there is no industry
4 standard, essentially. And so that's definitely
5 something that globally we need to work on. If
6 we can just go to the final slide, please.
7 Fantastic.

8 Since I'm running over, I'll skim through
9 it. But I just really listed some -- the kind of
10 workforce that Cornish Lithium require coming
11 into kind of the next 12 to 24 months or so. We
12 are quickly expanding and so we are very much
13 developing a workforce that's transitioning from
14 exploration into production. I say replace -- I
15 say developing, more expanding. You know, just
16 expanding. So we are looking at hiring those
17 kind of processing engineers as we are moving
18 into the, understanding the geothermal potential
19 of Cornwall, we are looking at consulting with
20 people who have that geothermal expertise. That
21 there hasn't been any production of geothermal
22 heat or geothermal power in the UK previously.
23 And we need a lot of skilled technicians and
24 metallurgists to process the lithium, again,
25 because we have two sources of lithium in

1 Cornwall that are unique in or not industry
2 standard at the moment, that being mica minerals
3 and geothermal waters.

4 And finally, because we're using a lot of
5 innovative exploration techniques, data
6 scientists who can develop machine learning
7 algorithms are essential to our company and land
8 agents because of the complex mineral rights in
9 the UK.

10 So that's the end of my very quick talk,
11 but I'm happy to talk more in a bit.

12 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Next, we have
13 Professor Fernando Leiva from the UC Santa Cruz.

14 PROFESSOR LEIVA: Good afternoon, Chair
15 Paz, Commission members, members of the public
16 and panelists. My name is Fernando Leiva. I'm a
17 professor of Latin American and Latino studies at
18 California, Santa Cruz. At UCSC, I coordinate
19 the research cluster on critical cultural
20 political economy of extractivism. And my
21 research and teaching focuses on socio-
22 environmental conflicts in the Americas. I want
23 to thank the Lithium Valley Commission and its
24 members and staff for allowing me to address
25 today's session with this brief presentation on

1 Lithium Lessons from Chile to the Salton Sea. As
2 the exciting opportunities to develop lithium
3 from the Salton Sea are explored, my presentation
4 stresses the importance of looking at the
5 experience of lithium production in other parts
6 of the world, and particularly, Chile. I can
7 offer many lessons of how not to do things, I
8 would say. Next slide, please.

9 Why Chile? And Elisabeth, if you can
10 keep going until all the -- all the animations
11 are present there. Next. Why Chile and why,
12 despite the many differences that exist between
13 the Salton Sea and the Atacama Salt Flats, one
14 can see this experience teach us as we explore
15 how to best develop lithium from the Salton Sea.
16 As you can see there, Chile's home to the largest
17 lithium brine reserves in the world. These
18 brines are part of complex socio-ecological
19 systems. There are many interactions that
20 support biodiversity hotspots, community
21 livelihoods and reach indigenous cultural
22 heritage.

23 Water sources in the middle of this
24 desert are extremely limited. And currently and
25 over the past decade, there have been large

1 amounts of national and transnational capital
2 being invested in mining projects located in the
3 Atacama Desert region. As a result,
4 socio-environmental conflicts have multiplied.
5 In 2016 for example, Chile's National Human
6 Rights Commission identified 116 different
7 conflicts between our corporations and
8 communities. So far, one of the country's
9 preeminent business association established that
10 about 57 billion dollars of investment projects,
11 roughly 20% of the country's GDP, had been
12 paralyzed, judicialized, stalled, or abandoned
13 because of these conflicts. Next slide, please.

14 So one of the interesting things is that
15 over the past three decades and from all of these
16 complex interactions, the major actors and
17 stakeholders in copper, gold, and lithium mining
18 have undergone an arduous process of learning, of
19 shifting their stance. Next, Elizabeth. Show
20 them all, please.

21 You know, so it's complicated to
22 summarize in one minute, you know, the trajectory
23 of each of these stakeholders, but I think, you
24 know, to give you an overall sense, I would say
25 communities have gone from an initial passivity,

1 to a defensive action, to now crafting visions of
2 alternative and sustainable development for them,
3 government and state institutions, you know from
4 deregulation to an emphasis on corporate
5 self-reporting to, after 2015, 16, enhancing more
6 the regulatory power of state institutions. And
7 the very powerful mining corporations that are
8 present in Chile have gone from what I would say,
9 an initial arrogance and deaf ears to community
10 demands or requirements, to a sect in the 90s, to
11 a second phase of strategies to co-opt and divide
12 communities, to thankfully more recently,
13 discovering that engaging with communities in
14 participatory dialogue is a much better way of,
15 you know, achieving the social license to
16 operate. Next slide, please.

17 So I think there are four key lessons.
18 And Elisabeth if you can show them all again for
19 the sake of time. Four lessons that, you know,
20 can be learned from Chile, lesson one, the costs
21 of late learning or learning late. You know with
22 the benefit of hindsight, we can look back at the
23 last twenty five years and see how wrong
24 decisions, mistakes made along the way have
25 exhausted socio-ecological systems, have meant a

1 loss of development opportunities for communities
2 and for the sector, for the country, have
3 produced recurring and multi-scalar crisis of
4 political legitimacy of different actors at all
5 levels of city and society.

6 We have seen processes of corporate
7 retrenchment or entrenchment by, you know,
8 powerful actors like SQM where they have resorted
9 to undo or even illegal mote forms of influencing
10 decisions to promote their interests.

11 The second lesson is, you know, the need
12 to move from kind of reductionist approaches that
13 emphasize, you know, economic output or, you
14 know, wildlife survival to a much more holistic
15 or socio-ecological perspective.

