

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: November 29, 2022**

REGULAR _____ **CONSENT** X **EFFECTIVE DATE** November 30, 2022

DATE: November 21, 2022

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Joe Abraham

THROUGH: Bryan Conway, JP Batmale, and Sarah Hall **SIGNED**

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Certify the following seven projects in the Community Solar Program: Skyward Solar; Carnes Creek Solar, LLC; Cosper Creek Solar, LLC; Fruitland Creek Solar; Kaiser Creek Solar, LLC; Sandy River Solar; and Sesqui-C Solar, LLC.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should certify the following seven projects in the Community Solar Program: Skyward Solar; Carnes Creek Solar, LLC; Cosper Creek Solar, LLC; Fruitland Creek Solar; Kaiser Creek Solar, LLC; Sandy River Solar; and Sesqui-C Solar, LLC.

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 must be submitted to the PA as part of the Certification application.

Analysis

Background

A Project Manager (PM) registered with CSP may submit applications for project Certification to the Program Administrator (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.

The PA recently received Certification applications for the following 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, Attachments A-G.

Recommended Projects

Project Name	Name of Project Manager	Utility Territory	Project Size (kW-AC)	Attachment #
Skyward Solar	Skyward Solar, LLC	Portland General Electric	2,500	Attachment A
Carnes Creek Solar, LLC	Conifer Community Energy 5, LLC	Portland General Electric	2,500	Attachment B
Cosper Creek Solar, LLC	Conifer Community Energy 1, LLC	Portland General Electric	2,500	Attachment C
Fruitland Creek Solar	FC PM, LLC	Portland General Electric	1,750	Attachment D
Kaiser Creek Solar, LLC	Kaiser Creek Project Manager, LLC	Portland General Electric	2,000	Attachment E
Sandy River Solar	SR PM, LLC	Portland General Electric	1,850	Attachment F
Sesqui-C Solar, LLC	Conifer Community Energy 3, LLC	Portland General Electric	2,500	Attachment G

Skyward Solar

Skyward Solar is a 2,500 kW-AC project located in Boring, Oregon, in Clackamas County. The PM, Skyward Solar, LLC, is controlled by Standard Solar, Inc. Common Energy is the subscription manager for the project. Skyward Solar is the only project in the Program currently managed by Standard Solar, and the only project Common Energy is currently affiliated with.

The project was pre-certified on March 11, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of September 11, 2021. In Order No. 21-294, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to July 1, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic and granted additional time to allow the project to complete construction after the 2022 winter wet season.¹ The Commission granted the additional time on the condition that the project demonstrate within six months it had given its engineer, procure and construct contractor notice to proceed. The project satisfied this condition. On July 27, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extended the project's Certification deadline to January 1, 2023, to provide additional time to complete low-income enrollment and to receive certainty regarding the potential use of the agent subscription model in the Program.² In all these cases, the PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

Carnes Creek Solar, LLC

Carnes Creek Solar, LLC is a 2,500 kW-AC project located in Salem, Oregon, in Marion County. The PM, Conifer Community Energy 5, LLC, is controlled by Conifer Energy Partners, which currently manages five projects in the Program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several PMs to conduct customer management in the Program.

The project was pre-certified on June 12, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of December 12, 2021. In Order No. 21-388, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to June 12, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic.³ On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extend the project's Certification deadline to

¹ Commission Order No. 21-294, <https://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2021ords/21-294.pdf>.

² Program Administrator Project Recommendation posted to Docket No. UM 1930 on July 12, 2022, <https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAH/um1930hah82552.pdf>.

³ Commission Order No. 21-388, <https://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2021ords/21-388.pdf>.

December 12, 2022, due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines.⁴ In both cases, the PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and now recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

Cosper Creek Solar, LLC

Cosper Creek Solar, LLC is a 2,500 kW-AC project located in Yamhill, Oregon, in Polk County. The PM, Conifer Community Energy 1, LLC, is controlled by Conifer Energy Partners, which currently manages five projects in the Program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several PMs to conduct customer management in the Program.

The project was pre-certified on June 12, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of December 12, 2021. In Order No. 21-388, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to June 12, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extend the project's Certification deadline to December 12, 2022, due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. In both cases, the PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and now recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

Fruitland Creek Solar

Fruitland Creek Solar is a 1,750 kW-AC project located in Salem, Oregon, in Marion County. The PM, FC PM, LLC, is controlled by TLS Capital, which currently manages nine projects in the Program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several PMs to conduct customer management in the Program.

The project was pre-certified on June 12, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of December 12, 2021. In Order No. 21-388, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to June 12, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extend the project's Certification deadline to December 12, 2022, due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. In both cases, the

⁴ Program Administrator Project Recommendation posted to Docket No. UM 1930 on May 24, 2022, <https://edocs.puc.state.or.us/efdocs/HAH/um1930hah9711.pdf>.

PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and now recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

Kaiser Creek Solar, LLC

Kaiser Creek Solar is a 2,000 kW-AC project located in Molalla, Oregon, in Clackamas County. The PM, Kaiser Creek Program Manager, LLC, is controlled by Green Key Solar, which currently manages five projects in the Program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several PMs to conduct customer management in the Program.

The project was pre-certified on June 18, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of December 18, 2021. In Order No. 21-388, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to June 18, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extend the project's Certification deadline to December 18, 2022, due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. In both cases, the PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and now recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

Sandy River Solar

Sandy River Solar is a 1,850 kW-AC project located in Salem, Oregon, in Marion County. The PM, SR PM, LLC, is controlled by TLS Capital, which currently manages nine projects in the Program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several PMs to conduct customer management in the Program.

