



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA
March 15, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Call to order: Todd Johnson, Chairman
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Todd Johnson, Chairman

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - a. Newberry County Council meeting – March 1, 2023

2. Additions, Deletions & Adoption of the Agenda

3. Executive Session

Code Section §30-4-70 (a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976.

(1) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

4. Resolution 03-23 Inducement Resolution committing to negotiate a fee in lieu of tax agreement between Newberry County and Project N.

5. Ordinance No. 03-01-23 Ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee agreement by and between Newberry County, South Carolina and Project N providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes, providing special source revenue credits, and authorizing an amendment to the master agreement governing the Greenwood -Newberry Industrial Park to provide for the addition of property and other matters related thereto.

a. First Reading

6. Executive Session

Code Section §30-4-70 (a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976.

- (1) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney- client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

7. Appointments

8. Public Comments

9. Comments/Requests from County Administrator

10. Comments/Requests from Council

11. Future meetings

- a. Finance Committee meeting – March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- b. FILOT meeting – March 28, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Annex Conference Room
- c. Newberry County Workforce Summit – March 31, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Piedmont Tech
- d. County Council meeting – April 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
- e. Budget Work Session – April 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- f. County Council meeting – April 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- g. Public Safety Committee – April 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

RESOLUTION NO.: 03-23

**INDUCEMENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A
FEE IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT
BETWEEN NEWBERRY COUNTY AND PROJECT N**

WHEREAS, Newberry County, South Carolina (the "County"), acting by and through its County Council (the "County Council") is authorized and empowered under and pursuant to the provisions of Title 12, Chapter 44, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended (the "Act"), to enter into a fee in lieu of tax agreement (the "Fee Agreement") with respect to a project which requires the industry to make a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes, through which powers the industrial development of the State of South Carolina and the County will be promoted and trade developed by inducing manufacturing and commercial enterprises to locate and remain in the State of South Carolina and the County and thus to utilize and employ the manpower, products, and natural resources of the State of South Carolina to benefit the general public welfare of the County by providing services, employment, and other public benefits not otherwise provided locally; and

WHEREAS, a company currently identified as Project N, on its own or together with one or more of its subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, assigns, sponsors, lessors, and others (collectively, the "Company"), desires to invest capital in the County in order to establish a solar energy production facility in the County (the "Project"), provided that approvals of various incentives contemplated for the Project are formalized by the State and/or County; and

WHEREAS, the Project is anticipated to result in an investment of approximately \$70,000,000 in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Company has requested that the County enter into a Fee Agreement, thereby providing for a fee in lieu of tax ("FILOT") and infrastructure and/or special source revenue credits ("SSRCs") with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined on the basis of the information supplied to it by the Company that the Project would be a "project" and "economic development property" as such terms are defined in the Act and that the Project would serve the purposes of the Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the authority of Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended and Article VIII, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution, the County agrees to use its best efforts to ensure that the Project is located in a multi-county industrial and business park established, or to be established, by the County (the "Park") pursuant to a qualifying agreement with one or more contiguous South Carolina counties (the "Park Agreement").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council as follows:

Section 1. The County Council hereby finds that: (i) the Project is anticipated to benefit the general public welfare of the County by providing services, employment, recreation, or other public benefits not otherwise adequately provided locally; (ii) the Project gives rise to no

pecuniary liability of the County or a charge against its general credit or taxing power; (iii) the purposes to be accomplished by the Project are proper governmental and public purposes and the inducement of the location of the Project within South Carolina is of paramount importance and the benefits of the Project to the public are greater than the cost (which latter finding has been made using an appropriate cost-benefit analysis); and (iv) it has evaluated the Project considering all relevant and required factors, including, but not limited to, the anticipated dollar amount and nature of the investment to be made and the anticipated costs and benefits to the County, and all other criteria prescribed by law.

Section 2. The County hereby agrees to enter into a fee in lieu of tax arrangement with the Company under the Act. The County agrees to provide for a fee in lieu of *ad valorem* taxes ("FILOT") for a period of 40 years for each component of the Project placed in service during the investment period (the "FILOT Term") under the Act. The FILOT shall be calculated using a 6% assessment ratio and a fixed millage rate equal to the lowest millage rate allowable under the Act for a period of 40 years for each component of the Project placed in service during the investment period.

Section 3. The further details of the FILOT and the SSRCs shall be prescribed by subsequent ordinance of the County to be adopted in accordance with South Carolina law and the rules and procedures of the County.

Section 4. The County agrees to use its best efforts to ensure that the Property is already located in or to include the Property in a Park for at least the longer of a 40-year period or the period of time the FILOT arrangement is in place.

Section 5. This resolution shall constitute an inducement resolution for this Project within the meaning of the Act.

Section 6. This resolution shall constitute "preliminary approval" pursuant to Section 12-44-110(2) of the Act by which property may be placed in service prior to the execution of a FILOT agreement but still constitute economic development property under the Act.

Section 7. All orders, resolutions, and parts thereof in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed. This resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage by the County Council.

(Signature Page Follows)

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2023.

NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: Clerk to County Council

**Newberry County
Administration**
1309 College Street
P.O. Box 156
Newberry, SC 29108
803-321-2100



Agenda Item Briefing

Subject: Project N considerations

Prepared By: Rick Farmer

Title: Director

Department/Division: Economic Development

Date Prepared 3/7/23

Legal Review: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Finance Review: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Administrator Review: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Requested meeting: Committee County Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023

FIDUCIARY:

Are funds allocated in the department's current fiscal year budget?

Yes

No

If NO, is a budget amendment necessary?

Yes

No

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED ACTION: Staff recommends Council consider first reading of these documents outlining the deal with Project N.

ADDITIONAL FISCAL/BUDGETARY MATTERS TO CONSIDER: There are no costs to passing these documents, nor are there any grants associated with this project.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION:

ATTACHMENTS: draft Inducement Resolution, draft Fee Agreement, and draft Ordinance

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

ORDINANCE NO. 03-01-23

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FEE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PROJECT N PROVIDING FOR A PAYMENT OF A FEE IN LIEU OF TAXES, PROVIDING SPECIAL SOURCE REVENUE CREDITS, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER AGREEMENT GOVERNING THE GREENWOOD-NEWBERRY INDUSTRIAL PARK TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADDITION OF PROPERTY AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Newberry County, South Carolina (the "County") acting by and through its County Council (the "County Council") is authorized and empowered pursuant to the provisions of Title 12, Chapter 44 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended (the "Act"), to enter into fee agreements with any industry, with said agreements identifying certain properties of such industries as economic development property, through which powers the industrial development of the State of South Carolina (the "State") and the County will be promoted and trade developed by inducing manufacturing and commercial enterprises to locate, remain, and expand in the State and the County and thus utilize and employ the manpower, products, and natural resources and benefit the general public welfare of the State and County by providing services, employment, or other public benefits not otherwise adequately provided locally; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 4, Section 1 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended ("Park Act"), the County and Greenwood County entered into that certain Master Agreement Governing the Greenwood-Newberry Industrial Park, effective December 31, 2012 (as amended, modified, and supplemented, collectively, the "Park Agreement") whereby the County and Greenwood County agreed to develop a joint county industrial or business park eligible to include property located in either the County or Greenwood County ("Park"); and

WHEREAS, Section 1.01(a) of the Park Agreement establishes the procedure or enlargement of the boundaries of the Park to include additional property; and

WHEREAS, [Project N] (the "Company") intends to invest in the establishment of a solar energy production facility through the acquisition of land, a building, and improvements thereon (the "Land and Building"); the construction of improvements thereon and/or therein; and/or the acquisition of personal property, including, but not limited to, machinery, equipment, and furniture to be installed on and/or in the Land and Building, which would constitute a project within the meaning of the Act and which are eligible for inclusion as economic development property, the cost of which is estimated to be approximately \$70,000,000 over five years (the "Project"), all as more fully set forth in the Fee Agreement attached hereto, and provided that approvals of various incentives contemplated for the Project are formalized by the State and/or County; and

WHEREAS, the County, having determined that an enlargement of the boundaries of the Park would promote economic development and thus provide additional employment and investment opportunities within said County and Greenwood County, desires to enlarge the boundaries of the Park to include therein certain property, as described in greater detail on the attached **Exhibit A** located in Newberry County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Inducement Resolution dated as of _____, 2023 the County authorized the execution of an agreement providing for fee in lieu of tax payments; and

WHEREAS, the Company has caused to be prepared and presented to this meeting the form of the Fee Agreement by and between the County and the Company (the "Fee Agreement"), which provides for fee in lieu of tax payments utilizing a 6% assessment ratio for a period of 40 years for the Project or each component thereof placed in service during the initial investment period and any investment period extension to which the County and the Company agree and the issuance special source revenue credits as further described therein; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the Fee Agreement, which is now before this meeting, is in appropriate form and is an appropriate instrument to be executed and delivered by the County for the purposes intended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council in a meeting duly assembled as follows:

Section 1. In order to promote industry, develop trade, and utilize and employ the manpower, products, and natural resources of the State of South Carolina by assisting the Company to expand or locate an industrial facility in the State of South Carolina, the Fee Agreement is hereby authorized, ratified, and approved.