16 A third lesson is the value of
17 participatory government. Many times top down
18 bureaucratic approaches to addressing the
19 complexities of mining operations have proven to
20 be quite limited. And engaging actively, all
21 stakeholders from the very beginning, from the
22 design of the project throughout all the
23 different phases is proving to be a much better
24 way to move forward.

25 And then finally, the fourth lesson is

1 that there's a real contribution and synergy that
2 can be achieved when the different knowledges
3 have come together or that, you know, impinge a
4 mining project are brought together. You know,
5 mining companies have tremendously sophisticated
6 technical engineering knowledge. They have
7 scientific knowledge. You know, government
8 authorities have administrative legal knowledge,
9 but they often overlook another source of
10 important knowledge that resides in the community
11 based knowledge of the inhabitants surrounding
12 these corporations. And when these more
13 participatory forms of governance are deployed,
14 you know, project design, the fulfillment of the
15 promises of these projects is better ensured.
16 Next slide, please.

17 Can you click the next one? So a review
18 of the literature by the preeminent scholars
19 studying the trajectory of lithium production in
20 Chile and who have published their work in
21 peer -- top peer reviewed English language
22 journals, and some of who are listed at the end
23 of this slide, have you know, reached the
24 conclusion that is dramatic, you know, after a
25 quarter of a century of the existence of lithium

1 production and lithium extraction, they conclude
2 that the potential impacts of lithium extraction,
3 especially on frontline communities, have not
4 been studied holistically.

5 To achieve to arrive at this conclusion,
6 they engage in a peer review of, you know, almost
7 40 years of publications on lithium. And you can
8 see that much of the emphasis has been on the
9 role of lithium ion batteries. You know, the
10 technical the economic aspects, the design
11 aspects, but not on, you know what ultimately
12 this amazing technology that lithium extraction
13 can engender is being overlooked, and that's, you
14 know, really improving the lives of, you know,
15 communities. Next slide, please. Next slide.

16 So you know, after a quarter century of
17 lithium production in Chile, many mistakes and
18 costly decisions resulting in the destruction of
19 ecosystems, loss of political legitimacy by
20 corporate and state authorities, loss or an
21 increase in environmental injustices perpetrated
22 on local indigenous and non-indigenous
23 communities. It has finally begun to dawn on
24 many stakeholders about the importance of
25 adopting what Nobel Memorial Prize economics

1 laureate Elinor Ostrom and others have called a
2 holistic socio-ecological framework.

3 So I encourage the Commission to remain
4 steadfast in the efforts to craft such an
5 approach and to continue to -- as it continues to
6 explore the promise and exciting opportunities of
7 lithium extraction for the people and communities
8 of, you know, Coachella, Imperial County, and
9 for all of us in California. Thank you.

10 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Fernando. I mean,
11 I'm just sitting here and looking at all the
12 interactions and the links between the various
13 presenters and one of the thing that jumps out at
14 me is the common link and interest, although not
15 always apparent between the development of
16 lithium and the needs of the community has,
17 because Derek mentioned, especially on that
18 infrastructure side, right, the need for roads,
19 for broadband. Those have been needs that our
20 community has been uplifting for many, many
21 years. And now during the pandemic, the need for
22 broadband, and the disparities in broadband
23 access, you know, have been at the forefront of
24 conversations in the pandemic. So I really think
25 we have an opportunity here to do this right and

1 maybe figuring out how we can do that. And how
2 do we think while the developers are thinking
3 about you know, their priority, which is how do
4 we extract lithium and get it to development.

5 Maybe my first question is directed at
6 both Derek and Fernando around how can we start
7 thinking holistically in partnership with the
8 community about planning for these multi benefits
9 that could be achieved through the development of
10 lithium and, you know, the related needs and
11 infrastructure needs in particular. So any
12 lessons learned or things that we should be
13 thinking about. Again, this question, this one's
14 for Derek and Fernando.

15 MR. BENSON: So I guess I, being
16 mentioned first, I'll take a -- take a shot at
17 it. So again, Derek Benson with the EnergySource
18 Minerals. You know the interesting thing, you
19 know I -- from a project developer, you know,
20 perspective obviously, you know, a lot of our
21 time and energy is, you know, trying to mitigate,
22 you know, a lot of risk. And whether that's
23 technology risk, market risk, there are a number
24 of things that, you know, projects have to
25 contend with that are really, you know, some are

1 within their control and some are very much, you
2 know, outside of your control.

3 When you think about like community,
4 community infrastructure, you know these projects
5 are, you know I guess they're relatively small in
6 terms of their footprint, but they're, I guess,
7 relatively big in terms of some of the attributes
8 that they have, whether that's, you know, tax
9 base, job creation, these kind of things. And so
10 for us, it, I'll be candid, it's hard to get a
11 sense of the holistic view. Like what is the
12 County's, you know, multi-year plan? Because
13 we're really just a small element of a big, large
14 infrastructure issue, and whether that's, you
15 know, road improvements resurfacing, whether
16 it's, you know highway, you know, reengineering.
17 You know, one of the things we deal with is, you
18 know, do you have a bridge crossing, a railroad
19 crossing? All those infrastructure questions are
20 expensive to answer and they're -- and they're
21 hard to budget.

22 And so from my point of view, we really
23 don't always have the 30,000 foot level of what
24 the County is thinking about in terms of
25 infrastructure. And so to some sense, you know,

1 ignorance is not a -- is not a proper response.
2 But at the same time, you know, our impacts are
3 very localized in terms of, like I mentioned I
4 think in the -- in the discussion, you know, do
5 you put a turn lane in is part of the study we do
6 with CalTrans. You know, that's taking a long
7 time. And it's one little turn lane. I can't
8 imagine. You know, when you look at a countywide
9 issue, what you know, what all is going on and
10 what is, you know, the priority rank for the
11 County? I assure you, it's probably not that.
12 And so that falls to the project.

