

**COUNTY OF IMPERIAL
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 1006-23**

**SALTON SEA RENEWABLE RESOURCE
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT**



**Coordinating Agency
IMPERIAL COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Released November 14, 2022

DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

**One (1) original, One (1) electronic copy (ex. Flash drive), and
Six (6) complete copies must be delivered by**

DECEMBER 9, 2022, 4:00 pm Pacific Standard Time

Point of Contact:

Debbie Wray
Purchasing Agent
1125 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-1865

debbiewray@co.imperial.ca.us

Request for Proposals

Salton Sea Renewable Resource Health Impact Assessment

Purpose

The County of Imperial is soliciting proposals from qualified and interested entities to conduct a health impact assessment (HIA) process that focuses on lithium extraction from geothermal brine in the north-end communities of Imperial County (from Brawley to the Riverside County line and the east highline of Imperial County to the San Diego County line); see map in Appendix A. The grantee will be required to use a combination of tools, procedures, methods, and community input that systematically looks at the existing geothermal operations that are extracting lithium, as well as new or subsequent geothermal operations that have the potential to extract lithium in the future. The expectation is that this HIA will a) provide an in-depth, comprehensive analysis of the potential health impacts of lithium extraction of all projects being evaluated under the Imperial County Lithium Valley Specific Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, b) address social determinants of health, c) explore, collect, analyze baseline data and conditions, and d) identify findings that will be used to inform decisions, influence policy development, support decision-making, as well as offer practical and evidence-based recommendations for ways to minimize risks and support opportunities to maintain and/or improve health in all Lithium focused plans and programmatic Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs).

Approximately \$400,000.00 is available for funding. A total of one (1) award will be granted. It is anticipated that the project term will initiate January 2023 and will run for twelve (12) to fifteen (15) months, contingent upon available funding and performance.

The Imperial County Public Health Department will act as the coordinating agency to the proposed Salton Sea Renewable Resource HIA. The successful grantee shall report directly to the Imperial County Public Health Department Director and/or designee throughout the HIA process.

Background

Geothermal plants are facilities that produce renewable energy by using the steam from hot water underground which spins a turbine which in turn powers a generator to produce electricity. These plants have a small physical footprint and work around the clock, 24 hours a day. Currently, there are 11 geothermal plants operating in the Salton Sea area, and some are already working to extract lithium through the geothermal process.

Lithium is a vital mineral to the expanded deployment of technologies, such as portable computing devices, electric vehicles, and battery storage. More than 80 percent of the world's raw lithium is mined in Australia, Chile, and China. Currently, only 1 percent of lithium is mined and processed in the United States, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. However,

according to the California Energy Commission, Lithium Valley has the potential to meet 40% of the world's lithium demand.

Imperial County has an abundance of geothermal brine at the Salton Sea. The earth-heated brine is rich in critical minerals needed for the production of batteries and alloys, including lithium, manganese and zinc. Industry professionals estimate there may be as much as fifteen (15) million metric tons of lithium in Imperial County that would take 50-100 years to extract. Additionally, there is an estimated 1,500-3,000 MW of additional geothermal energy generation available. The extraction of lithium (and other rare-earth minerals), in addition to geothermal power generation, provide the opportunity for the United States to have greater control over needed material in the supply chain for electric vehicles and consumer/commercial electronics while providing greater stability to our energy supply.

The County of Imperial has large socio-economic needs in the region, and over the years, it has faced many economic struggles, including chronic double-digit unemployment rates, high poverty rates and lower median household incomes when comparing them to the state and nation. While Imperial County has a \$2 billion agriculture industry and are one of the largest producers of renewable energy in California, the benefits to the average person are minimal. The County of Imperial is looking to lithium as the vehicle to provide economic mobility to our residents and to the surrounding areas.

Timetable

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Release of RFP Guidelines | November 14, 2022 |
| • Letter of Intent to Apply Deadline | November 21, 2022 |
| • Request for Proposal Deadline | December 9, 2022 |
| • Evaluation and Scoring of Proposals | December 12-16, 2022 |
| • Notice of Intent to Make an Award | To be Announced (TBA) |
| • Award Announcements | TBA |
| • Projected Date for Commencement of Agreements | February 6, 2023 |

Letter of Intent to Apply

Although a Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply is not required, applicants are highly encouraged to submit a LOI by **4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PT) on November 21, 2022**. The LOI is not binding and does not enter into the review of applications, but the information that it contains will be helpful to the County of Imperial in planning for the review of applications and estimating the potential workload.

