

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
TYPE 1 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
FINDINGS AND DECISION**

HEARING DATE: October 16, 2014

PROJECT NAME: Riverside Community Solar Garden

CASE NUMBER: PDP140013

APPLICANT: Michelle Zimmerman  
Clean Energy Collective, LLC  
3005 Center Green Drive, Suite 205  
Boulder, CO 80301

OWNER: City of Fort Collins  
PO Box 850  
Fort Collins, CO 80522

HEARING OFFICER: Kendra L. Carberry

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This is a request for approval of a Project Development Plan ("PDP") for the construction of a medium-scale solar energy system capable of generating up to 600 kilowatts of electricity. The site is located at the northeast corner of Riverside Avenue and Mulberry Street in the River Downtown Redevelopment (R-D-R) Zone District on land owned by the City of Fort Collins.

SUMMARY OF DECISION: Approved

ZONE DISTRICT: River Downtown Redevelopment (R-D-R)

HEARING: The Hearing Officer opened the hearing at approximately 5:30 p.m. on October 16, 2014, in Conference Room A, 281 North College Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado.

EVIDENCE: During the hearing, the Hearing Officer accepted the following evidence: (1) Planning Department Staff Report; (2) application, plans, maps and other supporting documents submitted by the applicant; and (3) a copy of the public notice (the formally promulgated policies of the City are all considered part of the record considered by the Hearing Officer).

TESTIMONY: The following persons testified at the hearing:

From the City: Ryan Mounce

From the Applicant: Michelle Zimmerman

From the Public: Michael Thieme, Rick Coen, Fran Rivers

## FINDINGS

1. Evidence presented to the Hearing Officer established the fact that the hearing was properly posted, legal notices mailed and notice published.
2. Although not required, a neighborhood meeting for the project was conducted on July 8, 2014, at which the public expressed concerns about project fencing, screening, insurance, wildlife, heat created by the panels, noise, and reflection from the panels. The Applicant and the City addressed many of these concerns at the neighborhood meeting.
3. At the hearing, two members of the public (Michael Thieme, Fran Rivers) questioned the Applicant about the visual impact of the solar garden, because their residences are close enough to see the panels. Mr. Mounce explained that the City may consider some type of streetscaping plan in the future, but no plan is currently in place. Another member of the public (Rick Coen) questioned the functionality of the panels, and the Applicant responded.
4. The PDP complies with the applicable General Development Standards contained in Article 3 of the Code.
  - a. The PDP complies with Section 3.2.1, Landscaping and Tree Protection, because the PDP provides for an alternative landscaping plan which proposes a mixture of shrubs and grass to preserve solar access to the panels that would otherwise be compromised by canopy tree shading.
  - b. The PDP complies with Section 3.4.1, Natural Habitats and Features, because the PDP includes a River Landscape Buffer and a 10' bicycle and pedestrian trail along the western boundary that could serve as a future connection to the Udall Natural Area.
  - c. The PDP complies with Section 3.4.2, Air Quality, because: the PDP provides for an alternative setback of 100' from the Mulberry Wastewater Treatment Facility aerated lagoons and the Utilities Executive Director has recommended approval of the alternative compliance request; and there are no habitable structures proposed as part of the solar energy system and no employees based onsite.
  - d. The PDP complies with Section 3.4.6, Glare or Heat, because the angle of the solar array and proposed landscape will reduce heat and glare.
  - e. The PDP complies with Section 3.6.1(E), Access Control Plans, because: the PDP includes a 10' bicycle and pedestrian trail along the western boundary which will connect to an existing sidewalk along Mulberry Street.
  - f. The PDP complies with Section 3.8.11, Fences, because the perimeter fencing is designed to be visually interesting and to avoid creating a "tunnel" effect by varying its alignment and softening its appearance with landscaping.
  - g. The PDP complies with Section 3.8.32(2), Medium Scale Solar Energy Systems, because: the location of the ground-mounted system complies with the height limits for accessory buildings and the applicable setbacks; the system will be enclosed by a 7'

perimeter fence with locked entrances and warning information; and the landscaping outside the perimeter fencing screens the system from public rights-of-way.

5. The PDP complies with the applicable standards contained in Article 4 of the Code for the R-D-R zone district.

a. The PDP complies with Section 4.17(B)(2)(d), Permitted Uses, because a medium-scale solar energy system is a permitted use in the R-D-R zone district subject to Administrative Review.

b. The PDP complies with Section 4.17(D)(1)(a), Transition, because the PDP includes a River Landscape Buffer between the solar energy system and the Poudre River, with native trees, shrubs, and a mix of native grasses.

c. The PDP complies with Section 4.17(D)(4)(a), River Landscape, because the perimeter landscape screening and River Landscape Buffer plantings will utilize plant materials and species native to the corridor.

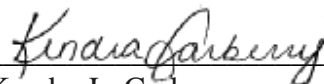
d. The PDP complies with Section 4.17(D)(4)(b), Walls, Fences and Planters, because the fencing style is consistent with the context of the site near the Poudre River.

#### DECISION

Based on the foregoing findings, the Hearing Officer hereby enters the following rulings:

1. The PDP is approved as submitted.

DATED this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2014.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kendra L. Carberry  
Hearing Officer



ITEM NO 1  
MEETING DATE Oct. 16, 2014  
STAFF Ryan Mounce

**ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER**

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**STAFF REPORT**

**PROJECT:** Riverside Community Solar Garden, PDP140013

**APPLICANT:** Michelle Zimmerman  
Clean Energy Collective, LLC  
3005 Center Green Drive, Suite 205  
Boulder, CO 80301

**OWNERS:** City of Fort Collins  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This is a request for consideration of a Project Development Plan for the construction of a medium-scale solar energy system capable of generating up to 600 kilowatts of electricity. The solar energy system, featuring rows of ground-mounted solar panels, would be enclosed by perimeter fencing and landscaping and establish a habitat buffer zone between the Poudre River and the development. The project site is located at the northeast corner of Riverside Avenue and Mulberry Street in the River Downtown Redevelopment (R-D-R) Zone District on land owned by the City of Fort Collins.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the Riverside Community Solar Garden, PDP140013.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Staff finds the proposed Riverside Community Solar Garden complies with the applicable requirements of the City of Fort Collins Land Use Code (LUC), more specifically:

- The Project Development Plan complies with process located in Division 2.2 – Common Development Review Procedures for Development Applications of Article 2 – Administration.
- The Project Development Plan complies with relevant standards of Article 3 – General Development Standards.



- The Project Development Plan complies with relevant standards located in Division 4.17 River Downtown Redevelopment District (R-D-R) of Article 4 – Districts.

**COMMENTS:**

**1. Background**

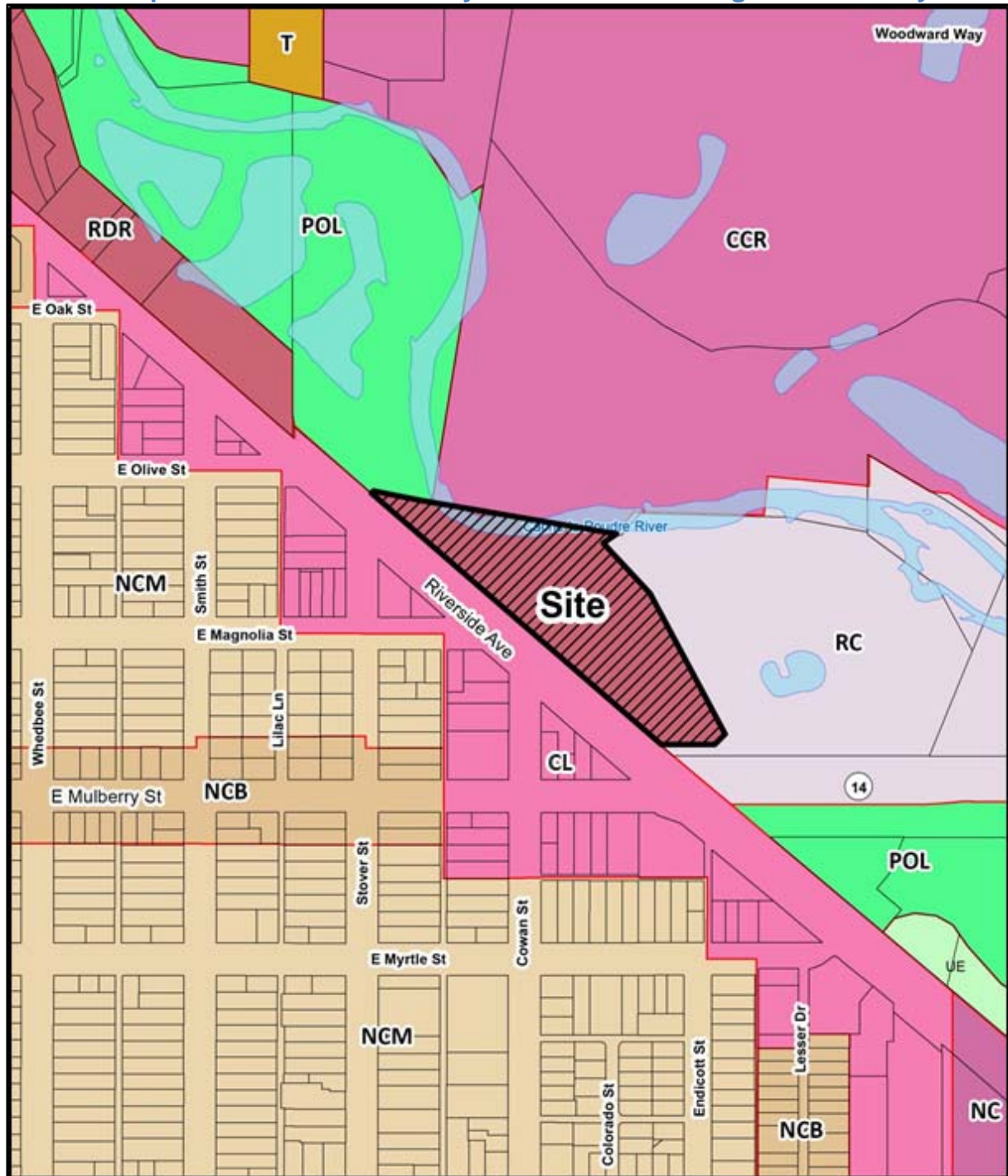
The property was annexed into the City of Fort Collins as a part of the East Lincoln Avenue Second Annexation in July, 1991, and was purchased by the City of Fort Collins in 1995. Prior to annexation and City-purchase, the site was developed as a pickle processing facility in the late 1940s, first operated by the Dreher family and then the Dean Pickle and Specialty Products Co. Several buildings associated with the pickle facility have been removed, leaving the site largely vacant with the exception of a small remnant structure. This structure is scheduled for demolition in early October, 2014.

The surrounding zoning and land uses are as follows:

Direction	Zone District	Existing Land Uses
North	Community Commercial – Poudre River (C-C-R), Public Open Lands (P-O-L)	Udall Natural Area, Woodward Natural Area & Woodward Campus (under construction)
South	Limited Commercial (C-L), Neighborhood Conservation, Medium Density (N-C-M)	Auto Repair, Auto Dealerships, Gas Station & Single Family Homes
East	River Conservation (R-C), Community Commercial – Poudre River (C-C-R)	Wastewater Treatment Facility
West	Limited Commercial (C-L), Neighborhood Conservation, Medium Density (N-C-M)	Auto Repair, Auto Dealerships, Gas Station & Single Family Homes

A zoning and site vicinity map is presented on the following page:

Map 1: Riverside Community Solar Garden Zoning & Site Vicinity



**2. Compliance with Article 4 of the Land Use Code – River Downtown Redevelopment District (R-D-R), Division 4.17:**

The project complies with all applicable Article 4 standards as follows:

**A. Section 4.17(B)(2)(d) – Permitted Uses**

The proposal is for a medium-scale solar energy system, a permitted use in the R-D-R District, subject to Administrative (Type 1) review.

New Land Use Code provisions, adopted July 2014, defined solar energy systems as a new land use and categorized their review process based on lot area. Section 3.8.23(D)(2)(a) of the Land Use Code defines a Medium-Scale Solar Energy System as being of a lot size between .5 to 5 acres. The proposed development is situated on a parcel approximately 6.9 acres in size, with the solar energy system covering approximately 3.5 acres of the lot. A recent Land Use Code Administrative Interpretation, #3-14, has clarified that the land area devoted to the solar energy system is the determining factor of lot size, and not the size of the lot upon which the system is sited.

**B. Section 4.17(D)(1)(a) – Transition between the River and Development - River Landscape Buffer**

This Code standard states:

*In substitution for the provisions contained in subsection 3.4.1(E) (Establishment of Buffer Zones) requiring the establishment of "natural area buffer zones," the applicant shall establish, preserve or improve a continuous landscape buffer along the River as an integral part of a transition between development and the River. To the maximum extent feasible, the landscape buffer shall consist predominantly of native tree and shrub cover. (See Figure 20.) The landscape buffer shall be designed to prevent bank erosion and to stabilize the River bank in a manner adequate to withstand the hydraulic force of a 100-year flood event.*

In compliance with the Land Use Code, the project proposes establishing a River Landscape Buffer between the solar energy system and the Poudre River, varying in width from 115' to 150' from the edge of the solar energy system to the top of slope above the Poudre River. As detailed in the project's Ecological Characterization Study, the current conditions of the proposed buffer area are comprised of asphalt remnants, bare patches of ground, and annual weedy species providing minimal cover.

As part of the proposal, the area to be established as the River Landscape Buffer will be enhanced with additional native landscape plantings consisting of native trees, shrubs, and reseeding with a mix of native grasses that will provide a significantly increased diversity in vegetation structure.

No improvements are proposed to the existing conditions of the slope from the top of the site down to the Poudre River, a drop of approximately 50 to 60-feet. An existing strip of asphalt on the top lip of the slope is also proposed to remain. A letter provided by the applicant's engineer indicates the asphalt strip is serving to reduce erosion and undercutting at the top of the bank and should remain in place. A separate bank inspection conducted on-site with City stormwater staff indicated bank and slope erosion was not a concern, as the slope performed well during the September 2013 flooding event.

C. *Section 4.17(D)(4)(a) – River Landscape*

Both the proposed perimeter landscape screening and River Landscape Buffer plantings will utilize plant materials and species native to the corridor, complying with this code section.

D. *Section 4.17(D)(4)(b) Walls, Fences and Planters*

This code section requires walls, fences and planters to be consistent with the quality of materials, styles, and colors of nearby buildings and development. The proposed solar energy system perimeter fencing will consist of wood split-rail fencing with wire mesh. The fencing style is consistent with the context of the site near the Poudre River and several City-owned Natural Areas that also utilize a similar fencing design.

3. **Compliance with Article 3 of the Land Use Code – General Development Standards:**

The project complies with all applicable General Development Standards as follows:

A. *Section 3.2.1 – Landscaping and Tree Protection*

The proposed landscaping plan is consistent with the applicable requirements of Land Use Code Division 3.2.1, *Landscaping and Tree Protection*, with consideration of the applicant's request for alternative compliance to Section 3.2.1(D)(1)(c), *Tree Stocking*. Explanation of this code section requirement and the proposed alternative compliance request are outlined below:

1. *Section 3.2.1(D)(1)(c) – Tree Stocking*

This Section requires all developments to provide “full tree stocking” within 50 feet of all buildings and structures by planting trees at 30’ to 40’ intervals. At least half of such trees to be planted must consist of canopy shade trees. The applicant has submitted a request for alternative compliance to this standard to substitute alternative landscape plantings around the solar panel structures in place of the typically-required tree stocking.

Requests and evaluation of alternative compliance to landscaping and tree protection standards are governed by Section 3.2.1(N), which states,

*“Upon request by an applicant, the decision maker may approve an alternative landscape and tree protection plan that may be substituted in whole or in part for a landscape plan meeting the standards of this Section.*

*(1) Procedure. Alternative landscape plans shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with submittal requirements for landscape plans. Each such plan shall clearly identify and discuss the modifications and alternatives proposed and the ways in which the plan will better accomplish the purposes of this Section than would a plan which complies with the standards of this Section.*

*(2) Review Criteria. To approve an alternative plan, the decision maker must first find that the proposed alternative plan accomplishes the purposes of this Section equally well or better than would a plan which complies with the standards of this Section.*

*In reviewing the proposed alternative plan for purposes of determining whether it accomplishes the purposes of this Section as required above, the decision maker shall take into account whether the alternative preserves and incorporates existing vegetation in excess of minimum standards, protects natural areas and features, maximizes tree canopy cover, enhances neighborhood continuity and connectivity, fosters non-vehicular access, or demonstrates innovative design and use of plant materials and other landscape elements.”*

In substitution to the requirements to plant trees around the solar panels to achieve full tree stocking, the alternative landscape plan proposes a mixture of shrubs and a low-grass seed mix along the solar energy system's fenced perimeter. The applicant's primary purpose for these substituted landscape elements are to preserve solar access to the panels used to generate electricity that would otherwise be compromised by canopy tree shading.

Staff has reviewed the alternative compliance request and proposed landscape plan and determined the alternative compliance request accomplishes this section equally well or better than would a plan which complies with the standards of this section based on the following elements and analysis:

- The alternative incorporates existing and proposed vegetation in excess of minimum standards:

The substitution landscaping of a low-grass seed mix and shrubs exceeds the level of plantings in number and coverage were only trees to be planted at intervals of 30' to 40'. As a means of screening, the shrubs and grass are more impactful at the same height level as the solar panels (5' to 7' off the ground) than would be provided strictly by trees.

- Protects natural areas and features:

By planting landscaping elements lower to the ground, existing views across the site from the Riverside Avenue public right of way to the Poudre River corridor and adjacent natural areas are maintained. The proposed native shrub plantings, being berry-producing, are both complementary to the shrub plantings proposed in the River Landscape Buffer and beneficial near a wildlife corridor.

- Fosters non-vehicular access & utilizes innovative design and landscape elements:

A new, 10'-wide bicycle and pedestrian path is to be constructed along the western edge of the site where no facilities currently exist. The path will be sloped slightly to convey drainage to the shrub and grass beds, acting as a bio-swale and a means to help irrigate the plantings. These bio-swale and irrigation elements are an innovative approach to site and landscaping design where existing infrastructure to support both elements is limited.



- Protects access to sunshine:

*Land Use Code Section 3.2.3(D), Access to Sunshine, states, “The elements of the development plan (e.g., buildings, circulation, open space and landscaping) shall be located and designed, to the maximum extent feasible, to protect access to sunshine for planned solar energy systems...”*

*B. Section 3.4.1 – Natural Habitats and Features*

The project complies with applicable standards of Section 3.4.1. As detailed in evaluation of Article 4, a River Landscape Buffer will be established as required by the R-D-R District, in substitution to the standards of Section 3.4.1(E). In addition, the project has been designed to be compatible with and complement the design and views of the surrounding natural environment and City-operated Natural Areas.

