

**ERIE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**INDUCEMENT RESOLUTION**

**SL EVANS, LLC, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL(S) OR AFFILIATE(S), SUBSIDIARY(IES),  
OR ENTITY(IES) FORMED OR TO BE FORMED ON ITS BEHALF**

A regular meeting of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency was convened on Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

The following resolution was duly offered and seconded, to wit:

RESOLUTION OF THE ERIE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY: (i) ACCEPTING THE APPLICATION OF SL EVANS, LLC, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL(S) OR AFFILIATE(S), SUBSIDIARY(IES), OR ENTITY(IES) FORMED OR TO BE FORMED ON ITS BEHALF (INDIVIDUALLY, AND/OR COLLECTIVELY, THE “COMPANY”) IN CONNECTION WITH A CERTAIN PROJECT DESCRIBED BELOW; (ii) RATIFYING THE SCHEDULING, NOTICING, AND CONDUCTING OF A PUBLIC HEARING IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; (iii) MAKING A DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT; (iv) APPOINTING THE COMPANY, OR ITS DESIGNEE, AS ITS AGENT TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT; (v) AUTHORIZING THE UNDERTAKING OF THE PROJECT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COMPANY IN THE FORM OF (A) A SALES TAX EXEMPTION BENEFIT FOR PURCHASES AND RENTALS RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE PROJECT AND (B) A PARTIAL ABATEMENT FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES BENEFIT THROUGH THE PILOT AGREEMENT; AND (vi) AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT, LEASEBACK AGREEMENT, A PAYMENT-IN-LIEU-OF-TAX AGREEMENT, AN AGENT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT AGREEMENT, AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

**WHEREAS**, by Title 1 of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, as amended, and Chapter 293 of the Laws of 1970 of the State of New York, as amended (collectively, the “Act”), the ERIE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (the “Agency”) was created with the authority and power to own, lease and sell property for the purpose of, among other things, acquiring, constructing and equipping civic, industrial, manufacturing, commercial and other facilities as authorized by the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, SL EVANS, LLC or on behalf of an affiliated entity formed or to be formed (the “Company”) has submitted an application to the Agency (the “Application”) requesting the Agency’s assistance with a certain project (the “Project”) consisting of: (i) the acquisition by the Agency of a leasehold interest in certain property located on 7612 and 7690 Southwestern Blvd., Town of Evans, Erie County, New York and all other lands in the Town of

Evans where, by license or easement or other agreement, the Company or its designees are making improvements that benefit the Project (the “Land”), (ii) the installation of two ground mounted solar arrays totaling 8250kW (the “Improvements”), and (iii) the acquisition by the Company in and around the Improvements of certain items of machinery, equipment and other tangible personal property (the “Equipment”; and, together with the Land and the Improvements, the “Facility”). The Facility will be initially owned and operated by the Company; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 859-a, on February 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at the Town of Evans Town Hall, Conference Room, located at 8787 Erie Road, Angola, NY 14006, the Agency held a public hearing with respect to the Project and the proposed Financial Assistance (as hereinafter defined) being contemplated by the Agency (the “Public Hearing”) whereat interested parties were provided a reasonable opportunity, both orally and in writing, to present their views; and

