BROWNRUDNICK

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December 10, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND UPS OVERNIGHT

Mr. Robert Stein, Chairman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Petition No. 1195 – SolarCity Corporation petition for a declaratory ruling that no Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need is required for the proposed construction and operation of a 4.05 Megawatt Community Shared Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating facility located on municipally-owned property at 1240 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut -- Response to Interrogatories - Set 2

brownrudnick.com

Dear Chairman Stein:

On behalf of SolarCity Corporation ("SolarCity"), enclosed are an original and fifteen (15) copies of SolarCity's responses to Connecticut Siting Council's Interrogatories - Set 2.

Please contact me at 860-509-6575 with any questions or if you need additional information.

Very truly yours,

BROWN RUDNICK LLP

By: _____
Philip M. Small
Counsel for SolarCity Corporation

PMS/jmb
Enclosures

62261525 v1-WorksiteUS-031819/0001

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Petition No. 1195-- SolarCity Corporation Responses to Connecticut Siting Council interrogatories- Set 2

1. **The Council is in receipt of the Town of Groton Inland Wetlands Agency and Planning Commission comments dated November 13, 2015. Could SolarCity Corporation (SolarCity) respond to the comments noted in that letter? Specifically, please address the following:**

    a) **Would SolarCity be amenable to limiting the construction hours for the installation of support posts to 9am to 5pm on Monday thru Friday in order to limit the impact on the nearby residences?**

Response: Hours of operation for the driving of the support posts will be limited to 8:00am-5:00pm seven days a week. Other general site activities will occur as proposed between 7:00am to 7:00pm seven days a week. These work hours are consistent with information received from the Town of Groton's Manager of Inspection Services.

    b) **Has SolarCity considered adding additional landscaping along the southeast border of the facility to further buffer the facility from the adjacent residential area?**

Response: A vegetative buffer will be installed just outside the existing southern fence line as requested by the Planning Commission. Revised plans are attached showing this buffer and associated planting details (Attachment 1).

    c) **Specifically, which measures have been incorporated into the design of the project to protect water resources?**

Response: In addition to the comprehensive package submitted to the Connecticut Siting Council by SolarCity, Groton Utilities will be submitting a detailed Change of Use Permit (Permit) application to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The DPH Permit application will outline specific steps that are being taken to protect the drinking water resource. A copy of the completed DPH Permit application will be submitted to the Siting Council and the Town of Groton Planning Commission and inland Wetlands Agency (once it has been finalized and submitted).

Additionally, as part of the DPH Permit submittal, SolarCity is proposing to install a series of perimeter water quality swales between the limits of the proposed arrays and the reservoir to further mitigate any potential runoff impacts to the adjacent resource areas. The water quality swales will be populated with local plant species consistent with those already present in wetlands in the immediate vicinity. Revised plans are attached to this response showing the location, cross-sections and planting detail associated with the newly proposed water quality swales (Attachment 1).

    d) **Comment on whether the distances from the panels to the reservoir and the wetlands are sufficient to protect these resources.**

Response: Please see Response C above.

e) Would the solar panels "heat" rainwater and potentially thermally pollute wetlands?

Response: The panels will not cause an increase in the temperature of the rainwater runoff. The time that the rainwater will come in contact with the solar panels is extremely short due to a 20-degree fixed pitch, and the smooth surface of the glass (minimal friction) as well as the openings between each panel which reduce the length of the potential flow path. Once off the panel, rain water will infiltrate into the soil and/or mix with other surface water flowing from the grassed areas. Additionally, when it is raining the sky will be cloudy, thus significantly reducing the surface temperature of the panel glass.

Please see the attached excerpt from June 2015, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Questions and Answers for Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Systems (Attachment 2). The section entitled "Ambient Temperature (Heat Island)" addresses the question of heated rainwater.

Also, there are multiple other examples of PV systems being developed adjacent to, and even on top of (floating panels) drinking reservoir systems. A list of these projects and electronic links to their project details are provided below.

Valley Center Municipal Water District (Valley Center, CA)

- Cobb Reservoir - Project Summary
- Cool Valley Reservoir - Project Summary
- MJM Pump Station - Project Summary

Las Vegas Valley Water District (Nevada)

- See description of 6 installed solar systems attached (Attachment 3).

Finally, we have found several installations around the world, where the panels have been placed (floated) directly on the reservoir surface.

