

ITEM NO. CA6

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 17, 2023**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE October 18, 2023

DATE: October 9, 2023

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Joe Abraham

THROUGH: JP Batmale and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1930)
Certification of Pine Grove Solar LLC and Round Lake Solar projects in
the Community Solar Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Certify Pine Grove Solar LLC and Round Lake Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should certify Pine Grove Solar LLC and Round Lake Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

Applicable Rule or Law

Section 22 of Senate Bill 1547, effective March 8, 2016, and codified in ORS 757.386, directs the Commission to establish a community solar program (hereinafter referred to as "Program," or "CSP").

On June 29, 2017, the Commission adopted formal rules for the Program under OAR Division 88 of Chapter 860. OAR 860-088-0050 details the requirements for project Certification.

Section 5.2 of the CSP Program Implementation Manual (PIM) outlines the information and documentation that projects must submit to the CSP Program Administrator (PA) as part of the Certification application.

Analysis

Background

A Project Manager (PM) registered with CSP may submit applications for project Certification to the PA. As required by OAR 860-088-0050(3), the PA reviews applications for compliance with Program requirements and recommends projects for Certification by the Commission. Certification is an important stage gate for CSP projects. Receiving Certification means that the project meets all Program requirements and can proceed to commercial operation.

The PA recently received two Certification applications from the following projects. After reviewing the applications and supporting documentation provided by the PMs, the PA has recommended that the Commission certify the projects in the Program. See the Certification Recommendation Forms, Attachments A and B.

Recommended Projects

Project Name	Name of Project Manager	Utility Territory	Project Size (kW-AC)	Attachment #
Pine Grove Solar LLC	Pine Grove PM, LLC	Pacific Power	1,400	Attachment A
Round Lake Solar	Round Lake PM, LLC	Pacific Power	978	Attachment B

Pine Grove Solar LLC

Pine Grove Solar LLC is a 1,400 kW-AC project located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in Klamath County. Luminace Sunbeam Development Holdings LLC controls the PM, Pine Grove PM, LLC, and manages additional projects in the Program. Arcadia Community Solar, LLC conducts outreach and customer management for the project.

The project was Pre-Certified on December 29, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of June 29, 2022. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to extend the project's Certification deadline to December 29, 2022.¹ The PM requested an extension of its Certification deadline due to

¹ Program Administrator Project Recommendation posted to Docket No. UM 1930 on May 24, 2022, <https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAH/um1930hah9711.pdf>.

broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. The PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions.

On October 20, 2022, the PA again used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to extend the project's Certification deadline eight months to August 25, 2023.² The PM requested an extension of its Certification deadline to align it with a revised Commercial Operation Date in August 2023 that the utility had offered at that time. The PA and Staff have previously granted extensions for projects, when needed, to accommodate utility interconnection timelines that stretch beyond program deadlines in situations where the project is not at fault for the delay.

The PM recently submitted necessary Certification paperwork to the PA prior to the project's Certification deadline of August 25, 2023. The PA completed its review on September 1, 2023, and recommends Certification in CSP. While the timeline of project review and public notice requirements have led the Commission to formally certify the project after its Certification deadline, Staff and the PA have no concerns with certifying the project at this time.

Round Lake Solar

Round Lake Solar is a 978 kW-AC project located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in Klamath County. Luminace Sunbeam Development Holdings LLC controls the PM, Round Lake PM, LLC, and manages additional projects in the Program. Arcadia Community Solar, LLC, conducts outreach and customer management for the project.

The project was Pre-Certified on December 29, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of June 29, 2022. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to extend the project's Certification deadline to December 29, 2022. The PM requested an extension of its Certification deadline due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. The PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions.

On October 20, 2022, the PA again used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to extend the project's Certification deadline eight months to August 25, 2023. The PM requested an extension of its Certification deadline to align it with a revised Commercial Operation Date in August 2023 that the utility had offered at that time. The PA and Staff have previously granted extensions for projects, when

² Program Administrator Project Recommendation posted to Docket No. UM 1930 on October 5, 2022, <https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAH/um1930hah15575.pdf>.

needed, to accommodate utility interconnection timelines that stretch beyond program deadlines in situations where the project is not at fault for the delay. The PA and Staff found that precedent also applied in this case.

The PM recently submitted necessary Certification paperwork to the PA prior to the project's Certification deadline of August 25, 2023. The PA completed its review on September 1, 2023, and recommends Certification in CSP. While the timeline of project review and public notice requirements have led the Commission to formally certify the project after the Certification deadline, Staff and the PA have no concerns with certifying the project at this time.

Conclusion

Staff has discussed the project applications with the PA and reviewed CSP requirements. Staff supports the PA's recommendation that the Commission approve the two projects for Certification in the Program.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Certify Pine Grove Solar LLC and Round Lake Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.



Project Certification Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the certification request of the project described below and recommends that the project be Certified.

Project Information

Project ID: PP-2020-84

Project Name: Pine Grove Solar LLC

Project Manager: Pine Gove PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Arcadia Community Solar, LLC

Utility Service Area: PAC

Project Site Address: 42°11'7.70"N, 121°41'12.42"W, Klamath Falls, OR 97621

Project Size (kW-AC): 1400

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 12/29/20

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 8/29/23

Project Description

Pine Grove Solar is a 1400 kW-AC project located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in Klamath County.

The Project Manager entity is controlled by Luminace Sunbeam Development Holdings LLC.

Outreach and customer management for the project will be conducted through Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 9/1/23

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approval

Review Notes

The project met all Certification requirements.

Attachments Included

None.



Project Certification Review and Recommendation

The Oregon Community Solar Program Administrator (PA) has reviewed the certification request of the project described below and recommends that the project be Certified.

Project Information

Project ID: PP-2020-86

Project Name: Round Lake Solar

Project Manager: Round Lake PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Arcadia Community Solar, LLC

Utility Service Area: PAC

Project Site Address: 42° 7'37.12"N, 121°54'24.14"W, Klamath Falls, OR 97621

Project Size (kW-AC): 978

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 12/29/20

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 1/27/24

Project Description

Round Lake Solar is a 978 kW-AC project located in Klamath Falls, Oregon, in Klamath County. The Project Manager entity is controlled by Luminace Sunbeam Development Holdings LLC. Outreach and customer management for the project will be conducted through Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 9/1/23

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all Certification requirements.

Attachments Included

None.