Screening of the solar energy system will consist of native plantings and a perimeter fence style that is consistent with the open feel of the nearby natural areas. The project will also construct a 10' bicycle and pedestrian trail on the site's western edge that can serve as a future connection to the Udall Natural Area.

*C. Section 3.4.2 – Air Quality*

The proposed solar energy facility is located adjacent to the City of Fort Collins Mulberry Wastewater Treatment Facility. A minimum 1,000' horizontal separation is a requirement from elements of wastewater treatment facilities for most land uses. The applicant has submitted a request for alternative compliance to this prescribed horizontal distance to permit a reduction in the setback distance to 100' from the treatment facility's aerated lagoons. Alternative Compliance requests to the Air Quality standards are overseen by Section 3.4.2(C):

*Upon request by an applicant, the decision maker may approve an alternative setback distance that may be substituted for a setback distance meeting the standards of this Section.*

*(1) Procedure. Alternative compliance setback plans shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the submittal requirements for plans as set forth in this Section. The plan shall clearly identify and discuss the setback modifications proposed and the ways in which the plan will equally well or better accomplish the*

*purpose of this Section than would a plan which complies with the standards of this Section.*

*(2) Review Criteria. To approve an alternative plan, the decision maker must first find that the proposed alternative plan accomplishes the purposes of this Section equally well or better than would a plan which complies with the standards of this Section.*

*In reviewing the proposed alternative plan, the decision maker shall consider any mitigating factors that exist to counter the potential for odor problems and/or aerosol drift, including, without limitation, structural, chemical or technological mitigation occurring at the subject wastewater treatment works, established vegetation barriers and/or walls, berms, or other topographic features sufficient to serve as mitigation for odor problems and/or aerosol drift. In order to assist the decision maker in evaluating the proposed mitigation factors the Utilities Executive Director shall submit a written recommendation regarding such mitigation factors, which recommendation shall include the technical analysis and reasoning used in support of the Utilities Executive Director's recommendation.*

Staff's evaluation of the request finds that the development plan accomplishes the purpose of Section 3.4.2 equally well or better than a plan complying with the standards of this Section. In support of this assessment, staff notes:

- Mitigating factors to counter the potential for odor problems:

Within the past five years, the Mulberry Water Treatment Facility has implemented significant odor controls and treatment technologies to reduce instances and the potential for air quality impacts in the surrounding area.

In addition, no habitable structures are proposed as a part of the solar energy system, and no employees will be based onsite. The proposed land use is consistent with other land uses that are already exempt from horizontal distance requirements of this section as they involve limited access by employees, visitors or residents.



- Written recommendation from the Utilities Executive Director:

The applicant's request for alternative compliance has been reviewed by the Utilities Executive Director, who has provided a recommendation of approval to the alternative compliance request that the separation distance be reduced from 1000' to 100'. The Director notes the solar energy system use itself acts as a buffer for other nearby development from the wastewater facility.

*D. Section 3.4.6 – Glare or Heat*

The angle of the proposed solar energy system array and proposed landscape screening are incorporated into the project to reduce potential impacts from heat and glare.

The solar panels are fixed-units that do not track the path of the sun throughout the day or year. The proposed panels face south towards an existing stand of mature trees and open space across Mulberry Street. To the west of the panels along Riverside Avenue, fencing and the planting of shrubs of a height similar to the level of the panels is proposed to block potential glare.

A review of recent literature on the qualities of modern solar panels indicates that solar-electric installations, as opposed to solar thermal installations, are designed to maximize their absorption of the sun's incoming rays and feature anti-glare coatings. Studies indicate the reflective properties of modern solar panels are similar to those of car windshields or certain building façade materials.

*Section 3.6.1(E) – Access Control Plans*

The project is located along Riverside Avenue and Mulberry Streets, both a component of the US 287 / SH 14 Access Management Plan. The development will comply with the plan's adopted access and circulation control measures by providing a 10'-wide bicycle and pedestrian path along the western boundary of the property, north of the railroad tracks. The path will connect to an existing sidewalk along Mulberry Street near the shared access drive to the solar energy system and wastewater treatment facility.

*E. Section 3.8.11 – Fences*

The proposed perimeter fencing around the solar energy system has been designed to be visually interesting and to avoid creating a “tunnel” effect by varying its alignment and softening its appearance with landscaping.

*F. Section 3.8.32(2) – Medium Scale Solar Energy Systems*

*1. Section 3.8.32(2)(b) – Maximum Height*

The ground-mounted solar energy system components are approximately 5’ to 7’ tall, complying with the height limits for accessory buildings and structures in the R-D-R Zone District.

*2. Section 3.8.32(2)(c) - Setbacks*

The solar energy system is located outside of all front, side, and rear building setback areas.

*3. Section 3.8.32(2)(d) – Fencing/Access*

The solar energy system will be enclosed by a 7’ perimeter fence, with locked entrances and warning information placed along the perimeter and at the entrance to the facility. A Knox box at the entrance will provide emergency access to the gated entry.

*4. Section 3.8.32(2)(e) – Visual Appearance*

Landscaping is proposed outside the perimeter fencing to assist in screening the facility from the public rights-of-way along Riverside Avenue and Mulberry Street. The use of native species, and the design and materials of the fence will assist the facility in blending into the existing environment.

Lighting is not proposed as part of the solar energy system and all electrical interconnections within the project boundary will be located underground.

**4. Neighborhood Meeting**

Although not required as part of a Type 1 project review, a neighborhood meeting for the project was conducted on July 8, 2014 to share information about the development

proposal. Key topics discussed at the meeting are presented below. The full summary of meeting notes can be found as an attachment to this staff report.

1. *Project Fencing / Screening*

During the meeting, several comments and questions were raised as to the type of fencing or treatment that would be used along the perimeter of the facility, over concerns for security and for aesthetic purposes. Neighborhood meeting participants were evenly split between those who would like to see a majority of the solar panels screened and those who wished to be able to see the panels.

➤ Resolution / Update:

The facility will be fenced with a wood, split-rail fence with wire mesh that is 7' in height, as required by Land Use Code standards. Horizontal elements of the fencing may be limited close to the top of the fence to reduce the ability of individuals to climb the fence to gain access to the facility.

Land Use Code standards require fencing and/or landscaping to assist in screening along public right-of-way such as Riverside Avenue. The project has been designed with fencing and shrub-based landscaping that will cover a majority of views of the panels from Riverside Avenue.

2. *Will there be heat/glare? Do the panels generate noise?*

Several questions were raised as to what impacts the solar panels may generate onto neighboring properties and the nearby natural areas.

➤ Resolution / Update:

Fencing, landscape screening, panel anti-glare coatings, and the orientation of the panels all serve to reduce the effects of glare. During the right conditions (time of day, time of year, angle of sun, viewing angle, etc.), the panels may briefly reflect light similar to the flicker of the sun off a vehicle's windshield.

According to the applicant at the neighborhood meeting, the panels give off heat perceptible only very close to the panels. As a means to convert the sun's light to electricity, the panels are designed to absorb as much sunlight as possible. As heat is closely linked with reflected light, the mitigating factors for glare also serve to reduce potential heat impacts.

An inverter built on a concrete pad will be constructed near the solar panels. The inverter produces a noise of the same frequency and decibel level as that

of a screen projector. For reasons related to both aesthetics/screening and noise, the project's inverter pad has been situated in the northeast quadrant of the site, away from nearby properties across Riverside Avenue.

### *3. Financial Considerations / Tax Credits*

Other questions raised at the meeting related to the business model and financial impacts of the solar garden, and were not necessarily directly related to the review of the development proposal.

### **5. Findings of Fact/Conclusion:**

In evaluating the request for the Riverside Community Solar Garden, PDP140013, Staff makes the following findings of fact:

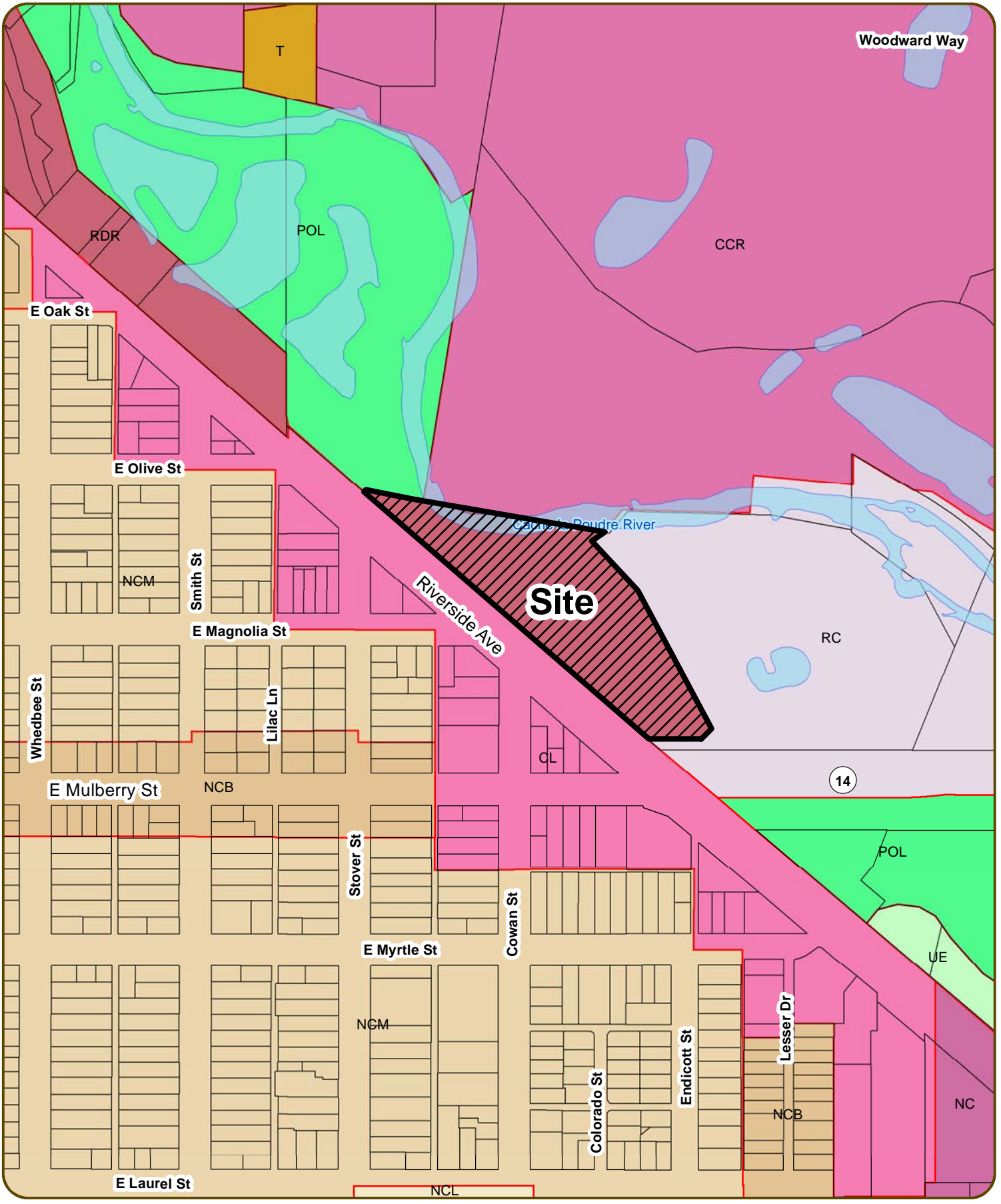
- A. The Project Development Plan complies with the applicable procedural and administrative requirements of Article 2 of the Land Use Code.
- B. The Project Development Plan complies with relevant standards located in Article 3 – General Development Standards.
- C. The Project Development Plan complies with relevant standards located in Division 4.17 River Downtown Redevelopment District (R-D-R) of Article 4 – Districts.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the Riverside Community Solar Garden Project Development Plan, PDP140013.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Zoning & Site Vicinity Map
2. Applicant's Statement of Planning Objectives
3. Planning Document Set (Site Plan, Landscape Plan, Utility Plan)
4. Land Use Code Administrative Interpretation #3-14
5. Applicant's Riverbank Inspection Letter
6. Applicant's Letter for Alternative Compliance (Landscaping – Tree Stocking)
7. Applicant's Letter for Alternative Compliance (Air Quality)
8. Recommendation from the City's Utilities Executive Director Re: Air Quality
9. Project Ecological Characterization Checklist & Ecological Characterization Study
10. Neighborhood Meeting Summary



**Riverside Community Solar Garden**

1 inch = 400 feet



Statement of Planning Objectives  
Item (d) in PDP Submittal List

- i) Statement of appropriate City Plan Principles and Policies achieved by the proposed plan.
  - a. The Riverside Community Solar project touches on all three themes of the Plan Fort Collins vision: Innovate, Sustain, and Connect. Developing a community solar array allows for citizens to buy panels in the project and participate in an innovative project to make sustainable and renewable power accessible to more people in the community.
  - b. The Community Solar project addresses aspects in the City Plan in at least 4 of the 7 chapters: Economic Health, Environmental Health, Community and Neighborhood Livability, and High Performing Community.
    - i. Economic Health: Community owned solar projects allow for larger arrays to be built in an optimal location and then sold to residents and businesses at an affordable rate. This coupled with the generous rebate offered by the City makes purchase in the solar array available to a more broad section of the community.
    - ii. Environmental Health: Development of community owned solar meets the visions of: Integration of renewable energy and new technologies for the electric grid, Leadership on environmental matters, Conservation of resources, and Improvements in air quality.
    - iii. Community and Neighborhood Livability: the project helps to support ensuring there is adequate public infrastructure for existing and new growth, attractive community image and identity, and a new element to be considered in the design of gateways.
    - iv. High Performing Community: the community solar brings both technology and fiscal responsibility by helping citizens save money on utilities through investing in a centrally located solar array.
  
- ii) Description of proposed open space, wetlands, natural habitats and features, landscaping, circulation, transition areas, and associated buffering on site and in the general vicinity of the project.
  - a. No open space is included in this project.
  - b. Wetlands are not impacted.
  - c. Natural habitat and features: one tree may have to be removed for the access drive. This will be confirmed with the Water Reclamation staff and the City Forester. Other features will not be affected.
  - d. Landscaping will need to be discussed as a development agreement with Environmental Planning. Depending on what accommodations should be allowed for future Art in Public Places needs, landscaping may occur adjacent to the western edge fence line. Mowing and mechanical cutting will occur inside the solar array to keep vegetation below 2 feet to avoid shading of the solar panels. Revegetation will be implemented as needed post construction. Landscaping and revegetation will follow recommendations made in the Ecological Characterization Study by Cedar Creek Associates, Inc.
  - e. Circulation: there will be one access drive for construction purposes (approximately 2 months) and then it will be used for maintenance (mowing and annual inspection).
  - f. Transition areas: NA

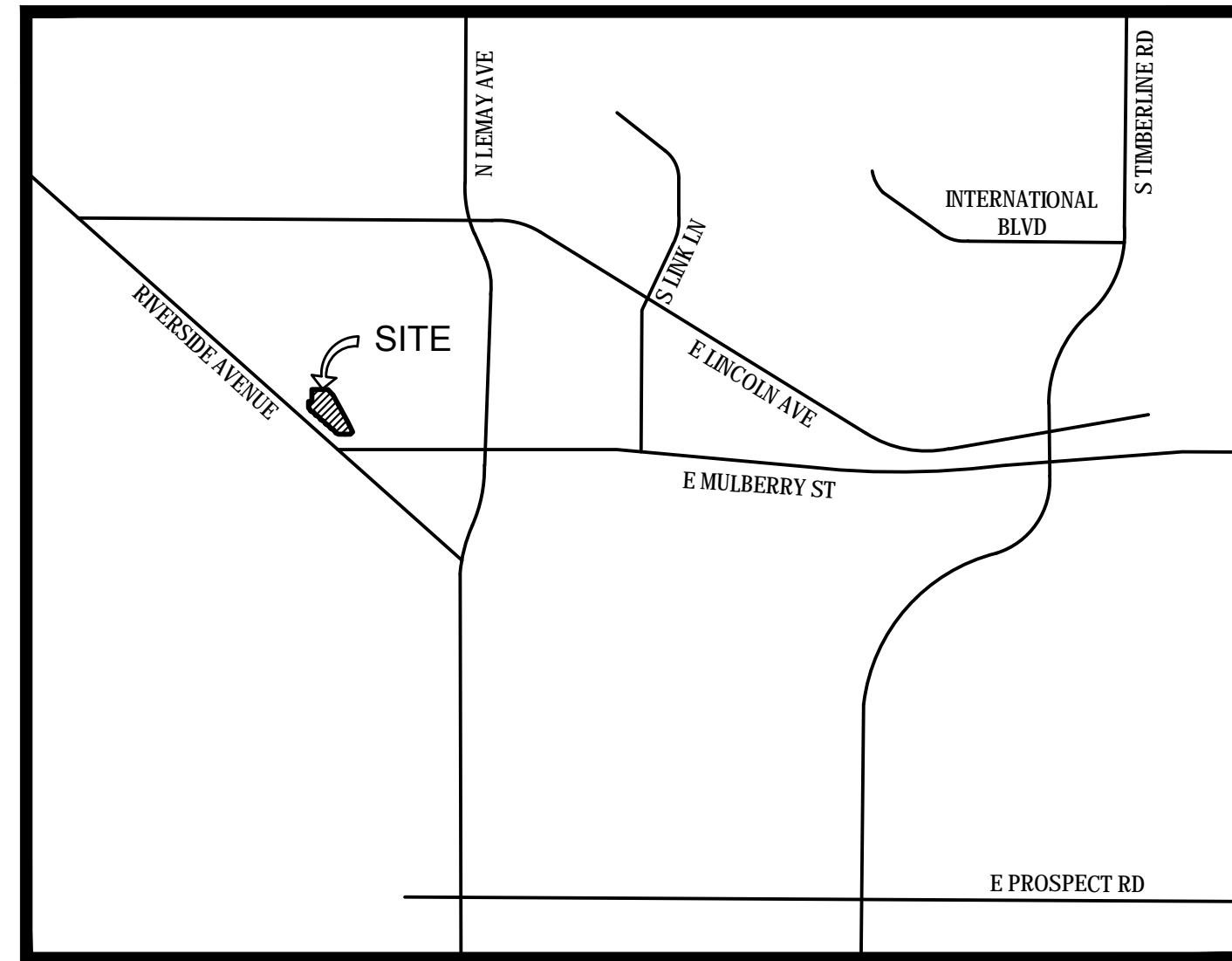


- g. Buffering: similar to landscaping, the site buffering from adjacent properties will be discussed with the Environmental Planner as a development agreement and be sure to accommodate for art in public places or other needs.
- iii) Statement of proposed ownership and maintenance of public and private open space areas; applicant's intentions with regard to future ownership of all or portions of the project development plan.
  - a. The land is owned by the City of Fort Collins and the solar array portion will be leased by CEC Solar 1038, LLC. CEC Solar 1038, LLC will maintain the leased area. At the end of the lease term, the lease may renew or the array will be removed and site returned to pre-construction conditions.
- iv) Estimate of number of employees for business, commercial, and industrial uses.
  - a. The construction will employ a crew of 8 for 8 weeks, but there will not be employees associated with the site after construction. One employee will perform one annual inspection and/or maintenance as required.
- v) Description of rationale behind the assumptions and choices made by the applicant: NA
- vi) The applicant shall submit as evidence of successful completion of the applicable criteria, the completed documents pursuant to these regulations for each proposed use. The Planning Director may require, or the applicant may choose to submit, evidence that is beyond what is required in that section. Any variance from the criteria shall be described.  
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- vii) Narrative description of how conflicts between land uses or disturbances to wetlands, natural habitats and features and or wildlife are being avoided to the maximum extent feasible or are mitigated.
  - a. The fencing of the array will be situated as tight to the array space as possible to leave as much land for wildlife movement as possible. The ground surface disturbed by construction will be returned to its original state by reseeding and monitoring. Grading and ground disturbance will be kept to a minimum. Earth work will be kept to a minimum and completed as quickly as possible.
- viii) Written narrative addressing each concern/issue raised at the neighborhood meeting, if a meeting has been held.
  - a. A neighborhood meeting was held and notes were taken by city staff. These notes are attached as a separate file. Concerns have been or will be addressed as a part of the development plan process.
- ix) Name of the project as well as any previous name the project may have had during Conceptual Review.
  - a. Riverside Community Solar Project
  - b. Fort Collins Community Solar Garden Project