If submitting a LOI, it should be on the entity's letterhead, and no more than two (2) pages. Include the following on the LOI:

- Title of the RFP;
- Name and address of the organization that will contract with the County of Imperial to complete the project;
- Email address and telephone number of the primary contact for the project;
- Brief description of the entity's experience conducting a HIA(s);
- One – two references that are linked to the applicant's previous HIA project(s); and
- Overview of how the HIA framework will be used to guide and inform the proposed work.

Please submit the LOI to:

Imperial County Purchasing Department
Attn: Salton Sea Renewable Resource, Letter of Intent
1125 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243

Funding Award and Contract Term

The maximum amount available for the RFP award is \$400,000.00. Proposals priced higher than that amount will not be considered. The project term will be for twelve (12) to fifteen (15) months, effective February 06, 2023.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used for project staff salaries and benefits, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses, including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project, and indirect expenses.

Funds may not be used to subsidize individuals for the costs of healthcare, to support clinical trials, to construct or renovate facilities, or as a substitute for funds currently being used to support similar activities.

Eligibility

Entities eligible to apply include but are not limited to consulting firms, academic institutions, and other agencies with experience in conducting HIAs. Applicants are required to coordinate/collaborate with the Imperial County Public Health Department and consulting firm(s) that are preparing the Salton Sea Renewable Resource Specific Plan, Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and the Lithium Development Infrastructure Assessment. Entities are also highly encouraged to coordinate/collaborate with local organizations, stakeholders and community members.

General Requirements

Entities submitting a proposal should include a combination of procedures, tools and methods that thoroughly examines potential effects of the Salton Sea Renewable Resource, geothermal brine and lithium extraction activities. Additionally, the HIA analysis and report should, at a minimum, include the health effects of the above-mentioned activities, make health impacts more explicit, highlight health disparities, issue recommendations to improve decisions, drive policy, and shape public decisions and discourse; as well as highlight opportunities that support and/or improve health. As much as possible, create an implementation plan for each recommendation presented in the HIA. Additionally, the HIA process should foster relationships and collaboration, build consensus around decisions, and engage the community.

Proposals must include a full description of the comprehensive HIA process, and a scope of work which describes the tasks and steps related to the HIA. At a minimum, it needs to include the following:

1. Screening – Determine whether a HIA is needed, feasible, and likely to be useful.
2. Scoping – Identify which health effects to consider, available evidence/baseline data, affected populations, HIA parameters, and roles of stakeholders.
3. Assessment – Collect qualitative and quantitative information to create a profile of existing health conditions, and identify, evaluate, and prioritize the potential health impacts of the decision and likely health effects.
4. Recommendations – Develop feasible, evidence-based recommendations and/or alternatives to decision/strategies for promoting positive health impacts and/or mitigating adverse ones and plan for implementing them.
5. Reporting – Write and disseminate findings (final report) to decision makers, affected communities, and other stakeholders.
6. Monitoring and Evaluation – Evaluate the processes involved in the HIA, the impact of the HIA on the decision-making process, and the impacts of the decision on health.

Additionally, and to be considered for funding, applicants must:

- Be a responsive applicant whose proposal complies with all of the requirements of this RFP;
- Have the ability to begin HIA implementation within 2 months of being awarded the funds;
- Have the ability to meet minimum contractual requirements and enter into a formal agreement with the County of Imperial. A sample agreement is located in Appendix B;
- Demonstrate the ability to provide services in Imperial County;

- Demonstrate the ability to work with an array of partners, key stakeholders and the community;
- Demonstrate previous experience conducting HIAs; and
- Provide example (s) of previous HIA project reports, if requested.

Proposal Format and Submission Requirements

All proposals must be typed in English and are limited to 10 pages for the narrative section. This page limit does not include the checklist, cover sheet, table of contents, cost proposal, exhibits, or attachments. Use 12-point font, single spacing, 1-inch margins, include a page number at the bottom of the page, and double-side the paper. Elaborate artwork and expensive paper and binding are neither necessary nor desired. Please use either a staple or binder clip to secure each of the proposals. If you choose to recreate any of the exhibits on a word processor, please ensure that you recreate the original format exactly and that no information is omitted. Include letters of support and other supporting documentation in the appendix. Use the headings listed below and in that order.