**WHEREAS**, it is contemplated that the Agency will (i) designate the Company as its agent for the purpose of undertaking the Project pursuant to an Agent and Financial Assistance Project Agreement (the “Agent Agreement”), (ii) negotiate and enter into a lease agreement (the “Lease Agreement”) and related leaseback agreement (the “Leaseback Agreement”) with the Company, pursuant to which the Agency will retain a leasehold interest in the Land, the Existing Improvements, the Improvements, the Equipment and personal property constituting the Facility; and (iii) provide Financial Assistance to the Company in the form of (a) an exemption benefit from all New York State and local sales and use taxes for purchases and rentals related to the Project with respect to the qualifying personal property included in or incorporated into the Facility or used in the acquisition, construction, reconstruction and/or renovation, rehabilitation or equipping of the Facility, and (b) a partial abatement from real property taxes benefit through a twenty (20) year “payment in lieu of tax agreement” (the “PILOT Agreement”) with the Company for the benefit of each municipality and school district having taxing jurisdiction over the Project, (collectively, the sales and use tax exemption benefit and the partial abatement from real property taxes benefit, are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Financial Assistance”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Evans Town Board (the “Town Board”) in accordance with Article 8 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law and the regulations promulgated thereto in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617 (collectively referred to as the “State Environmental Quality Review Act” and/or “SEQR”), undertook coordinated review with respect to the Project, established itself as Lead Agency as defined in SEQR, determined that the Project was an Type I action, and issued a negative declaration (“Negative Declaration”) under SEQR on September 20, 2023, with respect to the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to and in accordance with applicable provisions SEQR, the Company has submitted to the Agency a Full Environmental Assessment Form (the “EAF”) with respect to the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency’s Local Labor Workforce Certification Policy (the “Local Labor Policy”) requires that at least 90% of all project employees of the general contractor, subcontractor, or subcontractor to a subcontractor (collectively, the “Workers”) working on the Project must reside within the local labor area consisting of the counties of Erie, Niagara,

Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Wyoming, Genesee, and Orleans (the “Local Labor Area”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Company has requested a waiver from the Agency’s Local Labor Policy with respect to the post pounding aspect of the solar racking installation component of the Project based on the fact that this specific task requires use of a GRT post pounding machine, and the manufacturer of this piece of equipment mandates that operators of the GRT post pounding machine be certified by the manufacturer to ensure the highest standards of safety and as related thereto, there are no local Workers known to the Company within the Local Labor Area that hold the necessary manufacturer’s certification; and

**WHEREAS**, the Company has stated that due to the lack of GRT post pounding certified Workers residing in the Local Labor Area, the Company is compelled to seek such GRT post pounding certified operators from outside of the Local Labor Area for this component of the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 7, 2023, the Agency’s Policy Committee reviewed, discussed and considered the Company’s request for a waiver from the Local Labor Policy 90% requirement with respect to the GRT post pounding component of the Project, said waiver request fitting within one of the three permitted circumstances warranting a waiver from the Local Labor Policy, being a warranty issue related to installation of specialized equipment or materials whereby the manufacturer requires installation by only approved installers; and whereat the Policy Committee unanimously resolved to recommend that the Agency grant the requested waiver as herein described; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 18-A of the Act, the Agency desires to adopt a resolution describing the Project and the Financial Assistance that the Agency is contemplating with respect to the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ERIE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The Company has presented an application in a form acceptable to the Agency. Based upon the representations made by the Company to the Agency in the Company’s application and any other correspondence submitted by the Company to the Agency, public hearing comments, if any, Agency Policy Committee review of and recommendations related to the Project and its March 7, 2023 resolution to recommend Agency approval of the Project subject to the terms and conditions as described herein, the Policy Committee and Agency board member review of the Project’s cost benefit ratio, the costs of incentives so applied for, the anticipated new tax revenues to be generated by the Project, as well as the Project’s contemplated community benefits, and Agency board member review, discussion, and consideration of same, the Agency hereby finds and determines that:

(A) By virtue of the Act, the Agency has been vested with all powers necessary and convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of the Act and to exercise all powers granted to it under the Act; and

(B) It is desirable and in the public interest for the Agency to appoint the Company as its agent for purposes of acquiring, constructing and/or renovating and equipping the Project; and

(C) The Agency has the authority to take the actions contemplated herein under the Act; and

(D) The action to be taken by the Agency will induce the Company to develop the Project, thereby increasing and/or retaining employment opportunities in Erie County, New York and otherwise furthering the purposes of the Agency as set forth in the Act; and

(E) The Project will not result in the removal of a civic, commercial, industrial, or manufacturing plant of the Company or any other proposed occupant of the Project from one area of the State of New York (the "State") to another area of the State or result in the abandonment of one or more plants or facilities of the Company or any other proposed occupant of the Project located within the State; and the Agency hereby finds that, based on the Company's application, to the extent occupants are relocating from one plant or facility to another, the Project is reasonably necessary to discourage the Project occupants from removing such other plant or facility to a location outside the State and/or is reasonably necessary to preserve the competitive position of the Project occupants in their respective industries, and, to the extent occupants are relocating from one plant or facility to another in another area of the State, the Agency has complied with the Intermunicipal Movement procedures as required in the Countywide Industrial Development Agency Uniform Tax Exemption Policy; and