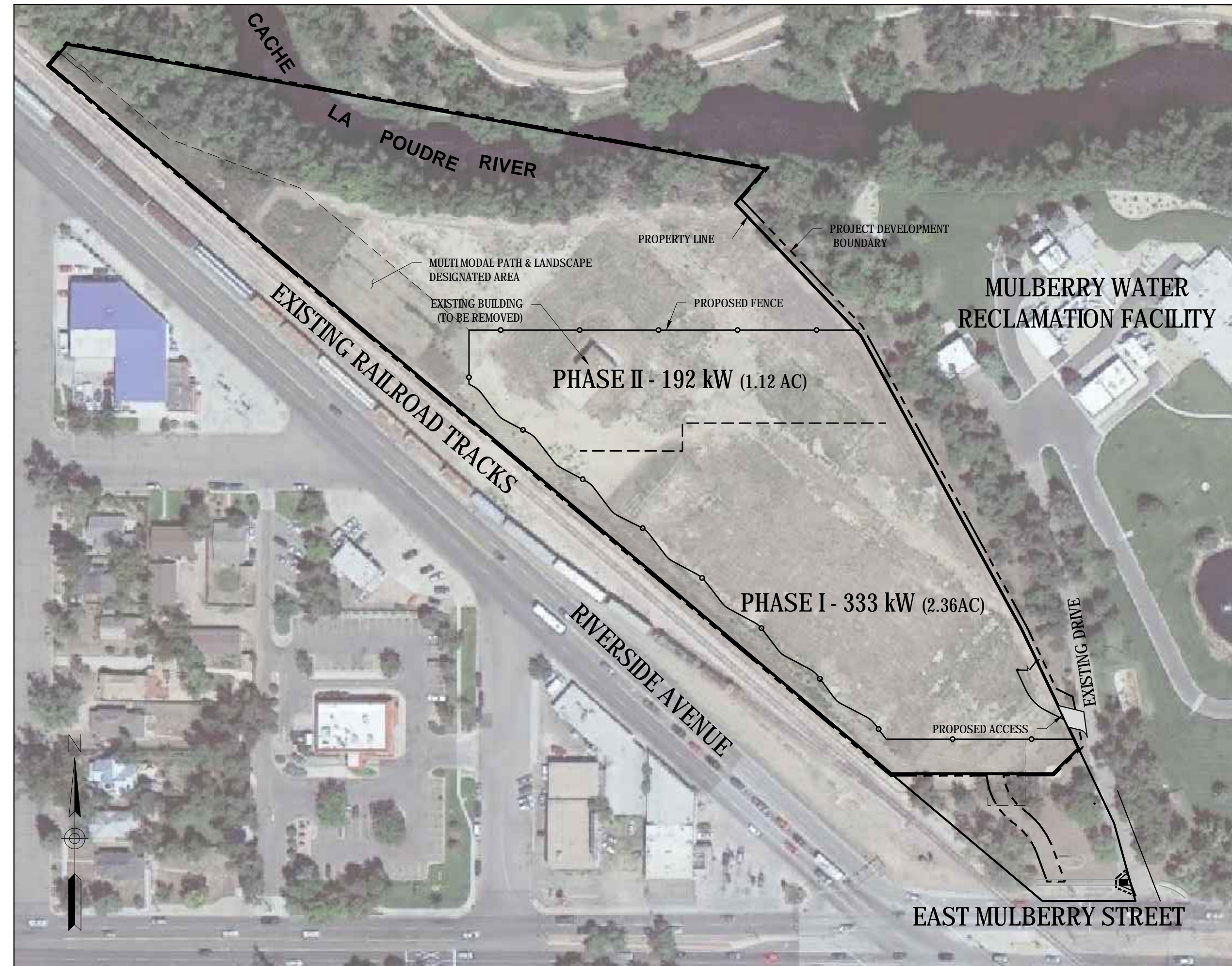


# CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN PLANNING DOCUMENTS

LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12,  
TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 69 WEST OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN,  
CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COUNTY OF LARIMER, STATE OF COLORADO



VICINITY MAP  
SCALE 1" = 2000'±



OVERALL SITE AREA  
SCALE 1" = 100'

### APPLICANT

CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE  
3005 CENTER GREEN DRIVE, SUITE 205  
BOULDER, CO 80301  
CONTACT: MICHELLE ZIMMERMAN  
(303) 881-3087

### ENGINEER

ENERTIA CONSULTING GROUP, LLC  
1437 LARIMER STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
CONTACT: SEAN O'HEARN, PE, PG  
(303) 473-3131

### SURVEYOR

PRECISION SURVEY  
9145 EAST KENYON AVENUE #101  
DENVER, COLORADO 80237  
CONTACT: CHRIS JULIANA, PLS  
(303) 825-4822

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

BEGINNING at a point on a line which is parallel with the South side of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 69 West of the 6<sup>th</sup> P.M., which line bears S. 89 degrees 38' E. and 110 feet Northerly therefrom, which point is 3762.6 feet S. 89 degrees 38' E. of the West side of said Section 12, thence by course and distance:  
Thence N. 49 degrees 39' W. 1181.2 feet, along the NE line of Colorado Southern right of way,  
Thence N. 41 degrees 15' E. 30 feet,  
Thence S. 79 degrees 35' E. 761.4 feet,  
Thence S. 41 degrees 15' W. 49.5 feet,  
Thence S. 43 degrees 20' E. 195 feet,  
Thence S. 28 degrees 25' E. 360.8 feet,  
Thence S. 25 degrees 04' E. 140.3 feet,  
Thence S. 45 degrees W. 38.5 feet,  
Thence N. 89 degrees 38' W. 173.1 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING;

### STANDARD NOTES:

- THE SPECIFIED SOLAR PANELS, RACKING SYSTEM AND INVERTERS ARE INTENDED TO ILLUSTRATE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPONENTS OF THE SOLAR ARRAY AND FUNCTION MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE COMPONENTS AND LOCATION OF THE ARRAYS AND INVERTERS MAY VARY SLIGHTLY FROM WHAT IS DEPICTED ON THIS SITE PLAN, PROVIDED THE INSTALLED COMPONENTS MEET ALL REQUIRED SETBACKS.
- THE ENGINEER WHO HAS PREPARED THESE PLANS, BY EXECUTION AND/OR SEAL HEREOF, DOES HEREBY AFFIRM RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LOCAL ENTITY, AS BENEFICIARY OF SAID ENGINEER'S WORK, FOR ANY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS CONTAINED IN THESE PLANS, AND APPROVAL OF THESE PLANS BY THE LOCAL ENTITY ENGINEER SHALL NOT RELIEVE THE ENGINEER WHO HAS PREPARED THESE PLANS OF ALL SUCH RESPONSIBILITY. FURTHER, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE ENGINEER HEREBY AGREES TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE LOCAL ENTITY, AND ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, FROM AND AGAINST ALL LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS WHICH MAY ARISE FROM ANY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS CONTAINED IN THESE PLANS.

### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY FOR CONCEPT ONLY. THE REVIEW DOES NOT IMPLY RESPONSIBILITY BY THE REVIEWING DEPARTMENT, THE LOCAL ENTITY ENGINEER, OR THE LOCAL ENTITY FOR ACCURACY AND CORRECTNESS OF THE CALCULATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE REVIEW DOES NOT IMPLY THAT QUANTITIES OF ITEMS ON THE PLANS ARE THE FINAL QUANTITIES REQUIRED. THE REVIEW SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED IN ANY REASON AS ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BY THE LOCAL ENTITY FOR ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF ITEMS SHOWN THAT MAY BE REQUIRED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE.

### ENGINEER CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT THESE FINAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS WERE PREPARED UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE CITY OF FORT COLLINS AND STATE OF COLORADO STANDARDS AND STATUTES, RESPECTIVELY, AND THAT I AM FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF ALL DESIGN, REVISIONS, AND RECORD CONDITIONS THAT I HAVE NOTED ON THESE PLANS.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Fort Collins, Colorado UTILITY PLAN APPROVAL		
APPROVED:	_____	Date
CHECKED BY:	City Engineer	Date
CHECKED BY:	Water & Wastewater Utility	Date
CHECKED BY:	Stormwater Utility	Date
CHECKED BY:	Parks & Recreation	Date
CHECKED BY:	Traffic Engineer	Date
CHECKED BY:	Environmental Planner	Date

### SHEET INDEX:

- SHEET 1 - COVER SHEET
- SHEET 2 - SITE PLAN
- SHEET 3 - LANDSCAPE PLAN
- SHEET 4 - TYPICAL DETAILS

### GENERAL LEGEND

---	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY
---	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR
---	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR
---	PROPOSED FENCE
---	SETBACK LINE
---	RIGHT-OF-WAY
---	PROPERTY LINE
---	EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
---	EXISTING UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
---	EXISTING GAS LINE UTILITY

### Owner's Certification of Approval:

THE UNDERSIGNED DOES/DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I/WE ARE THE LAWFUL OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED ON THIS SITE PLAN AND DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I/WE ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH ON SAID SITE PLAN.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HERETO SET OUR HANDS AND SEALS THIS THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

### NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

STATE OF COLORADO)

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_)

THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME BY \_\_\_\_\_ THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTARY PUBLIC

(SEAL)

### Planning Approval:

BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



1437 LARIMER STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



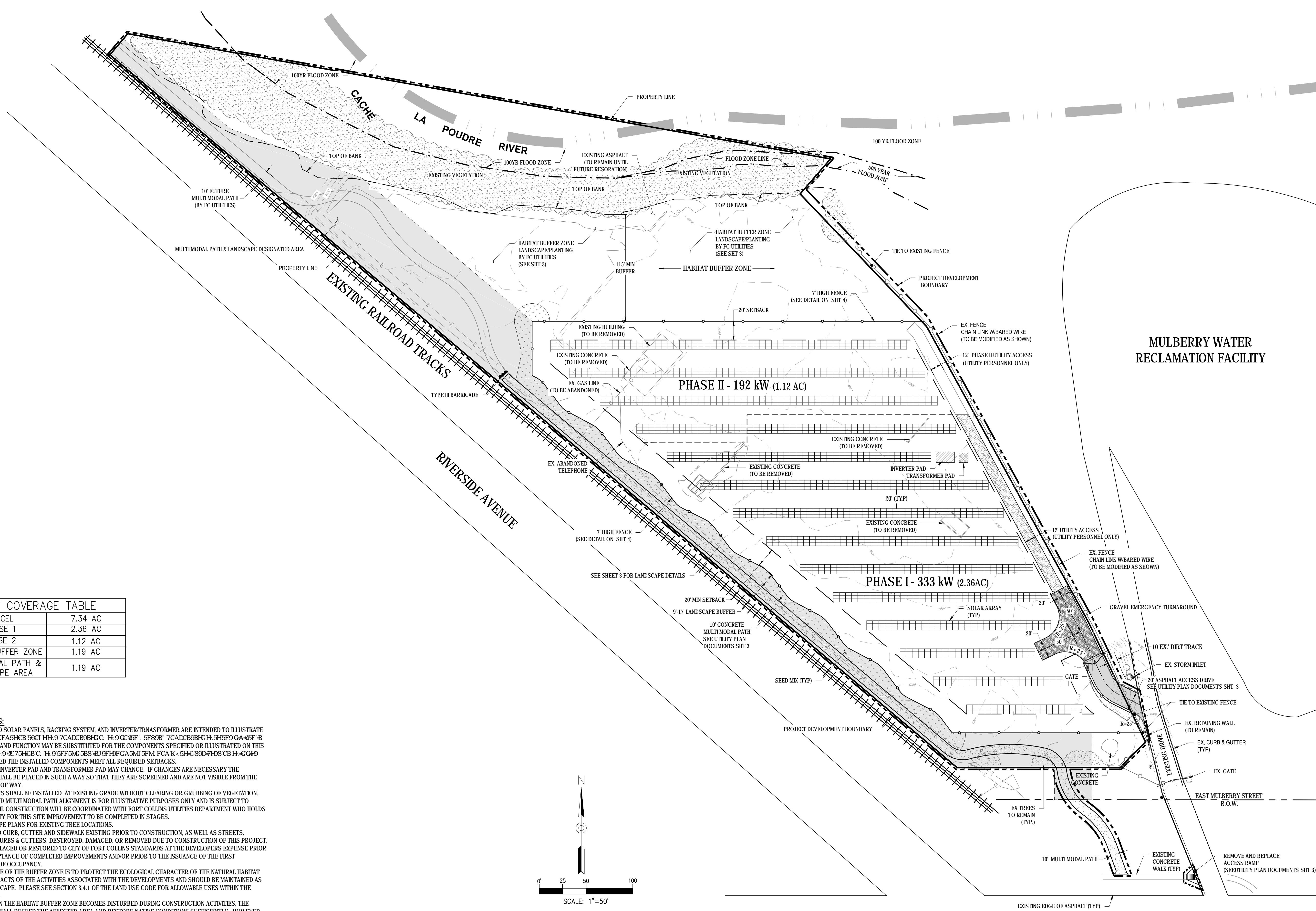
CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE  
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

PLANNING DOCUMENTS  
COVER SHEET

VERIFY SCALE BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING.	SCALE
DATE	OCTOBER 09, 2014
FILE	PLNG
DWG	CVR
SHEET	1 OF 1

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LOT COVERAGE TABLE	
PARCEL	7.34 AC
PHASE 1	2.36 AC
PHASE 2	1.12 AC
HABITAT BUFFER ZONE	1.19 AC
MULTI MODAL PATH & LANDSCAPE AREA	1.19 AC

**GENERAL NOTES:**

- THE SPECIFIED SOLAR PANELS, RACKING SYSTEM, AND INVERTER/TRANSFORMER ARE INTENDED TO ILLUSTRATE APPEARANCE AND FUNCTION MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE COMPONENTS SPECIFIED OR ILLUSTRATED ON THIS PLAN, PROVIDED THE INSTALLED COMPONENTS MEET ALL REQUIRED SETBACKS.
- LOCATION OF INVERTER PAD AND TRANSFORMER PAD MAY CHANGE. IF CHANGES ARE NECESSARY THE EQUIPMENT SHALL BE PLACED IN SUCH A WAY SO THAT THEY ARE SCREENED AND ARE NOT VISIBLE FROM THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.
- THE PV ARRAYS SHALL BE INSTALLED AT EXISTING GRADE WITHOUT CLEARING OR GRUBBING OF VEGETATION.
- THE PROPOSED MULTI-MODAL PATH ALIGNMENT IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TRAIL CONSTRUCTION WILL BE COORDINATED WITH FORT COLLINS UTILITIES DEPARTMENT WHO HOLDS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS SITE IMPROVEMENT TO BE COMPLETED IN STAGES.
- SEE LANDSCAPE PLANS FOR EXISTING TREE LOCATIONS.
- ANY DAMAGED CURB, GUTTER AND SIDEWALK EXISTING PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS STREETS, SIDEWALKS, CURBS & GUTTERS, DESTROYED, DAMAGED, OR REMOVED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PROJECT, SHALL BE REPLACED OR RESTORED TO CITY OF FORT COLLINS STANDARDS AT THE DEVELOPERS EXPENSE PRIOR TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.
- THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BUFFER ZONE IS TO PROTECT THE ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF THE NATURAL HABITAT FROM THE IMPACTS OF THE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS NATIVE LANDSCAPE. PLEASE SEE SECTION 3.4.1 OF THE LAND USE CODE FOR ALLOWABLE USES WITHIN THE BUFFER ZONE.
- IF AREA WITHIN THE HABITAT BUFFER ZONE BECOMES DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE DEVELOPER SHALL RESEED THE AFFECTED AREA AND RESTORE NATIVE CONDITIONS SUFFICIENTLY. HOWEVER, ANY FURTHER LANDSCAPING, PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF THAT AREA SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FORT COLLINS UTILITIES DEPT.
- THE VERTICAL CURB AND GUTTER ADJACENT TO THE ACCESS DRIVE SHALL REMAIN IN PLACE. GUTTER RAMPS SHALL BE USED DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT THE CURB AND GUTTER FROM BECOMING DAMAGED.

 1437 LARIMER STREET DENVER, COLORADO 80202		NO.	DATE	DJVN	JSO	DR	MGB	CHK	JSO	APVD	JSO
		REVISION									
 CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY-OWNED SOLAR		CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN FORT COLLINS, COLORADO									
		PLANNING DOCUMENTS SITE PLAN									
VERIFY SCALE BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING.											
DATE	OCTOBER 09, 2014										
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**GENERAL NOTES:**

1. PLANTS SHALL BE DROUGHT RESISTANT AND WILL INITIALLY BE HAND WATERED TO ESTABLISHMENT FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS. THE FREQUENCY AND AMOUNT OF IRRIGATION WATER APPLIED SHALL FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OF A QUALIFIED LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST THE QUALIFIED HORTICULTURIST SHALL MAKE INSPECTIONS OF TREES AND SHRUBS DURING THE 3 YR ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD AND MAY ADVISE INCREASED IRRIGATION FREQUENCY OR EXTRA YEARS OF IRRIGATION TO ENSURE ESTABLISHMENT. MULCHING SHALL BE PLACED IN AREAS WHERE SOIL COMPACTION AND DAMAGE TO ROOT SYSTEMS IS REQUIRED TO BE MINIMAL.
2. TRAIL ALIGNMENT IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
3. SEE THIS SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL NOTES, DETAILS, AND PLANT SCHEDULE.
4. THE PV ARRAYS SHALL BE INSTALLED AT EXISTING GRADE WITHOUT CLEARING OR GRUBBING OF VEGETATION.
5. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE BUFFER ZONE IS TO PROTECT THE ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF THE NATURAL HABITAT FROM THE IMPACTS OF THE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS NATIVE LANDSCAPE. PLEASE SEE SECTION 3.4.1 OF THE LAND USE CODE FOR ALLOWABLE USES WITHIN THE BUFFER ZONE.
6. IF AREA WITHIN THE HABITAT BUFFER ZONE BECOMES DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE DEVELOPER SHALL RESEED THE AFFECTED AREA AND RESTORE NATIVE CONDITIONS SUFFICIENTLY. HOWEVER, ANY FURTHER LANDSCAPING, PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE OF THAT AREA SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FORT COLLINS UTILITIES DEPT.
7. BARE AREAS WITHIN THE HABITAT BUFFER ZONE SHALL BE RE-SEEDED. RE-SEEDING SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FORT COLLINS UTILITY DEPARTMENT.

