

Imperial County
Lithium Valley Economic
Opportunity Investment Plan



All Eyes on Lithium

- President Biden’s Executive Order 14008 “Tackling the Climate Crisis Home and Abroad” (1/27/21). Lithium/rare-mineral mining and renewable energy generation domestically helps reduce American reliance on foreign sources for needed manufacturing inputs and energy production.
- Governor Newsom identified Lithium Valley in remarks on his proposed budget, The California Blueprint which was released on January 10, 2022. “We have what someone described as the Saudi Arabia of lithium right here in the state of California down in Imperial County near the Salton Sea,” Newsom remarked.

Regional Economic Opportunity

- County Unemployment 15-20%
- Median Household Income 3/4 of National Average
- Poverty Rate 2x National Average
- Current Gross Domestic Product (GDP):
\$9 billion
- Lithium/Rare Mineral Extraction & Geothermal Energy could DOUBLE Imperial County GDP in next 5-10 years

Lithium IS the Gamechanger

- Largest Concentration in United States
- Estimates at 15 million metric tons
- 30-Day Average Price of Lithium: \$60,000 a metric ton
- Value of Lithium between \$500 billion and \$1 trillion

Plan Purpose & Self Determination

- The County of Imperial shall control its economic future as it relates to lithium/rare mineral extraction, processing, manufacturing and renewable energy generation and storage

Actions of The County of Imperial

- Plan Adoption (2/15/22)
- Creation Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan Subcommittee of Board of Supervisors (Completed 11/21)
- Creation of an internal working group to the Subcommittee (Completed 1/22)
- Seek voter approval to establish appropriate remuneration for lithium/rare mineral mining and power generation/storage (Scheduled 11/22)
- Encourage Vertical Integrated (Manufacturing/Assembly) of products from lithium (Ongoing)
- Establish a Lithium Valley Project Ombudsperson (Pending)
- Explore economic viability of an Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) (Starting 3/22)
- County of Imperial shall provide leadership (Plan/Requests made 2/22/22)

Requested Actions of: The State of California

- Increase delegated authority for Geothermal from 49.9 to 99.9
- Provide \$5,000,000 to County of Imperial for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and a Lithium Valley Specific Plan
- Funding for a Lithium Valley Development Office for 10-Years
- State of California Support and Assistance in creation of an Imperial County Severance Tax or Resource Levy for critical minerals.
- Funding of \$100 million for a Cal-Poly campus in Imperial County (or similar higher education campus)
- Seed-Funding a reference lab for lithium purity testing
- Go-Biz Tax Credit Carve-Out for Lithium, Geothermal (\$25 million over 5 Years)
- Executive Order or Legislative Action exempting lithium/rare-mineral and geothermal producers from additional compliance from CEQA after PEIR and SP

Requested Actions of: The Federal Government

- *Roads & Bridges*: \$50 million to provide for road and bridge infrastructure
- *Railways*: \$1 billion of railway upgrades in the form of additional tracks, loading and siding/spur infrastructure.
- *Electrical Grid*: \$500 million in funding offsets for grid upgrades and wheeling charges from energy producers.
- *Environmental Remediation*: \$500 million in direct funding and/or loan guarantees for companies that desire to build/operate End of Life Recycling and Reuse facilities for lithium batteries

Follow-up

*Additional Information Regarding the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity
Investment Plan (LVIP) is Available at:*

[Lithiumvalley.imperialcounty.org](https://lithiumvalley.imperialcounty.org)