

434 Fayetteville Street Suite 2800 Raleigh, NC 27601 Tel (919) 755-8700 Fax (919) 755-8800 www.foxrothschild.com Direct No: 919.755.8764 Email: kkemerait@foxrothschild.com

KAREN M. KEMERAIT

March 4, 2021

Ms. Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk North Carolina Utilities Commission 430 N. Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC 27603

> Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application for Rosemary Solar, LLC to Construct a 74-MWAC Solar Facility in Scotland County, North Carolina NCUC Docket No. SP-31586, Sub 0

Dear Ms. Campbell:

RE:

On behalf of Rosemary Solar, LLC, we submit the attached **Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application** in the above-referenced docket.

Should you have any questions concerning this filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Kemerait

Karen m. Kemerait

KK:bs

cc: All parties of record Enclosures

A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Partnership

DOCKET NO. SP-
$$\frac{31586}{}$$
, SUB  $\frac{0}{}$   
Filing Fee Tendered \$ $\frac{275.00}{}$ 

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Rule R8-64

Pursuant to Commission Rule R8-64, this form is required for use in applying for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) by a person, other than an electric public utility, who is an owner of a renewable energy facility that is participating in the Competitive Procurement of Renewable Energy Program established in G.S. 62-110.8, or by a person who is seeking the benefits of 16 U.S.C. 624-3 or G.S. 62-156 as a qualifying co-generator or a qualifying small power producer as defined in 16 U.S.C. 796(17) and (18), or as a small power producer as defined in G.S. 62-3(27a), except persons exempt from certification pursuant to G.S. 62-110.1(g). This form may be accompanied by any exhibits or additional responses incorporated by reference thereto and attached to this form. This form must be accompanied by the required filing fee of \$25.00.

You may file this application electronically; please see www.ncuc.net for instructions.

If this form is filed by hard copy, the original plus 12 copies must be presented at or transmitted to the office of the Chief Clerk. Regardless of the method of delivery, this form is not deemed filed until it is received by the Chief Clerk, along with the required filing fee.

The mailing address is:

Chief Clerk NC Utilities Commission 4325 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4325

Exhibits required by Rule R8-64(b)		Applicant's Response
(1)(i)	Full and correct name of the owner of the facility	Rosemary Solar LLC
	Facility name	Rosemary Solar LLC
	Business address	880 Apollo St, Suite 333, El Segundo, CA 90245
	E-mail address	utility@birchcreekdev.com
	Telephone number	(855) 969-3380
(ii)	The owner is (check one)	🔲 Individual 🔲 Partnership 🗹 Corporation
	If a partnership, the name and business address of each general partner	
	If a corporation, the state and date of incorporation	North Carolina limited liability company formed 11/12/2020

	If a partnership, the name			
	and address of each general			
	partner (add additional sheets			
	if necessary)			
	Owner's agent for purposes	Karen Kemerait		
	of this application, if	Fox Rothschild LLP		
	applicable:			
	Agent's business address	434 Fayetteville St, Suite 2800, Raleigh, NC 27601		
	Agent's e-mail address	kkemerait@foxrothschild.com		
	Agent's telephone number	(919) 755-8764		
(iii)	The full and correct name of	The site is owned by 1 independent landowner: Walker		
	the site owner and, if the site	Farms, Inc., a North Carolina Corporation. The applicant		
	owner is other than the	and facility owner, Rosemary Solar LLC, has a valid		
	applicant, the applicant's	purchase and sale agreement with each owner.		
	legal interest in the site			
(2)(i) Attach a color map or aerial photo showing the location of the general				
	site in relation to local highway	ys, streets, rivers, streams, and other generally		
	known local landmarks with the	proposed location of major equipment indicated		
	on the map or photo, including	g: the generator, fuel handling equipment, plant		
		ipment, the site boundary, planned and existing		
		roads, planned and existing water supplies, and		
	planned and existing electric facilities; A U.S. Geological Survey map			
	aerial photo map prepared via the State's geographic information syst			
	at www.gis.ncdcr.gov/hpoweb/)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
(ii)	E911 street address of the			
, ,	proposed facility	E911 address has not yet been assigned to the facility		
	County in which the proposed	Scotland County		
	facility will be physically	ocoliana ocumy		
	located			
	GPS coordinates of the	34°47'30.84"N, 79°25'22.63"W		
	approximate center of the	OT TI OU.UT IN, I O ZU ZZ.UU VV		
	proposed facility site to the			
	nearest second or one			
	thousandth of a degree			
(3)(i)	The nature of the facility,	The facility will be a 74 MWac solar photovoltaic (PV)		
(-)(-)	including its technology, and	generation facility that will utilize solar energy to produce		
	the source of its power and	electricity.		
	fuel(s)	3.55		
(ii)	A description of the buildings,	The feetly lead to the feet and		
(11)	structures and equipment	The facility's equipment is expected to include:		
	comprising the generating	(i) Approximately 171,210 Canadian Solar 445 W Bifacial modules (or equivalent)		
		(ii) Approximately 27 Sungrow SG3150U inverters (or		
	facility and the manner of its operation	equivalent)		
	l operation	-		