- Proposal Checklist (Exhibit A)
- Cover Sheet (Exhibit B)
- Table of Contents
- Entity Profile and Qualifications
- Personnel
- Project Description and Scope of Work
- Evaluation Design, Implementation, Analysis and Dissemination Plan
- Budget Proposal (Exhibit C)
- Appendix

The proposal must be submitted in the name of the entity that will contract with the County of Imperial to complete the project. The proposal must be signed by your entity’s authorized agent.

All proposals and supporting documents are due to the Imperial County Purchasing Department by **4:00 p.m. PT on December 09, 2022**. Please submit 1 original, 1 electronic copy (ex. flash drive) plus 6 complete copies either by mail or hand delivery to:

**Imperial County Purchasing Department
Attn: Salton Sea Renewable Resource, Health Impact Assessment RFP
1125 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243**

All proposals received will be stamped with date and time received. Proposals submitted to any other location will not be accepted. Postmarks will not be accepted as meeting the deadline

requirement. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposal is complete at the time of submission. Any proposal not meeting these RFP requirements will be recorded as non-compliant.

Proposal Narrative

The applicant must prepare a proposal which includes the items specified in the general requirements section above, as well as the sections below and in the order that they are presented. The applicant must demonstrate a thorough understanding of and knowledge to meet the requirements and show how it will comply with all applicable specifications included in the RFP.

Entities that are currently providing services in Imperial County or have provided services in the county in the past should not assume that evaluators will know your entity's qualifications and experience. All proposal narratives should be concisely and clearly written and provide sufficient information about the breadth and depth of the experience and qualifications of your entity to determine your entity's capacity to successfully execute the proposal. Everything that is important to know about your entity should be included in the narrative.

Section 1: Entity Profile and Qualifications (10 points)

Briefly describe your entity and how long it has been established. Give examples and evidence of its prior successes and current projects which show that it can accomplish the goals and objectives of the project. Describe your entity's experience working with health impact assessments and with community organizations, key stakeholders and others. Include your experience working with rural, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Disclose any conflict or potential conflict that you may have if submitting a proposal.

Section 2: Personnel (10 points)

Identify all staff who will work on this project and any experience they have had with similar projects. Include their experience working with diverse communities. Name the person who will be primarily responsible for achieving the goals of the proposed project and discuss the person's experience in managing similar projects. In the appendix, include all staff job descriptions, a copy of the organizational chart, and, as applicable, copies of employee or business permits or licenses needed for the applicant to perform the proposed services.

Section 3: Project Description and Scope of Work (45 points)

Include your entity's plan to develop, conduct and facilitate a HIA focused on lithium extraction from geothermal brine in Imperial County's Lithium Valley. As part of this plan/scope of work, applicants are required to also submit a visual description, such as a Gantt chart, that illustrates the timeline of proposed project activities. The Gant Chart is not part of the 10-page narrative limit.

Using, at a minimum, the six (6) HIA steps listed in the previous section, identify and describe in detail the approach and specific strategies that your entity will use to accomplish the work. Describe how the scope will be determined, type of data to be collected (primary and secondary data sources), mechanisms for collecting community and other stakeholder input, how the entity will coordinate community engagement with consulting firm(s) preparing the Salton Sea Renewable Resource Specific Plan, Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and the Lithium Development Infrastructure Assessment, and strategies for disseminating final summary reports and supplemental materials. Create a communication plan that describes audiences (community members, local city/town officials, other stakeholders) and types of materials to be developed, translated and disseminated (summary report, PowerPoint presentation, policy, briefing paper, white paper, fact sheet, infographics, etc.) Additionally, outline the steps your entity will take to ensure successful and broad community input, potential challenges or barriers that your entity may face in implementing the health impact assessment activities and how you plan to address and overcome them. Include the types of organizations and community groups your entity proposes to work with. Also, include how your entity will ensure that activities or services are conducted and how they will be delivered.

Section 4: Evaluation Design, Implementation, Analysis and Dissemination Plan (25 points)

Applicants must develop and/or adopt an evaluation plan that outlines the rationale, general content, scope and sequence of evaluation strategies that will be conducted as part of the health impact assessment process. The plan must include a list of short-, intermediate- and long-term outcome indicators, as well as current and corresponding baseline data for each indicator. Applicants are required to coordinate/collaborate with consulting firm(s) preparing the Salton Sea Renewable Resource Specific Plan, Programmatic Environmental Impact Report and the Lithium Development Infrastructure Assessment, and other entities to obtain needed baseline data and to work on project efforts. If no baseline data is available, the applicant must describe the methods that will be employed to measure the project's success. Proposals must also include how outcomes will be accomplished and measured. Include a description of the information you will collect to evaluate the project, how it will be collected, and how you will analyze the information. Describe who will be responsible for collecting and analyzing the information. Finally, proposals must include a description of dissemination strategies to make evaluation results accessible to the community and relevant to stakeholders in English and Spanish.

