How Could Future Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE) Projects Affect Health in Imperial County?



Understanding the Imperial County Lithium Health Impact Assessment

Imperial County funded SDSU researchers to conduct a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The HIA looked closely at how future direct lithium extraction (DLE) projects in Imperial County affect people's health.
This infographic shares what we learned and what comes next.

1 What is this assessment?

This assessment looked at how future lithium projects could affect people's health.

It also looked at ways to protect health.

This type of assessment is called a **Health Impact Assessment**, or **HIA**.



2 Why was this assessment done?



COMMUNITY HEALTH



COMMUNITY VOICES



FUTURE DLE PROJECTS

Imperial County wanted to learn about possible health benefits and possible health concerns before future direct lithium extraction (DLE) projects move forward.

3 How did we do the assessment?



Read research



Reviewed health information



Listened to community members



Reviewed environmental information



Made recommendations

Three Big Takeaways

Possible Benefits

- Jobs and economic opportunities
- Local and regional investments
- Improved infrastructure
- Support for clean energy transition

Things to Watch

- Air quality impacts
- Water use and water quality
- Traffic and road safety
- Noise and dust
- Community well-being

What We Still Don't Know

- How future DLE projects may change local air quality
- How impacts may add up as more projects are built
- How DLE projects may affect health over time
- How well future protections will work

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Shaped by Community Voices

Many community members from Imperial County shared their questions, concerns, and ideas. Their feedback helped guide the recommendations made in the assessment.

What We Heard

- Protect our air.
- Protect our water.
- Monitor community health.
- Create local jobs.
- Share information.
- Keep listening.

Recommendations to Help Protect Health

1. Protect air, water, and land.
2. Share information.
3. Help communities benefit.
4. Keep listening.
5. Build strong partnerships.
6. Monitor community health.
7. Keep learning.

What Happens Next?

- Share draft assessment.
- Collect more feedback.
- Finalize the assessment.
- Publish the assessment.
- Monitor and update the community.

Learn More

Read the Report Summary

Frequently Asked Questions

Share your feedback

This assessment gives our community information about possible health impacts from direct lithium extraction (DLE) projects.
As projects move forward, new information will continue to be shared.

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