

November 15, 2022

Katherine Cook
Planning Coordinator
City of Auburn
60 Court Street
Auburn, Maine 04210

**Subject: BWC Gulf Island Pond, LLC – Auburn Solar Project
Development Review Application – Letter of Intent**

Dear Ms. Cook,

On behalf of BWC Gulf Island Pond, LLC, a subsidiary of Bluewave Solar (Applicant), Flycatcher LLC (Flycatcher) is pleased to provide the additional material to support the Development Review application for the proposed Auburn Solar Project (Project) to be located at 224 East Waterman Road in Auburn. This information is specifically in response to our meeting of November 10, 2022.

Solar and Battery Storage - Auburn Narrative

For this project, a battery energy storage system (BESS) is proposed that would allow the project to store surplus solar energy (energy beyond what the existing infrastructure can transmit) and release it when it is most needed. Bluewave is developing BESS at multiple scales, including community, commercial / industrial and utility infrastructure. There is growing interest across the energy industry for the potential of BESS to reduce costs and increase reliability for the electric grid.

A BESS is a device that enables energy, preferably from renewable energy sources, to be stored during the day and dispatched at a time in the future (Ex. 2,4, or 6 hours later). Paired with solar, a BESS can store energy produced by the solar facility during the day and then dispatch that energy onto the grid during early evening hours or moments of peak demand. One significant benefit of BESS is that when this is done at scale battery storage allows communities to be less reliant on “peaker” power plants and less susceptible to power outages during peak demand, such as a heat wave. Another advantage of batteries is that their greater deployment can “firm” renewable resources such as wind and solar by storing intermittent power for injection into the grid when there is a need.

Interservice Agreement

The Applicant does not have an interconnection agreement at this time with Central Maine Power but anticipates having one in Q1 2023. The Applicant suggests that this situation be addressed through a permit condition with language such as the following:

Before commencing construction, the City must receive a signed Interconnection Agreement (IA) from CMP.

Access Road Design

During the meeting, it was stated that a 3-foot apron would be required for the access road. The Applicant has no issue with this requirement and would suggest that this situation be resolved through a permit condition such as:

An updated plan showing a three-foot apron at the terminus of the access road be provided for staff review prior to construction.

If frost protection is also required, the language in the suggested condition could be updated accordingly.

Construction Sign

The Applicant agrees to install signage in close proximity to the Project's access road alerting motorists to the construction activities. If the City would like to provide specific language, we can update the plan set prior to the December Planning Board meeting. Alternatively, this requirement could be a condition for the permit.

Maine General Construction Permit

During the meeting, we noted that, because the Project will not result in greater than one acre of impervious area, or five or more acres of developed area, it was anticipated that a Stormwater Permit-by-Rule application would be submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) and that this application incorporated the requirements of the Maine General Construction Permit (MGCP). However, as the City is a delegated authority for stormwater, it is possible that no stormwater applications will need to be submitted to the MDEP. Therefore, the Applicant suggests that this situation be resolved through a permit condition such as:

Before commencing construction, the City must receive a copy of the Maine General Construction Permit Application submitted to the MDEP.

Thank you for your timely review of the enclosed materials. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 207-400-6161 or sean@flycatcherllc.com if you have any questions regarding the Project.

Respectfully submitted,



Sean Murphy
Senior Project Manager

Cc: Alan Robertson, Bluewave