Section 2. It is hereby found, determined, and declared by the County Council, as follows:

- (a) The Project will constitute a "project" as said term is referred to and defined in the Act, and the County's actions herein will subserve the purposes and in all respects conform to the provisions and requirements of the Act.
- (b) The Project and the payments in lieu of taxes set forth herein are beneficial to the County, and the County has evaluated the Project based upon all criteria prescribed by law, including the anticipated dollar amount and nature of the investment to be made and the anticipated costs and benefits to the County.
- (c) The Project is anticipated to benefit the general public welfare of the County by providing services, employment, recreation, or other public benefits not otherwise adequately provided locally.
- (d) The Project gives rise to no pecuniary liability of the County or any incorporated municipality or a charge against the general credit or taxing power of either.

- (e) The purposes to be accomplished by the Project, i.e., economic development, creation of jobs, and addition to the tax base of the County, are proper governmental and public purposes.
- (f) The inducement of the location or expansion of the Project within the County and State is of paramount importance.
- (g) The benefits of the Project to the public will be greater than the costs.

Section 3. The form, terms, and provisions of the Fee Agreement presented to this meeting are hereby approved, and all of the terms, provisions, and conditions thereof are incorporated herein by reference as if the Fee Agreement were set out in this Ordinance in its entirety. The Chairman of the County Council and/or the County Administrator are authorized, empowered, and directed to execute, acknowledge, and deliver the Fee Agreement in the name of and on behalf of the County, and thereupon to cause the Fee Agreement to be delivered to the Company. The Fee Agreement is to be in substantially the form now before this meeting and hereby approved, with such changes therein as shall not be materially adverse to the County and as shall be approved by the officials of the County executing the same, upon the advice of Counsel to the County, such official's execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of such official's approval of any and all changes or revisions therein from the form of the Fee Agreement now before this meeting.

Section 4. The enlargement of the boundaries of the Park, and the granting of an extended period of time for inclusion of the property as described in **Exhibit A** in the Park, is hereby authorized and approved.

Section 5. The Chairman of the County Council and/or the County Administrator, for and on behalf of the County, are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to effect the execution and delivery of the Fee Agreement and the performance of all obligations of the County under and pursuant to the Fee Agreement.

Section 6. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be separable, and if any section, phrase, or provision shall for any reason be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the sections, phrases, and provisions hereunder.

Section 7. All orders, resolutions, ordinances, and parts thereof in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed, and this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

(SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW)

Passed and approved this ____ day of _____, 2023.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY)

I, the undersigned, Clerk to County Council of Newberry County, South Carolina (“County Council”), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

That the foregoing constitutes a true, correct, and verbatim copy of an Ordinance adopted by the County Council. The Ordinance was read and received a favorable vote at three public meetings of the County Council on _____, _____, and _____. At least one day passed between first and second reading, and at least seven days passed between second and third readings. A public hearing was held on _____, and notice of the public hearing was published in the _____ on _____. At each meeting, a quorum of County Council was present and remained present throughout the meeting.

Attached hereto are excerpts of the minutes of the meetings of the County Council. The County Council complied with the Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 4, Title 30 of the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, in connection with said meetings of County Council.

The Ordinance is now in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and the Seal of Newberry County Council, South Carolina, as of this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: Clerk to County Council

EXHIBIT A
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

[Legal description to be inserted.]

FEE AGREEMENT

Between

NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

and

[PROJECT N]

Dated as of _____, 2023

RECAPITULATION OF CONTENTS OF
FEE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE §12-44-55(A)

The parties have agreed to waive this requirement pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 12-44-55(B).

FEE AGREEMENT

THIS FEE AGREEMENT (the "Fee Agreement") is made and entered into as of _____, 2023 by and between NEWBERRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA (the "County"), a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina (the "State"), acting by and through the Newberry County Council (the "County Council") as the governing body of the County, and [PROJECT N], a _____ (the "Company").

RECITALS

1. Title 12, Chapter 44, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended (the "Act") authorizes the County (i) to induce industries to locate in the State; (ii) to encourage industries now located in the State to expand their investments and thus make use of and employ manpower, products, and other resources of the State; and (iii) to enter into a fee agreement with entities meeting the requirements of such Act, which identifies certain property of such entities as economic development property.

2. Pursuant to Section 12-44-40(I)(1) of the Act and based solely on information provided to the County by the Company, the County finds that: (a) the Project (as defined herein) is anticipated to benefit the general public welfare of the County by providing services, employment, recreation, or other public benefits not otherwise adequately provided locally; (b) the Project gives rise to no pecuniary liability of the County or any incorporated municipality and to no charge against its general credit or taxing power; (c) the purposes to be accomplished by the Project are proper governmental and public purposes; and (d) the benefits of the Project are greater than the costs.

3. The County Council has evaluated the Project based on all relevant criteria that include, but are not limited to, the purposes the Project is to accomplish, the anticipated dollar amount and nature of the investment, and the anticipated costs and benefits to the County.

4. An Ordinance that the County Council adopted contemporaneously with the date of this Fee Agreement (the "Fee Ordinance") authorizes the County and the Company to enter into a Fee Agreement that classifies the Project as Economic Development Property under the Act and provides for the payment of fees in lieu of taxes, all as further described herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION of the respective representations and agreements hereinafter contained, the parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Section 1.1 The terms that this section defines shall for all purposes of this Fee Agreement have the meanings herein specified, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Act" shall mean Title 12, Chapter 44, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and all future acts successor or supplemental thereto or amendatory thereof.

“Act Minimum Investment Requirement” shall mean an investment of at least \$2,500,000 by the Company and any Sponsors and Sponsor Affiliates of property within the Investment Period, provided, however, that in the event of a reduction of the minimum investment level in Section 12-44-30(14) or any successor section by legislative action, then the Act Minimum Investment Requirement shall equal such reduced amount.

“Commencement Date” shall mean the last day of the property tax year during which the Project or the first Phase thereof is placed in service, which date must not be later than the last day of the property tax year which is three years from the year in which the County and the Company enter into this Fee Agreement.

“Company” shall mean [Project N], a _____ and any surviving, resulting, or transferee entity in any merger, consolidation, or transfer of assets; or any other person or entity which may succeed to the rights and duties of the Company.

“Contract Minimum Investment Requirement” shall mean an investment of at least \$70,000,000 by the Company and any Sponsor Affiliates of Economic Development Property within the Investment Period.

“County” shall mean Newberry County, South Carolina, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, its successors and assigns, acting by and through the County Council as the governing body of the County.

“County Council” shall mean the Newberry County Council, the governing body of the County.

“Decommissioning Obligations” shall mean the removal and proper disposal of all Equipment, stabilization and rehabilitation of the Real Property, and restoration of the Real Property to its original state.

“Department” or “SCDOR” shall mean the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

“Diminution in Value” in respect of the Project or any Phase of the Project shall mean any reduction in the value using the original fair market value (without regard to depreciation) as determined in Step 1 of Section 4.1(a) of this Fee Agreement, of the items which constitute a part of the Project or such Phase and which are subject to FILOT payments which may be caused by (i) the Company’s removal and/or disposal of equipment pursuant to Section 4.6 of this Fee Agreement; (ii) a casualty to the Project, such Phase of the Project, or any part thereof, described in Section 4.7 of this Fee Agreement; or (iii) a condemnation of the Project, such Phase of the Project, or any part thereof, described in Section 4.8 of this Fee Agreement.

