

ORDER NO. 25-014

ENTERED Jan 21 2025

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1930

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF
OREGON,

Certification of Marble Solar and Wallace
Solar Projects in the Community Solar
Program.

ORDER

DISPOSITION: STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED

At its public meeting on January 21, 2025, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon adopted Staff's recommendation in this matter. The Staff Report with the recommendation is attached as Appendix A.

BY THE COMMISSION:



Alison Lackey

Chief Administrative Law Judge



A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Circuit Court for Marion County in compliance with ORS 183.484.

ITEM NO. CA8

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: January 21, 2025**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE January 22, 2024

DATE: January 13, 2025

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Joseph Abraham

THROUGH: Caroline Moore, JP Batmale, and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1930)
Certification of Marble Solar and Wallace Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Certify Marble Solar and Wallace Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should certify the Marble Solar and Wallace Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

Applicable Rule or Law

Section 22 of Senate Bill 1547, 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.

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

Recommended Projects

Project Name	Name of Project Manager	Utility Territory	Project Size (kW-AC)	Attachment #
Marble Solar LLC	Marble Solar LLC	Pacific Power	2,875	Attachment A
Wallace Solar LLC	Wallace Solar LLC	Portland General Electric	2,970	Attachment B

Marble Solar LLC

Marble Solar LLC is a 2,875 kW-AC project located in Albany, Oregon, in Linn County. Marble Solar is controlled by SolRiver Capital, LLC. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted through Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Marble Solar was Pre-certified on December 29, 2020. On June 3, 2022, the PA used its delegated authority granted by the Commission to recommend a PM transfer from Sulus Solar to Marble Solar LLC, which is controlled by SolRiver Capital, LLC.¹

¹ See Order No. 24-364 for the Commission's decision to grant the PA with delegated authority, which was first initially granted for twenty-four months on January 25, 2022 in Order No.22-019. <https://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2024ords/24-364.pdf>.

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On July 27, 2022, the PA again used its delegated authority to recommend a fifteen-month extension to the project's Certification deadline from June 29, 2022, to September 30, 2023. The PM cited uncertainty and supply chain issues caused by the US Department of Commerce's investigation into imported solar panels from certain countries, which caused significant disruption in the domestic solar industry. The PM also cited the need for additional time to complete the acquisition of its CSP project portfolio. The PM's controlling entity, SolRiver Capital, LLC, purchased Sulus Solar's portfolio of CSP projects, which included projects then on the Program waitlist for Tier 2 capacity. While the PA would not support extending project certification deadlines solely because of the sale of a project portfolio in the absence of other factors, the PA considered the timing uncertainty related to the release of new program capacity to be a complicating factor that warranted flexibility.

On June 12, 2023, the PA again used its delegated authority to recommend a ten-month extension to the project's Certification deadline to July 30, 2024. The PM cited supply chain delays for their solar panels, interconnection delays, and unexpected wetland permitting delays.

On December 12, 2024, the PA again used its delegated authority to recommend a ten-month extension to the project's Certification deadline to March 15, 2025. While this was a retroactive recommendation, the PM requested the extension in advance of the project's July 30, 2024, Certification deadline. The PM needed time to complete administrative work required for the project to meet the low-income capacity requirement and execute a Power Purchase Agreement for Certification. Staff recognizes the PA may require additional time to review project requests for deadline extensions.

The PM submitted the necessary Certification paperwork to the PA on December 20, 2024, prior to the project's Certification deadline of March 15, 2025. The PA completed its review on January 1, 2025, and recommends Certification in CSP.

Wallace Solar LLC

Wallace Solar LLC is a 2,970 kW-AC project located in Zena, Oregon, in Polk County. Wallace Solar LLC is controlled by SolRiver Capital, LLC. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted through Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Wallace Solar LLC project was Pre-certified on April 15, 2022. On June 3, 2022, the PA used its delegated authority to recommend a PM transfer from Sulus Solar to Wallace Solar LLC, which is controlled by SolRiver Capital, LLC.

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On June 10, 2023, the PA again used its delegated authority to recommend a ten-month extension to the project's Certification deadline from October 15, 2023, to July 30, 2024. The PM cited supply chain delays for their solar panels, interconnection delays, and unexpected delays related to a wetland permit necessary for project development.

On December 12, 2024, the PA again used its delegated authority to recommend a seven-and-a-half-month extension to the project's Certification deadline to March 15, 2025. While this was a retroactive recommendation, the PM requested the extension in advance of the July 30, 2024, Certification deadline. The PM needed time to complete administrative work required for the project to meet the low-income capacity requirement and execute a Power Purchase Agreement for Certification. Staff recognizes the PA may require additional time to review project requests for deadline extensions.

The PM submitted the necessary Certification paperwork to the PA on December 6, 2024. This occurred after the PM submitted its request for a seven-and-a-half-month extension of the project's Certification deadline to March 15, 2025, and prior to the extension being granted the day after the two-week comment period that ended on December 11, 2024. The PA completed its review on December 31, 2024, and recommends Certification.

Conclusion

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

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Certify Marble Solar and Wallace Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

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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-2020-82

Project Name: Marble Solar

Project Manager: Marble Solar LLC

Subscription Manager: Arcadia Community Solar, LLC

Utility Service Area: PAC

Project Site Address: 44.629326° N, 123.020312° W, Albany, OR 97322

Project Size (kW-AC): 2,875

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 12/29/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 1/30/2025

Project Description

Marble Solar is a 2,875 kW-AC project located in Albany, Oregon, in Linn County. Marble Solar is controlled by SolRiver Capital, LLC. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted through Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 12/23/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No Review Notes.

Attachments Included

No attachments.



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: PGE-2020-77

Project Name: Wallace Solar LLC

Project Manager: Wallace Solar LLC

Subscription Manager: Arcadia Community Solar, LLC

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 45° 1'40.82"N, 123° 5'37.35"W, Zena, OR 97304

Project Size (kW-AC): 2,970

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 4/15/2022

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 1/21/2024

Project Description

Wallace Solar LLC is a 2,970 kW-AC project located in Zena, Oregon, in Polk County. Wallace Solar LLC is controlled by SolRiver Capital, LLC. Outreach and customer management for the project are conducted through Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 12/31/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No Review Notes.

Attachments Included

No attachments.