- Sunset Reservoir (San Francisco County, CA)

  Project Details

- Godley Reservoir & Sheeplands Farm Reservoir (United Kingdom)

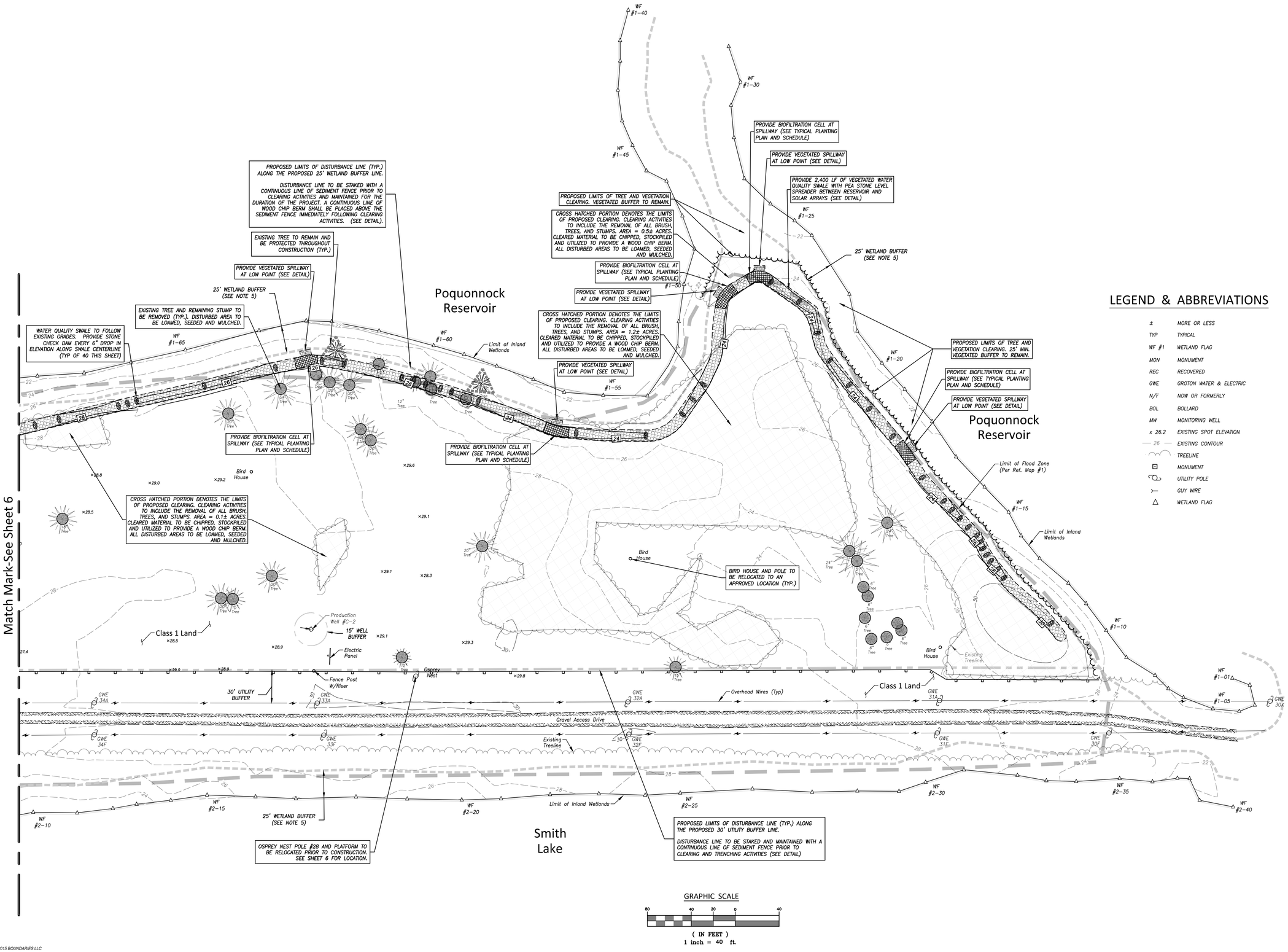
  Project Article

- Nishihira Pond (Japan)

  Project Details

- Wastewater Facility (Australia)

  Project Article



LEGEND & ABBREVIATIONS

±	MORE OR LESS
TYP	TYPICAL
WF #1	WETLAND FLAG
MON	MONUMENT
REC	RECOVERED
GWE	GROTON WATER & ELECTRIC
N/F	NOW OR FORMERLY
BOL	BOLLARD
MW	MONITORING WELL
× 26.2	EXISTING SPOT ELEVATION
— 26 —	EXISTING CONTOUR
	TREELINE
	MONUMENT
	UTILITY POLE
	GUY WIRE
	WETLAND FLAG

GRAPHIC SCALE

80 40 20 0 40

(IN FEET)
1 inch = 40 ft.