“Economic Development Property” shall mean those items of real and tangible personal property of the Project which are eligible for inclusion as economic development property under the Act, selected and identified by the Company or a Sponsor Affiliate in their annual filing of a SCDOR PT-300S or comparable form with the Department (as such filing may be amended from time to time) for each year within the Investment Period.

“Equipment” shall mean all of the machinery, equipment, furniture, office equipment, and fixtures, together with any and all additions, accessions, replacements, and substitutions thereto or therefor used or to be used in the County by the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate for the purposes described in Section 2.2(b) hereof, provided, however, that repairs, alterations, or modifications to personal property which is not economic development property or property subject to a fee in lieu of taxes prior to this Fee Agreement, are not eligible to become Economic Development Property, except for modifications which constitute an expansion of existing real property improvements.

“Event of Default” shall mean any event of default specified in Section 5.1 of this Fee Agreement.

“Exemption Period” shall mean the period beginning on the first day of the property tax year after the property tax year in which an applicable piece of Economic Development Property is placed in service and ending on the Termination Date. In case there are Phases of the Project, the Exemption Period applies to each year’s investment made during the Investment Period.

“Fee,” “Fee in Lieu of Taxes,” “FILOT,” or “Payments in Lieu of Taxes” shall mean the amount paid or to be paid in lieu of *ad valorem* property taxes as provided herein.

“Fee Agreement” shall mean this Fee Agreement.

“Fee Term” shall mean the period from the date of this Fee Agreement until the Termination Date.

“Improvements” shall mean all improvements to the Real Property, including buildings, building additions, roads, sewer lines, and infrastructure, together with any and all additions, fixtures, accessions, replacements, and substitutions thereto or therefor used or to be used in the County for the purposes described in Section 2.2(b) hereof; provided, however, that repairs, alterations, or modifications to real property which is not economic development property or property subject to a fee in lieu of taxes prior to this Fee Agreement, are not eligible to become Economic Development Property, except for modifications which constitute an expansion of existing real property improvements and except as otherwise permitted by Section 12-44-110 of the Act.

“Industrial Development Park” shall mean an industrial or business park created pursuant to the MCIP Act.

“Infrastructure” shall mean infrastructure serving the Project, including the Improvements, to the extent that the MCIP Act permits, provided that Infrastructure shall first be deemed to include real property and infrastructure improvements prior to including any personal property, notwithstanding any presumptions to the contrary in the Act or otherwise.

“Infrastructure Credit” shall mean the annual infrastructure credit provided to the Company pursuant to the MCIP Act and Section 4.1(c) hereof, with respect to the Infrastructure.

“Investment Period” shall mean the period beginning with the first day of any purchase or acquisition of Economic Development Property and ending five years after the Commencement

Date, provided that the Company and the County may agree to a later date pursuant to Section 12-44-30(13) of the Act. The Investment Period is expected to end on December 31, 2027.

“MCIP Act” shall mean Article VIII, Section 13(D) of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina, Sections 4-1-170, 4-1-172, and 4-1-175 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and Section 4-29-68 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

“Phase” or “Phases” in respect of the Project shall mean that the Equipment, Improvements, and/or Real Property of the Project are placed in service during more than one year in the Investment Period, and the word “Phase” shall therefore refer to the applicable portion of the Project placed in service in a given year in the Investment Period.

“Project” shall mean all the Equipment, Improvements, and/or Real Property in the County that the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate determines to be necessary, suitable, or useful for the purposes that Section 2.2(b) describes, and first placed in service in calendar year 2023 or thereafter. The Project shall not include existing buildings and improvements on the Real Property, as of the date of the commencement of the Project by the Company, and any machinery and equipment which have previously been subject to South Carolina *ad valorem* taxation, except as expressly permitted by Section 12-44-110 of the Act.

“Real Property” shall mean real property that the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate uses or will use in the County for the purposes that Section 2.2(b) describes, and initially consisting of the land identified on Exhibit A hereto, together with all and singular the rights, members, hereditaments, and appurtenances belonging or in any way incident or appertaining thereto, and any improvements located thereon, together with such additional real property in the County as may be designed by the County or Sponsor Affiliate by filing a revised Exhibit A with the County.

“Removed Components” shall mean the following types of components or Phases of the Project or portions thereof which are subject to FILOT payments, all of which the Company shall be entitled to remove from the Project with the result that the same shall no longer be subject to the terms of the Fee Agreement: (a) components or Phases of the Project or portions thereof which the Company, in its sole discretion, determines to be inadequate, obsolete, worn-out, uneconomic, damaged, unsuitable, undesirable, or unnecessary pursuant to Section 4.6 hereof or otherwise; or (b) components or Phases of the Project or portions thereof which the Company in its sole discretion, elects to be treated as removed pursuant to Section 4.7(c) or Section 4.8(b)(iii) of this Fee Agreement.

“Replacement Property” shall mean any property which is placed in service as a replacement for any item of Equipment, any Improvement, or any Real Property previously subject to this Fee Agreement regardless of whether such property serves the same functions as the property it is replacing and regardless of whether more than one piece of property replaces any item of Equipment, any Improvement, or any Real Property, to the fullest extent that the Act permits.

“Sponsor Affiliate” shall mean an entity that joins with or is an affiliate of, the Company, that participates in the investment in, or financing of, the Project, that meets the requirements under the Act to be entitled to the benefits of this Fee Agreement with respect to its participation in the

Project, and that executes and delivers to the County a Joinder Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B.

“Streamlined FILOT Act” shall mean Title 4, Chapter 12 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

“Termination Date” shall mean in case the entire Project is placed in service in one year, the end of the last day of the property tax year which is the 39th year following the first property tax year in which the entire Project is placed in service, or in case there are Phases of the Project, the Termination Date shall mean with respect to each Phase of the Project the end of the last day of the property tax year which is the 39th year following the first property tax year in which such Phase of the Project is placed in service, provided, that the intention of the parties is that the Company will make at least 40 annual FILOT payments under Article IV hereof with respect to each Phase of the Project and provided further, that if this Fee Agreement is terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, the Termination Date is the date of such termination.

Section 1.2 Any reference to any agreement or document in this Article I or otherwise in this Fee Agreement shall include any and all amendments, supplements, addenda, and modifications to such agreement or document.

Section 1.3 The term “investment” or “invest” as used herein shall include not only investments made by the Company or a Sponsor Affiliate, but also to the fullest extent permitted by law, those investments made by or for the benefit of the Company in connection with the Project through federal, state, or local grants, to the extent such investments are subject to *ad valorem* taxes or FILOT payments by the Company.

ARTICLE II

REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, AND AGREEMENTS

Section 2.1 Representations, Warranties, and Agreements of the County. The County hereby represents, warrants, and agrees as follows:

(a) The County is a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State and acts through the County Council as its governing body. The County has duly authorized the execution and delivery of this Fee Agreement and any and all other agreements described herein or therein and has obtained all consents from third parties and taken all actions necessary or that the law requires to fulfill its obligations hereunder.

(b) Based solely upon representations by the Company, the Project constitutes a “project” within the meaning of the Act.

(c) The County has agreed that each item of real and tangible personal property comprising the Project which is eligible to be economic development property under the Act and that the Company selects shall be considered Economic Development Property.

(d) The millage rate in Section 4.1 hereof is the lowest millage rate permissible under the Act, which the parties understand to be 366.0 mills, the millage rate in effect with respect

to the location of the proposed Project on June 30, 2022, as provided under Section 12-44-50(A)(1)(d) of the Act.

(e) The County will take all reasonable action to include the Project in an Industrial Development Park.

Section 2.2 Representations, Warranties, and Agreements of the Company. The Company hereby represents, warrants, and agrees as follows:

(a) The Company is in good standing under the laws of the State, is duly authorized to transact business in the State, has power to enter into this Fee Agreement, and has duly authorized the execution and delivery of this Fee Agreement.