13 So from our standpoint, we go through
14 that CEQA process, and I think that's the benefit
15 of California's CEQA process is you see the
16 project, its impacts both good and bad in
17 totality, and then we mitigate those risk or
18 those issues. So it -- I think it's a step, but
19 you know, maybe I'll let you know, Fernando go.

20 MR. LEIVA: Thank you. Yeah. I think
21 that's a really great question, and what Mr.
22 Benson explained is, you know, part of
23 the -- part of the challenges that are faced in
24 the development of these projects. I think, you
25 know from the experience of Chile, what seems to

1 be working is when all of these three main
2 actors, you know, the developers, or the
3 corporations, the State authorities, and the
4 community come together and sit around the table
5 acknowledging that they might not have all the
6 answers. They have a lot of questions and just
7 get a sense of what are the different
8 perspectives about these issues. And they are
9 very different perspectives, initially.

10 I think from observing and investigating,
11 you know, these conflicts in the Americas, you
12 realize that there are different time frames, or
13 temporalities at work. You know, the corporation
14 has a certain temporality that guides its
15 actions. You know, State authorities have
16 another temporality, and the community has
17 another, you know time frame within which it
18 evaluates, and it makes sense of things. But if
19 those three actors come together, you know, the
20 possibility of, you know, learning those
21 differences and, you know, really listening to
22 the other actor can create a, you know, a climate
23 for dialogue. Not that it's a magic solution,
24 but it can -- it can really change the climate in
25 which these interactions take place.

1 One of the things that has happened in
2 Chile is that in some cases, you know beyond just
3 the approval or the design of a particular
4 project, the discussion has evolved or morphed
5 precisely in that direction that Mr. Benson
6 saying, you know, it's too complex. And it, and
7 what I mean by that is local development. You
8 know, having that 30,000 foot vision of how the
9 Region might develop. And you know, there has
10 been through -- this has been accomplished
11 through the creation of you know, tripartite
12 local development corporations where all the
13 stakeholders come together. Imagine, you know,
14 what a desirable development for the Region would
15 be like and then, you know, figure out how to
16 contribute to that happening.

17 So you know, but my answer, it can seem
18 like very utopian, a fantasy, given the demands
19 and logics that guide the actions of the
20 developers or State authorities. But you know,
21 if you -- if you make the effort, I think you
22 can -- you can avoid a lot of problems that, you
23 know, will appear down the pike and that are not,
24 you know, identified at this point.

25 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Fernando and

1 Derek. I do have another question for Dr.
2 Paisley before we open it up for Q&A with the
3 rest of the Commissioners. So you mentioned
4 something that's really -- was interesting to me,
5 which is the UK's mandate or requirement for a
6 certain percentage of electric vehicle parts to
7 be manufactured in the UK, if I heard that
8 correctly. And my question to you is, you know
9 what can California learn about those
10 requirements? What are some of the lessons
11 learned both for the industry, what it means for
12 potentially the State?

13 DR. PAISLEY: Yeah. So the Rules of
14 Origin don't just apply to electric vehicles,
15 it's from my understanding, anything. And it's
16 essentially to stop people bringing in materials
17 from, or you know, equipment from anywhere else
18 in the world, you know Asia or Europe, and
19 packaging it as something else and then shipping
20 it off. And so I think it, in the UK at least,
21 and for the automotive industry, it's really
22 everyone now has a common goal. I feel like
23 that's probably the best way to put it. And so
24 it's like yes, we -- the pieces are starting to
25 fall into place and rather than talking about

1 doing something, people are actually doing it
2 now. So I think that was, that's kind of what's
3 come out of that. And I guess maybe that can
4 apply to California as well rather than let,
5 rather than talking about building Gigafactories
6 and talking about refining, and people are like
7 well, actually taking out the gaps in that value
8 chain and targeting, you know, financial
9 investment in plugging those gaps, be it
10 production, you know, if it's lithium material,
11 refining or cathode production, and so on. So,
12 yeah.

13 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Again, I
14 appreciate you being here. And I will open it
15 for questions. And I see Tom Soto.

16 COMMISSIONER SOTO: Thank you. So you
17 know, just some thoughts. This is a really good
18 presentation or set of presentations. And you
19 know, Rebecca, to your point was, you know,
20 California has a long history of, you know,
21 maintaining a floor in economics for new things
22 going to market like this. And, you know, with
23 the leadership that we have with Assembly Member
24 Garcia, for example, he has a bill this year in
25 the legislature that will require, you know it's

1 a content requirement. So, you know that, if
2 that were to be signed by the governor, that
3 really helps to bookend and de-risk additional
4 capital coming in, and then perhaps getting the
5 State to put up some debt to build some of these
6 facilities that Rod, and others are attempting to
7 build.

8 You know, for the other presentations as
9 well. You know, and I greatly appreciate hearing
10 about Chile and so forth, but we don't have to
11 go, you know, to Chile to see that disparity.
12 When we hear Mr. Benson talking about the lack of
13 Internet and so forth in the Valley, you know,
14 it's -- we could look at Silicon Valley as a
15 great example where you have just considerable
16 amounts of wealth. And then across the freeway
17 at East Palo Alto, one of the more challenged
18 economic communities in the State of California.
19 And I think that part of our mandate is to make
20 sure that, although the world is going through
21 this fourth industrial revolution, we need to
22 make sure that with that tide, all ships lift,
23 and including the Imperial Valley.