(F) The Agency has assessed all material information included in connection with the Application necessary to afford a reasonable basis for the decision by the Agency to provide Financial Assistance for the Project as described herein; and

(G) The Agency has prepared a written cost-benefit analysis satisfactorily identifying the extent to which the Project will create or retain permanent, private sector jobs, the estimated value of any tax exemption to be provided, the amount of private sector investment generated or likely to be generated by the Project, the likelihood of accomplishing the Project in a timely fashion, and the extent to which the Project will provide additional sources of revenue for municipalities and school districts, and any other public benefits that might occur as a result of the Project; and

(H) The Company has provided a written statement confirming that the Project as of the date of the Application is in substantial compliance with all provisions of the Act.

(I) Based upon a thorough and complete review of the Application and its accompanying materials and information, the EAF submitted by the Company, and the proceedings conducted by the Agency and the Town Board, to date, pursuant to SEQR, the Agency hereby:

(i) consents to and affirms the status of the Town Board as "Lead Agency" within the meaning of and for all purposes of complying with SEQR and determines that the proceedings undertaken by the Town Board under SEQR with respect to the undertaking of the Project by the Company (as agent of the Agency) satisfy the requirements of SEQR;

(ii) affirms that the Project involves a “Type 1 Action” as that term is defined under SEQR;

(iii) reviews, considers, ratifies, and adopts such proceedings by the Town Board, including the “Negative Declaration”;

(iv) determines that the Project will result in no major impacts and, therefore, is one which will not cause significant damage to the environment, that the Project will not have a “significant effect on the environment” as such quoted terms are defined in SEQR, and that no “environmental impact statement” as such quoted term is defined in SEQR need be prepared for this action; and

(v) determines that all of the provisions of SEQR that are required to be complied with as a condition precedent to the approval of the Financial Assistance contemplated by the Agency with respect to the Project, and the participation by the Agency in undertaking the Project, have been satisfied. This determination constitutes a “negative declaration” (as such quoted terms are defined under SEQR) for purposes of SEQR.

(J) The Project qualifies for Agency Financial Assistance as it meets the Agency’s evaluative criteria established by the Agency as required under General Municipal Law Section 859-a(5), as evidenced by the following:

(i) *Wage Rate (above median wage for area):* There are no permanent FT or PT workers for the Solar project. Seasonal activities for mowing/other maintenance will be onsite as/when required.

(ii) *In Region Purchases (% of overall purchases, local construction jobs/supplies):* 5% of purchases will be made locally.

(iii) *Advances Renewable Energy Production/Transmission Goals:* SL Evans is a large-scale community solar project that will generate approximately 8.25 MW of clean, reliable solar energy when completed. The project will utilize approximately 22,308 solar modules and 66 string inverters which convert the sun’s energy into usable AC power. The modules will be mounted on steel racking, which will be anchored to the ground using driven piles.

(iv) *Provides Capacity or Transmission to Meet Local Demand or Shortage:* The project will interconnect to National Grid’s existing electrical distribution system. The power generated by the facility will be sold to consumers to directly offset their energy usage with local solar power while saving money on their electric bills.

(v) *MBE/WBE Utilization:* Company response: In line with our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we also want to emphasize our dedication to utilizing Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) where possible. We understand the importance of supporting these firms, recognizing the value they bring to fostering a diverse and inclusive local economy. While the specialized nature of solar requires us to use specialized labor firms, we are fully committed to using MWBE firms on the project

when possible. By doing so, we aim to ensure that the benefits of our development extend across a broad spectrum of the community, aligning with our overarching goals of inclusivity and equal opportunity in the renewable energy space.

Section 2. The Agency hereby authorizes the undertaking of the Project and the provision of the Financial Assistance to the Company as described herein.