(b) The Company intends to operate the Project as a “project” within the meaning of the Act as in effect on the date hereof. The Company intends to develop, install, or operate the Project, to conduct other legal activities and functions with respect thereto, and for such other purposes that the Act permits as the Company may deem appropriate.

(c) The Company will use commercially reasonable efforts to ensure that its total capital investment will equal or exceed the Contract Minimum Investment Requirement.

ARTICLE III

COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT

Section 3.1 The Project. The Company intends to invest in Equipment, Improvements, and/or Real Property, which together comprise the Project and which are anticipated to create at least the Contract Minimum Investment Requirement in eligible Economic Development Property investment subject to Payments in Lieu of Taxes in the County.

The parties hereto agree that, to the extent that applicable law allows or is revised or construed to allow the benefits of the Act, in the form of FILOT Payments to be made under Article IV hereof, to be applicable to leased assets including, but not limited to a building and/or personal property to be installed in the buildings and leased to but not purchased by the Company from one or more Sponsor Affiliates under any form of lease, then such property shall, at the election of the Company, be subject to FILOT Payments to the same extent as the Company’s assets covered by this Fee Agreement, subject, at all times, to the requirement of such applicable law. The parties hereto further agree that this Fee Agreement may be interpreted or modified as may be necessary or appropriate in order to give proper application of this Fee Agreement to such tangible property without such construction or modification constituting an amendment to this Fee Agreement, and thus not requiring any additional action by the County Council. The County Administrator after consulting with the County Attorney, shall be and hereby is authorized to make such modifications, if any, as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith. Such leased property shall constitute a part of the Project for all purposes of this Fee Agreement, including removal, replacement, and termination, and such Sponsor Affiliate shall be deemed to be a party to this Fee Agreement.

Pursuant to the Act and subject to Section 4.2 hereof, the Company and the County hereby agree that the Company shall identify annually those assets which are eligible for FILOT payments under the Act and which the Company selects for such treatment by listing such assets on the applicable schedule in its annual PT-300 form (or comparable form) to be filed with the Department (as such may be amended from time to time) and that by listing such assets, such assets shall automatically become Economic Development Property and therefore be exempt from all *ad valorem* taxation during the Exemption Period. Anything contained in this Fee Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, the Company shall not be obligated to complete the acquisition of the Project. However, if the Company does not meet the Act Minimum Investment Requirement, this Fee Agreement shall be terminated as provided in Section 4.2 hereof.

Section 3.2 Diligent Completion. The Company agrees to use its reasonable efforts to cause the completion of the Project as soon as practicable, but in any event on or prior to the end of the Investment Period.

Section 3.3 Filings and Reports.

(a) Each year during the term of the Fee Agreement, the Company shall deliver to the County, the County Auditor, the County Assessor, and the County Treasurer, a copy of its most recent annual filings with the Department with respect to the Project, not later than 30 days following delivery thereof to the Department.

(b) The Company shall cause a copy of this Fee Agreement, as well as a copy of the completed Form PT-443 of the Department, to be filed with the County Auditor and the County Assessor of the County and any partner county, when the Project is placed in an Industrial Development Park, and the Department within 30 days after the date of execution and delivery hereof by all parties hereto.

ARTICLE IV

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

Section 4.1 Negotiated Payments.

(a) Pursuant to Section 12-44-50 of the Act, the Company and any Sponsor Affiliates are required to make payments in lieu of *ad valorem* taxes to the County with respect to the Economic Development Property. Inasmuch as the Company and any Sponsor Affiliates anticipate an initial investment of sums sufficient for the Project to qualify for a fee in lieu of tax arrangement under the Act, the parties have negotiated the amount of the FILOT Payments in accordance therewith. The Company and any Sponsor Affiliates shall make FILOT Payments on all Economic Development Property which comprises the Project and is placed in service during the Exemption Period, or, if there are Phases of the Economic Development Property, with respect to each Phase of the Economic Development Property placed in service during the Investment Period, said payments to be made annually and to be due and payable and subject to penalty assessments on the same dates and in the same manner as prescribed by the County for *ad valorem* taxes. The determination of the amount of such annual FILOT Payments shall be in accordance with the following procedure (subject, in any event, to the procedures that the Act requires):

- Step 1: Determine the fair market value of the Economic Development Property (or Phase of the Economic Development Property) placed in service during the Exemption Period using original income tax basis for State income tax purposes for any Real Property and Improvements without regard to depreciation (provided, the fair market value of real property, as the Act defines such term, that the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate obtains by construction or purchase in an arms-length transaction is equal to the original income tax basis, and otherwise, the determination of the fair market value is by appraisal) and original income tax basis for State income tax purposes for any personal property less depreciation for each year allowable for property tax purposes, except that no extraordinary obsolescence shall be allowable. The fair market value of the Real Property for the first year of the Fee Term remains the fair market value of the Real Property for the life of the Fee Term. The determination of these values shall take into account all applicable property tax exemptions that State law would allow to the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate if the property were taxable, except those exemptions that Section 12-44-50(A)(2) of the Act specifically disallows.
- Step 2: Apply an assessment ratio of six percent (6%) to the fair market value in Step 1 to establish the taxable value of the Economic Development Property (or each Phase of the Economic Development Property) in the year it is placed in service and in each of the 39 years thereafter or such longer period of years in which the Act permits the Company or any Sponsor Affiliates to make annual fee payments.
- Step 3: Use a fixed millage rate equal to the lowest millage rate permissible under the Act, which the parties mutually understand to be the millage rate in effect on June 30, 2022, which is 366.0 mills, as Section 12-44-50(A)(1)(d) of the Act provides, during the Exemption Period against the taxable value to determine the amount of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes due during the Exemption Period on the payment dates that the County prescribes for such payments or such longer period of years in which the Act permits the Company or any Sponsor Affiliates to make annual fee payments.

(b) The FILOT Payment calculated in Section 4.1(a) above shall be referred to as the “Base FILOT Payment.” Subject to the terms and conditions of this Fee Agreement, the Base FILOT Payment shall be adjusted each year to produce the “Net FILOT Payment” due. The Net FILOT Payment that the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate shall be required to pay shall equal \$205,030 during each year of the term of the Fee Agreement. In years in which the Net FILOT Payment is lower than the Base FILOT Payment, an Infrastructure Credit shall be applied to the Base FILOT Payment and shall equal the difference between the Base FILOT Payment and the Net FILOT Payment for such year. In years in which the Net FILOT Payment is higher than the Base FILOT Payment, the Base FILOT Payment shall be increased to equal the Net FILOT

Payment.¹ The FILOT Payments shall be in lieu of all *ad valorem* tax payments that would have appeared on the property tax bills otherwise generated by the County in the absence of this Fee Agreement. The FILOT Payments shall not be in lieu of any statutorily authorized fee or charge imposed by the County to support its operations.

The amount of the Net FILOT Payment is based upon the assumption that the Project has a 70.7 MWac capacity rating and that the Company will pay \$2,900 per MW. If the capacity rating of the Project changes to either lesser or greater than 70.7 MWac, the Company shall notify the County, and the Net FILOT Payment shall be adjusted by the same proportion subject to the floor established in this paragraph. For example, and by way of example only, if the Project's capacity rating is increased to 77.77 MW, the Net FILOT Payment shall be increased by 10%. The capacity rating shall be measured as of the last day of the prior fiscal year for purposes of determining the Net FILOT Payment for each property tax year. In no event shall the Net FILOT Payment equal less than \$184,527 (90% of the expected \$205,030).

(c) In the event that a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction or an agreement of the parties determines that the calculation of the minimum FILOT Payment applicable to this transaction is to be other than by the procedure herein, the payment shall be reset at the minimum permitted level so determined.

Subject to Section 6.8 hereof, in the event that a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction from which no further appeal is allowable declares the Act and/or the herein-described Payments in Lieu of Taxes invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, for any reason, the parties express their intentions to reform such payments so as to effectuate most closely the intent hereof and so as to afford the Company with the benefits to be derived herefrom, the intention of the County being to offer the Company a strong inducement to locate the Project in the County. If the Economic Development Property is deemed to be subject to *ad valorem* taxation, this Fee Agreement shall terminate, and the Company shall pay the County regular *ad valorem* taxes from the date of termination, but with appropriate reductions equivalent to all tax exemptions which are afforded to the Company. Any amount determined to be due and owing to the County from the Company, with respect to a year or years for which the Company previously remitted Payments in Lieu of Taxes to the County hereunder, shall (i) take into account all applicable tax exemptions to which the Company would be entitled if the Economic Development Property was not and had not been Economic Development Property under the Act; and (ii) be reduced by the total amount of Payments in Lieu of Taxes the Company had made with respect to the Project pursuant to the terms hereof. Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, neither the Company nor any successor in title or interest shall be required to pay FILOT payments and *ad valorem* taxes for the same property over the same period in question.