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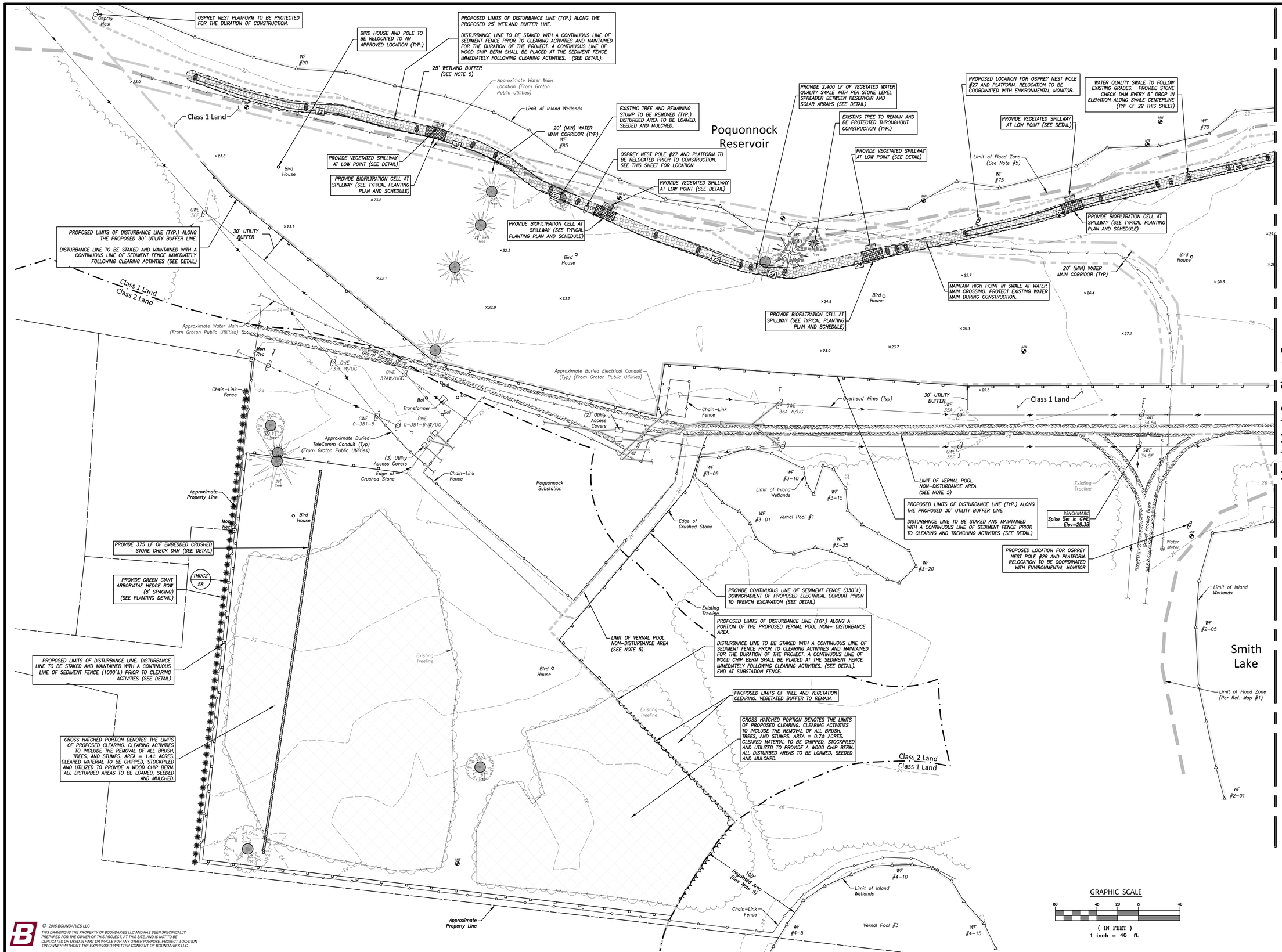
SolarCity
714 Brook Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
www.solarcity.com

