TIMMONS GROUP
YOUR VISION ACHIEVED THROUGH OURS.

1001 Boulders Parkway
Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23225

P 804.200.6500
F 804.560.1016
www.timmons.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oak Lane Solar Farm

FROM: Timmons Group

DATE: November 11, 2024

RE: Landscape Plan and Pollinator Impacts and Benefits for Oak Lane Solar Farm

NOTES:

CEP Solar, LLC has engaged the Landscape Architecture team at Timmons Group to prepare a landscape and screening plan for a proposed facility in Prince Edward County, named the Oak Lane Solar Farm facility. This plan is shown on Sheets C4.0 and C4.1 of the SEP submittal set.

The project is located on 194.823 acres southeast of Route 360. The existing site is entirely wooded. There may be existing pollinator habitat that is impacted by the project with the removal of native plants in the woodland areas; however, proposed plantings of wildlife- and pollinator-friendly species will offset these impacts. Existing onsite vegetation has not been inventoried, but there is no known significant pollinator habitat that is expected to be removed. Wetlands and stream corridors on site will be preserved and maintain their benefits for wildlife and pollinator species.

Proposed pollinator-friendly plantings include two components: the *vegetative buffer* and *groundcover*. Timmons Group has prioritized the use of native species for both plantings per the requirements of the Prince Edward County ordinance for Alternative Energy Facilities. While the use of native species optimizes the benefit to pollinator species and wildlife, some exception has been made in the groundcover selection as described below.

Vegetative Buffer

All species selected are native species or cultivated varieties of native species. This includes 1) mostly evergreen species (approximately 10 trees per 100 linear feet) for year-round screening, and 2) flowering trees (approximately 3 trees per 100 linear feet). Species of both types will provide habitat and or food sources for a variety of pollinator species. Per the County's requirements, the buffer will also be seeded with pollinator-friendly species—see more information below.

Groundcover

Three groundcovers have been selected for different parts of the Project Area.

For the Panel Zone and Screening Zone, a Solar Farm Seed Mix of non-tall type fescues, bluegrass, and white clover has been selected that will do well beneath panels that are situated low to the ground. These species are short-growing and will require minimal mowing. While these species are not native, they are an environmentally sound choice and practical for using beneath panels, and the white clover will provide a nectar source for pollinator species. Our experience in specifying groundcover for numerous utility-scale solar projects is that commercially available, economically viable options are very limited for native seed mixes that will grow beneath panels at their standard height above the ground (2 to 3 feet). Therefore, clover-grass mixes are preferred for these projects. Several industry specialists and current best practices, such as those described in the "North Carolina Technical Guidance for Native Plantings on Solar Sites" recommend the use of clover-grass mixes as an alternative to native species for groundcover on utility-scale projects for the same aforementioned reasons.

For the Open Area within the fence and any temporary construction facilities post-use, a Native Pollinator Mix of over 25 species of native pollinators and grasses has been selected. This is a commercially available mix with species that will provide habitat benefitting pollinator species and other wildlife.

Both the Solar Farm Seed Mix and Native Pollinator Mix will require only seasonal mowing (one to three times a year) to stimulate healthy growth and maturation of the groundcover and control weeds.

While no stormwater facilities have yet been designated on the site, a standard mix of native species that is appropriate for detention basins has been included with the landscape notes and details.