24 So having that infrastructure demand,
25 whether it's telecommunication, whether it is

1 physical, such as roads and concrete, you know,
2 that part of our mandate should be to look at
3 that and how as we begin to develop this sector
4 in the Valley, how it's going to improve the
5 quality of life with respect to those components
6 that help to increase the velocity that better
7 education, better health care and so forth.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Tom. Luis Olmedo.

9 Commissioner Olmedo: Yeah. Thank you to
10 our Presenters. I appreciate the entire
11 information. It's a lot of unknowns and so, more
12 information we get, we begin to formulate a
13 better picture of what the holistic approach to
14 development of this technology and this type of
15 industry locally.

16 Some things that do come to mind is in
17 the -- in economically depressed area like this
18 region, like the Imperial Valley, there's
19 historically, and I've lived here the majority of
20 my life, so I've seen it, both growing up here
21 but also in the professional field, that we have
22 a lot of development always shows up with the
23 promise of creating jobs and it tends to be sort
24 of the negotiating and the wow factor in these
25 communities. But the more that communities

1 become more aware of how many resources are at
2 their discretion, at their hands, the
3 negotiations tend to change.

4 In, for example, I mean, there's more
5 community negotiating power when it comes to
6 water, when it comes to land, when it comes to
7 incentives, when it comes to policy. And so it
8 would be great to see that conversation evolve as
9 we're learning through this process. All the ins
10 and out, and all the components of what this
11 industry could look like here, as to what that
12 conversation could look like.

13 So I really appreciate, again, the
14 different the different views, the different
15 approaches. And as we hear more of all of you,
16 hopefully repeat at times so we get more
17 information that we -- I would like to see what
18 that conversation looks like. I think the
19 conversation about jobs, we've heard it enough,
20 so we know we need jobs. We understand that
21 skilled labor may not be here right now, perhaps
22 not to this specific industry, but what does that
23 conversation look like moving forward, knowing
24 that as a community learns how to utilize the
25 mechanism of engagement, of civic engagement, of

1 better managing and being better involved in how
2 it invests its natural resources. Ultimately,
3 much of what is necessary for the industry is in
4 the public domain, right. And I think it would
5 be -- it would be very innovative, not just in
6 terms of technology, but in terms of
7 conversation.

8 So I appreciate everybody's presentation
9 and again, getting, you know, just different
10 views and yeah. Thank you.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Luis. Rod
12 Colwell.

13 COMMISSIONER COLWELL: Yeah. Look, mines
14 just more of an observation. And Doctor Leiva,
15 that was a great observation between social and
16 commercial. You know that we've never really
17 seen that before. So obviously 116 conflicts,
18 you know, and I suspect a lot of the conflicts on
19 a social side is scarring of the land. You know,
20 these large, you know -- you know evaporation
21 ponds. And to that point, large, you know uses
22 of, you know evaporating of water. That's, you
23 know, in some places less than an inch of rain a
24 year. You know, you could imagine that would,
25 you know, enact major concern. So that was a

1 really good presentation.

2 And then to, you know, Commission
3 Olmedo's point, you know, the combination of two,
4 it's firstly education. To Derek's point or Mr.
5 Benson's point where, you know, thermal brine.
6 So it's still a brine deposit, but you know, to
7 Derek's point where you're, you know, you're a
8 very small footprint. So that's the first part
9 of education. We're not utilizing, or the
10 industry's not utilizing large evaporation ponds,
11 you know, 10000 acres or anything like that.
12 We're talking a couple hundred acres, as Derek
13 mentioned.

14 Timing, commercially. So from oil head
15 to super-sect, less than an hour. Production,
16 simply because we have copious amounts of green
17 steam, you know to be able to sort of accelerate
18 that process. You know, to Derek's points,
19 infrastructure requirements, absolutely. You
20 know, we've got to sort of pull together here to
21 get a, I guess collective base. I think
22 location's good. The rail to base rail's here,
23 the shipping and everything else.

24 And to Rebecca's point, you know,
25 colocation opportunities, you know, taking rather

1 than, you know, completing a super-sect full of
2 lithium hydroxide that needs to go back to a
3 salt, then ultimately get rehydrated again
4 offshore, I mean it effectively could all happen
5 on site, but at the same time, all of those
6 three, you know, great observations, great
7 presentations relevant to exactly what the
8 Commission's about is, you know, the community
9 engagement, you know, education. This is
10 what's -- this is what it is. This is what's
11 involved, and then sort of going on to jobs and
12 everything else. So thank you all three. That
13 was very, very helpful.

14 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Rod. Rebecca.

15 DR. PAISLEY: Yeah. I just thought I
16 would mention kind of the unique position that
17 Cornwall is in with respect to that community
18 engagement. And Siday [ph.] is a town near our
19 geothermal well and was once the richest square
20 mile in the world. And it is now the area of
21 highest poverty in Europe. And that's happened
22 over five generations. And that's because mining
23 was essential to Cornwall. And then in 1998, the
24 last mine closed in the southwest. And so in
25 terms of our engagement, when mining or mineral

1 exploration is coming back into Cornwall. But I
2 guess we are in a unique position of the
3 population knows how much they can gain from
4 having mineral exploration in their backyard, and
5 we're one of the few areas in Europe that
6 actually has a very positive social license to
7 operate in that sense. But they, they being, you
8 know, the local population, expects you to be
9 engaged. And we as a company have done that from
10 the outset. And we always are doing more than is
11 required of us. You know, I've given four or
12 five talks in schools this year alone.