SolarCity Corporation
Proposed Solar Photovoltaic System
1240 Poquonnock Road
Groton, Connecticut
Site Preparation and Demolition Plan

SCALE: 1"=40'
DATE: October 2015
JOB I.D. NO. 15-2347

Revisions
Rev. A - Per Groton Utilities Comments - 12/09/15

SHEET NO.
5
10



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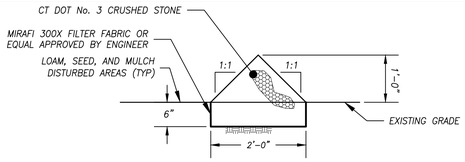
Rev. A - Per Groton Utilities Comments - 12/09/15

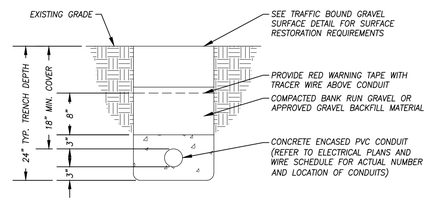
SHEET NO.

6 / 10



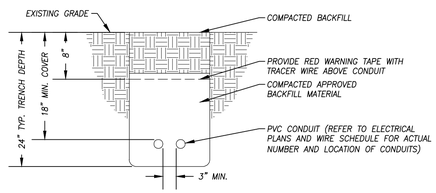
EMBEDDED STONE CHECK DAM

NOT TO SCALE



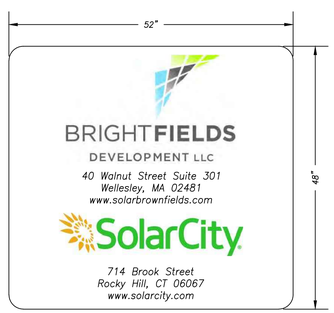
CONDUIT TRENCH THROUGH GRAVEL DRIVE DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE



NON-TRAFFIC CONDUIT TRENCH DETAIL

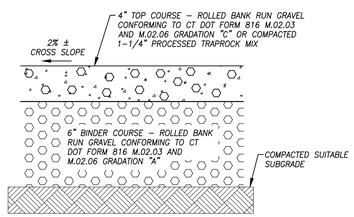
NOT TO SCALE



NOTE:
1. SIGNS MOUNTED ON GATES AT ALL ENTRANCES.
2. SIGNS TO BE RATED FOR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS.

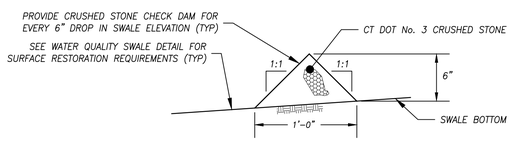
IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE

NOT TO SCALE



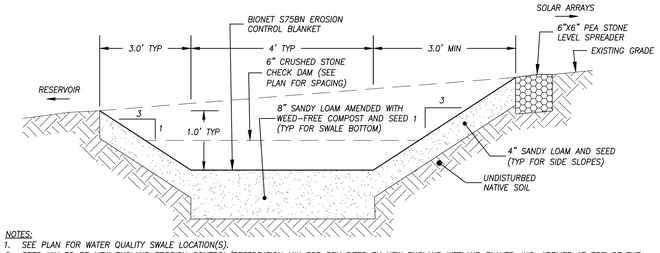
TRAFFIC BOUND GRAVEL SURFACE DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE



WATER QUALITY SWALE CHECK DAM DETAIL

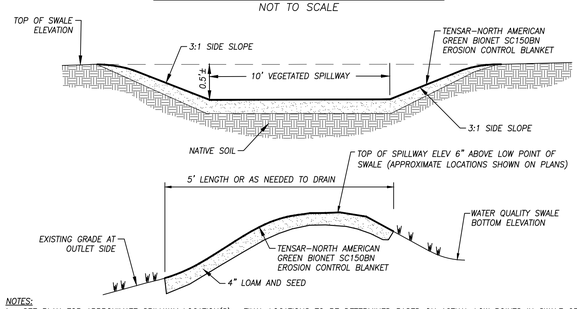
NOT TO SCALE



NOTES:
1. SEE PLAN FOR WATER QUALITY SWALE LOCATION(S).
2. SEED MIX TO BE NEW ENGLAND EROSION CONTROL/RESTORATION MIX FOR DRY SITES BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. APPLIED AT 75% OF THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATE AND NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATION/WILDLIFE MIX BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. APPLIED AT 50% OF THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATE.
3. STRIP TOPSOIL FROM WATER QUALITY SWALE AREA; AMEND WITH WEED-FREE COMPOST (30% TO 40% BY VOLUME) TO PROVIDE SOIL MEDIA FOR WATER QUALITY SWALE BASE; EXCAVATE FROM EXISTING GRADE; LOAM, SEED AND STABILIZE WITH TENSAR-NORTH AMERICAN GREEN BIONET S75BN EROSION CONTROL BLANKET.
4. EROSION CONTROL BLANKET TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S REQUIREMENTS.

WATER QUALITY SWALE DETAIL

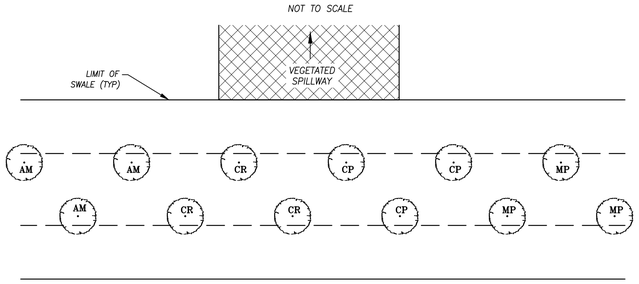
NOT TO SCALE



NOTES:
1. SEE PLAN FOR APPROXIMATE SPILLWAY LOCATION(S). FINAL LOCATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON ACTUAL LOW POINTS IN SWALE GRADING.
2. SEED MIX TO BE NEW ENGLAND EROSION CONTROL/RESTORATION MIX FOR DRY SITES BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. APPLIED AT 75% OF THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATE AND NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATION/WILDLIFE MIX BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. APPLIED AT 50% OF THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATE.
3. STRIP TOPSOIL FROM SPILLWAY AREA; EXCAVATE FROM EXISTING GRADE; LOAM, SEED AND STABILIZE WITH TENSAR-NORTH AMERICAN GREEN BIONET SC150BN EROSION CONTROL BLANKET.
4. EROSION CONTROL BLANKET TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S REQUIREMENTS.

VEGETATED SPILLWAY DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

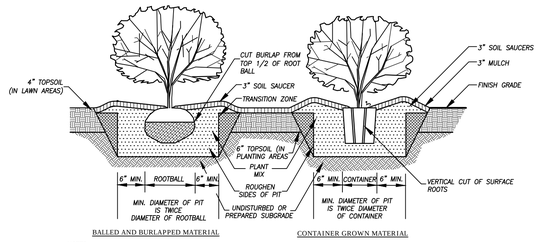


BIOFILTRATION CELL PLANTING SCHEDULE					
SYMBOL	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	QUANTITY	SPACING
TREES AND SHRUBS					
AM	ARONIA MELANOCARPA	BLACK CHOKEBERRY	3'–4'	27	3–5 FT O.C.
CP	COMPTONIA PEREGRINA	SWEET FERN	3'–4'	27	3–5 FT O.C.
CR	CORNUS RACEMOSA	GRAY DOGWOOD	3'–4'	27	3–5 FT O.C.
MP	MORELLA (MYRICA) PENSYLVANICA	BAYBERRY	3'–4'	27	3–5 FT O.C.

NOTES:
1. WATER QUALITY SWALE TO BE UNDERSOWN WITH A NATIVE SEED MIX TO BE NEW ENGLAND EROSION CONTROL/RESTORATION MIX FOR DRY SITES APPLIED AT 75% OF THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATE AND NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATION/WILDLIFE MIX APPLIED AT 50% OF THE MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED APPLICATION RATE (SUPPLIED BY NEW ENGLAND WETLAND PLANTS, INC. (413-548-8000), OR APPROVED EQUIVALENT).
2. SHRUBS SHALL BE PROVIDED IN #2 CONTAINERS.