Section 4.2 Failure to Achieve Act Minimum Investment Requirement.

(a) In the event that the cost of the Economic Development Property (without regard to depreciation) that the Company acquires does not reach the Act Minimum Investment

¹ If it is determined that the Company and County may not simply agree upon a higher payment than the Base FILOT Payment, the assessment ratio for any year in which the Net FILOT Payment is higher than the Base FILOT Payment shall be adjusted to an assessment ratio that causes the Base FILOT Payment to equal the Net FILOT Payment.

Requirement by the end of the Investment Period, this Fee Agreement shall terminate as to such entity failing to meet the minimum investment level. In such event, the Company shall pay the County an amount (the "Additional Payment") pursuant to the Act which is equal to the excess, if any, of (i) the total amount of *ad valorem* taxes as would result from taxes levied on the Project by the County, municipality or municipalities, school district or school districts, and other political units as if the items of property comprising the Economic Development Property were not Economic Development Property, but with appropriate reductions equivalent to all tax exemptions and abatements to which the Company would be entitled in such a case, through and including the end of the Investment Period, over (ii) the total amount of FILOT payments the Company has made with respect to the Economic Development Property through and including the end of the Investment Period. Any amounts determined to be owing pursuant to the foregoing sentence shall be subject to the minimum amount of interest that the Act may require and shall be paid to the County within 90 days of the County's submission of a written request therefore.

(b) The remedies stated herein shall be the County's sole remedies for the Company's failure to meet any required investment or job creation level.

Section 4.3 Payments in Lieu of Taxes on Replacement Property. If the Company elects to replace any Removed Components and to substitute such Removed Components with Replacement Property as a part of the Economic Development Property, or the Company otherwise utilizes Replacement Property, then, pursuant and subject to Section 12-44-60 of the Act, the Company shall make statutory payments in lieu of *ad valorem* taxes with regard to such Replacement Property in accordance with the following:

(i) Replacement Property does not have to serve the same function as the Economic Development Property it is replacing. Replacement Property is deemed to replace the oldest Economic Development Property subject to the Fee, whether real or personal, which is disposed of in the same property tax year in which the Replacement Property is placed in service. Replacement Property qualifies as Economic Development Property only to the extent of the original income tax basis of Economic Development Property which is being disposed of in the same property tax year. More than one piece of property can replace a single piece of Economic Development Property. To the extent that the income tax basis of the Replacement Property exceeds the original income tax basis of the Economic Development Property which it is replacing, the excess amount is subject to annual payments calculated as if the exemption for Economic Development Property were not allowable. Replacement Property is entitled to treatment under the Fee Agreement for the period of time remaining during the Exemption Period for the Economic Development Property which it is replacing; and

(ii) The new Replacement Property which qualifies for the Fee shall be recorded using its income tax basis, and the calculation of the Fee shall utilize the millage rate and assessment ratio in effect with regard to the original property subject to the Fee.

Section 4.4 Reductions in Payments of Taxes Upon Removal, Condemnation, or Casualty. In the event of a Diminution in Value of the Economic Development Property or any Phase of the Economic Development Property, the Payment in Lieu of Taxes with regard to the Economic Development Property or that Phase of the Economic Development Property shall be reduced in the same proportion as the amount of such Diminution in Value bears to the original fair market value of the Economic Development Property or that Phase of the Economic Development Property as determined pursuant to Step 1 of Section 4.1(a) hereof; *provided, however,* that if at any time subsequent to the end of the Investment Period, the total value of the Project based on the original income tax basis of the Equipment, Real Property, and Improvements contained therein, without deduction for depreciation, is less than the Act Minimum Investment Requirement, beginning with the first payment thereafter due hereunder and continuing until the end of the Fee Term, the Company shall no longer be entitled to the incentive provided in Section 4.1, and the Company shall therefore commence to pay regular *ad valorem* taxes on the Economic Development Property part of the Project. However, the Company will not be required to make any retroactive payments.

Section 4.5 Place of Payments in Lieu of Taxes. The Company shall make the above-described Payments in Lieu of Taxes directly to the County in accordance with applicable law.

Section 4.6 Removal of Economic Development Property. Subject, always, to the other terms and provisions hereof, the Company shall be entitled to remove and dispose of components or Phases of the Project from the Project in its sole discretion with the result that said components or Phases shall no longer be considered a part of the Project and, to the extent such constitute Economic Development Property, shall no longer be subject to the terms of this Fee Agreement to the fullest extent allowed by the Act, as amended. Economic Development Property is disposed of only when it is scrapped or sold or it is removed from the Project. If it is removed from the Project, it is subject to *ad valorem* property taxes to the extent the Property remains in the State and is otherwise subject to *ad valorem* property taxes.

Section 4.7 Damage or Destruction of Economic Development Property.

(a) Election to Terminate. In the event the Project is damaged by fire, explosion, or any other casualty, the Company may elect to terminate this Fee Agreement.

(b) Election to Rebuild. In the event the Economic Development Property is damaged by fire, explosion, or any other casualty, and if the Company does not elect to terminate this Fee Agreement, the Company may commence to restore the Economic Development Property with such reductions or enlargements in the scope of the Economic Development Property, changes, alterations, and modifications (including the substitution and addition of other property) as may be desired by the Company. All such restorations and replacements shall be considered, to the fullest extent permitted by law and this Fee Agreement, substitutions of the destroyed portions of the Economic Development Property and shall be considered part of the Economic Development Property for all purposes hereof, including, but not limited to, any amounts due by the Company to the County under Section 4.1 hereof.

(c) Election to Remove. In the event the Company elects not to terminate this Fee Agreement pursuant to subsection (a) and elects not to rebuild pursuant to subsection (b), the

damaged portions of the Economic Development Property shall be treated as Removed Components.

Section 4.8 Condemnation.

(a) Complete Taking. If at any time during the Fee Term title to or temporary use of the Economic Development Property should become vested in a public or quasi-public authority by virtue of the exercise of a taking by condemnation, inverse condemnation, or the right of eminent domain; by voluntary transfer under threat of such taking; or by a taking of title to a portion of the Economic Development Property which renders continued use or occupancy of the Economic Development Property commercially unfeasible in the judgment of the Company, the Company shall have the option to terminate this Fee Agreement by sending written notice to the County within a reasonable period of time following such vesting.

(b) Partial Taking. In the event of a partial taking of the Project or transfer in lieu thereof, the Company may elect: (i) to terminate this Fee Agreement; (ii) to repair and restore the Project, with such reductions or enlargements in the scope of the Project, changes, alterations and modifications (including the substitution and addition of other property) as may be desired by the Company; or (iii) to treat the portions of the Project so taken as Removed Components.

(c) The Company shall only be required to make FILOT payments as to all or any part of the tax year in which the taking occurs to the extent property subject to *ad valorem* taxes would otherwise have been subject to such taxes under the same circumstances for the period in question.