Describe the applicant's current infrastructure, capacity, and agreements for collecting, analyzing, and sharing community and population-level data across organizations or the process that will be undertaken to develop a data-sharing plan or mechanism across a broad range of data.

Section 5: Budget Proposal (10 points. Not part of the 10-page narrative limit)

Complete the required budget template (Exhibit C) showing the amount and purpose of requested funds. Provide a detailed justification of all items for the budget and explain how the

item serves the objectives of the project. Proposals will be evaluated, in part, on how well the proposal maximizes expenditures. The budget forms are not part of the 10-page narrative limit.

Funding Decision

The funding decision will be made by an Evaluation Committee appointed by the County of Imperial. Proposals will be scored according to the points awarded in each section of the application. A scoring matrix will be used to evaluate the proposals. All proposals will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee and a maximum of one (1) award will be made based on the Evaluation Committee’s recommendation. The notice of intent to make awards, when decided, will be posted at <https://purchasing.imperialcounty.org/rfqs-rfps/>. Notice of intent to make awards and denials of awards will be mailed to all applicants after the notice of intent to make an award has been posted.

Protests rules can be found in the Purchasing Departments Purchasing Policy. Appeals or objections must be specific, identifying the nature of the protest or objection, and stating all of the facts that form the basis for the appeal. The applicant must also specify the reason(s) for the appeal or objection citing law, rule, regulation or procedures upon which the appeal is based. Any appeal or objection must be forwarded to the Imperial County Purchasing Department by certified or registered mail or delivered in person.

Rejection of Proposals

The County of Imperial reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP, or to cancel this RFP if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the County of Imperial to do so. Failure to submit a complete proposal that follows the proposal format requested will disqualify the proposal. Absolutely neither supplements nor late proposals will be accepted.

Proposal Scoring

Responsive proposals will be scored as noted below. Each proposal must contain all information requested in the RFP, as well as any other information the Evaluation Committee will need to effectively evaluate the proposal.

CATEGORY	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE
1. Entity Profile and Qualification	10 points
2. Personnel	10 points
3. Project Description, Scope of Work, Timeline (e.g., Gantt Chart)	45 points
4. Evaluation Design, Implementation, Analysis and Dissemination Plan	25 points
5. Budget Proposal	10 points

Total Possible Points	100 points
------------------------------	-------------------

Administrative Requirements

The County of Imperial reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals submitted, or to request clarification or additional information or an alternative presentation of data from any applicant, at the County’s sole discretion. Further, while every effort has been made to ensure the information presented in the RFP is accurate and thorough, the County accepts no responsibility or liability for any unintentional errors or omissions in this document.

All proposals become the property of the County, and as such, become public record available for review by the public upon request. The Government Code Sections 6250 et. seq., the Public Records Act, define public records as any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public’s business. This applies to proposals submitted pursuant to this RFP. The Public Records Act provides that public records shall be disclosed upon written request, and that any citizen has the right to inspect any public records, unless the document is exempted from the disclosure requirements. The County cannot represent or guarantee that any information submitted in response to the RFP will be confidential.

Compliance with Nondiscrimination Laws

The law requires that persons or organizations that receive public funds may not unlawfully discriminate against persons for certain reasons. You must complete the attached Statement of Nondiscrimination Compliance Form (Exhibit D). The Statement of Compliance must accompany the proposal to comply with Government Code Section 12990 and California Administrative Code, Title 11, Division 4, Chapter 5.

Proof of Nonprofit Status/Articles of Incorporation

Nonprofit organizations must provide documentation evidencing tax-exempt status from either the Internal Revenue Service or the Franchise Tax Board. Applicants who are corporations (profit or non-profit) must submit a copy of the organization’s Articles of Incorporation and evidence of official action by its governing body to submit a proposal. If an organization is in the process of being incorporated by the California Secretary of State, a proposal may be submitted contingent upon providing proof of the incorporation process.

