



# ***The Transformative Potential of Lithium Extraction for the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley: Where We Stand Today***

April 25, 2024

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Commissioner, California Energy Commission (CEC)



# CEC Action on Supporting Lithium Valley

## 2021-2022 CEC initiates support to LVC

- Coordinates meetings, workshops, state delegation visits
- Identifies speakers
- Drafts and publishes materials, including report

## 2023 CEC focuses on learning

- Meets with tribes, local government, CBOs and residents
- Coordinates state delegation visits
- Conducts tour and visit for DOE and DOD
- Develops relationship with DOD's community grants office
- Initiates coordination among state agencies

## 2024 CEC ramps up efforts to advance Lithium Valley Vision

- Institutes Lithium Valley Vision informational proceeding
- Established Lithium Valley State Workgroup
- Coordinates state and County progress update on LVC recommendations
- Co-hosts Lithium Valley Symposium on 3/29 with GO-Biz and IVC





# Lithium Valley Symposium

## Held 3/29/24 at Imperial Valley College

- Co-hosted by CEC, GO-Biz and IVC

## 130+ people attended including reps from:

- Local governments
- CBOs
- Tribes
- Industry
- Trades/Unions
- Academic institutions
- Research labs

## 17 state reps from:

- Legislature
- Governor's Office
- State Treasurer's Office
- CNRA
- CEC
- CalSTA
- Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- LWDA Employment Training Panel



Source: CEC





# Lithium Valley Vision Informational Proceeding

**Lithium Valley Highlights**

- Overview of Lithium Valley
- Specific Plan/Programmatic Environmental Impact Report
- Health Impact Assessment
- Clean Tech Hub Consortium
- EDA Recompete Grant
- Workforce Development
- Education & Community Engagement
- Planning for the Future

The graphic also includes four images: an aerial view of a geothermal power plant, a map of the Southwest US showing California, Arizona, and Nevada, an aerial view of solar panels, and a green box with a lightning bolt icon and the text '500MW GEOTHERMAL GENERATION IN IMPERIAL COUNTY'.

Source: CEC

**Purpose:** Develop cohesive and coordinated approach to turn the Lithium Valley Vision into Reality

**Objective:** Establish a record of input from multiple perspectives to develop a strategic assessment to guide future action

**Process:** Hold workshop series

- Hybrid and in-person in Salton Sea region
- Receive input about scoping topics
- Coordinate with state entities and County of Imperial

**First Workshop held 4/19/24 in Sacramento and Zoom**

- 100+ attendees via Zoom and 20 in room; 11 commenters
- County of Imperial provided update on Lithium Valley activities
- CEC explained proceeding, discussed scope of topics for future workshops, and provided update on progress addressing LVC recommendations



# Status on Addressing LVC Recommendations

**Purpose:** Determine state and County action taken on LVC Recommendations to avoid duplication, use resources effectively and reinforce efforts to support Lithium Valley

## Objectives:

- Identify entities involved and work accomplished
- Assess progress made to determine further action needed by state
- Coordinate with County of Imperial on additional actions

**Process:** Obtain information from state and County of Imperial

## Summary:

- 12 of 15 being actively addressed
- Current legislation (AB 2757, Garcia) would directly address:
  - #3: *Establish Southeast California Economic Zone*
- 2 recommendations have not been addressed:
  - #8: *Health Impact Analysis for Eastern Coachella Valley*
  - #10: *Require and fund IID to conduct a water study*
- Link to detailed summary on progress made on LVC recommendations:  
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=255768&DocumentContentId=91612>



Source: Calexico Chronicle



# *Investing in the Vision: Economic Support of the Lithium Extraction Industry and Communities*

April 25, 2024

Erik Stokes, Chief of Staff  
Office of Commissioner Noemí Gallardo



# Overview: CEC Investments

## CEC has invested across the battery supply chain:

- \$14+ million for lithium recovery\*
- \$80+ million for battery manufacturing
- \$130+ million for EV and Stationary Storage manufacturing
- \$20+ million for battery repurposing & recycling

