

# Memorandum

To: Chair Hochschild, Vice Chair Scott,  
Commissioner Douglas, Commissioner  
Monahan, Commissioner McAllister,  
and Executive Director Bohan

Date: December 9, 2020

Telephone: (916) 654-4878

From: **Elisabeth de Jong, Project Manager for the Lithium Valley Commission  
Renewable Energy Division  
California Energy Commission**  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814-5512

Subject: POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION

Assembly Bill 1657 (Garcia, Chapter 271, 2020) (AB 1657), requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to convene the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (hereafter referred to as the Lithium Valley Commission), with members appointed as detailed in AB 1657.

The Lithium Valley Commission is charged with reviewing, investigating, and analyzing certain issues and potential incentives regarding lithium extraction and use in California, and to consult, when feasible, with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy in performing these tasks. AB 1657 requires the Lithium Valley Commission to submit, on or before October 1, 2022, a report to the Legislature documenting its findings and recommendations.

The CEC has responsibility to appoint nine of the 14 designated Commission members, with the remaining appointments to be made by the California Public Utilities Commission, the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, the Senate Committee on Rules, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Governor.

The CEC solicited applications from individuals to apply for appointments. Chair Hochschild and Commissioner Douglas evaluated the individuals and jointly recommend that during the December 9, 2020 Business Meeting of the CEC, that the CEC approve the appointments of the following persons to the Lithium Valley Commission:

- **Manfred Scott**, Quechan Indian Tribe – General member
- **Jonathan Weisgall**, Berkshire Hathaway Energy – Represents the lithium extraction industry
- **Roderic Dolega**, Ford EV Purchasing – Represents a national vehicle manufacturer organization

- **Frank Ruiz**, Salton Sea Program Director for Audubon California – Represents a local environmental organization
- **Ryan E. Kelley**, County of Imperial – Represents a local city or county government in the Salton Sea geothermal resource area
- **James C. Hanks**, Imperial Irrigation District – Represents a local public electric utility
- **Luis Olmedo**, Comite Civico Del Valle, Inc. – Represents disadvantaged and low-income communities in the Salton Sea geothermal resource area
- **Arthur Lopez**, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Represents a local tribal community
- **Rod Colwell**, Controlled Thermal Resources – Member with knowledge of economics and the effectiveness of local, state, and federal incentives.

In summary, each candidate for appointment was selected to represent the membership seats as detailed in AB 1657. The appointments will be effective on January 1, 2021, when AB 1657 becomes law.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF  
LITHIUM VALLEY COMMISSION MEMBERS

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 1657 (Garcia, Chapter 271, 2020) (AB 1657), identifies the need for the development of lithium resources in the Salton Sea geothermal resource area in order to meet the projected need for lithium in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 1657 requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to convene within the CEC the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California (hereafter referred to as the Lithium Valley Commission); and

**WHEREAS**, the Lithium Valley Commission shall review, investigate, and analyze certain issues relating to lithium extraction and use in California, including development of geothermal facilities, market opportunities for lithium, technical advancements, environmental standards and impacts, as well as opportunities for local, state, and federal incentives and investments, as further detailed in AB 1657; and

**WHEREAS**, under AB 1657, the CEC has responsibility to appoint nine of the 14 Lithium Valley Commission members, with the remaining appointments to be made by the California Public Utilities Commission, the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, the Senate Committee on Rules, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, the CEC solicited applications for each of the nine seats to which it will appoint members; and

**WHEREAS**, CEC Commissioner Karen Douglas and Chair David Hochschild have reviewed the applications received, and have jointly recommended individuals to be appointed to the Lithium Valley Commission; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CEC accepts the recommendations, and appoints the following individuals to the Lithium Valley Commission, effective January 1, 2021:

- **Manfred Scott**, Quechan Indian Tribe – General member
- **Jonathan Weisgall**, Berkshire Hathaway Energy – Represents the lithium extraction industry
- **Roderic Dolega**, Ford EV Purchasing – Represents a national vehicle manufacturer organization

- **Frank Ruiz**, Salton Sea Program Director for Audubon California – Represents a local environmental organization
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- **Rod Colwell**, Controlled Thermal Resources – Member with knowledge of economics and the effectiveness of local, state, and federal incentives; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director or his/her designee is authorized to take all action, including facilitating Lithium Valley Commission coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy and their respective staff as necessary, to ensure the Lithium Valley Commission accomplishes the purposes set forth in AB 1657.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Secretariat to the California Energy Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on December 9, 2020.

AYE:  
 NAY:  
 ABSENT:  
 ABSTAIN:

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 Cody Goldthrite  
 Secretariat