

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 9, 2024**

REGULAR **CONSENT** **EFFECTIVE DATE** July 9, 2024

DATE: June 27, 2024

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Kiran Ambreen Ayub

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

SUBJECT: OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION STAFF:
(Docket No. UM 1930)
Certification of Blackwell Creek Solar and Wood River Solar projects in the
Community Solar Program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Certify Blackwell Creek Solar and Wood River Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) should certify Blackwell Creek Solar and Wood River 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.

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 #
Blackwell Creek Solar	Blackwell Creek PM, LLC	Pacific Power	1,350	Attachment A
Wood River Solar	Wood River PM, LLC	Pacific Power	359	Attachment B

Blackwell Creek Solar

Blackwell Creek Solar is a 1,350 kW-AC project located in Central Point, Oregon, in Jackson County. TLS Capital, Inc controls the PM entity. Oregon Subscription Management, LLC will conduct outreach and customer management for the project.

The project was Pre-Certified with Tier 2 capacity on December 1, 2022, with a Certification deadline of June 1, 2024. The PM recently submitted the necessary Certification paperwork to the PA prior to the project's Certification deadline of June 1, 2024. The PA completed its review on June 4, 2024, and recommends Certification in CSP. While this timeline has led Staff to recommend the Commission certify the project after its Certification deadline, Staff and the PA have no concerns with certifying the project at this time. The Program considers that projects submitting Certification applications to the PA by the deadline to have met the deadline, while the

PA and Staff may require additional time to review applications for recommendation to the Commission.¹

Wood River Solar

Wood River Solar is a 359 kW-AC project located in Altamont, Oregon, in Klamath County. TLS Capital, Inc controls the PM entity. Arcadia Community Solar, LLC will conduct outreach and customer management for the project.

The project was Pre-Certified with Tier 1 Carve-Out capacity on December 28, 2021, with an original Certification deadline of June 28, 2023. On August 17, 2023, the PA used authorities delegated by the Commission in Order No. 22-007 to recommend an extension of the project's Certification deadline to December 31, 2023, which was granted.² The PM requested an extension to its Certification deadline due to interconnection delays. On January 5, 2024, the PA again used delegated authorities to extend the project's Certification deadline to June 30, 2024. The PM requested an extension to its Certification deadline to complete on-site construction.

The PM submitted the necessary Certification paperwork to the PA on May 1, 2024, prior to the project's Certification deadline of June 30, 2024. The PA completed its review on June 4, 2024, and recommends Certification in CSP. While this timeline has led Staff to recommend the Commission certify the project after its Certification deadline, Staff and the PA have no concerns with certifying the project at this time. The Program considers that projects submitting Certification applications to the PA by the deadline to have met the deadline, while the PA and Staff may require additional time to review applications for recommendation to the Commission.

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 Blackwell Creek Solar and Wood River Solar projects in the Program.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Certify Blackwell Creek Solar and Wood River Solar projects in the Community Solar Program.

¹ Staff has previously utilized this approach in Order No. 21-321, <https://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2021ords/21-321.pdf>.

² See Order No. 22-007, <https://apps.puc.state.or.us/orders/2022ords/22-007.pdf>.



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-2021-125

Project Name: Blackwell Creek Solar

Project Manager: Blackwell Creek PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Oregon Subscription Management, LLC

Utility Service Area: PAC

Project Site Address: 42°25'14.9"N, 123°00'29.9"W

Project Size (kW-AC): 1,350

Carveout-eligible: No

Date of Pre-Certification: 12/1/2022

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 07/30/2024

Project Description

Blackwell Creek Solar is a 1,350 kW-AC project located in Central Point, Oregon, in Jackson County. The project manager entity is controlled by TLS Capital, Inc. Outreach and customer management for the project is conducted by Oregon Subscription Management, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 06/14/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No special comments.

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: PP-2021-126

Project Name: Wood River Solar

Project Manager: Wood River PM, LLC

Subscription Manager: Arcadia Community Solar, LLC

Utility Service Area: PAC

Project Site Address: 42°10'45.32"N, 121°44'55.75"W, Altamont, OR 97603

Project Size (kW-AC): 359

Carveout-eligible: Yes, <360 kW-AC

Date of Pre-Certification: 12/28/2021

Expected Commercial Operations Date: 07/30/2024

Project Description

Wood River Solar is a 359 kW-AC project located in Altamont, Oregon, in Klamath County. The project is in the designated Carve-out section of the program as it fulfilled the Tier 1 requirement of being less than 360 kW-AC. The Project Manager entity is controlled by TLS Capital, Inc. Outreach and customer management are conducted by Arcadia Community Solar, LLC.

Review Summary

Date Review Completed: 06/14/2024

Project Satisfies all Certification Requirements?: Yes

PA Recommendation: Approve

Review Notes

No special comments.

Attachments Included

No attachments.