Section 4.9 Confidentiality/Limitation on Access to Project. The County acknowledges and understands that the Company utilizes confidential and proprietary processes and materials, services, equipment, trade secrets, and techniques (herein "Confidential Information") and that any disclosure of Confidential Information concerning the Company's operations may result in substantial harm to the Company and could thereby have a significant detrimental impact on the Company's employees and also upon the County. The Company acknowledges that the County is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, and, as a result, must disclose certain documents and information on request absent an exemption. For these reasons, the Company shall clearly label all Confidential Information it delivers to the County "Confidential Information." Therefore, the County agrees that, except as required by law, neither the County nor any employee, agent, or contractor of the County shall (i) request or be entitled to receive any such Confidential Information, or (ii) disclose or otherwise divulge any such Confidential Information to any other person, firm, governmental body or agency, or any other entity unless specifically required to do so by law; provided, however, that the County shall have no less rights concerning information relating to the Project and the Company than concerning any other property or property taxpayer in the County, and, provided further, that the confidentiality of such confidential or proprietary information is clearly disclosed to the County in writing as previously described. Prior to disclosing any Confidential Information, subject to the requirements of law, the Company may require the execution of reasonable, individual, confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements by any officers, employees, or agents of the County or any supporting or cooperating governmental agencies who would gather, receive, or review such information. In the event that the County is required to disclose any Confidential Information obtained from the Company to any third party,

the County agrees to provide the Company with as much advance notice as possible of such requirement before making such disclosure, and to cooperate reasonably with any attempts by the Company to obtain judicial or other relief from such disclosure requirement.

Section 4.10 Assignment. If Section 12-44-120 of the Act or any successor provision requires consent to an assignment, the Company may assign this Fee Agreement in whole or in part with the prior written consent of the County or a subsequent written ratification by the County, which consent or ratification the County will not unreasonably withhold. The Company agrees to notify the County and the Department of the identity of such transferee within 60 days of the transfer. In case of a transfer, the transferee assumes the transferor's basis in the Project for purposes of calculating the Fee. No approval is required for transfers to Sponsor Affiliates or other financing related transfers, as defined in the Act.

Section 4.11 No Double Payment; Future Changes in Legislation.

(a) Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, and except as expressly required by law, neither the Company nor any Sponsor Affiliate shall ever be required to make a Payment in Lieu of Taxes in addition to a regular property tax payment in the same year over the same piece of property, nor shall the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate be required to make a Payment in Lieu of Taxes on property in cases where, absent this Fee Agreement, property taxes would otherwise not be due on such property.

In case there is any legislation enacted which provides for more favorable treatment for property to qualify as, or for the calculation of the fee related to, Economic Development Property under Sections 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, or the calculation of the Investment Period, the County agrees to give expedient and full consideration to such legislation, with a view to allow for such more favorable treatment or calculation.

Section 4.12 Administration Expenses. The Company agrees to pay the reasonable and necessary expenses that the County incurs with respect to the execution and administration of this Fee Agreement, including without limitation reasonable and actual attorneys' fees (the "Administration Expenses"); provided, however, that no such expense shall be an Administration Expense until the County has furnished to the Company a statement in writing indicating the amount of such expense and the reason for its incurrence. As used in this section, "Administration Expenses" shall include the reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by the County with respect to: (i) this Fee Agreement; (ii) all other documents related to this Fee Agreement and any related documents; and (iii) the fulfillment of its obligations under this Fee Agreement and any related documents and the implementation and administration of the terms and provisions of the documents after the date of execution thereof, but only as a result of a request by the Company for a modification, assignment, or a termination of such documents by the Company, or as a result of a bankruptcy of the Company or a default by the Company under the terms of such documents. The Company acknowledges that Administration Expenses incurred in connection with the execution and delivery of this Fee Agreement shall equal \$10,000 and shall be due and payable upon execution of this Fee Agreement.

Section 4.13 Execution of Lease. The parties acknowledge that the intent of this Fee Agreement is to afford the Company the benefits of the FILOT Payments in consideration of the

Company's decision to locate the Project within the County and that this Fee Agreement has been entered into in reliance upon the validity and enforceability of the Act. In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the Act is unconstitutional or that this Fee Agreement or agreements similar in nature to this Fee Agreement are invalid or unenforceable in any material respect, or should the parties determine that there is a reasonable doubt as to the validity or enforceability of this Fee Agreement in any material respect, then the County, upon the provision by the Company of evidence acceptable to the County that the Project is free from environmental contamination and the conveyance of title to the Project to the County at the expense of the Company, agrees to lease the Project to the Company pursuant to the Streamlined FILOT Act and, to the extent permitted under the law in effect at such time, use its best efforts to ensure that the Company receives the benefits of the FILOT arrangement as contemplated by this Fee Agreement.

Section 4.14 Waiver of Benefits of Future Legislation. The Company and any Sponsor Affiliates agree to waive the benefits of any future legislative enactment that reduces property taxes available to solar farm property. If the Company or any Sponsor Affiliate claims any such benefits in addition to the benefits provided in this Fee Agreement, such action shall constitute an early termination of this Fee Agreement by the Company or the Sponsor Affiliate, as applicable.

ARTICLE V

DEFAULT

Section 5.1 Events of Default. The following shall be "Events of Default" under this Fee Agreement, and the term "Events of Default" shall mean, whenever used with reference to this Fee Agreement, any one or more of the following occurrences:

(a) Failure by the Company to make the Payments in Lieu of Taxes described in Section 4.1 hereof, which failure shall not have been cured within 30 days following receipt of written notice thereof from the County; *provided, however*, that the Company shall be entitled to all redemption rights granted by applicable statutes;

(b) A representation or warranty made by the Company which is materially incorrect when made;

(c) Failure by the Company to perform any of the terms, conditions, obligations, or covenants hereunder (other than those under (a) above), which failure shall continue for a period of 30 days after written notice from the County to the Company specifying such failure and requesting that it be remedied, unless the Company shall have instituted corrective action within such time period and is diligently pursuing such action until the default is corrected, in which case the 30-day period shall be extended to cover such additional period during which the Company is diligently pursuing corrective action;

(d) A representation or warranty made by the County which is deemed materially incorrect when deemed made;

(e) The Cessation of operations at the Project. "Cessation of operations" shall mean (a) a publicly announced closure of the Project by the Company, (b) total suspension of energy production at the Project for a period of 180 days or more, or (c) reduction of energy

production at the facility to less than 30 MW of photovoltaic generation for a period of 6 months or more; or

(f) Failure by the County to perform any of the terms, conditions, obligations, or covenants hereunder, which failure shall continue for a period of 30 days after written notice from the Company to the County specifying such failure and requesting that it be remedied, unless the County shall have instituted corrective action within such time period and is diligently pursuing such action until the default is corrected, in which case the 30-day period shall be extended to cover such additional period during which the County is diligently pursuing corrective action.

Section 5.2 Remedies on Default.

(a) Whenever any Event of Default by the Company shall have occurred and shall be continuing, the County may take any one or more of the following remedial actions:

(i) terminate the Fee Agreement, upon 30 days' notice to the Company and any Sponsor Affiliate; or

(ii) take whatever action at law or in equity may appear necessary or desirable to collect the amounts due hereunder. In no event shall the Company be liable to the County or otherwise for monetary damages resulting from the Company's failure to meet the Act Minimum Investment Requirement, other than as expressly set forth herein.

(b) Whenever any Event of Default by the County shall have occurred or shall be continuing, the Company may take one or more of the following actions:

(i) bring an action for specific enforcement;

(ii) terminate the Fee Agreement, upon 30 days' notice to County;

(iii) withhold so much of the payment as is in dispute with the County until such dispute is fully and finally resolved; or

(iv) in case of a materially incorrect representation or warranty, take such action as is appropriate, including legal action, to recover its damages, to the extent allowed by law.

ARTICLE VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 6.1 Notices. Any notice, election, demand, request, or other communication to be provided under this Fee Agreement shall be effective when delivered to the party named below or when deposited with the United States Postal Service, certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed as follows (or addressed to such other address as any party shall have previously furnished in writing to the other party), except where the terms hereof require receipt rather than sending of any notice, in which case such provision shall control:

IF TO THE COMPANY:

[PROJECT N]

WITH A COPY TO:

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
Attn: William R. Johnson
P.O. Box 11889
Columbia, SC 29211

IF TO THE COUNTY:

Newberry County, South Carolina
Attn: County Administrator
1309 College Street
P.O. Box 156
Newberry, SC 29108

WITH COPIES TO:

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
Attn: Ray E. Jones
1221 Main Street, Suite 1100
Columbia, SC 29201

Section 6.2 Binding Effect. This Fee Agreement and each document contemplated hereby or related hereto shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Company, the County, and their respective successors and assigns. In the event of the dissolution of the County or the consolidation of any part of the County with any other political subdivision or the transfer of any rights of the County to any other such political subdivision, all of the covenants, stipulations, promises, and agreements of this Fee Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of the successors of the County from time to time and any entity, officer, board, commission, agency, or instrumentality to whom or to which any power or duty of the County has been transferred.