Section 3. The Agency finds that the Company is requesting a waiver from the Agency's Local Labor Workforce Certification Policy based on one of the three permissible exceptions to the use of local labor being: a warranty issue related to installation of specialized equipment or materials whereby the manufacturer requires installation by only approved installers. Based upon representations and materials provided by the Company, Agency staff review and consideration of same, and the Policy Committee recommendation to grant the Local Labor Area Policy waiver, the Agency hereby approves of the Company request for a waiver of the Local Labor Policy as herein described with respect to the GRT post pounding component of the Project stemming from a warranty issue related to installation of specialized equipment or materials whereby the manufacturer requires installation by only approved Workers and in recognition that such certified GRT post pounding Workers do not reside within the Local Labor Area.

Section 4. Subject to the Company executing an Agent Agreement and the delivery to the Agency of a binder, certificate or other evidence of insurance for the Project satisfactory to the Agency, the Agency hereby authorizes the Company to proceed with the acquisition, construction and equipping of the Project and hereby appoints the Company as the true and lawful agent of the Agency: (i) to acquire, construct and/or renovate and equip the Project; (ii) to make, execute, acknowledge and deliver any contracts, orders, receipts, writings and instructions, as the stated agent for the Agency with the authority to delegate such agency, in whole or in part, to agents, subagents, contractors, and subcontractors of such agents and subagents and to such other parties as the Company chooses; and (iii) in general, to do all things which may be requisite or proper for completing the Project, all with the same powers and the same validity that the Agency could do if acting in its own behalf; provided, however, the authority to appoint the Company to act as agent of the Agency, if said appointment is not duly made, as herein expressed, shall expire one year from the date of this resolution (unless extended for good cause by the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, and/or the Assistant Treasurer).

A. Financial Assistance. With respect to the foregoing, and based upon the representations and warranties made by the Company in its application for Financial Assistance, the Agency hereby:

(i) authorizes and approves the Company, as its agent, to make purchases of goods and services relating to the Project and that would otherwise be subject to New York State and local sales and use tax in an amount estimated up to \$6,000,000 and, therefore, the value of the sales and use tax exemption benefits ("sales and use tax exemption benefits") authorized and approved by the Agency cannot exceed \$525,000, however, the Agency may consider any requests by the Company for increases to the amount of sales and use tax exemption benefits authorized by the Agency upon being

provided with appropriate documentation detailing the additional purchases of property or services; and

(iii) authorizes and approves that the real property tax abatement benefits (“PILOT benefits”) to be provided over the term of the PILOT Agreement are estimated to be approximately \$3,622,251 resulting in estimated total PILOT payments of \$1,102,493 over the term of the PILOT Agreement.

**B. Terms and Conditions of Financial Assistance.** Pursuant to Section 875(3) of the New York General Municipal Law, and per the policies of the Agency, the Agency may recover or recapture from the Company, its agents, consultants, subcontractors, or any other party authorized to make purchases for the benefit of the Project, any New York State and local sales and use tax exemption benefits and/or partial abatements from real property taxes benefits taken or purported to be taken by the Company, its agents, consultants, subcontractors, or any other party authorized to make purchases for the benefit of the Project, if it is determined that: (i) the Company, its agents, consultants, subcontractors, or any other party authorized to make purchases for the benefit of the Project, is not entitled to the New York State and local sales and use tax exemption benefits; (ii) the New York State and local sales and use tax exemption benefits are in excess of the amounts authorized to be taken by the Company, its agents, consultants, subcontractors, or any other party authorized to make purchases for the benefit of the Project; (iii) the New York State and local sales and use tax exemption benefits are for property or services not authorized by the Agency as part of the Project; (iv) the Company has made a material false statement on its application for Financial Assistance; (v) the New York State and local sales and use tax exemption benefits and/or the partial abatement from real property taxes benefits are taken in cases where the Company, its agents, consultants, subcontractors, or any other party authorized to make purchases for the benefit of the Project, fails to comply with the Investment Commitment and/or the Local Labor Commitment, said commitments, as described below, being a material term or condition to use property or services in the manner approved by the Agency in connection with the Project; and/or (vi) the New York State and local sales and use tax exemption benefits and/or the partial abatement from real property taxes benefits are taken in cases where the Company fails to comply with the Equal Pay Commitment and/or the Unpaid Real Property Tax Policy Commitment, as described below, being a material term or condition to use property or services in the manner approved by the Agency in connection with the Project.