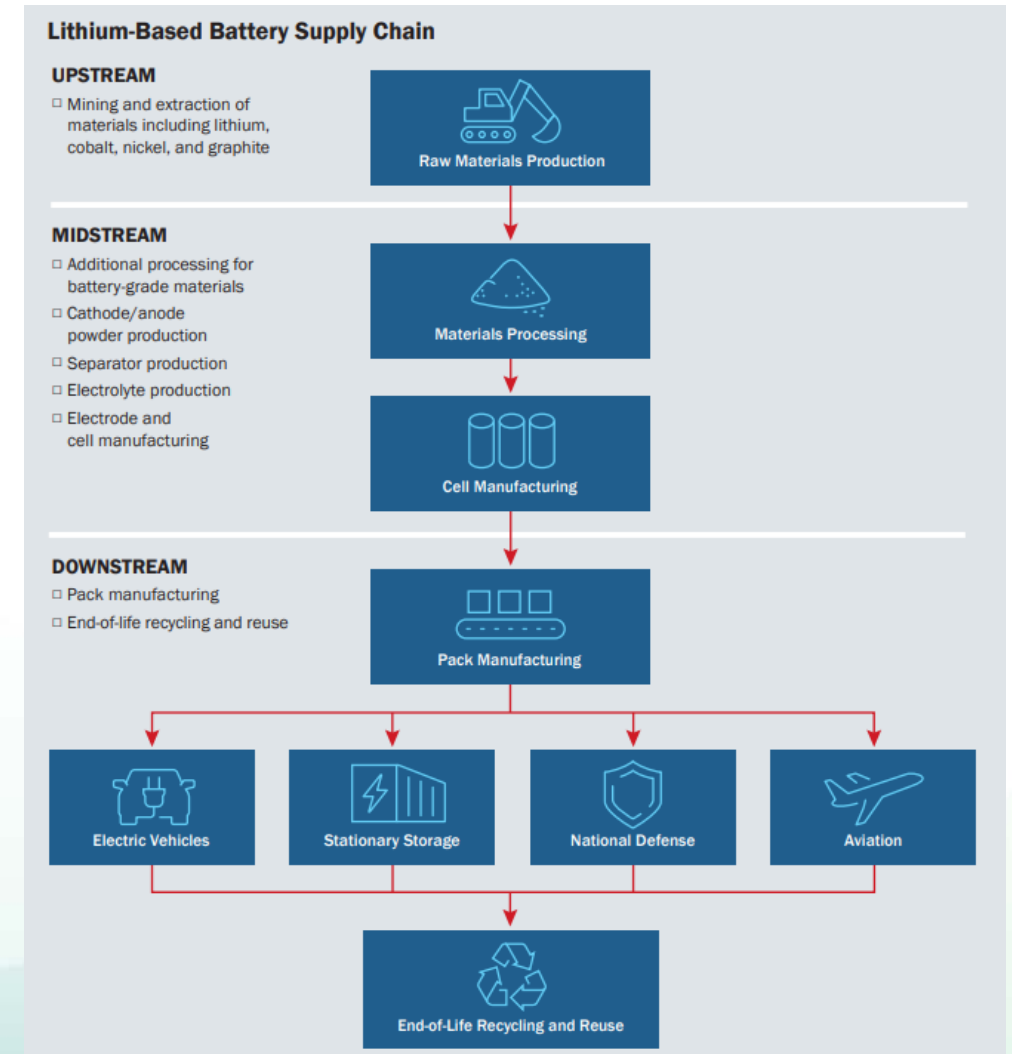
## CEC Funding Sources:

- Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC)
- Clean Transportation Program (CTP)
- Geothermal Grant and Loan Program (GRDA)

## Federal Cost Share

- Helps CA organizations compete for federal funding
- \$5.2 million in EPIC funds has secured \$26 million in federal funding for lithium-related projects in CA.

\* CEC has funded all three geothermal/lithium developers in Salton Sea.



Source: Department of Energy National Blueprint for Lithium Batteries



# Current Funding Opportunities

## Geothermal Energy Operations and Lithium Innovation (GEO/LI) (EPIC - \$23 million)

- Category 1: Prevent scaling and corrosion
- Category 2: Increase mineral recovery and minimize waste streams, water use, and chemicals
- Category 3: Optimize production between geothermal and lithium processes

## PowerForward (CTP - \$35 million):

- Category 1: Production of cathodes and cathode active materials.
- Category 2: Open to a variety of activities in the battery manufacturing lifecycle.

## Geothermal Grant and Loan Program (GRDA - \$5.8 million)

- Phase I: Technical Assistance to Local Jurisdictions
- Phase II: Support development of geothermal energy and/or lithium recovery from geothermal brine.

## Federal Cost Share (EPIC)

- \$5 million reserved for Sparkz' proposal to DOE.
- Proposal would secure \$150 million in federal funding to CA for battery manufacturing.







# Lithium Valley Information Dissemination

## Lithium Valley Dashboard

- Track investments into LV and CA Lithium Economy
- Starting with state investments
- Tentative May 2024 release

## Lithium Valley Subscription

- Created as part of CEC Lithium Valley Vision webpage in February 2024: [Lithium Valley Vision | California Energy Commission](#)
- Enables CEC to push out information on Lithium Valley
- This includes workshop notices, workshop materials, and lithium-related CEC and Federal funding opportunities

### SUBSCRIBE

Lithium Valley

Email \*

SUBSCRIBE

April 18, 2024

**DOE Announces National Laboratory Funding Opportunity to Support Critical Materials of Geothermal Energy**



*Spodumene, source of the critical mineral lithium (via USGS)*