The project was pre-certified on June 12, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of December 12, 2021. In Order No. 21-388, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to June 12, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extend the project's Certification deadline to December 12, 2022, due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. In both cases, the PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and now recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

Sesqui-C Solar, LLC

Sesqui-C Solar is a 2,500 kW-AC project located in Yamhill, Oregon, in Yamhill County. The PM, Conifer Community Energy 3, LLC, is controlled by Conifer Energy Partners, which currently manages five projects in the Program.

The project was pre-certified on June 12, 2020, and had an original Certification deadline of December 12, 2021. In Order No. 21-388, the Commission extended the project's Certification deadline to June 12, 2022, due to disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On June 8, 2022, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to further extend the project's Certification deadline to December 12, 2022, due to broad industry supply chain disruption related to tariffs on imported solar panels that impacted project construction timelines. In both cases, the PA and Staff found the PM experienced reasonable challenges that justified granting the extensions and now recommend Certification of this project in the CSP.

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 seven projects for Certification in the Program.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Certify the following seven projects in the Community Solar Program: Skyward Solar; Carnes Creek Solar, LLC; Cosper Creek Solar, LLC; Fruitland Creek Solar; Kaiser Creek Solar, LLC; Sandy River Solar; and Sesqui-C Solar, LLC.



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-2020-22

Project Name: Skyward Solar

Project Manager: Skyward Solar LLC

Subscription Manager: Common Energy

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 37071 SE Kelso Road, Boring, OR 97009

Project Size (kW-AC): 2500

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 3/11/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 11/13/2022

Project Description

Skyward Solar is a 2,500 kW-AC project located in Boring, Oregon, in Clackamas County. Common Energy is the subscription manager for the project. The project is managed by an entity owned by Standard Solar, Inc. Skyward is the only project currently managed by Standard Solar, and the only project currently subscribed by Common Energy.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 10/26/2022

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all certification requirements.

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-2020-56

Project Name: Carnes Creek Solar LLC

Project Manager: Conifer Community Energy 5, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Shines

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 10825 Portland Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305

Project Size (kW-AC): 2500

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/12/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 12/15/2022

Project Description

Carnes Creek Solar is a 2500 kW-AC project located in Salem, Oregon, in Marion County. The project manager entity is controlled by Conifer Energy Partners, which currently manages 5 projects in the program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several ORCSP project managers to conduct customer management in the community solar program.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 11/03/2022

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all certification requirements.

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-2020-34

Project Name: Cospers Creek Solar, LLC

Project Manager: Conifer Community Energy 1, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Shines

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 45.058°, -123.499°, Willamina, OR 97396

Project Size (kW-AC): 2500

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/12/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 12/15/2022

Project Description

Cospers Creek Solar is a 2500 kW-AC project located in Yamhill, Oregon, in Polk County. The project manager entity is controlled by Conifer Energy Partners, which currently manages 5 projects in the program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several ORCSP project managers to conduct customer management in the community solar program.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 11/03/2022

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all certification requirements.

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-2020-41

Project Name: Fruitland Creek Solar

Project Manager: FC PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Shines

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 44°55'48.5"N 122°56'15.0"W, Salem, OR 97317

Project Size (kW-AC): 1750

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/12/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 12/15/2022

Project Description

Fruitland Creek Solar is a 1750 kW-AC project located in Salem, Oregon, in Marion County. The project manager entity is controlled by TLS Capital, which currently manages 9 projects in the program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several ORCSP project managers to conduct customer management in the community solar program.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 11/03/2022

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all certification requirements.

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-2020-42

Project Name: Kaiser Creek Solar, LLC

Project Manager: Kaiser Creek Project Manager, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Shines

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 45°08'34.8"N, 122°36'32.4"W, Molalla, OR 97038

Project Size (kW-AC): 2000

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/18/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 12/15/2022

Project Description

Kaiser Creek Solar is a 2000 kW-AC project located in Molalla, Oregon, in Clackamas County. The project manager entity is controlled by Green Key Solar, which currently manages 5 projects in the program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several ORCSP project managers to conduct customer management in the community solar program.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 11/03/2022

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all certification requirements.

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-2020-38

Project Name: Sandy River Solar

Project Manager: SR PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Shines

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 45°25'51.8"N 122°17'42.6"W, Sandy, OR 97055

Project Size (kW-AC): 1850

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/12/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 12/15/2022

Project Description

Sandy River Solar is a 1850 kW-AC project located in Salem, Oregon, in Marion County. The project manager entity is controlled by TLS Capital, which currently manages 9 projects in the program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several ORCSP project managers to conduct customer management in the community solar program.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 11/3/22

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The Project met all certification requirements.

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-2020-45

Project Name: Sesqui-C Solar, LLC

Project Manager: Conifer Community Energy 3, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Shines

Utility Service Area: PGE

Project Site Address: 15000 Highway 47, Yamhill, OR 97148

Project Size (kW-AC): 2500

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 06/12/2020

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 12/15/2022

Project Description

Sesqui-C Solar is a 2500 kW-AC project located in Yamhill, Oregon, in Yamhill County. The project manager entity is controlled by Conifer Energy Partners, which currently manages 5 projects in the program. Outreach and customer management for the project has been conducted through Oregon Shines, an entity formed by several ORCSP project managers to conduct customer management in the community solar program.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 11/4/22

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

The project met all certification requirements.

Attachments Included

No attachments.