**SEED NOTES:**

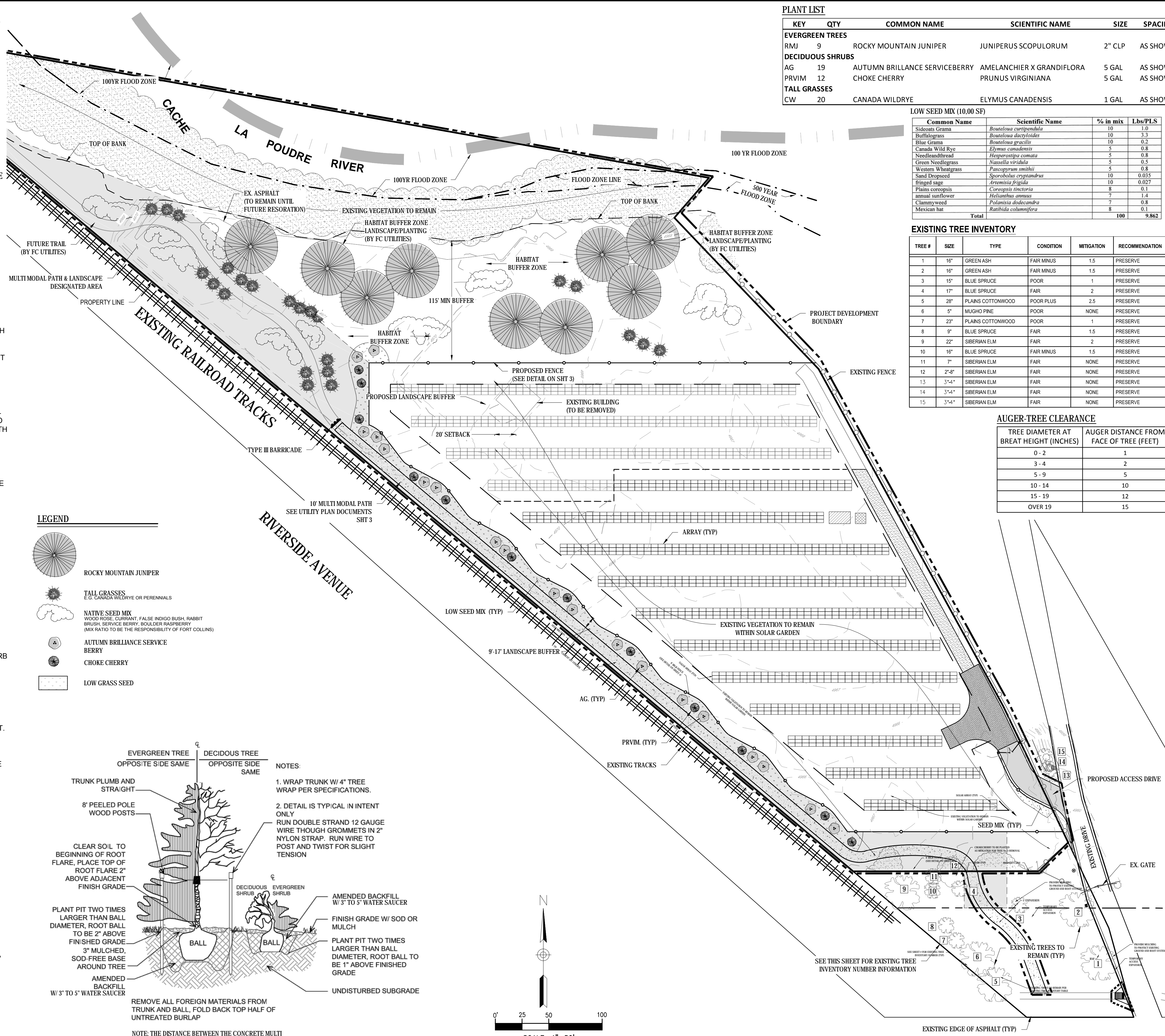
1. SEED SHALL BE LABELED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND FEDERAL SEED ACT. SEED SHALL BE EQUAL IN QUALITY TO THE STANDARDS FOR "CERTIFIED SEED" AND SHALL BE FURNISHED IN SEALED, UNOPENED, STANDARD CONTAINERS. SEED SHALL BE FRESH, CLEAN, PURE LIVE SEED WITH THE VARIETIES MIXED IN PROPORTIONS BY WEIGHT SHOWN AND MEETING THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGES OF PURITY AND GERMINATION SPECIFIED.
2. SEED SHALL BE APPLIED AT A RATE SHOWN BY MIX. SEED SHALL PASS GOVERNMENT TEST OF GERMINATION OF EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) AND FOR PURITY OF NINETY PERCENT (90%). THE PURE LIVE SEED SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN SIXTY SEVEN ON ONE-HALF PERCENT (67.5%) FOR ANY ONE VARIETY, WITH THE AVERAGE OF THE MIXTURE, NO LESS THAN SEVENTY TWO PERCENT (72%). ALL SEED SHALL BE FREE OF POA ANNUA AND ALL NOXIOUS OBJECTIONABLE WEEDS WITH A MAXIMUM CROP OF ONE-TENTH PERCENT (0.1%) AND MAXIMUM WEED OF ONE TENTH PERCENT (0.1%). IF SEED AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM PURITY AND GERMINATION PERCENTAGES SPECIFIED, THE CONTRACTOR MUST COMPENSATE BY FURNISHING SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL SEED TO EQUAL THE SPECIFIED PRODUCT.
3. SPREAD ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENT MATERIALS, AT A RATE OF 2 C.Y. PER 1000 SQUARE FEET, EVENLY OVER ENTIRE AREA AND THOROUGHLY INCORPORATE, BY MIXING, ROTOTILLING OR FINELY DISKING (MAX. 1" SIZE), TO A DEPTH OF SIX INCHES. ALL STONES, STICKS AND DEBRIS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE SITE PROPERLY DISPOSED OF BY THE CONTRACTOR, AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE OWNER. ALL SEED AREAS WILL THEN BE RAKED AND ROLLED TO THE DESIRED FINISHED GRADES WITH GENTLY SLOPING SURFACES TO ADEQUATELY DRAIN ALL SURFACE WATER RUNOFF. THE FINISHED SURFACE SHALL BE EVEN AND UNIFORM AND NO DIRT CLODS LARGER THAN ONE INCH (1") IN DIAMETER SHALL APPEAR ON THE SURFACE. THE SOIL SURFACE SHALL BE SMOOTH, LOOSE AND OF FINE TEXTURE, AND BE FLUSH WITH ALL PAVING EDGES.
4. CONTRACTOR SHALL USE APPROPRIATE MECHANICAL POWER (BRILLION SEEDER OR EQUAL) TO DRILL THE SEED INTO THE SEEDBED WHEREVER POSSIBLE. SEED SHALL BE SOWN TO A DEPTH OF ONE-HALF INCH (1/2"). DRILLING SHALL BE DONE IN 2 SEPARATE APPLICATIONS CROSSING THE AREA AT RIGHT ANGLES TO ONE ANOTHER TO GUARANTEE PROPER COVERAGE. ON SLOPING LAND, SEEDING OPERATIONS SHALL FOLLOW THE GENERAL CONTOUR. AREAS TOO SMALL TO DRILL SEED MAY BE BROADCAST BY HAND AND APPLICATION RATES SHALL BE DOUBLED. SEEDING OF ANY KIND WILL NOT BE PERMITTED WHEN WIND VELOCITY IS SUCH AS TO PREVENT UNIFORM SEED DISTRIBUTION. NO APPLICATION SHALL TAKE PLACE WITH THE PRESENCE OF FREE SURFACE WATER OR WHEN GROUND IS FROZEN OR CANNOT BE TILLED.
5. ALL SEED AREAS SHALL BE HYDRO MULCHED WITH A FIBROUS SLURRY MIXTURE CONTAINING A TACKIFIER AGENT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DRILLING OR BROADCAST AT A RATE OF 2,000 LBS. PER ACRE.

**LANDSCAPE & SOIL PREPARATION NOTES:**

1. ALL PLANT MATERIALS ARE TO BE APPROVED BY THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO INSTALLATION. PLANT SPECIES MAY NOT BE SUBSTITUTED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.
2. ALL SHRUB BEDS ARE TO BE MULCHED WITH FIR FIBER MULCH AT A CONSISTENT DEPTH OF 4". SUBMIT SAMPLE FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.
3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIR OF ANY DAMAGE TO EXISTING UTILITIES, CURB AND GUTTER, WALLS, OR WALKWAYS AND OTHER STRUCTURES THAT IS A RESULT OF THEIR WORK. THE REPAIR OF SUCH DAMAGE WILL BE AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE OWNER.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL FINE GRADE ALL AREAS TO BE PLANTED. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REMOVE REQUIRED DEPTH OF SOIL ALONG WALKWAYS TO ACCOMMODATE SOD OR MULCH DEPTH.
5. TEST PRE-EXISTING SOIL IN LANDSCAPE AREA FOR MINERAL AND ORGANIC MATTER CONTENT TO DETERMINE PROPER SOIL AMENDMENTS BASED ON RESULTS OF THE SOIL TEST.
6. PREPARE PLANTING BEDS PER SPECIFICATIONS.
7. NON-DYED SHREDDED CEDAR MULCH IS THE PREFERRED MULCH IN ALL AREAS VISIBLE FROM THE STREET.
8. INSTALL A CONTINUOUS COMMERCIAL GRADE WEED BARRIER AT PLANTING TIME, WHERE APPROPRIATE.
9. INSTALL A CONTINUOUS EDGER BETWEEN THE PLANT BED AND LAWN, AND BETWEEN WOOD AND ROCK MULCH AREAS.
10. TREES PLANTED IN TURF AREAS SHOULD HAVE A MINIMUM 48" DIAMETER MULCH RING SURROUNDING THE TRUNK. DO NOT PLACE MULCH DIRECTLY AGAINST THE TREE TRUNK.
11. PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS PER DETAILS AND SPECIFICATIONS.
12. FORM SOIL INTO A 3" TO 5" TALL WATERING RING (SAUCER) AROUND PLANTING AREA. THIS IS NOT NECESSARY IN IRRIGATED TURF AREAS. APPLY 4" DEPTH OF SPECIFIED MULCH INSIDE WATERING RING.

**TREE PROTECTION NOTES:**

1. WITHIN THE DRIP LINE OF ANY PROTECTED EXISTING TREE, THERE SHALL BE NO CUT OR FILL OVER A FOUR-INCH DEPTH UNLESS A QUALIFIED ARBORIST OR FORESTER HAS EVALUATED AND APPROVED THE DISTURBANCE.
2. ALL PROTECTED EXISTING TREES SHALL BE PRUNED TO THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS FORESTRY STANDARDS.
3. PRIOR TO AND DURING CONSTRUCTION, BARRIERS SHALL BE ERECTED AROUND ALL PROTECTED EXISTING TREES WITH SUCH BARRIERS TO BE OF ORANGE FENCING A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) FEET IN HEIGHT, SECURED WITH METAL T-POSTS, NO CLOSER THAN SIX (6) FEET FROM THE TRUNK OR ONE-HALF (1/2) OF THE DRIP LINE, WHICHEVER IS GREATER. THERE SHALL BE NO STORAGE OR MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, DEBRIS OR FILL WITHIN THE FENCED TREE PROTECTION ZONE.
4. DURING THE CONSTRUCTION STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE APPLICANT SHALL PREVENT THE CLEANING OF EQUIPMENT OR MATERIAL OR THE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE MATERIAL SUCH AS PAINTS, OILS, SOLVENTS, ASPHALT, CONCRETE, MOTOR OIL OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL HARMFUL TO THE LIFE OF A TREE WITHIN THE DRIP LINE OF ANY PROTECTED TREE OR GROUP OF TREES.
5. NO DAMAGING ATTACHMENT, WIRES, SIGNS OR PERMITS MAY BE FASTENED TO ANY PROTECTED TREE.
6. LARGE PROPERTY AREAS CONTAINING PROTECTED TREES AND SEPARATED FROM CONSTRUCTION OR LAND CLEARING AREAS, ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND UTILITY EASEMENTS MAY BE "RIBBONED OFF," RATHER THAN ERECTING PROTECTIVE FENCING AROUND EACH TREE AS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (G)(3). THIS MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PLACING METAL T-POST STAKES A MAXIMUM OF FIFTY (50) FEET APART AND TYING RIBBON OR ROPE FROM STAKE-TO-STAKE ALONG THE OUTSIDE PERIMETERS OF SUCH AREAS BEING CLEARED.
7. THE INSTALLATION OF UTILITIES, IRRIGATION LINES OR ANY UNDERGROUND FIXTURE REQUIRING EXCAVATION DEEPER THAN SIX (6) INCHES SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY BORING UNDER THE ROOT SYSTEM OF PROTECTED EXISTING TREES AT A MINIMUM DEPTH OF TWENTY-FOUR (24) INCHES. THE AUGER DISTANCE IS ESTABLISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE TREE (OUTER BARK) AND IS SCALED FROM TREE DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT AS DESCRIBED IN THE CHART ON THIS SHEET.



**PLANT LIST**

KEY	QTY	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	SIZE	SPACING
<b>EVERGREEN TREES</b>					
RMJ	9	ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM	2" CLP	AS SHOWN
<b>DECIDUOUS SHRUBS</b>					
AG	19	AUTUMN BRILLANCE SERVICEBERRY	AMELANCHIER X GRANDIFLORA	5 GAL	AS SHOWN
PRVM	12	CHOKE CHERRY	PRUNUS VIRGINIANA	5 GAL	AS SHOWN
<b>TALL GRASSES</b>					
CW	20	CANADA WILDRIE	ELYMUS CANADENSIS	1 GAL	AS SHOWN

**LOW SEED MIX (10,00 SF)**

Common Name	Scientific Name	% in mix	Lbs/PLS
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	10	1.0
Buffalograss	<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	10	3.3
Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	10	0.2
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	5	0.8
Noodinanthrad	<i>Hesperostipa comata</i>	5	0.8
Green Needlegrass	<i>Stipa viridula</i>	5	0.5
Western Wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	5	0.8
Sand Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	10	0.015
Fringed Top	<i>Aristida rigida</i>	10	0.027
Plains coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	8	0.1
annual sunflower	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	7	1.4
Clammyweed	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	7	0.8
Mexican hat	<i>Rhusida columifera</i>	8	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>9.862</b>

**EXISTING TREE INVENTORY**

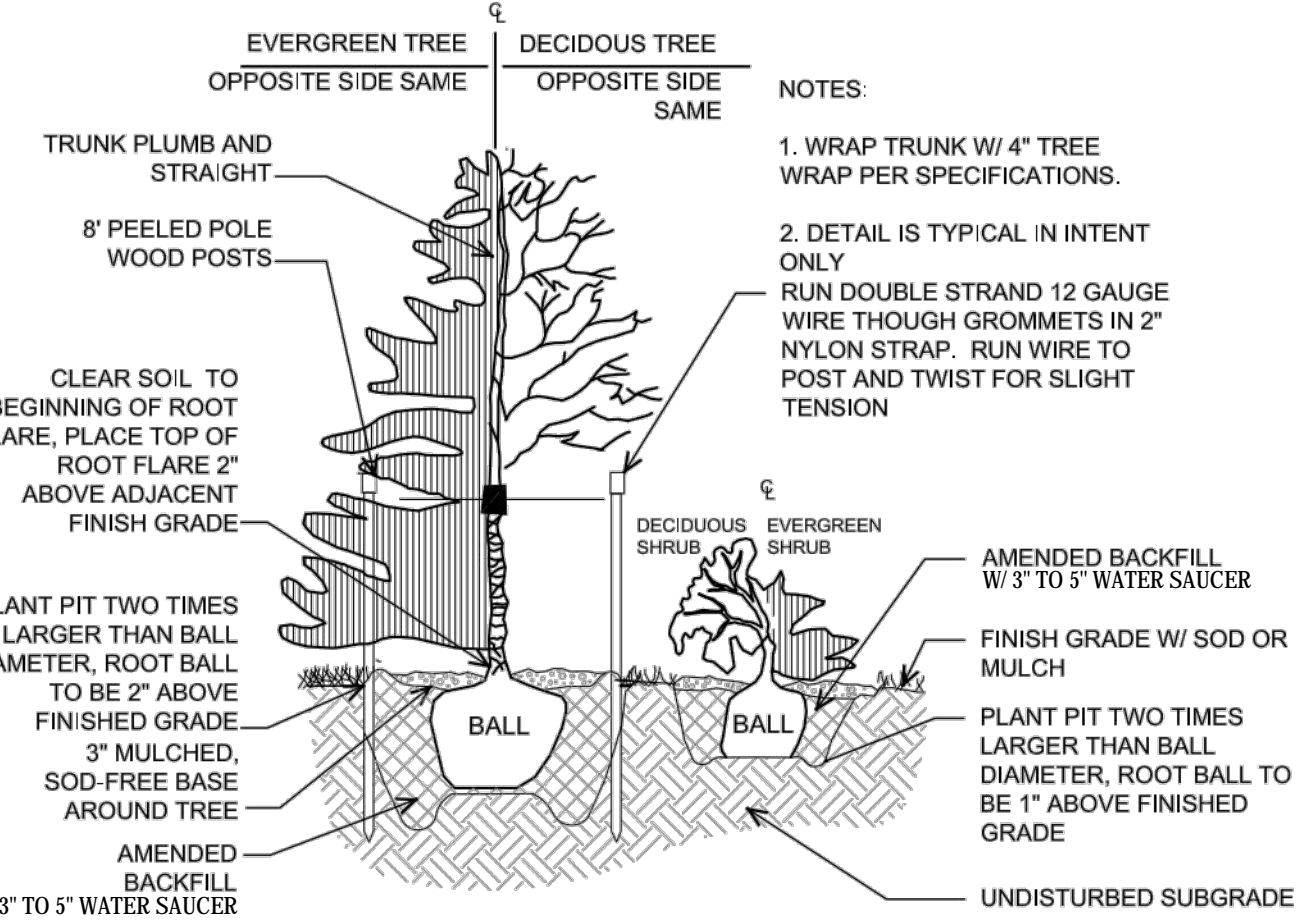
TREE #	SIZE	TYPE	CONDITION	MITIGATION	RECOMMENDATION
1	16"	GREEN ASH	FAIR MINUS	1.5	PRESERVE
2	16"	GREEN ASH	FAIR MINUS	1.5	PRESERVE
3	15"	BLUE SPRUCE	POOR	1	PRESERVE
4	17"	BLUE SPRUCE	FAIR	2	PRESERVE
5	28"	PLAINS COTTONWOOD	POOR PLUS	2.5	PRESERVE
6	5'	MUGHO PINE	POOR	NONE	PRESERVE
7	23"	PLAINS COTTONWOOD	POOR	1	PRESERVE
8	9'	BLUE SPRUCE	FAIR	1.5	PRESERVE
9	22"	SBERIAN ELM	FAIR	2	PRESERVE
10	16"	BLUE SPRUCE	FAIR MINUS	1.5	PRESERVE
11	7"	SBERIAN ELM	FAIR	NONE	PRESERVE
12	2"4"	SBERIAN ELM	FAIR	NONE	PRESERVE
13	3"4"	SBERIAN ELM	FAIR	NONE	PRESERVE
14	3"4"	SBERIAN ELM	FAIR	NONE	PRESERVE
15	3"4"	SBERIAN ELM	FAIR	NONE	PRESERVE