13 We consistently go to every parish, you
14 know,, every parish council meeting for the local
15 area that we're drilling in to say, look, this is
16 what we're doing, and these are the updates and
17 what are your opinions on this? And so in
18 Cornwall, at least, you have to build that from
19 the get go. And touching on Rod Colwell's point
20 about that education, it's really not -- it
21 sometimes I think we find that they want to
22 be -- they want to have that discussion with you
23 not be spoken at. And I was just doing some
24 filming today and one of the camera guys was
25 asking about, just asking about the lithium ,

1 that she was really interested in. It's that
2 science communication of being able to explain
3 these really quite complex processes to people
4 who aren't geologists or aren't engineers. And
5 not spinning it in a positive way because, you
6 know, this is a really positive thing and I think
7 that communication and doing the holograph would
8 really be something that the companies in Europe
9 area can benefit from. So I just thought I would
10 at that point. Thermal's quite unique in that
11 sense.

12 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you for adding that. I
13 think, again, as we are starting, you know, we're
14 in good timing to begin, as we're going to, but
15 continue that open dialogue with the communities,
16 I think both in terms of like the industry and
17 the community growth, we can be growing together.
18 So thank you for sharing that, Rebecca.

19 I do not see any other hands from
20 Commissioners. So I think if we can please open
21 it to public comment.

22 MS. DE JONG: Yes. All right, so if
23 you're joining via Zoom on your computer, please
24 use the Raise Hand Feature and if you called in,
25 please dial *9 to raise your hand and then *6 to

1 unmute yourself. I'll start with the raised
2 hand. I see Vijay Dhar. I've -- you should be
3 able to unmute.

4 MR. DHAR: Yeah. Thanks. This is again,
5 Vijay Dhar from New Energy Nexus. So I heard
6 about this holistic, social, technical, kind of
7 collaborative and policy collaboration, so I
8 talked about that earlier once. But I had an
9 idea which because this New Energy Nexus, our
10 company's really doing startups and their
11 incubation and, you know, exhibition of startups.
12 We do these hack-a-thons. So we can -- we only
13 talked about having a conversation with the
14 community soon by having a Commission meeting
15 there. So that would be a good way to engage
16 them.

17 But going beyond the conversations there
18 could be a possibility of really engaging them
19 into solving problems, you know whether it's just
20 abatement or anything else. We can engage them
21 in hack-a-thons where they could basically get
22 involved in getting solutions in consultation
23 with the technical and social, you know, experts.
24 And you know there will be cross-fertilization of
25 ideas applying technical solutions to social

1 problems, applying social considerations to
2 technical, you know, ideas. And so all of that
3 can be done by, you know, it will go beyond the
4 conversation. It will go be -- to problem
5 solving together and having the communities
6 involved in that kind of thing.

7 And you know, Professor Fernando
8 basically gave some ideas. I don't know whether
9 if he comment on what this kind of an idea looks
10 like. Thank you.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. I do actually see
12 Fernando raised the hand, maybe to respond.

13 PROFESSOR LEIVA: Yes. I think, you
14 know, an example can be the whole question of
15 jobs. You know without a holistic approach, it's
16 very understandable how developers, you know,
17 will need skilled labor that is not available in
18 the community, perhaps. So the community will
19 see how, you know, outsiders, quote unquote, that
20 have those skills come into the community and
21 community members, you know, will perform lower
22 paid, more unstable service tasks that are also,
23 you know, welcome.

24 But if there is a holistic approach, the
25 question of how do you develop those skills in

1 the younger generation, and perhaps the way of
2 envisioning the project then, it has a component
3 of, you know, technical, vocational training for
4 students so that at the end of six years, seven
5 years, they might be able to fill those higher
6 skill jobs that, you know, the mining and the
7 extraction activity required.

8 If that holistic approach is not adopted
9 from the beginning, you have the possibilities of
10 tremendous community resentment, you know,
11 arising as you know, outsiders, quote unquote,
12 get those high skilled, good paying jobs. But if
13 at the same time that that is happening, you see
14 how the high school, the local high school begins
15 to change its curriculum, begins to create
16 opportunities for, you know, training students in
17 those skills and creating the path through, you
18 know, connections with community colleges,
19 etcetera, then the whole sense of the community
20 changes about, you know, the workforce
21 development. So that's just one very small
22 example of what can happen when the different
23 stakeholders hear one another out.

24 You know, developers have a very, you
25 know, short timeline. They need to, you know,

1 fulfill contracts in two or three years, things
2 have to be going they don't have time to worry
3 about these other aspects. But if you listen to
4 the community, what the community dreams,
5 aspires, how they see the fulfillment of their
6 hopes and aspirations, then there is another
7 element that you can bring into how you go about
8 planning a particular project.

9 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Fernando.

10 MS. DE JONG: We do have a hand raised
11 from Eric Reyes. You should be able to unmute
12 yourself.

13 MR. REYES: Yeah. Eric Reyes. I agree
14 so much with Professor Leiva. Some of the issues
15 that he brought up are hey. You know the
16 exhaustion of socio-ecological systems. And the
17 point is we have a little different situation as
18 we're kind of at that point of exhaustion right
19 now at the Salton Sea, as a micro -- as a
20 micro-ecological system. So that has to play
21 into, at the forefront of any cost of
22 development. You can't -- you can't develop and
23 then work on an already exhausted ecological
24 system. It has to be -- go hand in hand
25 together. And all his other -- all of his other

1 findings are spot on into the needs of our
2 community as far as holistic development. It's
3 something that hasn't been done.

4 I was just a little disturbed with the
5 talk about the economic development corporations
6 coming in and being the leaders on this because
7 they have played a poor role in our community.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. REYES: And you could tell that by
10 the highest unemployment rate, and the lack of
11 cultural sensitivity, and the lack of economic
12 true development for those most in need, that he
13 just mentioned right now. And resentment has
14 come from that, from millions of dollars of
15 government funds for different types of projects
16 they try to do here that have faded and left
17 eyesores and old machinery that didn't come to
18 fruition and only lasted during the time of those
19 public grants.