(iii)	The gross and net projected maximum dependable capacity of the facility in megawatts – Alternating Current	The dependable capacity of the facility is 0 MW.
	The facility's nameplate capacity in megawatts – Alternating Current	The facility's nameplate capacity is 74 MWac.
(iv)	The projected date on which the facility will come on line	June 1, 2024
(v)	The applicant's general plan for sale of the electricity to be generated, including the name of utility to which the applicant plans to sell the electricity	The facility owner plans to sell the electricity to Duke Energy Progress LLC, pursuant to a long-term Power Purchase Agreement.
(vi)	Any provisions for wheeling of the electricity, if applicable	No provisions for the facility to wheel electricity.
(vii)	Arrangements for firm, non- firm, or emergency generation, if applicable	There are currently no arrangement for firm, non-firm, or emergency generation
(viii)	The service life of the project	40 years
(ix)	The projected annual sales in kilowatt-hours	145,383,000 kWh
(x)	Whether the applicant intends to produce renewable energy certificates that are eligible for compliance with the State's renewable energy and energy efficiency portfolio standard  Yes  No	
	<u>—</u>	
(4)(i)	A complete list of all federal and state licenses, permits and exemptions required for construction and operation of the generating facility and a statement of whether each has been obtained or applied for	FERC Form 556, Self-Certification of Qualifying Facility - Complete     NC Dept of Environmental Quality: Stormwater Permit and Sedimentation and Erosion Control Permit - TBD     NC Dept of Transportation: Commercial Driveway Permit - TBD     FAA Section 77.9 Notice - Complete     EIA-860 and EIA-923 - TBD
(ii)	for  Attach a copy of those licenses, permits and exemptions that have been obtained; a copy of those that have not been obtained at the time of the application should be filed with the Commission as soon as they are obtained	
(5)	The expected cost of the proposed facility	<b>\$</b> 70,300,000

(6) The following applicants shall complete this section with the information as described in R8-64(b)(6): 1) An applicant seeking to enter into a contract for the sale of electricity with a term of 5 years or more, and whose facility will have a projected generating capacity of 5 MW<sub>AC</sub> or greater and is not a solar photovoltaic facility, and 2) An applicant seeking to enter into a contract for the sale of electricity with a term of 5 years or more, and whose facility is a solar photovoltaic facility with a generating capacity of 25 MW<sub>AC</sub> or more. A statement detailing the experience and expertise of the persons who will (i)a develop, design, construct, and operate the project to the extent such persons are known at the time of the application Information specifically identifying the extent to which any regulated utility will be b involved in the actual operation of the project A statement obtained by the applicant from the electric utility to which the С applicant plans to sell the electricity to be generated setting forth an assessment of the impact of such purchased power on the utility's capacity, reserves, generation mix, capacity expansion plan, and avoided costs (ii)a The most current available balance sheet of the applicant The most current available income statement of the applicant b An economic feasibility study of the project С A statement of the actual financing arrangements entered into in connection with d the project to the extent known at the time of the application A detailed explanation of the anticipated kilowatt and kilowatt-hour outputs, on-(iii)a peak and off-peak, for each month of the year. The explanation shall include a statement of the specific on-peak and off-peak hours underlying the applicant's quantification of anticipated kilowatt and kilowatt-hour outputs A detailed explanation of all energy inputs and outputs, of whatever form, for the project, including the amount of energy and the form of energy to be sold to each purchaser A detailed explanation of arrangements for fuel supply, including the length of time covered by the arrangements, to the extent known at the time of the application

# Confidentiality

If an applicant considers certain of the required information above to be confidential and entitled to protection from public disclosure, it may designate said information as confidential and file it under seal. Documents marked as confidential will be treated pursuant to applicable Commission rules, procedures, and orders dealing with filings made under seal and with nondisclosure agreements.

Please read the "After You File" instructions on the last page of this document.