**AUGER TREE CLEARANCE**

TREE DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (INCHES)	AUGER DISTANCE FROM FACE OF TREE (FEET)
0 - 2	1
3 - 4	2
5 - 9	5
10 - 14	10
15 - 19	12
OVER 19	15

**LEGEND**

- ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER
- TALL GRASSES  
E.G. CANADA WILDRIE OR PERENNIALS
- NATIVE SEED MIX  
WOOD ROSE, CURRANT, FALSE INDIGO BUSH, RABBIT BRUSH, SERVICE BERRY, BOULDER RASPBERRY  
(MIX RATIO TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FORT COLLINS)
- AUTUMN BRILLIANCE SERVICE BERRY
- CHOKE CHERRY
- LOW GRASS SEED

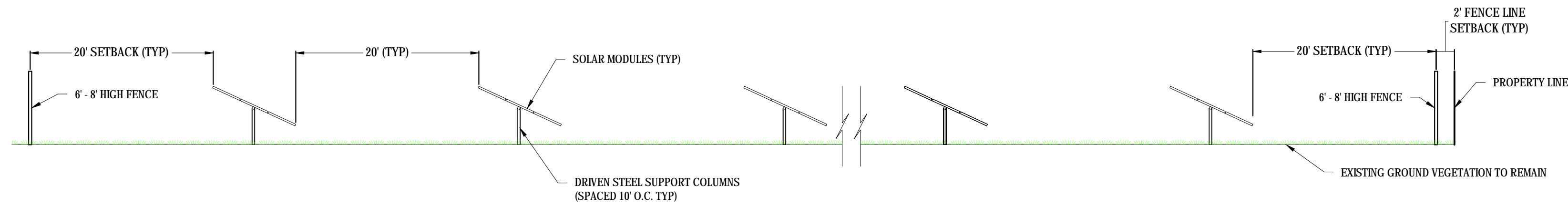


**TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING**

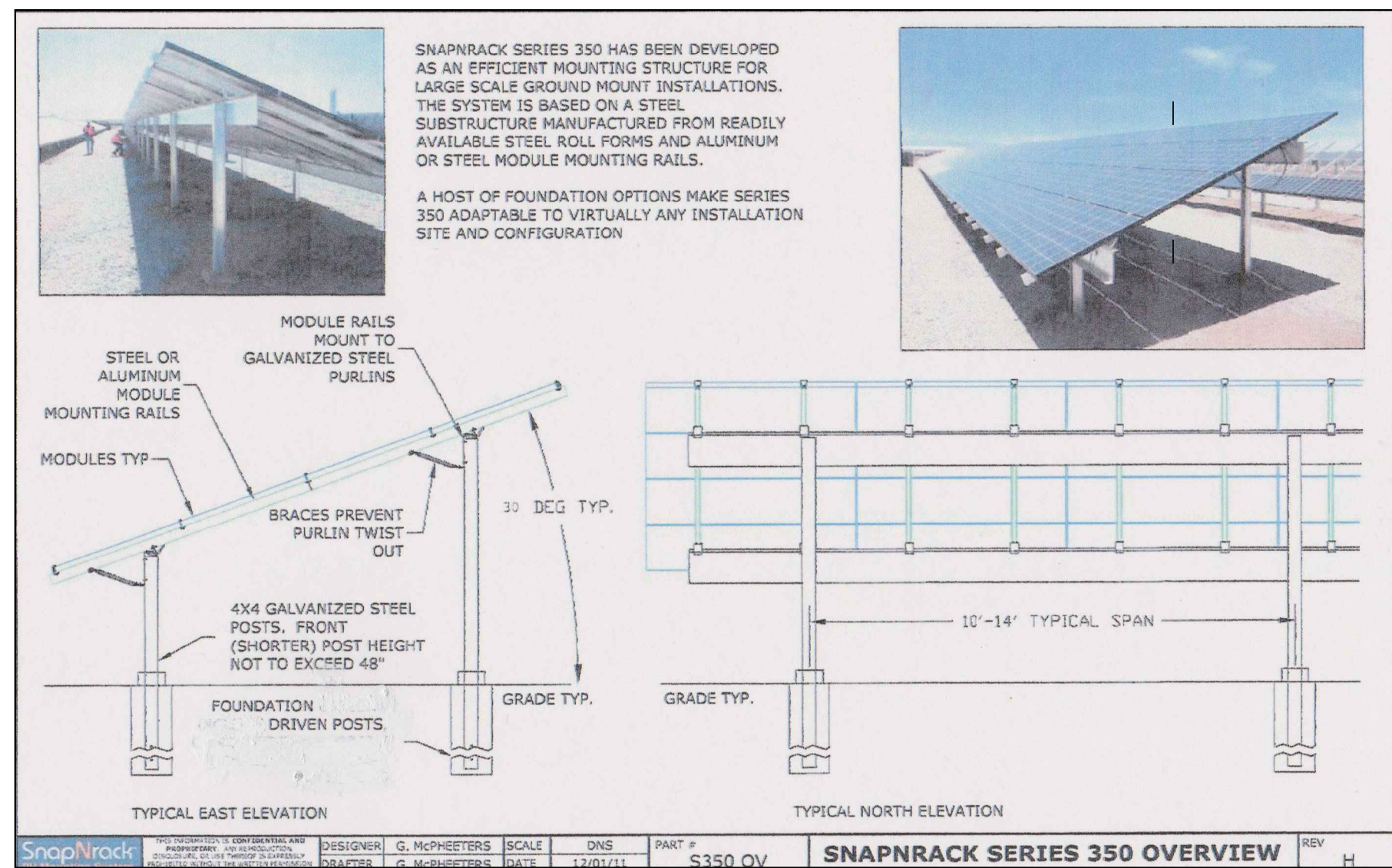
		1437 LARIMER STREET DENVER, COLORADO 80202	
		<b>CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE</b> RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN FORT COLLINS, COLORADO	
<b>PLANNING DOCUMENTS</b>		<b>LANDSCAPE PLAN</b>	
VERIFY SCALE BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING.			
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OCTOBER 09, 2014	PLNG	0" = 1" SCALE	
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SHEET	1 OF 3		

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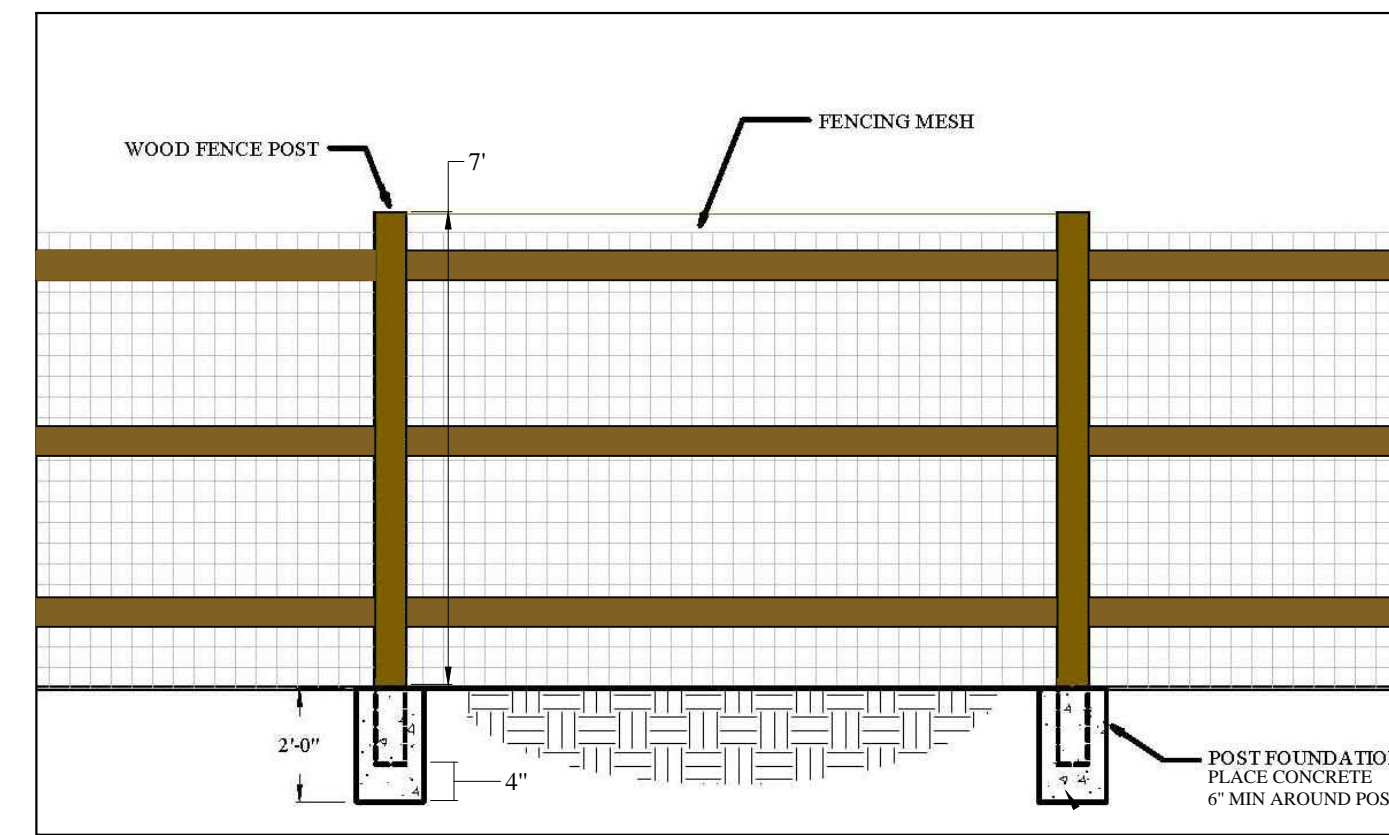




**TYPICAL SOLAR GARDEN SECTION VIEW (VIEW FROM RIVERSIDE AVENUE)**  
SCALE: 1" = 10'



**PV ARRAY RACKING SYSTEM**  
NOT TO SCALE



NOT TO SCALE  
**TYPICAL MESH FENCE DETAIL**



NO.	DATE	REVISION	CHK	JSO	APVD	JSO
DGN	JSO	DR	MGB	JSO		

**ENERTIA** CONSULTING GROUP  
1437 LARIMER STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



**CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE**  
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

**PLANNING DOCUMENTS**  
TYPICAL DETAILS

VERIFY SCALE  
BAR IS ONE INCH ON  
ORIGINAL DRAWING.

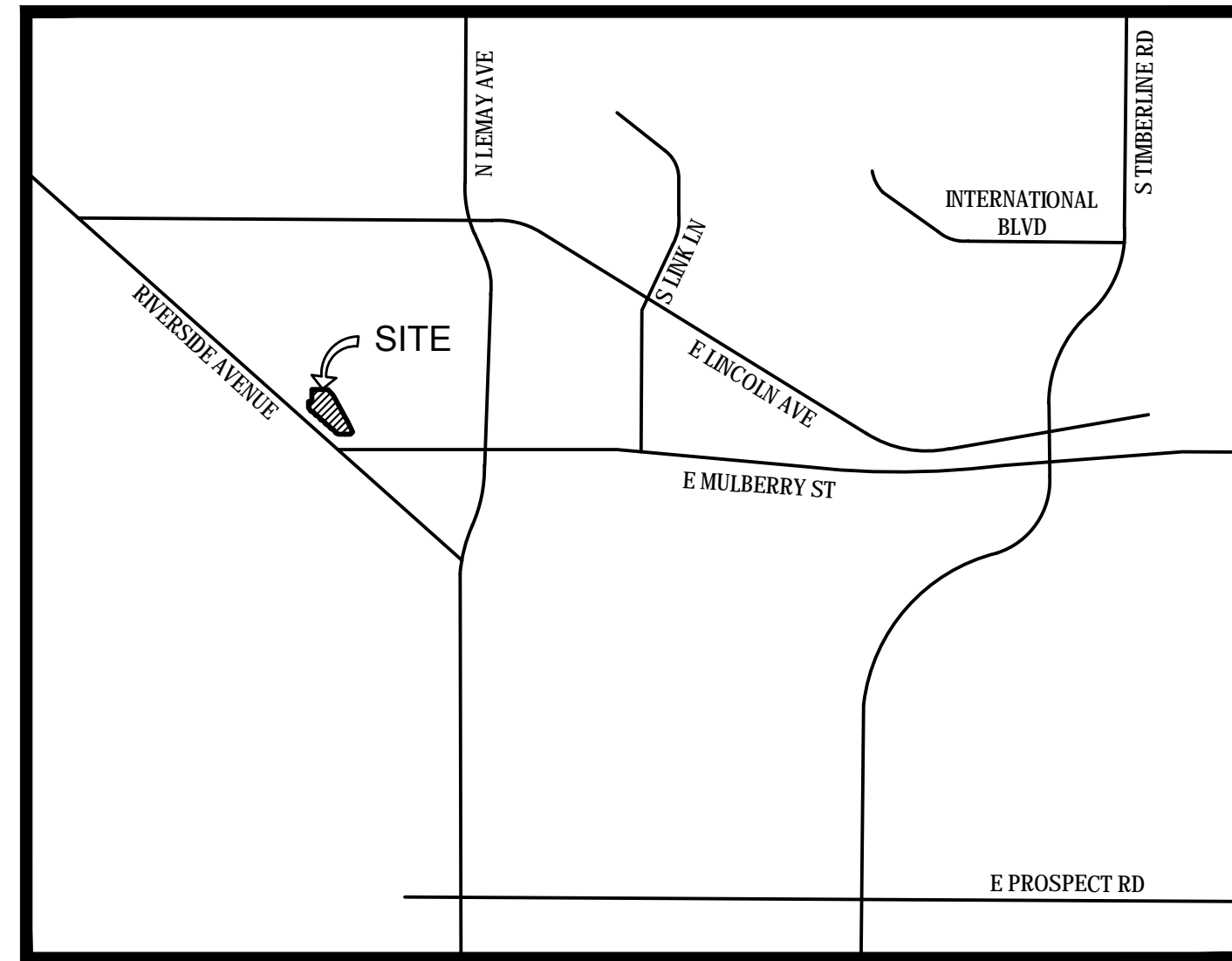
DATE	OCTOBER 09, 2014
FILE	PLNG
DWG	DTL
SHEET	1 OF 4

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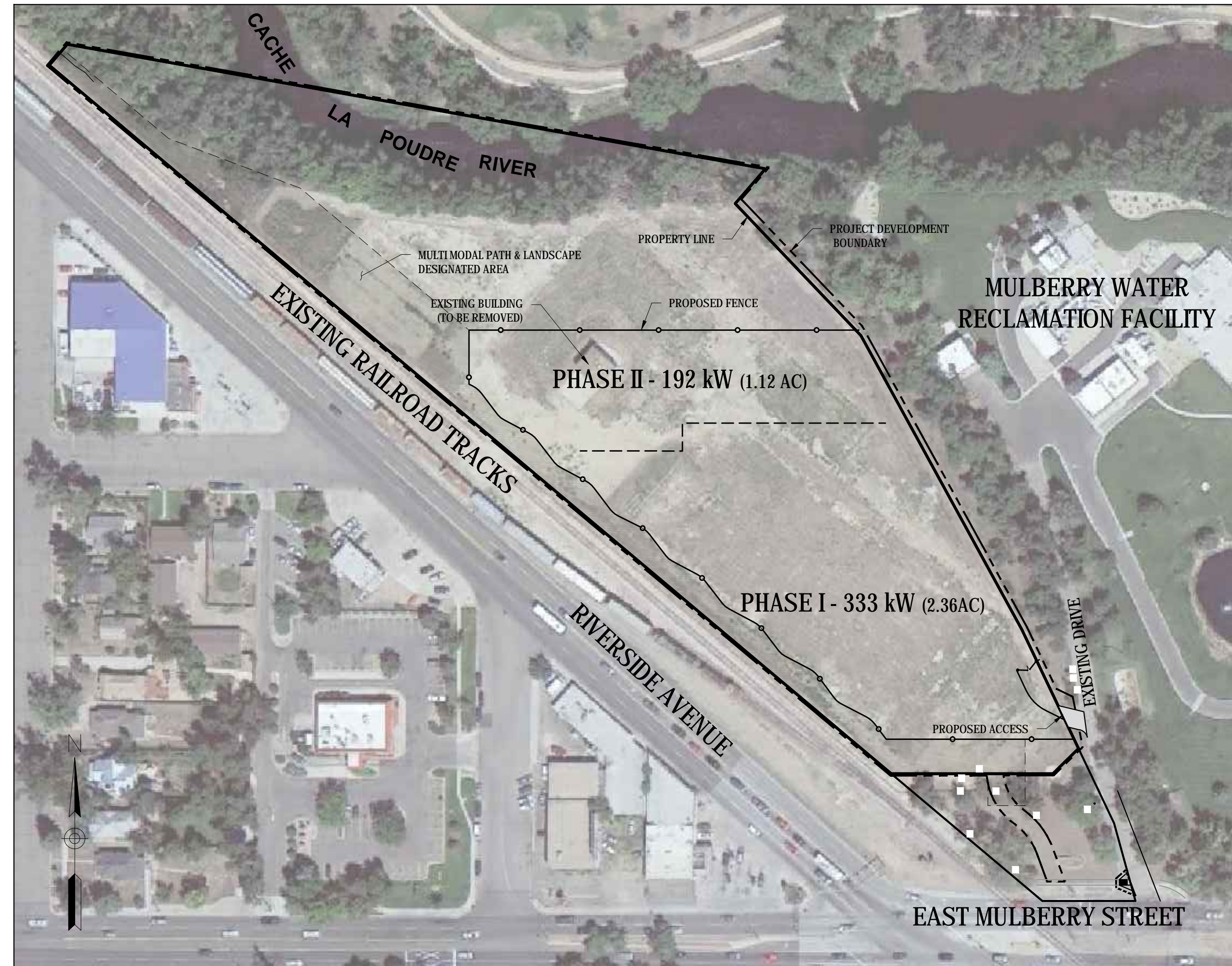


# CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN UTILITY PLAN DOCUMENTS

LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12,  
TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 69 WEST OF THE 6TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN,  
CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COUNTY OF LARIMER, STATE OF COLORADO



VICINITY MAP  
SCALE 1" = 2000'±



OVERALL SITE AREA  
SCALE 1" = 100'

### APPLICANT

CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE  
3005 CENTER GREEN DRIVE, SUITE 205  
BOULDER, CO 80301  
CONTACT: MICHELLE ZIMMERMAN  
(303) 881-3087

### ENGINEER

ENERTIA CONSULTING GROUP, LLC  
1437 LARIMER STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202  
CONTACT: SEAN O'HEARN, PE, PG  
(303) 473-3131

### SURVEYOR

PRECISION SURVEY  
9145 EAST KENYON AVENUE #101  
DENVER, COLORADO 80237  
CONTACT: CHRIS JULIANA, PLS  
(303) 825-4822

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

BEGINNING at a point on a line which is parallel with the South side of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 69 West of the 6th P.M., which line bears S. 89 degrees 38' E. and 110 feet Northerly therefrom, which point is 3762.6 feet S. 89 degrees 38' E. of the West side of said Section 12, thence by course and distance:  
Thence N. 49 degrees 39' W. 1181.2 feet, along the NE line of Colorado Southern right of way,  
Thence N. 41 degrees 15' E. 30 feet,  
Thence S. 79 degrees 35' E. 761.4 feet,  
Thence S. 41 degrees 15' W. 49.5 feet,  
Thence S. 43 degrees 20' E. 195 feet,  
Thence S. 28 degrees 25' E. 360.8 feet,  
Thence S. 25 degrees 04' E. 140.3 feet,  
Thence S. 45 degrees W. 38.5 feet,  
Thence N. 89 degrees 38' W. 173.1 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING;

### STANDARD NOTES:

- THE SPECIFIED SOLAR PANELS, RACKING SYSTEM, AND INVERTERS ARE INTENDED TO ILLUSTRATE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPONENTS OF THE SOLAR : 5744M 7CADCB8BHC145H5F9GA46F 4B5D3E5F5B79 AND FUNCTION MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE COMPONENTS Q374 48 CF 481 QF5E8 CBH-GG4D D6B 14-9 LOCATION OF THE ARRAYS AND INVERTERS MAY VARY SLIGHTLY FROM WHAT IS DEPICTED ON THIS SITE PLAN, PROVIDED THE INSTALLED COMPONENTS MEET ALL REQUIRED SETBACKS.
- THE ENGINEER WHO HAS PREPARED THESE PLANS, BY EXECUTION AND/OR SEAL HEREOF, DOES HEREBY AFFIRM RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LOCAL ENTITY, AS BENEFICIARY OF SAID ENGINEER'S WORK, FOR ANY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS CONTAINED IN THESE PLANS, AND APPROVAL OF THESE PLANS BY THE LOCAL ENTITY ENGINEER SHALL NOT RELIEVE THE ENGINEER WHO HAS PREPARED THESE PLANS OF ALL SUCH RESPONSIBILITY. FURTHER, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE ENGINEER HEREBY AGREES TO HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY THE LOCAL ENTITY, AND ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, FROM AND AGAINST ALL LIABILITIES, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS WHICH MAY ARISE FROM ANY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS CONTAINED IN THESE PLANS.

### DISCLAIMER STATEMENT:

THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY THE LOCAL ENTITY FOR CONCEPT ONLY. THE REVIEW DOES NOT IMPLY RESPONSIBILITY BY THE REVIEWING DEPARTMENT, THE LOCAL ENTITY ENGINEER, OR THE LOCAL ENTITY FOR ACCURACY AND CORRECTNESS OF THE CALCULATIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE REVIEW DOES NOT IMPLY THAT QUANTITIES OF ITEMS ON THE PLANS ARE THE FINAL QUANTITIES REQUIRED. THE REVIEW SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED IN ANY REASON AS ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BY THE LOCAL ENTITY FOR ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES OF ITEMS SHOWN THAT MAY BE REQUIRED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE.

### ENGINEER CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY AFFIRM THAT THESE FINAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS WERE PREPARED UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE CITY OF FORT COLLINS AND STATE OF COLORADO STANDARDS AND STATUTES, RESPECTIVELY, AND THAT I AM FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF ALL DESIGN, REVISIONS, AND RECORD CONDITIONS THAT I HAVE NOTED ON THESE PLANS.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Fort Collins, Colorado UTILITY PLAN APPROVAL		
APPROVED:	_____	Date
CHECKED BY:	City Engineer	Date
CHECKED BY:	Water & Wastewater Utility	Date
CHECKED BY:	Stormwater Utility	Date
CHECKED BY:	Parks & Recreation	Date
CHECKED BY:	Traffic Engineer	Date
CHECKED BY:	Environmental Planner	Date
CHECKED BY:	_____	Date

### SHEET INDEX:

- SHEET 1 - COVER SHEET
- SHEET 2 - GENERAL NOTES
- SHEET 3 - UTILITY & GRADING PLAN
- SHEET 4 - TYPICAL DETAILS

### GENERAL LEGEND

---	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY
---	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR
---	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR
---	PROPOSED FENCE
---	SETBACK LINE
---	RIGHT-OF-WAY
---	PROPERTY LINE
---	EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
---	EXISTING UNDERGROUND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
---	EXISTING GAS LINE UTILITY

### Owner's Certification of Approval:

THE UNDERSIGNED DOES/DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I/WE ARE THE LAWFUL OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED ON THIS SITE PLAN AND DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I/WE ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH ON SAID SITE PLAN.  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND SEALS THIS THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

### NOTARIAL CERTIFICATE

STATE OF COLORADO)  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE ME BY \_\_\_\_\_ THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTARY PUBLIC

(SEAL)

### Planning Approval:

BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, A.D. 20\_\_\_\_.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



1437 LARIMER STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE  
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

UTILITY PLAN DOCUMENTS  
COVER SHEET

VERIFY SCALE BAR IS ONE INCH ON ORIGINAL DRAWING. 0 _____ SCALE
DATE OCTOBER 09, 2014
FILE UTIL
DWG CVR
SHEET 1 OF 1

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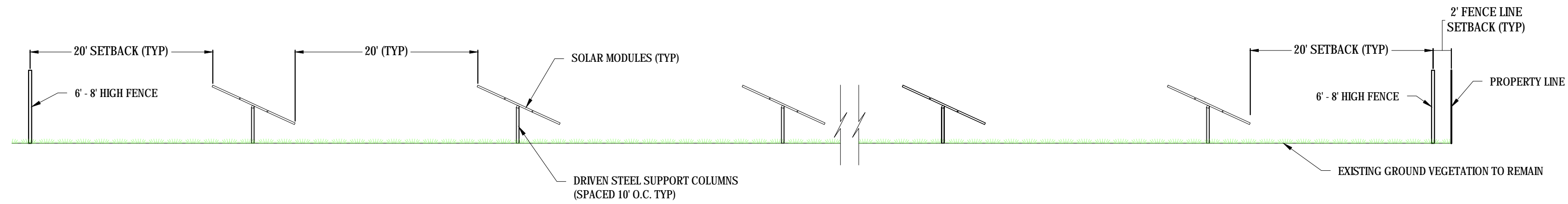




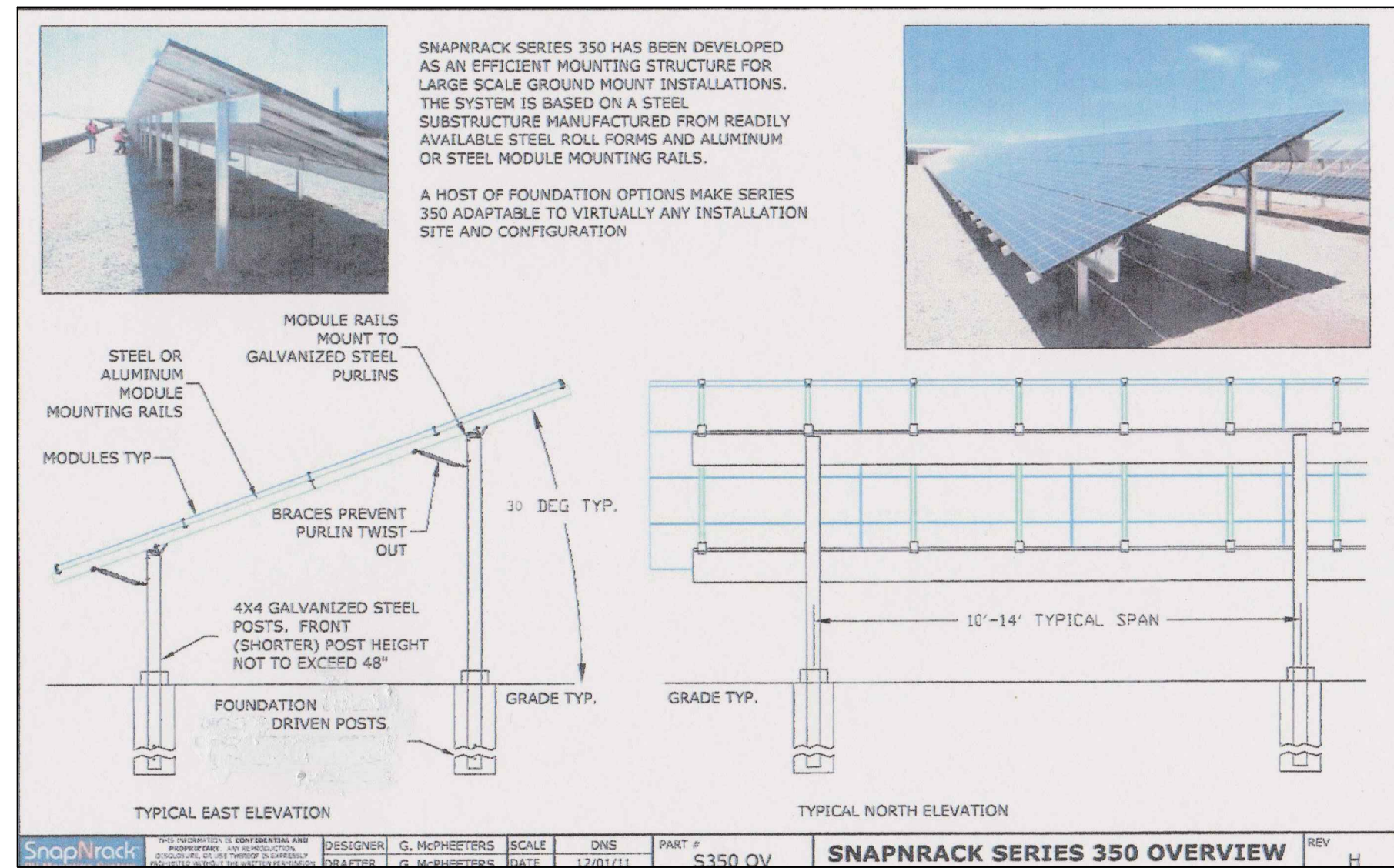




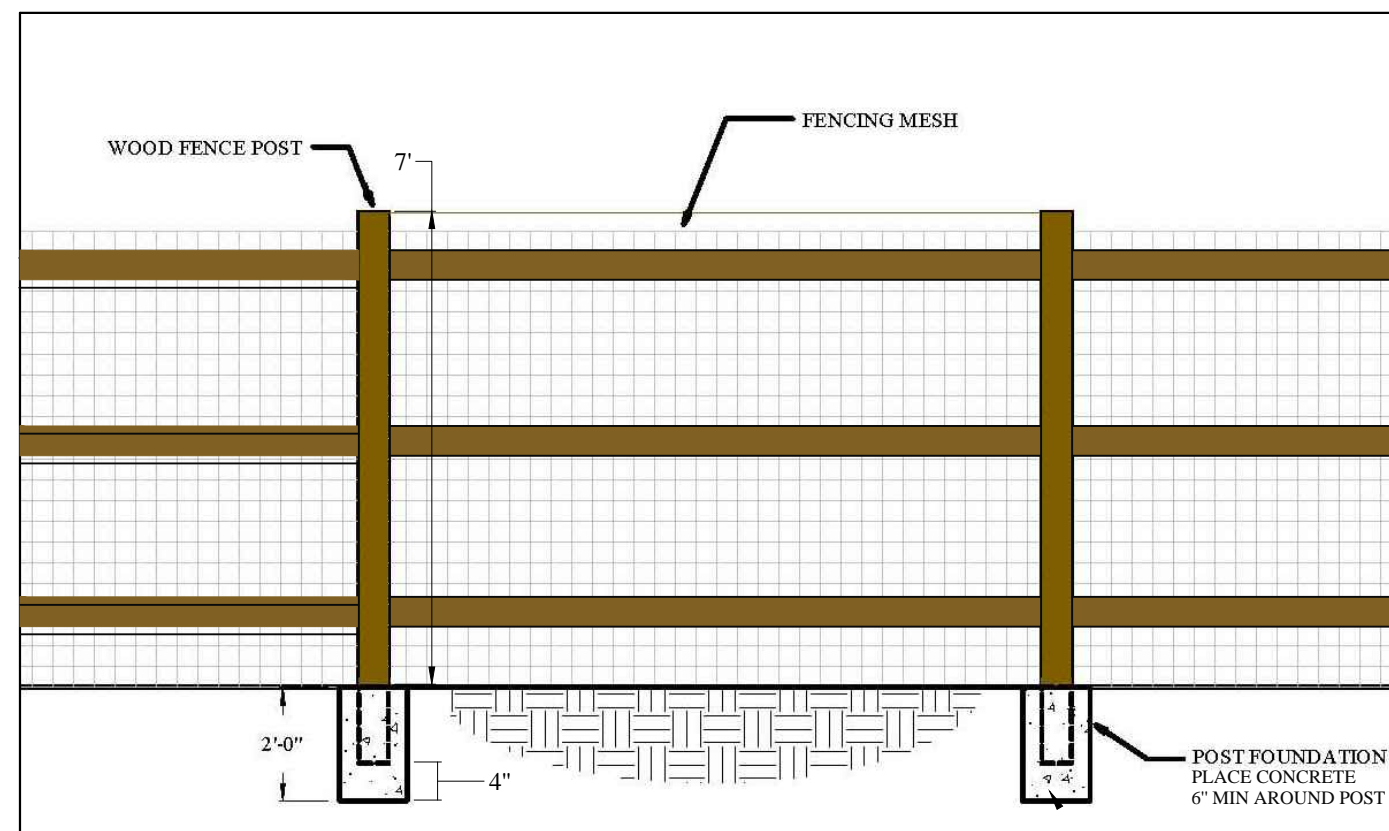




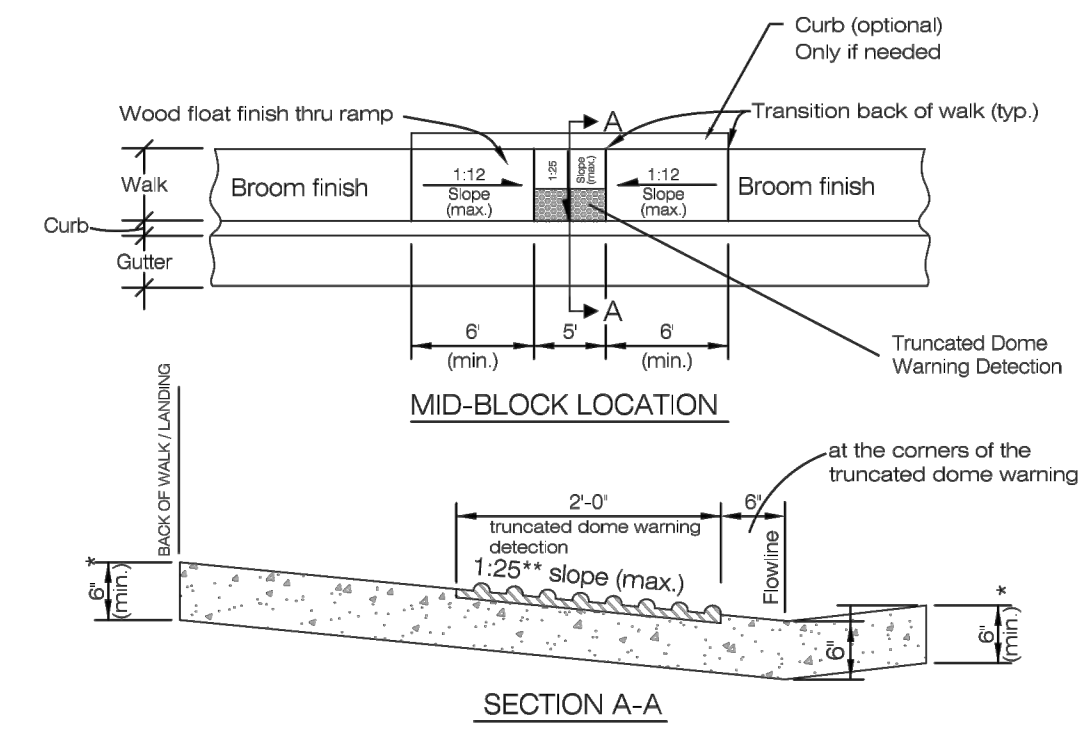
**TYPICAL SOLAR GARDEN SECTION VIEW (VIEW FROM RIVERSIDE AVENUE)**  
SCALE: 1" = 10'



**PV ARRAY RACKING SYSTEM**  
NOT TO SCALE

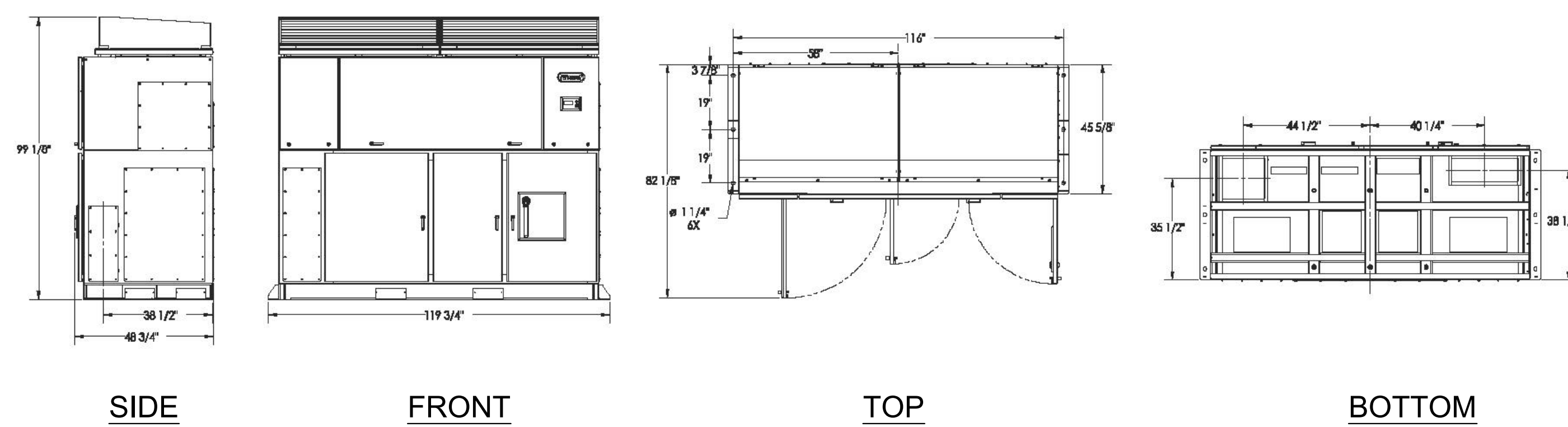


NOT TO SCALE  
**TYPICAL MESH FENCE DETAIL**



NOTES:  
1. \* 6\"/>

**TYPICAL ACCESS RAMP**  
NOT TO SCALE



**INVERTER PAD**  
NOT TO SCALE

NO.	DATE	DSGN	JSO	DR	MGB	CHK	JSO	REVISION	APVD	JSO

**ENERTIA** CONSULTING GROUP  
1437 LARIMER STREET  
DENVER, COLORADO 80202



**CLEAN ENERGY COLLECTIVE**  
RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN  
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

UTILITY PLAN DOCUMENTS  
TYPICAL DETAILS

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Planning, Development & Transportation  
Community Development & Neighborhood  
Services  
281 North College Ave.  
P.O. Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580  
970.224.6046  
970.224.6050 - fax  
fcgov.com

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties

**FROM:** Laurie Kadrich, Director of Community Development and Neighborhood Services  
Cameron Gloss, Planning Manager

**DATE:** September 26, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Administrative Interpretation #3-14 Regarding the Application of Sections 3.8.32(D)(1)(a), 3.8.32(D)(2)(a) and 3.8.32(D)(3)(a) of the Land Use Code – Solar Energy Systems.