20 So I think a lot of this has to do with
21 it. That partnership, public private partnership
22 has to come from the very beginning, not as we
23 go. Right now you have the opportunity to make
24 that part of the development planning vision that
25 you have, because any development around the

1 Salton Sea and lithium has to have an economic
2 and environmental enhancement, not mitigations
3 Mitigation only appeases maybe the minimum
4 requirements. We need enhancement because we are
5 already exhausting our community in many ways.
6 Thank you.

7 MS. DE JONG: All right. Thank you, and
8 I believe that's everyone. Okay.

9 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Elisabeth.

10 MS. DE JONG: Thank you.

11 CHAIR PAZ: And again, thank you for the
12 discussion and thank you to all of our panelists.
13 So now -- we're now in the part of the agenda,
14 where we get to discuss our future agenda,
15 topics, speakers and presentations. Are there
16 any request from the Lithium Valley
17 Commissioners?

18 Yes. Luis.

19 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. There was a,
20 well their conversation on the regulatory system.
21 I wonder at what point other members would feel
22 that it is appropriate time to start bringing in
23 their conversation and certainly proposed. I
24 think there's, I don't know, the full spread of
25 how many agencies. Permitting, imagine there's

1 air, there's -- I'm sure there's quite a bit. A
2 rancher there - there's to exist, I imagine, a
3 matrix of how many permits these types of
4 facilities or operations would require. That's
5 what I would request.

6 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Rod.

7 COMMISSIONER COLDWELL: Yeah. I think
8 Luis, you took the words right out of my mouth on
9 that. We could have a session on that. We will
10 happily do it. We proposed a presentation in the
11 past. Have, you know, someone walk through the
12 steps of it's not only CEQA, it's NEPA as well.
13 So both agencies, in the federal side and state.
14 And so how it relates to the Salton Sea, not just
15 mitigation, but you know, environmental repair
16 and all sorts of things. So, yeah, I would, just
17 based on Luis' point, be very supportive of that
18 as a topic or presentation.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Frank.

20 COMMISSIONER RUIZ: Yeah. Thinking along
21 the lines of what Professor Leiva was saying. It
22 will be great to perhaps invite one of the
23 leaders from the community colleges to perhaps
24 you know, discuss, you know, what they have in
25 mind. Perhaps they're already thinking how they

1 can engage in this whole process.

2 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. And I think to
3 expand on that, I think, Frank, you know how do
4 we prepare for this workforce development
5 conversation? And you mentioned maybe having the
6 community colleges. I know in the last
7 presentation, either Jonathan or Rod mentioned
8 that they had -- there was the beginning of some
9 conversations with the college, I believe. So
10 maybe engaging them makes sense. Are there any
11 other, you know, agencies or bodies that we
12 should engage when it comes to workforce
13 development? And I [indiscernible] sort of what
14 the positions are, what the qualifications, so we
15 can get a better understanding of how, you know,
16 we can maybe start sooner rather than later
17 thinking about that pipeline.

18 I see Jonathan, and then Luis, and then
19 Ryan Kelley.

20 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Yeah, no.
21 Indeed. We had a terrific talk with, and I
22 couldn't pick up the name in time, but I will get
23 it to you, Sylvia.

24 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: a fellow at the

1 Lithium Valley -- at the Imperial Valley College,
2 and really talking about the need now to start
3 putting together a curriculum. It's going to be
4 really important to hire locally and to have a
5 local workforce. I will just give a cautionary
6 note that, you know, unions also like to, you
7 know, have workforce training and apprenticeship
8 programs, but those are not necessarily local.

9 And I think we just have to -- let me,
10 I'll just flag that as an issue. As a company,
11 you know, we want -- we want local all the way.
12 We want local hire. We want local development,
13 you know, community, local workforce, community
14 agreements, that kind of thing, I think is
15 critical. And I think it would be -- I think it
16 would be helpful just to hear, and I will give
17 you the name, but have that discussion along the
18 lines of what kind of curriculum can and should
19 be developed. And it's -- and it's really not
20 too soon to start thinking about them.

21 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Luis.

22 COMMISSIONER OLMEDO: Yeah. I mean just,
23 you know, appreciate Professor Leiva's
24 presentation because it does talk about what has
25 been done. I think a lot of times we want to hit

1 the reset button, start from beginning. Also
2 appreciate Eric Reyes having talked about the
3 exhaustion. And a lot of that comes just because
4 of this ongoing trendy innovations that repeat
5 public resources. In this case, investments,
6 incentives, and so on, and then they pack up and
7 leave and it's happened time and time again. For
8 example, with the, I believe the colleges were
9 involved in some terms of the solar training.
10 And that came in and it turns out there's not a
11 whole lot of jobs that, once the construction
12 happens.

13 And then there's the utilization of what
14 has been a sustainable, well at least for over
15 100 years, is agriculture. So now we've just
16 displaced what has been a reliable source of jobs
17 for really limited to almost no jobs. And
18 funding had been made available to create a
19 workforce for essentially a job that's kind of
20 moving to other places. So I think that's going
21 to be important. I mean, I agree with everything
22 that has been said so far of how we can create
23 those jobs. I'm certainly not, you know against,
24 you know creating good, sustainable jobs. I'm
25 certainly in favor of them being local jobs,

1 whether they're union jobs or non-union jobs,
2 that they are local jobs and there are good jobs.
3 And they're here to stay and they can be as
4 reliable as the agricultural jobs have been, you
5 know, historically in our region. So with that
6 said, I think that it's never too early. So I
7 agree with the rest of the members of the
8 Commission.