Section 6.3 Counterparts. This Fee Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, and all of the counterparts taken together shall be deemed to constitute one and the same instrument.

Section 6.4 Governing Law. This Fee Agreement and all documents executed in connection herewith shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina.

Section 6.5 Headings. The headings of the articles and sections of this Fee Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this Fee Agreement.

Section 6.6 Amendments. The provisions of this Fee Agreement may only be modified or amended in writing by any agreement or agreements entered into between the parties.

Section 6.7 Further Assurance. From time to time, and at the expense of the Company, to the extent any expense is incurred, the County agrees to execute and deliver to the Company such additional instruments as the Company may reasonably request and as are authorized by law and reasonably within the purposes and scope of the Act and Fee Agreement to effectuate the purposes of this Fee Agreement.

Section 6.8 Invalidity; Change in Laws. In the event that the inclusion of property as Economic Development Property or any other issue is unclear under this Fee Agreement, the County hereby expresses its intention that the interpretation of this Fee Agreement shall be in a manner that provides for the broadest inclusion of property under the terms of this Fee Agreement and the maximum incentive permissible under the Act, to the extent not inconsistent with any of the explicit terms hereof. If any provision of this Fee Agreement is declared illegal, invalid, or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions hereof shall be unimpaired, and such illegal, invalid, or unenforceable provision shall be reformed to effectuate most closely the legal, valid, and enforceable intent thereof and so as to afford the Company with the maximum benefits to be derived herefrom, it being the intention of the County to offer the Company the strongest inducement possible, within the provisions of the Act, to locate the Project in the County. In case a change in the Act or South Carolina laws eliminates or reduces any of the restrictions or limitations applicable to the Company and the Fee incentive, the parties agree that the County will give expedient and full consideration to reformation of this Fee Agreement, with a view toward providing the Company with the benefits of such change in the Act or South Carolina laws.

The County agrees that in case the FILOT incentive described herein is found to be invalid or otherwise does not provide the Company with the economic benefit it is intended to receive from the County as an inducement to locate in the County, the savings lost as a result of such invalidity will be considered a special source revenue credit or infrastructure improvement credit to the Company (in addition to the Infrastructure Credit explicitly provided for above) to the maximum extent permitted by law, and the County will provide a special source revenue credit or infrastructure improvement credit against all FILOT payments or fee payments made or to be made by the Company equal to the amount that the Company would have saved if the FILOT had been valid, to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Section 6.9 Force Majeure. The Company shall not be responsible for any delays or non-performance caused in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by strikes, accidents, freight embargoes, fires, floods, inability to obtain materials, conditions arising from governmental orders or regulations, war or national emergency, acts of God, and any other cause, similar or dissimilar, beyond the Company's reasonable control.

Section 6.10 Termination by Company. The Company is authorized to terminate this Fee Agreement at any time with respect to all or part of the Project upon providing the County

with written notice of termination, and such termination shall be effective as of the date determined by the Company; *provided, however*, that (i) any monetary obligations existing hereunder and due and owing at the time of termination to a party hereto; and (ii) any provisions which are intended to survive termination, shall survive such termination. In the year following the effective date of termination, all property shall be subject to ad valorem taxation or such other taxation or fee in lieu of taxation that would apply absent this Fee Agreement. The Company's obligation to make fee in lieu of tax payments under this Fee Agreement shall terminate in the year following the effective date of such termination pursuant to this section.

Section 6.11 Entire Understanding. This Fee Agreement expresses the entire understanding and all agreements of the parties hereto with each other with respect to its subject matter, and neither party hereto has made or shall be bound by any agreement or any representation to the other party which is not expressly set forth in this Fee Agreement or in certificates delivered in connection with the execution and delivery hereof.

Section 6.12 Waiver. Either party may waive compliance by the other party with any term or condition of this Fee Agreement only in a writing signed by the waiving party.

Section 6.13 Business Day. In the event that any action, payment, or notice is, by the terms of this Fee Agreement, required to be taken, made, or given on any day which is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday in the jurisdiction in which the person obligated to act is domiciled, such action, payment, or notice may be taken, made, or given on the following business day with the same effect as if given as required hereby, and no interest shall accrue in the interim.

Section 6.14 Limitation of Liability. Anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding, any financial obligation the County may incur hereunder, including for the payment of money, shall not be deemed to constitute a pecuniary liability or a debt or general obligation of the County; provided, however, that nothing herein shall prevent the Company from enforcing its rights hereunder by suit for *mandamus* or specific performance.

Section 6.15 Decommissioning the Project. The Company shall perform all Decommissioning Obligations under this Agreement. In order to ensure performance of the Company's Decommissioning Obligations, the Company shall provide the County with the performance guarantee required for conditional permitting of solar farms under Section 153.124(I)(3) of the County Zoning Code. The parties agree, and expressly intend, that provision of the performance guarantee for conditional permitting pursuant to Section 153.124 of the County Zoning Code satisfies Company's financial guarantee of the Company's Decommissioning Obligations under this Section 4.15.

ARTICLE VII

INDEMNIFICATION, INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY

Section 7.1 Indemnification Covenants.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (d) below, the Company shall indemnify and save the County, its employees, elected officials, officers and agents (each, an "*Indemnified Party*") harmless against and from all liability or claims arising from the County's execution of this Fee

Agreement, performance of the County's obligations under this Fee Agreement or the administration of its duties pursuant to this Fee Agreement, or otherwise by virtue of the County having entered into this Fee Agreement.

(b) The County is entitled to use counsel of its choice and the Company shall reimburse the County for all of its costs, including attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with the response to or defense against such liability or claims as described in paragraph (a), above. The County shall provide a statement of the costs incurred in the response or defense, and the Company shall pay the County within 30 days of receipt of the statement. The Company may request reasonable documentation evidencing the costs shown on the statement. However, the County is not required to provide any such documentation which may be privileged or confidential to evidence the costs.

(c) The County may request the Company to resist or defend against any claim on behalf of an Indemnified Party. On such request, the Company shall resist or defend against such claim on behalf of the Indemnified Party, at the Company's expense. The Company is entitled to use counsel of its choice, manage and control the defense of or response to such claim for the Indemnified Party; provided the Company is not entitled to settle any such claim without the consent of that Indemnified Party.

(d) Notwithstanding anything in this Section or this Fee Agreement to the contrary, the Company is not required to indemnify any Indemnified Party against or reimburse any Indemnified Party for costs arising from any claim or liability (i) occasioned by the acts of that Indemnified Party, which are unrelated to the execution of this Fee Agreement, performance of the County's obligations under this Fee Agreement, or the administration of its duties under this Fee Agreement, or otherwise by virtue of the County having entered into this Fee Agreement; or (ii) resulting from that Indemnified Party's own negligence, bad faith, fraud, deceit, or willful misconduct.

(e) An Indemnified Party may not avail itself of the indemnification or reimbursement of costs provided in this Section unless it provides the Company with prompt notice, reasonable under the circumstances, of the existence or threat of any claim or liability, including, without limitation, copies of any citations, orders, fines, charges, remediation requests, or other claims or threats of claims, in order to afford the Company notice, reasonable under the circumstances, within which to defend or otherwise respond to a claim.

Section 7.2 No Liability of County Personnel. All covenants, stipulations, promises, agreements and obligations of the County contained in this Fee Agreement are binding on members of the County Council or any elected official, officer, agent, servant or employee of the County only in his or her official capacity and not in his or her individual capacity, and no recourse for the payment of any moneys under this Fee Agreement may be had against any member of County Council or any elected or appointed official, officer, agent, servant or employee of the County and no recourse for the payment of any moneys or performance of any of the covenants and agreements under this Fee Agreement or for any claims based on this Fee Agreement may be had against any member of County Council or any elected or appointed official, officer, agent, servant or employee of the County except solely in their official capacity.

Section 7.3 Survival. The obligations of the Company pursuant to Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of this Agreement shall survive termination of this Agreement.

(Signature Page Follows)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County, acting by and through the County Council, has caused this Fee Agreement to be executed in its name and behalf by the County Administrator or County Council Chairman and to be attested by the Clerk of the County Council; and the Company has caused this Fee Agreement to be executed by its duly authorized officer, all as of the day and year first above written.