---

### BACKGROUND:

Ryan Mounce, on behalf of Planning Services, has submitted a request for interpretation of Land Use Code Sections 3.8.32(D)(1)(a), 3.8.32(D)(2)(a) and 3.8.32(D)(3)(a), defining the type and size of solar energy systems. A Project Development Plan for a solar energy system has been submitted that is on a parcel of land approximately 6.9 acres in size, but the land area dedicated to solar energy collection is approximately 3.5 acres in size.

Small-Scale, Medium-Scale and Large-Scale Solar Energy Systems are regulated by lot size based on the specific text described in Section 3.8.32.

The following question has been posed for interpretation:

*Is the lot size meant to be representative of the size of the area devoted to solar energy collection, or the size of the parcel of land on which the solar energy system will be situated?*

Within Article 5, Terms and Definitions, of the Land Use Code,

*“Solar energy system shall mean a system of solar collectors and other equipment that relies upon sunshine as an energy source and is capable of collecting, distributing and storing (if appropriate to the technology) the sun's radiant energy. A solar energy system includes, but is not limited to, ground-mounted and building-mounted photovoltaic, solar thermal or solar hot water panels, and light pole and electric charging station-mounted solar panels. Solar energy systems may be considered accessory uses to other uses on a lot, or principal uses if located on vacant lots.”*



Solar energy system is further defined based on the scale of the facility, as follows:

*Solar energy system, large-scale* shall mean a solar energy system **covering** more than five (5) acres.

*Solar energy system, medium-scale* shall mean a solar energy system covering between one half (0.5) acre and five (5) acres.

*Solar energy system, small-scale* shall mean a solar energy system covering less than one-half (0.5) acre.”

**INTERPRETATION:**

Definitions within Article 5 accurately describe how land “coverage” of the solar energy system determines its size. It is the “footprint” of the system, including all of the attendant components, i.e.-solar arrays, inverters and security fencing, which provides the only consistent way to define the scale.

Therefore, land area devoted to the solar energy system dictates the scale of the system, not the lot area upon which the system is sited.

**CONCLUSION:**

Land Use Code Sections 3.8.32(D)(1)(a), 3.8.32(D)(2)(a) and 3.8.32(D)(3)(a) should be amended to be consistent with the specific definitions for solar energy systems as contained in Article 5.



1437 Larimer St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
720•473•3131  
sean.ohearn@enertiagc.com

August 29, 2014

Ms. Michelle Zimmerman, Land Manager  
Clean Energy Collective  
3005 Center Green Drive, Suite 205  
Boulder, CO 80301

**RE: Existing Conditions Inspection Report  
South Bank of the Cache La Poudre River  
500 Riverside Avenue, Fort Collins**

Dear Ms. Zimmerman:

Enertia Consulting Group (Enertia) has performed a visual inspection of areas along the upper bank of the Cache La Poudre River at 500 Riverside Avenue in Fort Collins (the Property). The Property, located northeast of the East Mulberry St/Riverside Ave intersection, is the planned Clean Energy Collective (CEC) Riverside Community Solar Garden site and the former location of a pickle processing plant.

As shown on the attached site plan, the Cache La Poudre River transects the northern limit of the Property. In the past, asphalt has been placed on the ground surface at the top of the river bank. In addition to the asphalt along the top of the river bank, concrete and other materials/debris have been placed or dumped over the bank. The attached existing conditions photographs illustrate the location of these materials at the top of the bank and along the upper bank.

While the reason for placing the asphalt at the top of the bank is not known, it's our opinion that this material serves to reduce erosion at the top of the bank without degrading the surrounding ground surface and vegetation. Since the installation and operation of the planned solar garden will not significantly change surface water runoff characteristics, it's recommended that the asphalt remain in place.

We trust that the information provided is acceptable and complete. Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean O'Hearn".

Sean O'Hearn, PE, PG  
Managing Partner

attachments





Existing Conditions Photographs  
**South Bank of Cache La Poudre River**  
**500 Riverside Avenue, Fort Collins**

---





August 26, 2014

City of Fort Collins  
Ryan Mounce  
Current Planning  
218 N College Ave  
Fort Collins, CO 80542

Dear Mr. Mounce,

We would like to request the following Alternative Compliance for Landscape Requirements.

The current standard calls for landscaping and trees associated with a development project be planted and maintained on the project site.

The Riverside Community Solar Project is requesting an alternative compliance to this standard for the following reasons:

1. The project is a solar array that when shaded, severely reduces production. Therefore, planting trees or plants that will be tall enough to shade the panels are not recommended.
2. The current condition at the site is a very open, grassy field. To maintain the condition of the property and view to the river corridor from the public right of way on Riverside Avenue, we propose smaller, shorter, and more open character landscaping.
3. The historical use of the property resulted in a higher salinity soil condition. While this soil condition is coming back to normal according to a study by Walsh Environmental, it is still enough at the surface that certain plants may not be recommended.
4. There is not currently irrigation on the site and because the development of the solar project will not require any water, no water lines or irrigation will be proposed.

The solar installation will use fencing in the style of a game fence including wooden round posts with wire square mesh (about 4" grid pattern) in a wavy or meandering fashion to break up the view from the public right of way. Landscaping of grasses and shrubs will be planted along this fence as well as to the north of the lease area between the solar project and the top of the bank of the river corridor.

We would like to request an alternative compliance to the landscaping requirements for the reasons listed above. Please contact me with any questions or for clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Zimmerman", is written over a horizontal line.

Michelle Zimmerman  
Land Manager



July 24, 2014

City of Fort Collins  
Ryan Mounce  
Current Planning  
218 N College Ave  
Fort Collins, CO 80542

Dear Mr. Mounce,

We would like to request the following Alternative Compliance with Section 3.4.2(B) regarding Setbacks from Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works to Habitable Structures.

#### Current Standard

3.4.2(B) - Setbacks from Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works to Habitable Structures – Unless specifically authorized pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (C) below, the minimum horizontal distances set forth in subparagraph (2) of this subsection shall be maintained between the various kinds of wastewater treatment works listed in said subparagraph and any of the following uses:

- (a) any residential use;
- (b) any commercial/retail use except frozen food lockers, enclosed mini-storage facilities and properties used principally as parking lots or parking garages;
- (c) any industrial use except warehouses, properties used for recreational vehicle, boat or truck storage, composting facilities, outdoor storage facilities, junkyards, transport terminals, recycling facilities, and resource extraction;
- (d) any institutional/civic/public use except cemeteries, golf courses, public facilities, parks, recreation and other open lands, places of worship or assembly; and
- (e) any accessory/miscellaneous uses except agricultural activities, farm animals, satellite dishes (greater than thirty-nine [39] inches in diameter), wireless telecommunications equipment and wireless telecommunications facilities.

#### **Description of need for Alternative Compliance**

The Riverside Community Solar Project is being developed to provide a community solar opportunity for ratepayers in the Fort Collins Utilities territory to purchase off-site solar panels as well as show the progressive efforts of the City of Fort Collins by locating this project in a gateway area for the City.

The solar installation will not house any employees beyond the 6-8 week construction period and an annual inspection performed by one employee for an average of 1-2 hours. The development will not emit emissions, noise, runoff, heat, or pollution. Additionally, this use of the property is similar to other uses that have been granted buffer exemptions or alternative compliance.

The current setback for the Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility is 1000' (see attached exhibit). A portion of the development site falls within the 1000' setback line. However, the Mulberry Water



Reclamation Facility has been significantly upgraded with aggressive odor controls and additional treatment technologies.

We would like to request an alternative setback distance from 1000' to 100', acknowledging the upgrades and treatment technologies that have been implemented, as well as the limited number of humans that will be on-site post the 6-8 week construction phase, and the consistency with other uses subject to buffer exemptions, to be substituted for the setback distance within the standard 3.4.2(B) - Setbacks from Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works to Habitable Structures.

Sincerely,



Michelle Zimmerman  
Land Manager





Utilities Executive Director  
700 Wood Street  
PO Box 580  
Fort Collins, CO 80522  
970.221-6702  
fcgov.com

## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 22, 2014

To: Ryan Mounce, Associate Planner, Community Development and Neighborhood Services

From: Kevin R. Gertig, Utilities Executive Director *KRG*

Re: Clean Energy Collective request for Alternative Compliance reduction to the Land Use Code Air Quality Odor Buffer

Clean Energy Collective has requested a reduction of the Air Quality odor buffer distance from the Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility (MWRf) from 1000' to 100' as part of their Overall Development Plan submittal. The setback distance is set in the Land Use Code section 3.4.2(B) while Alternative Compliance to this standard is allowed per Section 3.4.2(C), as shown below:

### 3.4.2 Air Quality

(A) **General Standard.** The project shall conform to all applicable local, state and federal air quality regulations and standards, including, but not limited to, those regulating odor, dust, fumes or gases which are noxious, toxic or corrosive, and suspended solid or liquid particles.

(B) **Setbacks from Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works to Habitable Structures.**

(1) Unless specifically authorized pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (C) below, the minimum horizontal distances set forth in subparagraph (2) of this subsection shall be maintained between the various kinds of wastewater treatment works listed in said subparagraph and any of the following uses:

- (a) any residential use;
- (b) any commercial/retail use except frozen food lockers, enclosed mini-storage facilities and properties used principally as parking lots or parking garages;
- (c) any industrial use except warehouses, properties used for recreational vehicle, boat or truck storage, composting facilities,



outdoor storage facilities, junkyards, transport terminals, recycling facilities, and resource extraction;

(d) any institutional/civic/public use except cemeteries, golf courses, public facilities, parks, recreation and other open lands, places of worship or assembly; and

(e) any accessory/miscellaneous uses except agricultural activities, farm animals, satellite dishes (greater than thirty-nine [39] inches in diameter), wireless telecommunications equipment and wireless telecommunications facilities.

(2) The following minimum horizontal distances shall apply to the kinds of wastewater treatment works listed below and the uses specified in subparagraph (1) above:

(a) Non-aerated lagoons: one thousand three hundred twenty (1,320) feet (¼ mile).

(b) Aerated lagoons containing less than two (2) total surface acres with no surface aeration: one hundred (100) feet.

(c) Aerated lagoons containing greater than two (2) total surface acres and/or with surface aeration: one thousand (1,000) feet, or with established vegetation barriers, and/or walls, berms or other topographic features to reduce aerosol drift as approved pursuant to paragraph (C) below: five hundred (500) feet.

(d) Small mechanical plants with less than one hundred thousand (100,000) gpd capacity and all facilities with building enclosure: one hundred (100) feet.

(e) All other mechanical plants: one thousand (1,000) feet.

**(C) *Alternative Compliance.*** Upon request by an applicant, the decision maker may approve an alternative setback distance that may be substituted for a setback distance meeting the standards of this Section.

(1) *Procedure.* Alternative compliance setback plans shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the submittal requirements for plans as set forth in this Section. The plan shall clearly identify and discuss the setback modifications proposed and the ways in which the plan will equally well or better accomplish the purpose of this Section than would a plan which complies with the standards of this Section.

(2) *Review Criteria.* To approve an alternative plan, the decision maker must first find that the proposed alternative plan accomplishes the

purposes of this Section equally well or better than would a plan which complies with the standards of this Section.

In reviewing the proposed alternative plan, the decision maker shall consider any mitigating factors that exist to counter the potential for odor problems and/or aerosol drift, including, without limitation, structural, chemical or technological mitigation occurring at the subject wastewater treatment works, established vegetation barriers and/or walls, berms, or other topographic features sufficient to serve as mitigation for odor problems and/or aerosol drift. In order to assist the decision maker in evaluating the proposed mitigation factors the Utilities Executive Director shall submit a written recommendation regarding such mitigation factors, which recommendation shall include the technical analysis and reasoning used in support of the Utilities Executive Director's recommendation.

The Alternative Compliance letter submitted by Clean Energy Collective as part of their request has been reviewed by Utilities staff and it is believed that sufficient mitigation will exist to meet the Alternative Compliance standard. Finding of sufficient mitigation is based on the following:

- a) The applicant acknowledges that after construction, no staff will regularly be on-site;
- b) The applicant acknowledges that they are building next to a wastewater treatment plant;
- c) The solar panels themselves potentially could serve as an aerosol drift odor control measure;
- d) While many upgrades and treatment technologies have been implemented; plant upsets remain possible and can cause odors;
- e) Plant maintenance will be required where the odor control may be off for short periods of time;
- f) The applicant and any subcontractors, must inform wastewater staff directly and immediately if any unusual odors are detected (970-221-6900); and
- g) The applicant must inform future tenants of the aforementioned facts.

Based on this information, I recommend approval of the proposed alternative plan to include an alternative setback distance of 100'.



June 26, 2104

Mark Zweg  
Land Manager  
Clean Energy Collective  
3005 Center Green Drive, #205  
Boulder, CO 80301

RE: Updated Ecological Characterization Study (ECS) Report for the Pickle Plant Project Site

Scott:

This letter report is submitted in response to the City of Fort Collins' requirement for an ECS Report summarizing the ecological features of the Pickle Plant site, which is proposed for solar energy development. This letter report is an updated report of a previous Pickle Plant ECS Reported submitted on February 15, 2011. The Pickle Plant project site is located at the northeast corner of Riverside Avenue and East Mulberry Street. The property is bounded by the Cache la Poudre River to the north, the City of Fort Collins' Wastewater Treatment Facility to the East, Riverside Avenue to the west, and Mulberry Street and existing landscaping to the south (see attached Figure 1). This report was prepared in accordance with Section 3.4.1 of the Land Use Code of the City of Fort Collins regarding the preparation of an ECS Report.

A previous field survey was completed to review site characteristics of the project area with Lindsay Ex with the City of Fort Collins on February 7, 2011. A second site reconnaissance was completed with Clean Energy Collective and City of Fort Collins staff on May 19, 2014. The field surveys were conducted to characterize existing wildlife habitats, as well as identify any unique or sensitive natural resource features. Observations recorded during the wildlife habitat field evaluation included: major vegetation communities/wildlife habitats present within the property, dominant vegetation associated with each community/habitat, and unique habitat features. Existing habitats were also evaluated regarding their ability to support populations of threatened, endangered, and other sensitive plant and wildlife species.

The following provides a summary of information required by Fort Collins Land Use Code under 3.4.1 (D) (1) items (a) through (k).

### **ECOLOGICAL STUDY CHARACTERIZATION CHECKLIST**

(a & i) The project site was formerly occupied by a pickle production facility and was cleared of all native vegetation. As a result the majority of the site is nearly level and dominated primarily by annual weedy species or nearly bare areas with minimal vegetation cover (see attached Figure 1 and Photo 1). Common weedy species recorded on the property included kochia (*Bassia scoparia*<sup>1</sup>), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), knotweed (*Polygonum arenastrum*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), and mouse barley (*Hordeum murinum*). Small pockets of leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), a Larimer County noxious weed, are also growing along the eastern property boundary fenceline. Areas with minimal vegetation cover appear to be the result of highly compacted soils with a high percentage of rock in the surface layer. A remnant swath of asphalt

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<sup>1</sup> Scientific nomenclature follows USDA, NRCS Plants Database. Available online at: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>

paving further degrades the ground surface at the north edge of the property (see attached Figure 1 and Photo 2). The only other habitat within the project area is riparian woodland/disturbed at the north end of the property. This riparian woodland is supported on a steep slope down to the river. The drop off from the nearly level edge of the site down to the river is approximately 50 to 60 feet with a slope of ranging from 1.25:1 to 1:1 (80 to 100 percent slope). It was classified as disturbed because it has been cleared in the past and embedded with timbers, concrete blocks, and other inorganic materials to stabilize the slope. Small areas of caving asphalt along the top edge of the slope indicate there are still some problems with slope stability. As a result of past stabilization activities, relatively small, non-native Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*) and boxelders (*Acer negundo*) are the principal trees growing on the slope. The only other woody species present are a few native rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) shrubs growing along the top edge of the slope.

Past clearing and commercial activities on the Pickle Plant site has removed all natural habitat features except for the Cache la Poudre River corridor along the northern property edge. The river corridor, riparian woodlands and a narrow strip of wetlands along the river edge represent the only ecologically important habitats within the property boundaries. However, even the riparian woodlands have been degraded by past slope stabilization measures, and the steep slope restricts wetland development along the river's edge (see attached Photos 3 and 4). Surrounding land uses of highways, railroad tracks, wastewater treatment plant, golf course, and commercial properties further limit habitat value and wildlife use of the Pickle Plant property.

Wildlife sign noted on the Pickle Plant site indicate Canada geese, deer, and raccoon occasionally move the area. However, the lack of any cover and food sources for most wildlife species, as well as surrounding land uses, restrict any consistent or important wildlife use of the site.

