



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Katherine M. Butler, MPH, Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
dtsc.ca.gov



Gavin Newsom
Governor

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 20, 2025

Gerardo Quero
Planner II
Imperial County Planning Development
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
gerardoquero@co.imperial.ca.us

RE: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR GLOBAL LITHIUM ENERGY CORP.
CUP #24-0025 / IS #24-0036 DATED FEBRUARY 24, 2025, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
NUMBER [2025020843](#)

Dear Gerardo Quero,

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Global Lithium Energy Corp. CUP #24-0025 / IS #24-0036 (project). The applicant proposes a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the drilling of up to two (2) geothermal exploration on wells which aim for the testing and evaluation of geothermal resources (thermal and mineral) and to demonstrate the commercial viability of such in the area. The proposed geothermal exploration project consists of up to two (2) geothermal exploration wells with a proposed depth from 500 to 6,000 feet, two (2) 350 by 200 feet well pads, a 300 by 300 feet move on area, all within a fenced footprint of approximately 1,300 by 520 feet area on the southeast corner of the subject property. DTSC recommends and requests consideration of the following comments:

1. DTSC acknowledges that future involvement with the Project will be dependent on if hazardous waste is generated and later disposed of offsite. If hazardous waste is disposed of offsite, waste should be properly

characterized, manifested and disposed of at a facility that is permitted and able to accept the waste.

2. Due to the project site being located on agricultural land, it is possible that soil may contain elevated concentrations of lead, arsenic, and Organochlorine pesticides. Proper soil handling practices should be followed during construction and personnel should be trained to handle potentially contaminated soils. The Lead Agency shall identify the amounts of Pesticides and Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPs) historically used on the property. If present, OCPs requiring further analysis are dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, toxaphene, and dieldrin. Additionally, any level of arsenic present would require further analysis and sampling and must meet [HHRA NOTE NUMBER 3, DTSC-SLs](#) approved local area baselines or thresholds. If they do not, remedial action must take place to mitigate them below those thresholds.

Additional COCs may be found in mixing/loading/storage areas, drainage ditches, farmhouses, or any other outbuildings and should be sampled and analyzed. If smudge pots had been routinely utilized, additional sampling for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and/or Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons may be required.

3. Dissolved solids that are common from geothermal systems include sulfur, chlorides, silica compounds, vanadium, arsenic, mercury, nickel and other toxic heavy metals. Investigation of soil samples during drilling activities to characterize excavated soil should be conducted.
4. Since the site location is in an active seismic area, waste remaining on-site should be properly stored in appropriate containers.
5. Due to the site location, selenium in soil can be an issue on-site and proper procedures to minimize exposure should be considered when excavating. DTSC recommends that all imported soil and fill material should be tested to assess any contaminants of concern meet screening levels as outlined in [DTSC's PEA Guidance Manual](#). Additionally, DTSC advises referencing the

[DTSC Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material Fact Sheet](#) if importing fill is necessary. To minimize the possibility of introducing contaminated soil and fill material there should be documentation of the origins of the soil or fill material and, if applicable, sampling be conducted to ensure that the imported soil and fill material are suitable for the intended land use. The soil sampling should include analysis based on the source of the fill and knowledge of prior land use. Additional information can be found by visiting [DTSC's Human and Ecological Risk Office \(HERO\) webpage](#).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the MND for Global Lithium Energy Corp. CUP #24-0025 / IS #24-0036. Thank you for your assistance in protecting California's people and environment from the harmful effects of toxic substances. If you have any questions or would like clarification on DTSC's comments, please respond to this letter or via [the CEQA Review Inbox](#) for additional guidance.

Sincerely,



Dave Kereazis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP-Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov

Gerardo Quero
March 20, 2025
Page 4

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
State Clearinghouse
State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Marissa Woolsey
Hazardous Substance Engineer
SMRP-Engineering Services/ESPO
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Marissa.Woolsey@dtsc.ca.gov

Tamara Purvis
Associate Environmental Planner
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Tamara.Purvis@dtsc.ca.gov

Scott Wiley
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
HWMP - Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Scott.Wiley@dtsc.ca.gov