All applications shall be signed and verified (notarized) by the applicant or by an individual duly authorized to act on behalf of the applicant for the purpose of the application. A blank verification page is attached below:

# **VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NC COL	UNTY OF Buncambe
Signature of Owner's Representative or Agen	Authorized Representative  Title of Representative or Agent
Ben Call Typed or Printed Name of Representative or A	Agent
The above named person personally appeare sworn, says that the facts stated in the foregoir and statements thereto attached are true as h	ng application and any exhibits, documents,
WITNESS my hand and notarial seal, this	th day of February, 2021.
My Commis	ssion Expires:04.11. 2024
Signature of Notary Public	NOTA SIZE
Corinne Wullimann Name of Notary Public – Typed or Printed	BURNER OUNTILL

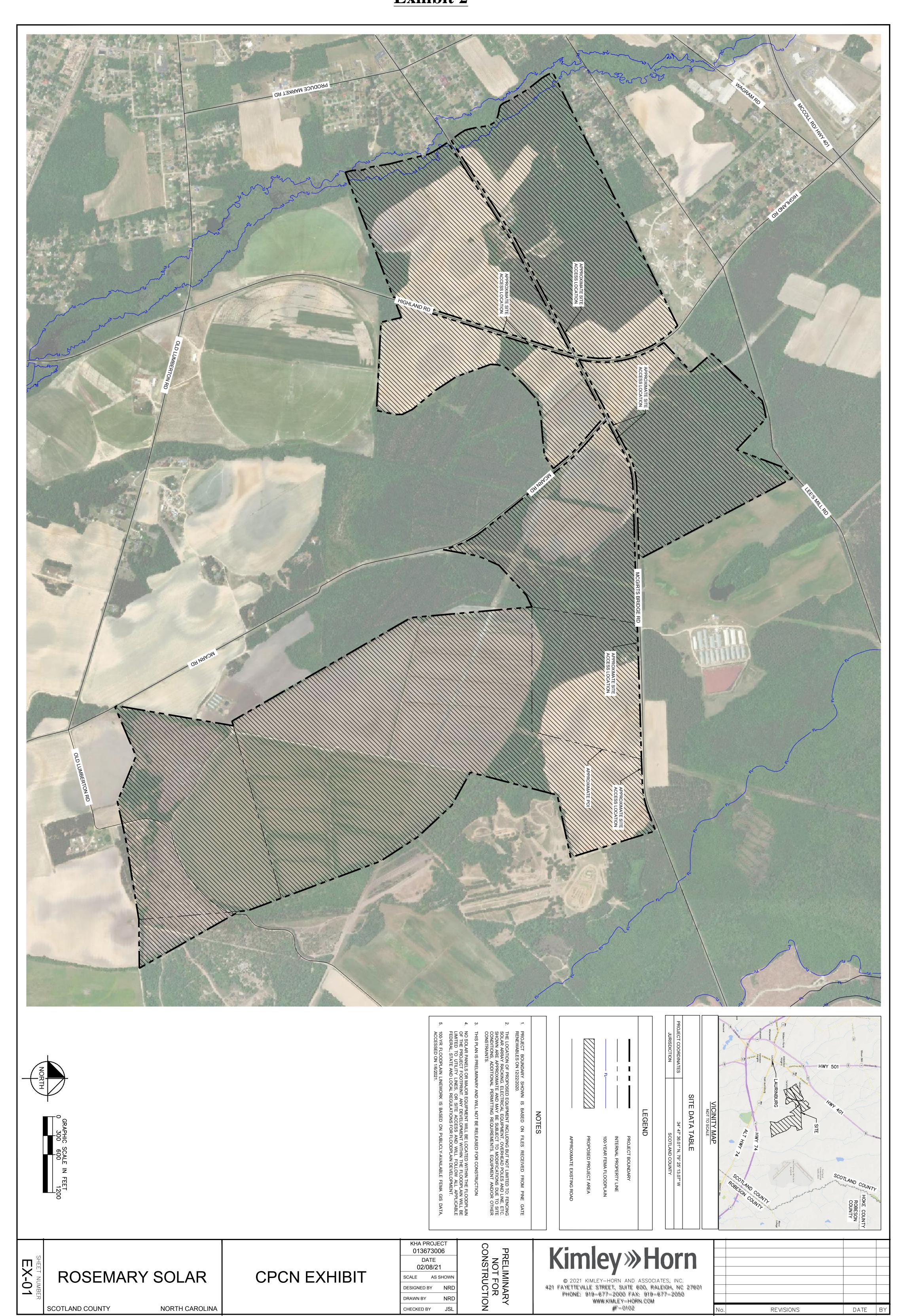
This original verification must be affixed to the original application, and a copy of this verification must be affixed to each of the copies that are also submitted to the Commission.

