

DATE SUBMITTED 3/14/24
 SUBMITTED BY CM office
 DATE ACTION REQUIRED 3/20/24

COUNCIL ACTION
 PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED
 RESOLUTION
 ORDINANCE 1ST READING
 ORDINANCE 2ND READING
 CITY CLERK'S INITIALS

**IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL
 AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION: Ratify Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1309 (Padilla) - Lithium Battery Production Council	
DEPARTMENT INVOLVED: City Manager	
BACKGROUND/SUMMARY: City of Imperial provided a letter of support for SB 1309 Senate Bill 1309 by Senator Padilla would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with other state agencies, including the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) and the California Workforce Development Board, to establish a Lithium Battery Production Council to conduct an economic analysis on workforce development needs, infrastructure needs, sewage and wastewater treatment, and housing needs for lithium battery production.	
FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the letter of support.	FINANCE INITIALS <u>JMS</u>
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approve request.	DEPT. INITIALS <u>Jmg</u>
MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: <u>approve</u>	CITY MANAGER'S INITIALS <u>o x m</u>
MOTION:	
SECONDED: AYES: NAYES: ABSENT:	APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO:



CITY COUNCIL
Robert Amparano – Mayor
James Tucker – Mayor Pro-Tem
Ida Obeso-Martinez – Councilmember
Katie Burnworth – Councilmember
Stacy Mendoza – Councilmember

CITY CLERK
Kristina M. Shields

CITY MANAGER
Dennis H. Morita

CITY ATTORNEY
Katherine Turner

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Steven Bradford
1021 O Street, Suite 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Bill 1309 (Padilla): Lithium Battery Production Council

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the City of Imperial, I am pleased to offer our strong support of SB 1309, which would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with other state agencies, including the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) and the California Workforce Development Board, to establish a Lithium Battery Production Council to conduct an economic analysis on workforce development needs, infrastructure needs, sewage and wastewater treatment, and housing needs for lithium battery production.

Imperial is a full-service municipality and anticipates it will be an important part of Imperial County’s support of a developing lithium industry.

In 2023, a new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab estimated that there was more lithium than previously estimated, enough to support over 375 million batteries for electric vehicles – more than the total number of vehicles currently on U.S. roads.¹ Yet the region surrounding the state’s vast lithium deposits has critical infrastructure gaps including a lack of bridges and roads and lack of communication and transportation infrastructure. As California seeks to power the future by producing lithium in a more sustainable and environmentally safer way than nearly anywhere else in the world, it is critical the state has a comprehensive strategy that secures California’s global leadership in lithium battery manufacturing by preparing the region to meet the demands of sustaining a global industry.

¹ California, State of. “New Report Highlights the Promise of Lithium Valley.” California Governor, November 29, 2023.
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/11/28/new-report-highlights-the-promise-of-lithium-valley/>.

For these reasons, SB 1309 (Padilla) would further City of Imperial’s goal of addressing housing and other infrastructure associated with lithium development, and we are proud to support SB 1309 (Padilla)/and encourage your “aye” vote when it is heard in your committee.

Best regards,

Robert Amparano, Mayor
City of Imperial



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California State Senate

SENATOR
STEPHEN C. PADILLA
EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
CHAIR
MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HOUSING
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

SB 1309 – Lithium Battery Production Council

Imperial County’s Lithium Valley presents an enormous economic opportunity California. The Salton Sea has one of the largest reserves of lithium in the world, which could fulfill over one-third of the global demand for lithium. With the world demand for lithium expected to grow as much as tenfold in the next decade, the development of a domestic supply of lithium around the Salton Sea has the potential to unleash billions in economic opportunity, however the surrounding area lacks critical infrastructure to support the emerging industry.

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SB 1309 would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with other state agencies, including the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) and the California Workforce Development Board, to establish a Lithium Battery Production Council to conduct an economic analysis on workforce development needs, infrastructure needs, sewage and wastewater treatment, and housing needs for lithium battery production.

Staff Contact

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Email: Alexis.castro@sen.ca.gov
Capitol Office: (916) 651 – 4018

Support

¹ California, State of. “New Report Highlights the Promise of Lithium Valley.” California Governor, November 29, 2023.
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/11/28/new-report-highlights-the-promise-of-lithium-valley/>.