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September 6, 2024

Town of Marlborough
Planning Board
21 Milton Turnpike, Suite 200
Milton, NY 12547

Attn: Chair Chris Brand

**RE: ELP MARLBOROUGH SOLAR LLC
RUNOFF EROSION VELOCITY ANALYSIS
C&A #: 4996.26**

Dear Chair Brand,

On behalf of the Applicant, ELP Marlborough Solar LLC, as requested by the Planning Board, and per previous correspondence with its review consultant, MHE Engineering, Crawford & Associates is providing this analysis of stormwater runoff velocities to identify any areas of concern for erosion.

Per MHE Engineering comment, the project area was analyzed where slopes ranging from 5%-10% and exceeding 10% coincide with where solar modules are proposed not completely parallel with grade contours. These locations were analyzed to ensure stormwater runoff does not exceed the NYSDEC threshold for erosive velocity. Each post-construction drainage area, DA-1P through DA-3P was analyzed in multiple locations to determine the worst-case scenario for each drainage area, and to determine whether the erosive runoff velocity would be exceeded within the installation area.

The flow paths analyzed were selected by identifying high elevation points within the project as start points, flow paths passing through areas corresponding to 5%-10% and greater than 10% slope thresholds, and termination points at the toe of the steepest slopes, where velocity would be highest. All flow paths analyzed began as sheet flow runoff from the proposed solar modules then transitioned to shallow concentrated flow at the end of the module. Slope, surface description (short grass cover), and length of flow path in these locations were input to HydroCAD, assuming post development conditions, to determine the time of concentration for the selected flow path. HydroCAD output of time, in minutes, for the runoff to flow through these sloped areas to the termination points was used to determine runoff velocity, providing a near instantaneous velocity calculation. See Tables 1-3 below for the results of the analysis. Note that each table includes the average runoff velocity following the originally derived Time of Concentration (TOC) path from the drainage analysis, along with the maximum calculated velocity for the worst-case scenario slopes ranging between 5%-10%, and greater than 10% for each drainage area. Further, the distance listed in the below tables does not correspond to the total length of the TOC path, but rather to the length of the TOC path in the noted slope range, and ultimately used in the velocity

calculation. See attached a drawing which overlays the slope analysis with the locations of analyzed points for the scenarios indicated in the tables.

Table 1: DA-1P Runoff Velocities				
Slope	Tc (minutes)	Distance (ft)	Calculated Velocity (ft/s)	NYSDEC Erosive Velocity Threshold (ft/s)
TOC-1	17.9	1,827	1.70	3.0
5-10%	1.1	140	2.12	4.0
>10%	1.1	155	2.35	3.0

Table 2: DA-2P Runoff Velocities				
Slope	Tc (minutes)	Distance (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	NYSDEC Erosive Velocity Threshold (ft/s)
TOC-2	18.3	1,341	1.22	3.0
5-10%	0.4	53	2.21	4.0
>10%	0.4	75	3.13	3.0

Table 3: DA-3P Runoff Velocities				
Slope	Tc (minutes)	Distance (ft)	Velocity (ft/s)	NYSDEC Erosive Velocity Threshold (ft/s)
TOC-3	13.0	705	0.90	3.0
5-10%	0.4	49	2.04	4.0
>10%	0.4	62	2.58	3.0

According to the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Stormwater Management Design Manual, July 31, 2024. Appendix G: Non-Erosive Velocities of Vegetated Channels](#), the maximum velocities for non-erosive flow allowed are between 2.5-5 ft/s depending on slopes and vegetative lining type. For slopes between 5-10%, the maximum velocity is 4 ft/s, and for slopes greater than 10%, the maximum velocity is 3 ft/s.

As shown in the results above, most analyzed points are below the maximum velocity thresholds. For the one which exceeds the threshold and other value approaching the threshold, it is important to recall that this analysis includes several conservative assumptions to provide the worst-case simulation of the post development conditions, including 100' or more of defined flow path, a short grass covered surface, an immediate transition from sheet flow to shallow concentrated flow when the water drips from the edge of the module, and the expected velocity at its absolute maximum. These assumptions are considered well conservative as the actual installed conditions will include lush grass vegetation to stabilize site soils, diffuse runoff, and limit shallow concentrated flow from occurring. Further, the runoff will not be at maximum velocity along the entire flow path, only at the toe of slope termination point. Therefore, it is anticipated that all actual runoff velocities will be below the calculated maximums, post-construction runoff flows on site will be considered non-erosive, and stormwater management features to further encourage sheet flow conditions will not be required for the installation.

We look forward to continuing coordination with the Planning Board during review of the application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out via email at cknox@crawfordandassociates.com or by phone at 518-828-2700 x 1138.

Sincerely,
**Crawford & Associates
Engineering & Land Surveying, P.C.**



Christopher J. Knox, PE
Project Manager II

Cc: Chris Brand, Planning Board Chair (cbrand@marlboroughny.us)
Jen Flynn, Planning Board Secretary (marlboroughplanning@marlboroughny.us)

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