9 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So Ryan Kelley.

10 COMMISSIONER KELLEY: Sylvia, thank you.
11 Yeah, it was, I think myself, I shared it two
12 meetings ago that there was a conversation with
13 Imperial Valley College and Geothermal Industry
14 about a -- an associate's degree program that was
15 developed in the Bay Area at San Jose State and
16 shared with the community colleges in the Bay
17 Area. It didn't -- it didn't go very far. But I
18 know Efren Silva at the Imperial Valley College
19 that the vocational education is in his
20 bailiwick.

21 And I would not want to reinvent
22 something, and the schools have their own as
23 well, so it could be up to two years before they
24 could get that on the catalog. So I think it's
25 very important that we engage that conversation

1 and restart the associates program and see how it
2 can be applied. It's already been accredited in
3 California Community College.

4 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Thank you, Ryan.
5 Jonathon.

6 COMMISSIONER WEISGALL: Thank you.
7 That's exactly the name I was searching for,
8 Sylvia. It's Efrain Silva. He's the - Efrain,
9 E-f-r-a-i-n Silva, S-i-l-v-a. He's the dean of
10 economic and workforce development at Imperial
11 Valley College. Really oversees these apprentice
12 programs. They're approved by the California
13 Department of Industrial Relations. You know you
14 get a journeyman card and there's a Division of
15 Apprenticeship Standards. So by all means, I
16 think -- I think hearing from him would be
17 useful. I'll get you his contact information,
18 Sylvia.

19 CHAIR PAZ: Okay. I appreciate that.
20 And I think in light of what Ryan said about the
21 timing and how long it might take also for some
22 of our colleges and universities to be able to
23 prepare sort of that pipeline, I'm thinking about
24 other agencies worth considering would be the
25 Local Workforce Board and the Employment Training

1 Panel to help us think again about what those
2 skill sets, and occupations associated with
3 lithium are, and how do we, you know, create
4 those trainings that might get us there a little
5 bit faster.

6 So just again, we'll see how many people
7 we can confirm for a future meeting. But I think
8 everyone has given us some very good leads.

9 Okay. I think is there are any public
10 comments that's related to this. Can we take
11 them now, please?

12 MS. DE JONG: Yes. So if you're joining
13 us by Zoom on the computer, please us that Raise
14 Hand feature and if you've called in, please dial
15 *9 to raise your hand and then *6 to unmute your
16 phone. We'll go to the public comments on Zoom
17 first I do see a hand raised. Michael, you
18 should be able to unmute yourself.

19 MR. GARABEDIAN: Thank you. Mike
20 Garabedian with the Committee for 245 Million
21 Acres. I want to re-emphasize the need to bring
22 in, and this is certainly an opportunity in the
23 presentations to the Commission and other ways,
24 bring in the different ecologies from the start;
25 the human ecologies, the water ecologies,

1 wildlife micro-biologies. To bring that in now
2 before, as you're defining the project and
3 proposals, not to wait for CEQA, NEPA or the
4 Energy Commission regulatory approved process
5 alternative. So that when you are moving
6 forward, you have already incorporated those
7 ecological principles and those experts into what
8 you're doing. It's a difficult but good luck.

9 MS. DE JONG: Thank you. I don't see any
10 other hands raised at this time.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. Our next item is
12 Media and Legislative Updates. We are going to
13 invite from the CEC, Lindsay Buckley and Richard
14 Rojas. Maybe Lindsay can go first.

15 MS. BUCKLEY: Yes. Greetings members of the
16 Lithium Valley Commission, members of the public.
17 Lindsay Buckley from the California Energy
18 Commission. Here is a quick media update.

19 In the last month and actually this week,
20 we've got two great media pieces, including a
21 mention of Lithium Valley Commission, as well as
22 just the Lithium Valley Issue. So that is a
23 story in the NPR that actually listed the Lithium
24 Valley Commission and link to the website, which
25 is great. Also, some great coverage of CTR's

1 efforts. If you haven't seen that, we will
2 circulate the link. As well as the -- a piece on
3 ABC World News Tonight on Lithium Overall in
4 California, and said some information about
5 what's happening broadly, as well as some of the
6 potential economic benefits.

7 The other media updates, I've already
8 been working to finalize a fact sheet to provide
9 to all of the members. That will post on our
10 website as well, be publicly available for folks
11 that are interested in the topic.

12 And as I mentioned last time, if you need
13 any support regarding media inquiries, feel free
14 to reach out to us directly.

15 We're also getting a number of media inquiries
16 that we're vetting through staff. So as they
17 come to us, we'll be sure to coordinate with
18 staff as those asks related to members of the
19 Commission and others related to the Commission.
20 So that is it from me in terms of a -- of a media
21 update.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you, Lindsay. Richard.

23 MR. ROJAS: Good afternoon. Ana Guerrero
24 is normally speaker for the Legislative Update,
25 but she's not available this afternoon so I'm

1 covering it. This is a big month for the
2 legislature because they can -- they reconvened
3 and then they were having a deadline tomorrow for
4 all Bills to get out of Policy Committee and to
5 Appropriations.

6 There are four Bills of interest for you
7 all most likely. They are the usual suspects.
8 One is Eduardo Garcia and the other one is Henry
9 Stern. They have two each.