Insurance Requirements

Evidence must be provided of the applicant’s ability to obtain coverage in the required amounts during each contract year. The applicant must provide evidence of the ability and intent to maintain the required coverage and to name the Imperial County Public Health Department, Imperial County Local Health Authority Commission, and the County of Imperial as additional insured. A standard certificate of insurance describing the current insurance coverage issued by a broker or agent must be presented prior to the commencement date of the contract. A letter from an insurance company or broker confirming the fact that coverage can begin on the projected start date of the project is adequate for the purpose of submitting a proposal.

Other Requirements

As needed or required, applicants must provide copies of all permits, employee licenses or business, state and/or clinic licenses needed for the prospective contractor to perform the proposed services.

Inquiries

For questions or further information, contact:

County of Imperial

Attn: Debbie Wray

Subject line: Salton Sea Renewable Resource Health Impact Assessment

debbiewray@co.imperial.ca.us

PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

This checklist includes the items that must be submitted in the proposal and in the order outlined below. This checklist is to ensure that a complete proposal is submitted. Complete the checklist and submit it as the first item.

Exhibit B

Proposal Checklist (Exhibit A)
Proposal Cover Sheet (Exhibit B)
Table of Contents
Proposal Narrative Section 1 – Entity Profile and Qualifications Section 2 – Personnel Section 3 – Project Description, Scope of Work, Timeline (e.g., Gant Chart) Section 4 – Evaluation Design, Implementation, Analysis and Dissemination Plan Section 5 – Budget Proposal
Budget (Exhibit C)

APPENDIX

Job Descriptions
Organizational Chart
Statement of Non-discrimination Compliance (Exhibit D)
Proof of Non-profit Status
Smoke-Free Environment Statement (Exhibit E)
As applicable, copies of all permits, employee licenses or business, state and/or clinic licenses needed for the prospective contractor to perform the proposed services.
Additional documents (e.g., Letters of support)

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Name of Entity: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Executive Director: _____

Primary Contact: _____ Title: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Project Title: **Salton Sea Renewable Resource Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**

Brief overview of how the HIA steps will be implemented:

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Duration of the Project: _____ Expected Start Date: _____

Business Tax ID Number: _____

I certify that all statements in this exhibit are true. This certification constitutes a warranty, the falsity of which shall entitle the County of Imperial to pursue any remedy authorized by law which shall include the right, at the option of the County, of declaring any contract made as a result hereof to be void. I agree to provide the County with any other information the County determines is necessary for the accurate determination of the person or entity's qualification to provide services.

I certify that _____ will comply with all requirements specified in the RFP which are applicable to the services which we wish to provide. I agree to the right of the County to audit financial and other records of said name/entity: _____.

Name of Applicant or Authorized Agent (please print)

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Agent

Date

Exhibit C

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Project Term: _____

Section 1: Expense Summary

Expense Categories	Total of all Proposed costs
Salary	

Fringe	
Operating	
Equipment	
Travel	
Indirect Cost	
Other (Specify)	
Overall Total	\$

Section 2: Budget Justification

Provide a detailed justification of the expenses listed in Section 1.

Exhibit D

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE

Prospective Contractor agrees that all persons employed by Prospective Contractor shall be treated equally by Prospective Contractor without regard to or because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, handicap, gender, marital status, age, medical condition or sexual

orientation and in compliance with all anti-discrimination laws of the United States of America and the State of California. Prospective Contractor agrees that it shall include in its written contracts with any subcontractors a pledge by the subcontractor that the subcontractor will not engage in any unlawful discrimination. Prospective Contractor shall, if requested to do so by the County of Imperial, certify that Prospective Contractor has not discriminated against applicants, employees or subcontractors because of their membership in a protected class during the performance of this Agreement. The County of Imperial hereby notifies Prospective Contractor that Government Code Section 12990 and California Administrative Code, Title II, Division 4, Chapter 5 apply to this Agreement and are incorporated herein by this reference with the same force and effect as if those laws were specifically set out herein and Prospective Contractor agrees to comply with said statute and regulation. "Prospective Contractor" hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 and California Administrative Code, Title II, Division 4, Chapter 5, in matters relating to the development, implementation and maintenance of a nondiscrimination program.

