

CAPITOL OFFICE  
1021 O STREET, SUITE 6640  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4018  
FAX (916) 651-4918

CHULA VISTA DISTRICT OFFICE  
303 H STREET, SUITE 200  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910  
TEL (619) 409-7690

EL CENTRO DISTRICT OFFICE  
1224 STATE STREET, SUITE D  
EL CENTRO, CA 92243  
TEL (760) 335-3442

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/PADILLA  
SENATOR.PADILLA@SENATE.CA.GOV

# 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.

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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

---

Name: Alexis Castro  
Title: Legislative Director  
Email: Alexis.castro@sen.ca.gov  
Capitol Office: (916) 651 – 4018

### Support

---

<sup>1</sup> 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/>.