BIOFILTRATION CELL TYPICAL PLANTING DETAIL

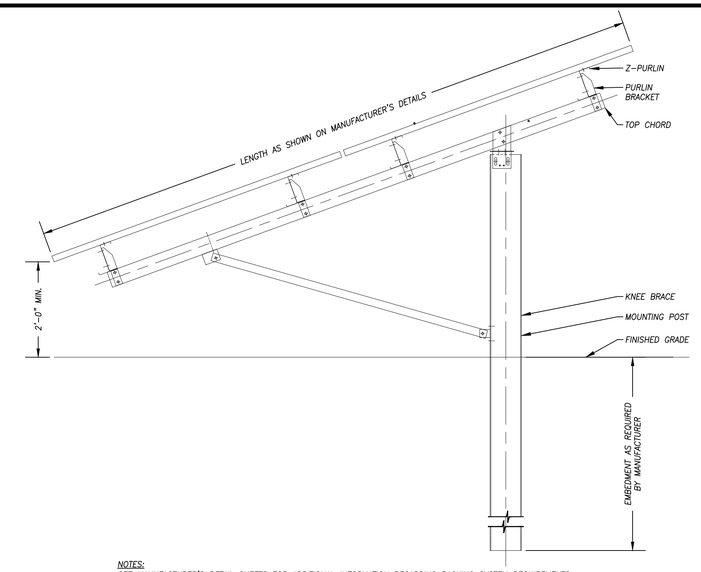
NOT TO SCALE



NOTES:
1. SET CROWN OF ROOTBALL 2" ABOVE FINISH GRADE.
2. FOR CONTAINER GROWN STOCK USE FINGERS OR A SHARP KNIFE TO LOOSEN ROOTS OUT OF THE OUTER LAYER OF POTTING SOIL; THEN CUT OR PULL APART ANY ROOTS CIRCLING THE PERIMETER OF THE CONTAINER.
3. AT PLANTING THOROUGHLY SOAK THE ROOT MASS AND ADJACENT SOIL. REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE FIRST MONTH AND THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING TWO SUMMERS.

SHRUB PLANTING DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

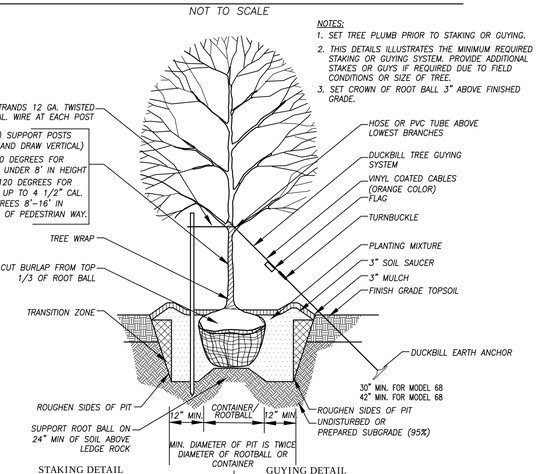


NOTES:
SEE MANUFACTURER'S DETAIL SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING RACKING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS AND INSTALLATION PROCEDURES. RACKING SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S REQUIREMENTS.

TYPICAL POST MOUNTED RACKING SYSTEM DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

NOTES:
1. SET TREE PLUMB PRIOR TO STAKING OR GUYING.
2. THIS DETAILS ILLUSTRATES THE MINIMUM REQUIRED STAKING OR GUYING SYSTEM. PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAKES OR GUYS IF REQUIRED DUE TO FIELD CONDITIONS OR SIZE OF TREE.
3. SET CROWN OF ROOT BALL 3" ABOVE FINISHED GRADE.



STAKING DETAIL

FOR USE WITH:
A. DECIDUOUS TREES UNDER 3" CALIPER.
B. DECIDUOUS TREES 3"–4 1/2" CALIPER WHEN PLANTED WITHIN 10' OF PEDESTRIAN WAYS.
C. EVERGREEN TREES UNDER 8' IN HEIGHT.
D. EVERGREEN TREES 8'–16' IN HEIGHT WHEN PLANTED WITHIN 10' OF PEDESTRIAN WAYS.

GUYING DETAIL

FOR USE WITH:
A. DECIDUOUS TREES 3"–4 1/2" CALIPER WHEN PLANTED GREATER THAN 10' OUTSIDE OF PEDESTRIAN WAYS.
B. DECIDUOUS TREE OVER 4 1/2" CALIPER.
C. EVERGREEN TREES 8'–16' IN HEIGHT WHEN PLANTED GREATER THAN 10' OUTSIDE OF PEDESTRIAN WAYS.
D. EVERGREEN TREES OVER 16' IN HEIGHT.

TREE PLANTING DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

LANDSCAPE SCHEDULE					
SYMBOL	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	QUANTITY	COMMENT
TREES AND SHRUBS					
THOC2	Thuja Standishii x Plicata	"Green Giant" Arborvitae	4'–5' Height	58	C.G.

PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS:

1. All materials and construction methods shall conform to the requirements of the Connecticut Association of Landscape Contractors Specification. All plants shall be nursery grown and conform to the latest edition of ANSI 260.1, AMERICAN STANDARD FOR NURSERY STOCK and also the minimum guidelines established for nursery stock published by the American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.
2. No substitution of plant materials will be allowed without the prior written consent of the Project Owner. Where a plant size range is provided at least 50% of the plants shall be of the larger size.
3. All lawn and planting area soil preparation shall be fertilized and amended according to recommendations of a soil analysis provided by an approved soil testing laboratory.
4. All exterior ground areas disturbed by construction and not covered by buildings, structures, paving, continuous planting beds or other site improvements shall be graded, topsoiled to a minimum depth of 4" and grass seeded. Provide lawn development in all areas of selective clearing as directed.
5. All plant pits must be free draining. Break up the bottom of the hole by fork if necessary to ensure plant has proper drainage.
6. Set all plants in center of plant pits, plumb and straight and as detailed on the drawing. All plant material shall bear the same relationship to finished grade as to original planting grade prior to digging. Trees shall be planted with the junction of roots and stem level with finished grade.
7. Handle balled and burlapped plants from the ball only. Once positioned in the hole, remove the top 1/3 of the burlap from the root ball without disturbing the roots.
8. Face each plant to give the best appearance. Final location of plant material should be approved by the Project Owner in the field.
9. Fill plant pits 2/3 their depth with prepared planting mixture, water thoroughly and allow to settle. Complete back-filling, water thoroughly to eliminate any voids and air pockets. Provide additional back-fill as necessary to conform to required elevation and as detailed.
10. Form saucer and install mulch over entire plant pit and saucer area as detailed.
11. All tree staking or guying shall be completed immediately after planting, but in no instance more than 24 hours after planting. See staking/guying detail. At the completion of the maintenance period remove all stakes, flags, guys, tree wrap, and anchors.
12. Mulch all new shrub beds and plant pits to achieve a 3" depth after settlement. Mulch all ground cover beds to achieve a 2" depth after settlement. Mulch for saucers and planting areas to be a double shredded bark mulch.
13. All plants shall be guaranteed for a period of one full year after inspection and acceptance by the Owner's representative, and shall have at least 80% healthy growth at the end of the guarantee period.
14. Landscape planting materials as proposed by this plan are Connecticut native and/or non-invasive species. This landscape plan has been designed to incorporate species which are prolific in USDA plant hardiness zone 6b and which require minimal energy input for upkeep and maintenance. References utilized for Connecticut native and non-invasive species selection include the Connecticut Botanical Society, the Connecticut agricultural experiment station, the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, 2004 Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual, New England Wetland Plants, Inc., and other sources.

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SolarCity Corporation
Proposed Solar Photovoltaic System
1240 Poquonnock Road
Groton, Connecticut
Site Details

SCALE: As Noted
DATE: October 2015
JOB I.D. NO. 15-2347

Revisions
Rev. A - Per Groton Utilities Comments - 12/09/15

SHEET NO.
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Ambient Temperature ("Heat Island")

The Question: Does the presence of ground-mounted solar PV arrays cause higher ambient temperatures in the surrounding neighborhood (i.e., the "heat island" effect)?

Bottom Line: All available evidence indicates that there is no solar "heat island" effect caused by the functioning of solar arrays. Cutting shade trees for solar PV might increase the need for cooling if those trees were shading buildings. This is primarily a concern in town centers and residential areas (locations where large ground-mounted PV is not encouraged) and is a potential impact of any development activity that requires tree-cutting.

More Information: All available evidence indicates that there is no solar "heat island" effect caused by the functioning of solar arrays. Solar panels absorb photons from direct sunlight and convert it to electricity. This minimizes the likelihood of substantially changing temperatures at the site or the surrounding neighborhood. For an area with no PV system, solar energy impacting the ground is either reflected or absorbed. There is no research to support heat production from the solar panels themselves.

Sunpower, a private solar manufacturer, conducted a study on the impact of solar PV on the local temperature, and concluded that a solar PV array can absorb a higher percentage of heat than a forested parcel of land without an array. The study points out that while solar PV modules can reach high operating temperatures up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, they are thin and lightweight and therefore do not store a large amount of heat. Because of this, and the fact that panels are also shown to cool to ambient air temperature shortly after the sun sets, the Sunpower study concludes that the area surrounding a large-scale solar array is unlikely to experience a net heating change from the panels.