I, _____, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the Prospective Contractor to the above-described certification. I am fully aware that this certification executed on this _____ day of _____ in the year _____ in the County of Imperial is made under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Name of Authorized Agent (please print)

Title

Signature of Authorized Agent

Date

Exhibit E

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

As a material condition of the contract, the Prospective Contractor agrees that the Prospective Contractor and the Prospective Contractor's employees, while receiving funding from the County of Imperial:

1. Shall not use/possess tobacco products while using the Prospective Contractor's property e.g. vehicle, equipment;
2. Shall not sell, offer or provide tobacco products on Prospective Contractor's premises;
3. The Prospective Contractor will participate in County of Imperial sponsored in-service trainings on tobacco education and cessation and will have tobacco education and cessation materials visibly available and accessible to clients participating in activities funded by the County of Imperial.
4. Prospective Contractor assures that the Prospective Contractor and its employees have no current business association or relationship with the tobacco industry; and
5. The County of Imperial may terminate for default or breach of this Contract and any other Contract the Prospective Contractor has with the County of Imperial, if the Prospective Contractor or Prospective Contractor's employees, are determined by the contracting officer, not to be in compliance with the conditions set forth in this RFP.

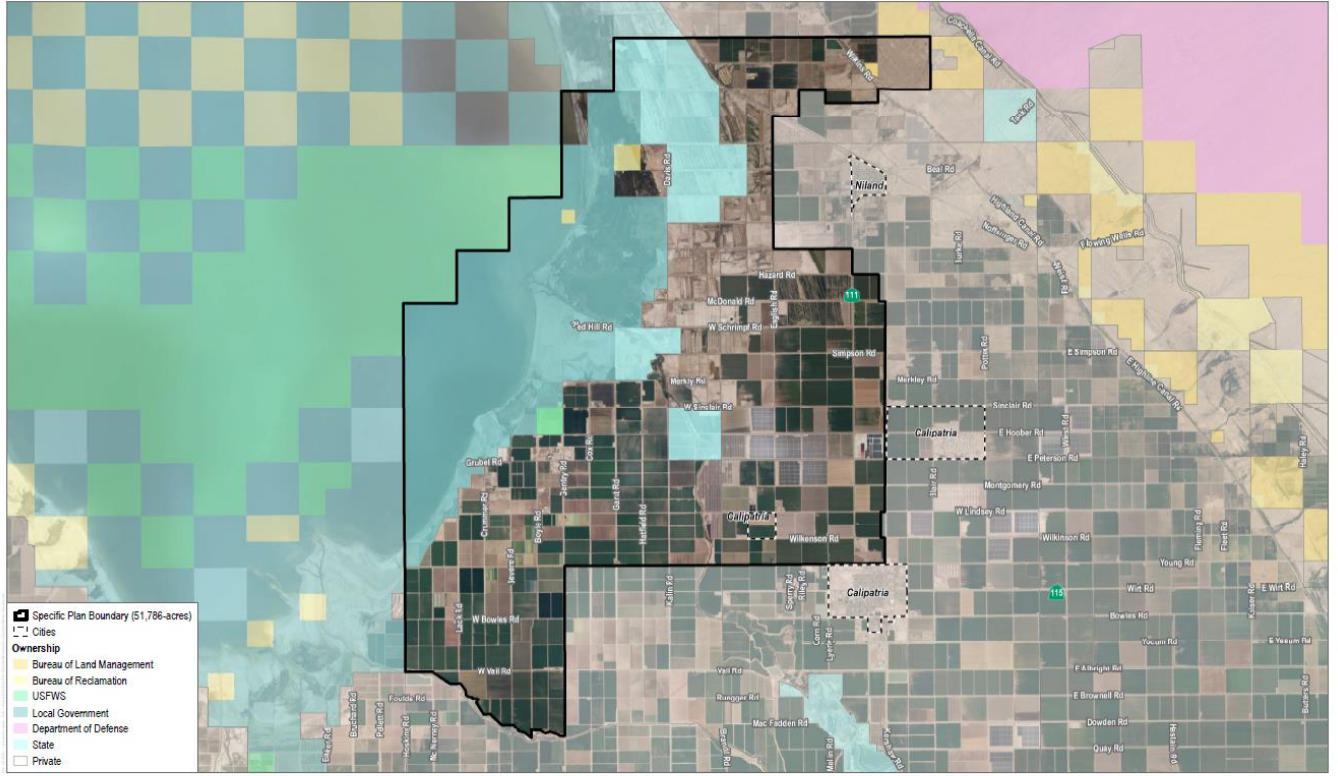
I, _____, certify that I will comply with all requirements specified herein in recognition of individual rights to work in a safe, healthy and productive environment.

Name of Authorized Agent (please print)

Title

Signature of Authorized Agent

Date



SOURCE: BLM Imperial County; Bing Maps



FIGURE 1
 Renewable Resource Area and Ownership
 Salton Sea Lithium Specific Plan