Features of ecological value within 500 feet of the Pickle Plant site include the Cache la Poudre River corridor and riparian woodland between the east side of the property and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This stand of riparian woodland is also on a relatively steep slope but does not appear to have been exposed to the extent of past disturbance exhibited along the slope at the north property boundary. Trees growing in the eastern riparian woodlands are also dominated by Siberian elms and boxelders, although these are more mature and of much larger stature than the trees growing along the north end of the property. These trees are contained within the Wastewater Treatment Facility property and are separated from the Pickle Plant property boundary by a 30 to 50-foot nearly level bench that does not support any woody species.

(b) No wetlands are located on the property except at the north end of the parcel along the edge of the Cache la Poudre River. Because of the very steep slope from the level edge of the property down to the river, wetland development is restricted to a narrow (3 to 5-foot wide), shoreline strip of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) immediately adjacent to the river. The wetlands are jurisdictional but were not mapped since project development would have no impact on the river corridor.

(c) The project does not provide any significant or unobstructed views of natural areas or other important visual features. Views of the Cache la Poudre River corridor from all but the north edge of the property are precluded by the steep drop off from the north edge of the property down to the river.

(d) As indicated under (a & i) there are no significant native trees or other stands of native vegetation on the property.

(e) The only natural drainage in the project area is the Cache la Poudre River. The river corridor is isolated from the majority of the project area by a steep slope at the north edge of the property.

(f) Suitable habitat conditions for Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*), Ute ladies'-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*), and Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana coloradensis*) were judged not to be present within the project area. Slopes down to the river are too steep to support suitable soil moisture conditions for the orchid or butterfly plant, and wetland herbaceous cover preferred by the jumping mouse is absent along this portion of the river shoreline because of steep slopes and extensive amounts of concrete blocks and other inorganic materials embedded in the slope to prevent erosion.

(g) Because of past disturbances and over most portions of the project area, there are no special habitat features present except for the Cache la Poudre River corridor.

(h) The Cache la Poudre River provides a movement corridor for urban-adapted wildlife species. The river corridor is isolated from the project area, both physically and visually by the steep slope between the river and the remainder of the property.

(j) There are no issues regarding the timing of solar panel array construction on the Pickle Plant property and ecological features or wildlife use of the project area. None of the trees on or near the property exhibited any evidence of raptor nesting activity, and it is unlikely any raptors would nest near the property because of its degraded condition and the intensity of human activities surrounding the area.

(k) Development of the Pickle Plant parcel would create no additional impacts to the Cache la Poudre River corridor beyond those that currently exist with the degraded Pickle Plant site, railroad, and commercial land uses. The property is zoned RDR (River Downtown Redevelopment District) and City buffer zone standards (LUC 3.4.1) do not apply to RDR zones. Based on its current zone designation; lack of any natural habitat features; type of project proposed; and its location by existing roadways, commercial developments; and railroad right-of-way, I do not believe that any habitat enhancement or mitigation measures are appropriate for the majority of proposed development parcel. However, it would be appropriate to maintain an average 50-foot buffer between development and the upper bank edge of the Poudre River, where possible, because of slope stability concerns and to provide some habitat enhancement for this degraded section of the river corridor. Existing asphalt paving and weedy species should be removed to permit enhancement of the buffer with plantings of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Weedy species should also be eradicated from the remainder of the property to prevent their spread back into any buffer zone areas. Planting of trees is not feasible because of shading implications for development of a solar array project. Removal of remnant asphalt paving should be contingent on geotechnical and slope stability evaluations to be completed for the property prior to development. Plantings of native vegetation within the buffer would create additional habitat diversity adjacent to the river corridor and provide additional visual screening between the proposed development and the edge of the river corridor.

Any habitat enhancement plantings would likely require soil treatment to relieve compaction (ripping) and improve fertility (fertilizer amendments). Selection of species to be used for revegetation should focus on dryland drought tolerant species since the buffer area is elevated well above the river corridor. Even with the use of drought tolerant species, supplemental irrigation may be required for initial establishment. Since some stability (caving soils) issues were observed in the field, the entire proposed buffer zone along the top of the river embankment should receive a stability evaluation prior to attempting any enhancement measures. Ideally enhancement measures for the north edge of the property would include restoration efforts for the steep slope down to the river, but issues with the steep (1:1) slope, slope stability, and past stabilization measures (embedded concrete blocks and other materials) may likely preclude any meaningful restoration efforts.

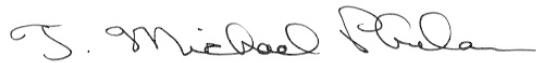
It is also recommended a sufficient buffer be maintained from the riparian woodlands outside of the east property boundary to protect these trees. The standard recommended tree protection measure is to

restrict surface disturbance, to the extent possible, to areas outside of the drip lines of the trees. This tree protection measure should be relatively easy to achieve with minimal constraints on development since the tree canopy edge is outside of the Pickle Plant property boundary. In addition, the existing bench between the property and the riparian woodland zone provides a suitable buffer width for this strip of riparian woodland. Creating a buffer beyond this recommendation would not provide additional enhancement for this riparian woodland since existing commercial development (the Wastewater Treatment Facility) encroaches up to the east edge of this riparian woodland and the south end of the woodland has no connection to any other natural area. If solar array development plans allow for any undeveloped surface along the east property boundary, habitat enhancement recommendations for these non-facility areas would be the same as for the buffer at the north end of the property.

One final mitigation recommendation relates to the remaining pickle plant building on the property. The building currently exhibits holes in the east-facing wall that could permit ingress and egress for bats and possibly owl species such as great horned or barn owls. If the decision is made to demolish this building, the interior should be surveyed prior to demolition to ensure a lack of bat or owl use. If wildlife species are present, they should be flushed from the building and holes sealed to prevent wildlife re-entry prior to demolition.

Mark, this concludes my evaluation of the Pickle Plant solar array project area. If you have any questions or require additional input regarding my evaluation, please give me a call.

Sincerely,  
**CEDAR CREEK ASSOCIATES, INC.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Michael Phelan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



T. Michael Phelan, Principal

attachments: Habitat Mapping and Photos



**FIGURE 1**  
**Habitat Mapping for the**  
**Pickle Plant Property**

**LEGEND**

-  Project Area Boundary
-  Habitat Boundary

Scale: 1 inch = 125 feet







**Photo 1. Representative View of the Disturbed Level Portions of the Pickle Plant Project Area. (View is from the south end of the property looking northwest.)**



**Photo 2. View of North End of the Property along the Top Edge of the Slope Down to the Cache la Poudre River. (View is from north end of property looking east. Note remnant asphalt paving along top edge of embankment.)**





**Photo 3. Representative View of Slope At North Property Edge Down to Cache la Poudre River. (Trees are Siberian elms. Note concrete blocks embedded in slope for erosion control.)**



**Photo 4. View of Cache la Poudre River Corridor at North End of Pickle Plant Project Area. (View is from northeast corner of property looking west. Note steep slope down to the river from upper portion of project area.)**





# Ecological Characterization Study Review

**Project Name:** Riverside Community Solar Garden  
**Project Planner:** Ryan Mounce  
**ECS Consultant:** Michael Phelan  
**Review Date:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Project Description:** The applicants are proposing a 600kw community solar garden facility. The property is bounded by the Cache la Poudre River to the north, the City of Fort Collins' Wastewater Treatment Facility to the East, Riverside Avenue to the west, and Mulberry Street to the south – it is zoned RDR.

<b>Ecological Characterization Study (ECS) Requirements and Evaluation – Section 3.4.1(D) of the Land Use Code</b>				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Is the project within 500' of a Natural Habitat or Feature? If yes, which features?	p	..	..	The project is immediately adjacent to the Poudre River which supports riparian woodland to the north and east of the project.
Is the wildlife use and value of the area described?	p	..	..	The site is occasionally used by Canada geese, deer and raccoons, but a lack of cover and food sources limits the sites use.
Are there wetlands present? If yes, have the boundaries and functions been described?	p	..	..	The Poudre River supports a shoreline strip of reed canarygrass 3-5 feet wide. The steep bank does not allow extensive wetland development.
Are there any prominent views from or across the site?	..	p	..	The steep drop off of the bank on the north side of the property limits any views of the Poudre River.
Are the pattern, species, and location of significant native trees and vegetation described?	p	..	..	There are no significant native trees or other native vegetation on the site. A few native rubber rabbitbrush grow on the top of bank.
Are the pattern, species, and location of significant non-native trees and vegetation described?	p	..	..	The site is dominated by annual weedy species or nearly bare areas. Siberian elms and boxelders grow on the slope down to the river.
Is a stream or perennial body of water present? If yes, is top of bank located?	p	..	..	The Cache la Poudre River is on the north end of the property. Top of bank has been located.
Are sensitive or specially valued species present? If yes, are the areas of use identified?	..	p	..	N/A

<b>Ecological Characterization Study (ECS) Requirements and Evaluation                      – Section 3.4.1(D) of the Land Use Code</b>				
Are other special habitat features located on the site?	..	p	..	N/A
Does the site contain wildlife movement corridors?	p	..	..	The river is used as a wildlife corridor by urban-adapted species.
Are the general ecological functions of the site described?	p	..	..	Besides the river, the site has little ecological value due to previous use on the site. It is now used occasionally by urban adapted species of wildlife and weedy plant species.
Are there any issues regarding development related timing that should be addressed?	p	..	..	The old pickle plant building should be checked for owls or bats before being demolished.
Are any measures needed to mitigate adverse impacts projected by the development?	p	..	..	<p>The ECS recommends a 50' minimum buffer should be maintained between the project and the top of bank because of slope stability concerns and to provide some habitat enhancement along the river.</p> <p>The project has provided a buffer that varies in width from 115' to approximately 150' and is proposing to plant this buffer with native plants that will provide a significantly increased diversity in vegetation structure.</p>



## NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION MEETING

<b>Project:</b>	Riverside Solar Garden (500 Riverside Avenue)
<b>Date:</b>	July 8, 2014
<b>Applicant:</b>	Clean Energy Collective
<b>Project Planner:</b>	Ryan Mounce

### **Project Planner & Applicant Presentation Summary:**

The meeting began at approximately 6:05 p.m. The Project Planner gave a brief overview of the City's development review process for the project and next steps. No formal development application has yet been submitted to the City for review. If and when the project moves forward, this project will be an Administrative, or Type 1, project. The decision maker for Type 1 projects are Administrative Hearing Officers, and not the Planning & Zoning Board.

New Land Use Code standards are set to go into effect in early July, creating a new Solar Energy System Use, and creating requirements for these systems such that they should include perimeter fencing and landscape screening, and for systems on building rooftops, regulating height and pitch of the solar panels.

The applicant gave a brief presentation, outlining the size, phasing and site plan for the project. The initial phase one system size is estimated at 333 kilowatts, with the potential for an additional 192 kw of solar collections in phase two.

The solar panels and racking will be two to three feet off the ground, and have a fixed tilt. In some locations of the world, panels track the sun, but given latitude at this location it is not necessary. There will be a small shelter that houses an inverter and metering equipment.

The panels will be community-owned; Fort Collins Utility customers can purchase panels and receive credits for the power generated by the panels on utility bills. Real time monitoring of the power your panels are generating is also available.

### **Questions, Comments, Concerns & Responses:**

**Question (Citizen):** The handout showing the Development Review process doesn't show they are on step two, is this correct?

**Response (City):** These are two separate handouts, the one you have illustrates the ways to provide feedback and communicate during the overall development review process.

**Question (Citizen):** This is not a net metering? A sell back?

**Response (Applicant):** Kilowatts used as a credit. Amount of credit is monetized and then subtracted from your bill. This is not the same as if you had installed solar panels on your roof sold energy back into the grid directly.

**Question (Citizen):** Is the tax credit used for Operations & Maintenance (O&M)?

**Response (Applicant):** A portion of the purchase amount is deposited into an account for Operations & Maintenance, and a portion of the monthly production is deposited into O&M.

**Question (Citizen):** What is the amount of credit used for O&M?

**Response (Applicant):** I don't have the exact figure, but it is around 6 or 7%.

**Question (Citizen):** What is the limiting factor to get the extra kilowatts (Phase 2)?

**Response (Applicant):** The City rebate is only approved and appropriated for the first 333 kilowatts. There is already a proposal for money for the rebate past this threshold for the remaining 192 kilowatts.

**Question (Citizen):** Is the site in the Floodplain?

**Response (City):** A small portion of the site is in the floodplain – on the north, but most of the site is not as it is elevated approximately 30' above the river. Where panels are currently proposed is not within the floodplain.

**Question (Citizen):** Will the site be fenced to protect it from vandalism?

**Response (City):** The new requirements for solar energy systems require fencing to be placed around the solar panels.

**Question (Citizen):** Will the fence be higher than 6 feet? Is that enough to protect from vandalism? Will there be barbwire?

**Response (City):** It could be higher than 6 feet; the new requirements are for a fence between 5 to 7 feet tall. There is no plan for barbwire.

**Question (Citizen):** Will there be insurance, and what does that cover?

**Response (Applicant):** Vandalism, hail damage, etc.

**Question (Citizen):** Does each panel have a microinverter?

**Response (Applicant):** No, there is a central inverter.

**Question (Citizen):** Is there a tradeoff in overall production efficiency for microinverters versus a central inverter?

**Response (Applicant):** Could depend on who you talk with, we believe central inverter has better efficiency.

**Question (Citizen):** Will the fence issue be resolved before the project is approved?

**Response (City):** For other projects, fencing is approved with the project and we expect that to occur with this project. There have been very preliminary discussions about an Art in Public Places project at the site, and whether that could be incorporated into the fencing design and construction.

**Question (Citizen):** There are a lot of animals on site or that pass through. How will this project effect their movement?

**Response (City):** As part of the City's development process the applicants have submitted an Ecological Characterization Study for the site that will document these types of qualities. The study recommended an area along the east of the site and near the river to be preserved as a riparian or movement corridor. Wildlife could continue to utilize those spaces.

**Question (Citizen):** What is the intention of the north western corner and along Riverside?

**Response (City):** There is a plan for a trail along the eastside of the railroad tracks that would extend up to the tracks, but I am not aware of other plans specifically for the northwestern corner.

**Question (Citizen):** Why is there space between the two phases?

**Response (Applicant):** It is just a visual to delineate the difference between the two phases.

**Question (Citizen):** Utilities provides a rebate for a 3kw array – is this going to change?

**Response (City):** We are going to keep the threshold at 3kw for the time being.

**Question (Citizen):** How is Clean Energy Collective (CEC) governed? Is there a board?

**Response (Applicant):** It is a privately owned company, and we do have a governing board.

**Question (Citizen):** Will there be electromagnetic emissions?? Will CEC be using the safest converter and inverters? I've read the safest kind is sine converters.

**Response (Applicant):** Our converters will be sine wave, both for safety and because they are the most efficient converters – it makes sense to use them.

**Question (Citizen):** Are heat and glare a problem?

**Response (Applicant):** The panels can put off a lot of heat if you're standing right next to them– this is good in winter to clean off the snow, but panels work better when colder and they're designed to absorb the light and convert to electricity, not generate heat/glare. The panels are also coated with an anti-glare solution.

**Response (City):** The Land Use Code also has requirements that the applicants will have to demonstrate heat and glare will not be an issue beyond the perimeter of their site.

**Question (Citizen):** Would you be able to feel the heat within 500ft?

**Response (Applicant):** No, you'd have to be much closer to the panel to feel heat effects.

**Question (Citizen):** Will drivers on Riverside be affected? Very rarely – glare studies show a very low chance. There may be a brief flash, just as might happen if you drive by a parked car and the sun hits the windshield just right.

**Question (Citizen):** is there the intent to use the fencing to block the view of the panels?

**Response (City):** We would like feedback for that, so far we've heard of multiple viewpoints – some want the panels to be completely screened, while others would like to see the panels, to know there is this green energy production source taking place. It could fit in with the concept of FortZED.

**Question/Informal Poll:** Should we have a show of hands on if people want the panels fully screened?

\*About half the audience wanted the panels screened; the other half of the audience visible

**Comment (Citizen):** If we didn't want to see it we should put it on a different part of town. I'd like to see the panels.

**Comment (Citizen):** I'd like to see the fencing done in an artistic way, and that could help both viewpoints.

**Response (City):** There will also be some landscaping that will accompany the fence and trail along the Riverside frontage.

**Response (City):** There have also been other creative ideas suggested, both recently and in past proposals at this site for putting in waves or berms.

**Comment (Applicant):** Developers care about safety first. Then cost – however we are in a unique location. We would like to find a middle ground between fencing and aesthetics. We will follow what the city feels is best.

**Question (Citizen):** Is this for business or residential users?

**Response (City):** The City allows small and mid-size business to buy in as well as residential users.

**Question (Citizen):** Will this make any noise?

**Response (Applicant):** you can only hear it if you are close – outside of the fence area will be quiet. If you are next to the inverter it sounds similar to the projector in this room. There is also only noise when electricity is being generated, it is silent at night.

**Comment (Citizen):** The area is already really loud with car/truck traffic on Riverside and the trains.

**Question (Citizen):** How long does the equipment last?

**Response (Applicant):** The panels have a 25-year warranty. The inverter is insured for 10 years. We have seen panels used as long as 30 years; they are still generating electricity, but not as much as when they were first installed – there is some degradation over time. We would like to be here for 50 years, so we may have to replace panels along the way, but panels don't go obsolete as fast as computers

**Question (Citizen):** What is CEC's goal --you said it's in your interest to take care of the project and O&M?

**Response (Applicant):** Developers want to develop a project and make a profit. We also have a long term motivation – our name is on it. This industry is very reputation-oriented. We can't make very much money off just one project, but many, so we make sure these sites and our reputation is looked after.

**Question (Citizen):** Is the LLC company setup for O&M its own entity?

**Response (Applicant):** Yes, it would continue to operate independently even if CEC went bankrupt in the future. This protects buyers.

**Question (Citizen):** Is this an investment? Can the value depreciate?

**Response (Applicant):** This is not considered an investment in the traditional sense, that isn't allowed by law and the SEC. You can sell the panels you buy to another interested buyer within Fort Collins Utilities, or work with us to remarket it.

**Question (Citizen):** Is there tax depreciation?

**Response (Applicant):** No.

**Response (Applicant):** Buyers own the panel, not a share of the company.

**Question (Citizen):** So if I move, do I keep getting credit?

**Response (Applicant):** Yes if you are still served by FC utilities

**Question (Citizen):** What if you are in the County not the City?

**Response (Applicant):** If you are inside the service area of FC utilities then you are eligible.

**Question (Citizen):** How much of the project has already been bought?

**Response (Applicant):** Taking reservations right now. Can't official buy until two to three weeks before it is built, but approximately thirty percent has already been reserved.

**Question (Citizen):** Do all the panels have to be bought before construction?

**Response (Applicant):** No, we build the project using our own funds, there aren't pre-leasing requirements. We believe it will all be bought.