If trees are removed that were previously shading a building, that building could get warmer in full sunshine than when the trees were shading it. The June 1, 2011 tornado that ripped through Western Massachusetts created an opportunity to empirically measure the effects of the loss of neighborhood trees on temperatures and air humidity in the streets. A report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service concluded that daily mean morning and afternoon temperatures were typically greater in the tornado-impacted neighborhood in Springfield, Massachusetts than in the unaffected neighborhood and forest sites, but were similar at night. Residents noted increased use of air-conditioning units and an overall increase in energy costs in July and August of 2011.

Resources:

SUNPOWER, Impact of PV Systems on Local Temperature, July 2010

USDA Forest Services report: http://www.regreenspringfield.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/tornado%20climate%20report%203.pdf

SUNPOWER®

CASE STUDY

Las Vegas Valley Water District Generates Clean Energy with 6 SunPower Solar Electric Systems

The Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVWWD) provides water to one million people in Southern Nevada and leads water conservation initiatives in the community. In 2006, LVWWD partnered with the Nevada Power Company and SunPower Corporation to install a 3.1 megawatt solar project across 6 facilities. Utilizing SunPower's solar electric technology, the agency is now generating clean power to help distribute the region's scarcest resource - water.

BENEFITS

- Supplements on-site power operations
- Reduces strain on Las Vegas' utilities grid
- Helps conserve water and energy in the desert region
- Will reduce CO_2 emissions by 38,000 lbs. over 30 years, which is equivalent to planting 10,600 acres of trees, or removing 7,500 cars from our roads

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Total Size: 3,100 kW (3.1 MW)
Products: SunPower® Tracker
SunPower® Fixed-Tilt Carport

Location 1: Ronzone Reservoir
Completed: March 2006
System Size: 821 kW
Energy Production (kWh/year): 1,595,715
Number of Solar Panels: 4,005

Location 2: Apache Reservoir
Completed: July 2006
System Size: 353 kW
Energy Production (kWh/year): 681,309
Number of Solar Panels: 1,695

Location 3: Grand Canyon
Completed: September 2006
System Size: 330 kW
Energy Production (kWh/year): 639,106
Number of Solar Panels: 1,590

Location 4: Spring Mountain Reservoir
Completed: November 2006
System Size: 537 kW
Energy Production (kWh/year): 1,037,039
Number of Solar Panels: 2,585

Location 5: Luce Reservoir
Completed: December 2006
System Size: 555 kW
Energy Production (kWh/year): 1,037,242
Number of Solar Panels: 2,670

Location 6: Springs Preserve
Completed: June 2007
System Size: 409 kW
Energy Production (kWh/year): 765,793
Number of Solar Panels: 2,200

"The District's mission is to provide reliable, quality water and to ensure the sustainability of our desert community. This project is part of our continuing commitment to serve our customers and protect our environment."

- Pat Mulroy,
General Manager,
Las Vegas Valley Water District

THE OBVIOUS CHOICE

LVVWD realized that only a solar-powered solution could efficiently utilize the abundant sunlight in the desert and at the same time, avoid using water in the power-generation process. After evaluating several offerings from other solar companies, LVVWD chose SunPower for its top-performing solar technology, proven track record of successfully-managed projects, and timely delivery and completion.

MAXIMIZING SOLAR INVESTMENT

Between March and April 2007, SunPower installed five solar power grids for LVVWD (the sixth was completed in June 2007). In addition to easy installation, SunPower® Tracker technology offers robust, reliable, and long-lasting resistance to corrosion and high winds while delivering up to 25% more energy than fixed-tilt systems. SunPower Tracker's unique single-axis design also encounters fewer space restrictions than dual-axis systems.

THE OPTIMUM RESOURCE MIX

As solar technology does not require water to produce electricity, LVVWD has been able to demonstrate its commitment to conserving water in the desert region. Today LVVWD's systems generate a significant amount of the company's electricity requirements, delivering powerful cost savings and reducing the strain on the community's power grid. Over the next 30 years, LVVWD's reduction in carbon dioxide emissions will be 38,000 lbs., which is equivalent to planting 10,600 acres of trees, or removing 7,500 cars from our roads.

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