**NEWBERRY COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

ATTEST:

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: Clerk to County Council

[PROJECT N]

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT A
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

[Legal description to be inserted.]

EXHIBIT B
JOINDER AGREEMENT

Reference is hereby made to (i) that certain Fee Agreement effective _____, 2023 (“Fee Agreement”), between Newberry County, South Carolina (the “County”) and [PROJECT N] (the “Company”).

1. Joinder to Fee Agreement.

The undersigned hereby (a) joins as a party to, and agrees to be bound by and subject to all of the terms and conditions of, the Fee Agreement except the following: _____; (b) acknowledges and agrees that (i) in accordance the Fee Agreement, the undersigned has been designated as a Sponsor Affiliate by the Company for purposes of the Project and such designation has been consented to by the County in accordance with the Act (as defined in the Fee Agreement); (ii) the undersigned qualifies or will qualify as a Sponsor Affiliate under the Fee Agreement and Section 12-44-30(20) and Section 12-44-130 of the Act; and (iii) the undersigned shall have all of the rights and obligations of a Sponsor Affiliate as set forth in the Fee Agreement.

The Sponsor Affiliate acknowledges that all references in the Fee Agreement to rights and obligations of the Company in the Fee Agreement apply to the Sponsor Affiliate with respect to its investment in the Project.

The Company (a) agrees to be responsible for all repayment obligations that arise pursuant to the Fee Agreement, unless otherwise agreed to through a separate agreement in writing by and between the Company and the Sponsor Affiliate (including any lease agreements that have been or will be assigned to the Company in connection with the Project); and (b) agrees to indemnify the Sponsor Affiliate against all claims brought against it arising from the Fee Agreement, provided that such repayment obligation is not an obligation of the Sponsor Affiliate under a separate agreement in writing as set forth above or the claim is not a result of Sponsor Affiliate’s own negligence, bad faith, fraud, deceit, or willful misconduct.

2. Capitalized Terms.

All capitalized terms used but not defined in this Joinder Agreement shall have the meanings set forth in the Fee Agreement.

3. Governing Law.

This Joinder Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina, without regard to principles of choice of law.

4. Notice.

Notices under Section 6.1 of the Fee Agreement shall be sent to:

[]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Joinder Agreement to be effective as of the date set forth below, and the Company hereby agrees to the terms set forth herein

_____ Date

_____ Name of Sponsor Affiliate

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____

COMPANY:

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2023**

The Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Todd Johnson, Chair
Les Hipp, Vice-Chair
Mary Arrowood, Council Member
Karl Sease, Council Member
Robert N. Shealy, Council Member
Johnny Mack Scurry, Council Member
Travis Reeder, Council Member
Karen Brehmer, Acting County Administrator
Joanie Winters, Interim County Attorney
Debbie S. Cromer, Finance Director
Crystal Waldrop, Procurement Director
Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m., determined a quorum to be present and welcomed visitors to the meeting.

Mr. Hipp had the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **Newberry County Council Special Called Meeting – February 2, 2023**
- b. **Newberry County Council Meeting – February 15, 2023**
- c. **Economic Development Committee Meeting – February 21, 2023**

Mr. Shealy moved to adopt all items on the Consent Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

2. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

There being no additions or deletions to the Agenda, Mr. Shealy moved to adopt the Agenda, as presented; seconded by Mr. Hipp. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

3. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PURCHASE BUNKER GEAR – CRYSTAL WALDROP, PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR

Mrs. Waldrop reported that 2 bids were received. Staff recommends accepting the second lowest bid due to the noncompliance in the specifications regarding the low-rise pants. The second lowest bid is from SC Fire Equipment in the amount of \$2,492.00 for each set. The total cost for 15 sets would be \$37,380.00. Funding is budgeted in the capital outlay for the fire department and this bid falls within the budget limitations.

Mr. Shealy moved to accept the bid of SC Fire Equipment; seconded by Mrs. Arrowood. There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

4. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO REIMBURSE PROSPERITY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS – ROBERT DENNIS, CHIEF PROSPERITY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BRANDON WICKER, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR

Robert Dennis, Chief of Prosperity Fire Department, advised Prosperity Fire Department had purchased 4 paks, 8 cylinders and 8 masks to bring one truck up to standard. The cost for these purchases was \$37,963.00. Prosperity Fire Department is using fundraiser and donation monies to make this purchase. This still leaves Prosperity with two other trucks that would need to be brought up to standard.

Friendly, Fairview and Prosperity Fire Departments have applied for the FEMA Fire Assistance Grant and requested a total of 34 paks, 68 cylinders and 40 masks.

Since this is a county-wide situation, Mr. Johnson recommended deferring this issue to Tommy Long, Public Safety Director, to come up with a plan which should then be presented to the Public Safety Committee.

After discussion, Mr. Shealy moved to send this item to Tommy Long, Public Safety Director, to develop a county-wide plan, which plan will then be submitted to the Public Safety Committee for consideration; seconded by Mr. Hipp. There being no further discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

5. COMMITTEE REPORT - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, RICK FARMER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Mr. Farmer reported that project activity was solid and there were six site submissions. Newberry County is missing opportunities because it currently has no empty buildings.

The new road expansion in Mid-Carolina Commerce Park is complete.

The Daeyoung Construction in Mid-Carolina Commerce Park II is complete. A new sign will be needed for this park at an estimated cost of \$122,000.00, and funding for the sign is being requested in his FY 23-24 budget request.

The Mawsons Way Extension project to add a new road in the Newberry Industrial Park is back on track, and Alliance Consulting, who was first hired in 2019 is back on the job. He has resubmitted a grant request letter to the SC Department of Commerce and was optimistic that the County would get these funds reallocated. However, it is not a sure thing.

The 2022 State Korea Mission was completed last October. This was his fourth Korean Mission, and he felt this was the best.

He has requested \$15,000 in his FY 23-24 budget request to overhaul the economic development website.

The average wage in Newberry County has increased by 32% in the last five years.

The Workforce Summit will be held on March 31, 2023.

Mr. Johnson asked if the traffic light to be installed at the I-26 and Highway 219 interchange would impact Mawsons Way. Mr. Farmer responded that it would have no impact on Mawsons Way.

6. APPOINTMENTS

No appointments.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Code Section 30-4-70(a) of the Code of Laws of SC, as amended, 1976:

(1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly. Nothing contained in this item shall prevent the public body, in its discretion, from deleting the names of the other employees or clients whose records are submitted for use at the hearing.

(2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt

of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

(3) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Mr. Shealy moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons set forth above; seconded by Mr. Reeder. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
6:46 P.M. – 7:50 P.M.**

Mrs. Arrowood moved to return to open session; seconded by Mr. Scurry. There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson reported that Council met in Executive Session for the above reasons, and no action was taken in Executive Session.

Mr. Hipp moved that County Council issue a document in support of Newberry Electric Cooperative's application for a grant to provide fiber service in unserved and under-served areas of Newberry County; seconded by Mr. Reeder.

There being no discussion, Mr. Johnson called for the vote. Mr. Shealy abstained from voting due to his affiliation with Newberry Electric Cooperative. All other Council Members voted for the motion unanimously. Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Shealy abstaining because of his work-related conflict.

9. COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Brehmer stated this would be her last meeting as Acting County Administrator and looked forward to Jeff Shacker coming on board as the County Administrator on March 13.

10.COMMENTS/REQUESTS FROM COUNCIL

All Council Members thanked Mrs. Brehmer and Mrs. Cromer, as well as other staff, for all they have done to keep the County afloat.

Mr. Johnson announced that Katherine Cook was back with Newberry County as the Human Relations Director.

11.FUTURE MEETINGS:

- a. **County Council meeting - March 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**
- b. **Finance Committee meeting - March 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**
- c. **County Council meeting - April 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**
- d. **Budget Work Session - April 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Johnson reminded everyone of the FILOT meeting on March 28, 2023 and the Workforce Summit on March 31, 2023.

12.ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Shealy moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Sease. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Todd Johnson, Chair

Susan C. Fellers, Clerk to Council

Minutes Approved: _____