## After You File

- After you file an application for a CPCN, the Utilities Commission will automatically send a copy to the State Clearinghouse for a government agency review and will issue an Order Requiring Publication of Notice.
- 2. The State Clearinghouse will post the application on its website for a 30-day review by government agencies.
- You must publish the Commission's Public Notice as required by the Order Requiring Publication of Notice.
- 4. You must send a copy of the application <u>and</u> the Commission's Public Notice to the interconnecting utility no later than the first date that publication begins in the newspaper. You must also file a <u>notarized</u> letter called a "certificate of service" that states you completed this requirement.
- 5. After the publication period, the publishing newspaper should send you a notarized affidavit of publication. You must file the affidavit of publication with the Chief Clerk of the Utilities Commission.
- 6. If a complaint is received within 10 days after the last date of the publication of the notice, the Commission will schedule a public hearing to determine whether a certificate should be awarded and will give reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing to the applicant and to each complaining party and will require the applicant to publish notice of the hearing in the newspaper in which the notice of the application was published. If no complaint is received within the time specified, the Commission may, upon its own initiative, order and schedule a hearing to determine whether a certificate should be awarded and, if the Commission orders a hearing upon its own initiative, it will require notice of the hearing to be published by the applicant in the newspaper in which the notice of the application was published.

If no complaint is received within the time specified and the Commission does not order a hearing upon its own initiative, the Commission will enter an order issuing the certificate.

# Exhibit 2



SCALE

SCOTLAND COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

DESIGNED BY

CHECKED BY

AS SHOWN

NRD

NRD

© 2021 KIMLEY—HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. 421 FAYETTEVILLE STREET, SUITE 600, RALEIGH, NC 27601 PHONE: 919—677—2000 FAX: 919—677—2050 WWW.KIMLEY—HORN.COM #F=0102

Mar 04 2021 **OFFICIAL COPY** 

REVISIONS

## Rosemary Solar, LLC – CPCN Application

## Exhibit 6

- i. a) A statement detailing the experience and expertise of the persons who will develop, design, construct, and operate the project is attached hereto.
  - b) No regulated utility will be involved in the actual operation of the project, outside of their normal role in operating the grid.
  - c) The applicant has requested a statement of the impact of the purchased power on Duke Energy Progress' capacity, reserves, generation mix, capacity expansion plan, and avoided costs. The response will be filed upon receipt.

## Exhibit 7

- ii. a) The most currently available balance sheet of Birch Creek Development, LLC, the upstream owner of Rosemary Solar, LLC, shall be filed under seal.
  - b) The most currently available income statement of Birch Creek Development, LLC, the upstream owner of Rosemary Solar, LLC, shall be filed under seal.
  - c) An economic feasibility study of the project shall be filed under seal.
  - d) The financing arrangements in connection with the project are not yet known. The financing arrangements will be filed once known.

#### Exhibit 8

- a) A detailed explanation of the anticipated kilowatt and kilowatt-hour outputs, on-peak and off-peak, for each month of the year, including the specific on-peak and off-peak hours that were used to determine the facility's anticipated kilowatt and kilowatt-hour outputs will be filed under seal due to the confidential contents.
  - b) The proposed photovoltaic facility shall utilize solar energy as its sole input. All of the electrical output from the facility will be sold to Duke Energy Progress, LLC.
  - c) No fuel supply arrangements are required for the Rosemary Solar, LLC facility.

EXHIBIT 6 SP-31586, Sub 0

BCD Project Holdings 2, LLC ("BCD Project Holdings 2") is the new owner of Rosemary Solar LLC. BCD Project Holdings 2 will manage the development process, and Pine Gate Renewables will construct the project.

Ben Catt	Manager
Michael Cohen	President

Mike Cohen. Mike Cohen serves as President of Birch Creek Development, LLC. He was the cofounder and President of Cypress Creek Renewables, a fully integrated energy firm positioned to develop, build, finance, and operate solar generating assets throughout the United States. Cypress owns and operates more than 1 gigawatt of solar assets. Prior to Cypress, Mike led business development and project finance for Strata Solar from 2011 to 2014. Before building Strata's development and finance model, he was an attorney with Kirkland & Ellis from 2008 to 2011, where he focused on the development, financing and purchase/sale of renewable energy projects both domestically and abroad. Mike has a J.D. from Georgetown University Law School, as well as a Masters and Bachelors in Accounting from the University of Florida.

Ben Catt. In addition to being Manager of BCD Project Holdings 2, Ben Catt is CEO of Pine Gate Renewables, where he creates key partnerships, drives company strategy, and oversees development, operations, and project and corporate finance. Before joining Pine Gate Renewables, Ben served as Director of Structured Finance and Business Development at FLS Energy, a utility-scale solar developer in North Carolina. FLS Energy was acquired by Cypress Creek in 2016.

<u>Pine Gate Renewables</u>. Pine Gate Renewables develops, owns, and operates utility-scale solar farms across the United States, and specializes in project siting, development, financing, and construction of utility-scale solar farms.