10 The first one first I'll go over is
11 AB983. And this bill authorizes the public
12 entity to use a community workforce agreement for
13 construction projects that are related to better
14 battery manufacturing and lithium base
15 technology. So this one specifically calls out
16 the Salton Sea resource area as a force to
17 support transportational electrification. So
18 this is exactly what you all were talking about
19 in terms of workforce, especially in
20 disadvantaged communities. So this Bill is on
21 Appropriations now.

22 The next one is also Garcia. It's
23 AB1397. And this one requires a public contract
24 that includes electric vehicles that must
25 disclose the source of the lithium, and also

1 purchase 35% of the from California. This is a
2 two year Bill. It didn't get heard in committee.
3 So it most likely will come up next year.

4 Third Bill is SB423. This is Henry
5 Stern. And this requires the PUC of -- as part
6 of the Integrated Resource Planning process to
7 evaluate emerging renewable energies and, excuse
8 me, firm zero carbon resources to promote
9 reliability. In the Findings and Declarations it
10 mentions California as a major global leader in
11 solar energy and lithium battery deployment. But
12 he also says that more resources are needed.

13 So this Bill passed the Policy Committee
14 and is going to Appropriations.

15 And the last one is SB551. Also Henry
16 Stern. This Bill would establish the California
17 Electric Vehicle Authority within the governor's
18 office to work with state agencies to make sure
19 that deployment of electric vehicle and zero
20 emission charging infrastructure is done properly
21 and includes equity, workforce development, and
22 economic development. But the Bill also mentions
23 the Salton Sea for lithium in terms of the
24 battery supply chain to make sure that the
25 battery supply chain is supported.

1 This bill also went to appropriations.
2 There are a couple of other kind of fringe bills,
3 SB244 and SB289. But those involve recycling and
4 illegal disposal, so I didn't bring those up for
5 today.

6 And then I'll pass this on to Ana for
7 next time. And that's all I have.

8 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. We are also going
9 to hear from Alexandra, Prisjatchew, from the
10 Department of Energy, to give us some updates
11 with regard to the Salton Sea.

12 MS. PRISJATCHEW: Hello, everyone. Can
13 you hear me?

14 CHAIR PAZ: Yes.

15 MS. PRISJATCHEW: Perfect. Yes, thank
16 you for letting me speak today. My name is
17 Alexander Prisjatchew. I am with the Department
18 of Energy's Geothermal Technology Office. I just
19 wanted to give everybody an update, what we've
20 been up to.

21 On March 31st we announced our Geothermal
22 Lithium Extraction prize. The prize is a three
23 phase prize over 18 months with a total of \$4
24 million dollars in prize winnings. The prize is
25 targeting a diverse range of academic teams to

1 participate, including technical schools,
2 community colleges and large research
3 universities.

4 Phase one teams will be developing their
5 ideas and concepts. Phase two teams will be
6 advancing their designs and developing a
7 [indiscernible] phase three. And then phase
8 three teams will be fabricating and testing their
9 designs. During phases two and three teams will
10 have direct access to industry leaders in the
11 Salton Sea, called our Industry Advisory Panel to
12 help mentor teams to ensure the success of the
13 projects and build clear relevant skills.

14 This week we've posted two webinars
15 interviewing our Industry Advisory Panel, or also
16 known as IAP, as part of the prize. The goal of
17 the webinars were to introduce, introduce our IAP
18 members, provide an overview of the State of
19 Industry for Lithium Extraction, and give teams
20 real world problems to solve. The webinars, as
21 well as information on the prize, can be found on
22 the prize website. And I sent it -- I just sent
23 it to -- over to Elisabeth. She can maybe post
24 it in the chat, or you can just Google Geothermal
25 Lithium Extraction Prize and the website will

1 come up as a HeroX link.

2 And also the, so the webinar, sorry, have
3 been posted to our website and they can also be
4 found on YouTube. So if you go to YouTube and
5 type in Geothermal Lithium Extraction Prize.
6 They will also pull up. So through this prize we
7 hope to bring technological advancements in
8 lithium extractions to the Salton Sea while also
9 dramatically extending the workforce footprint
10 for geothermal and critical material industries.

11 So I encourage everyone to check out the
12 prize and the prize rules which give information
13 on eligibility, and the requirements, and
14 deliverables for the prize on the prize website,
15 as I mentioned.

16 And then if you have any questions,
17 please feel free to submit them to the prize
18 mailbox @geolithiumextraction@nrel.gov. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIR PAZ: Think you, Alexandra. Are
21 there any questions from the Commission members?

22 Okay. Seeing none, we will now take
23 public comment.

24 MS. DE JONG: All right. Thank you. So
25 this is public comment on that Media and

1 Legislation updates, then right after, we'll have
2 the general comments.

3 So if you're joining us by Zoom on your
4 computer, please use that Raise Hand feature, and
5 if you called in, please dial *9 to raise your
6 hand and then *6 to unmute your phone line.
7 First, we'll go to any hands raise in the Zoom
8 application and then the phones.

9 Chair Paz, I am not seeing any hands
10 raised at this time.

11 CHAIR PAZ: Thank you. So the next time this
12 is our public comment just for any general
13 comments that anyone in the public might have.
14 Elisabeth.

15 MS. DE JONG: Yes. So I am not seeing
16 any hands raised at this time. If anyone is
17 interested in public comment, please raise your
18 hand.

19 All right. So Chair Paz, it doesn't look
20 like we have any public comments at this time if
21 you'd like to move to adjourn the meeting.

22 CHAIR PAZ: Yes. Well thank you everyone
23 who's joined us both from the public and members
24 of the Commission. Our next meeting is on May
25 27th, and we will now adjourn this meeting.

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(Off the record at 4:28 p.m.)

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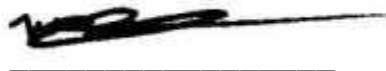
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