As a condition precedent of receiving Financial Assistance, the Company, its agents, consultants, subcontractors, or any other party authorized to make purchases for the benefit of the Project, must cooperate with the Agency in its efforts to recover or recapture any Financial Assistance, and promptly pay over any such amounts to the Agency that the Agency demands.

**C. Commitments.** As an additional condition precedent of receiving Financial Assistance, and as a material term or condition as approved by the Agency in connection with the Project, the Company covenants and agrees and understands that it must, subject to potential modification, termination and/or recapture of Financial Assistance for failure to meet and maintain the commitments and thresholds as described below, submit, on an annual basis or as otherwise indicated below through the termination of the PILOT Agreement, a certification, as so required by the Agency, confirming:

- (i) Investment Commitment- the total investment made with respect to the Project at the time of Project completion equals or exceeds \$17,653,650 (which represents the product of 85% multiplied by \$20,769,000, being the total project cost as stated in the Company's application for Financial Assistance).
- (ii) Local Labor Commitment – except as specifically provided for herein, that the Company adheres to and complies with the Agency's Local Labor Workforce Certification Policy on a quarterly basis during the construction period.
- (iii) Equal Pay Commitment – that the Company adheres to and complies with the Agency's Pay Equity Policy.
- (iv) Unpaid Real Property Tax Policy Commitment – that the Company is compliant with the Agency's Unpaid Real Property Tax Policy.

**Section 5.** Subject to the terms of this Inducement Resolution, the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Treasurer, are hereby authorized, on behalf of the Agency, to negotiate, execute and deliver (A) an Agent Agreement, (B) the Lease Agreement whereby the Company leases the Project to the Agency, (C) the related Leaseback Agreement whereby the Agency leases the Project back to the Company, and (D) the PILOT Agreement and (E) related documents; provided, however, that (i) the rental payments under the Leaseback Agreement to the Company include payments of all costs incurred by the Agency arising out of or related to the Project and indemnification of the Agency by the Company for actions taken by the Company and/or claims arising out of or related to the Project; and (ii) the terms of the PILOT Agreement are consistent with the Agency's Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, or procedures for deviation have been complied with accordingly.

**Section 6.** Subject to the terms of this Inducement Resolution, the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Treasurer, are hereby authorized, on behalf of the Agency, to negotiate, execute and deliver any mortgage, assignment of leases and rents, security agreement, UCC-1 Financing Statements and all documents reasonably contemplated by these resolutions or required by any lender identified by the Company (the "Lender") up to a maximum principal amount necessary to undertake the Project, acquire the Facility and/or finance or refinance acquisition and Project costs or equipment and other personal property and related transactional costs (hereinafter, with the Lease Agreement, Leaseback Agreement, and related documents, collectively called the "Agency Documents"); and, where appropriate, the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary of the Agency is hereby authorized to affix the seal of the Agency to the Agency Documents and to attest the same, all with such changes, variations, omissions and insertions as the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Treasurer of the Agency shall approve, the execution thereof by the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer and/or the Assistant Treasurer of the Agency to constitute conclusive evidence of such approval; provided in all events recourse against the Agency is limited to the Agency's interest in the Project.

Section 7. The officers, employees and agents of the Agency are hereby authorized and directed for and in the name and on behalf of the Agency to do all acts and things required and to negotiate, execute and deliver all such certificates, instruments and documents, to pay all such fees, charges and expenses and to do all such further acts and things as may be necessary or, in the opinion of the officer, employee or agent acting, desirable and proper to effect the purposes of the foregoing resolutions and to cause compliance by the Agency with all of the terms, covenants and provisions of the documents executed for and on behalf of the Agency.

Section 8. The provision by the Agency of Financial Assistance with respect to the Project as described herein is subject to the execution and delivery of the Agency's Administrative Fee Agreement (the "Fee Agreement") and payment by the Company of an administrative fee calculated in accordance with the Fee Agreement, all within sixty (60) days of the date of this resolution. In the event the Agency has not received the executed Fee Agreement and the appropriate fee within such sixty (60) day period, this resolution shall become automatically null and void and of no further effect and the Agency shall have no liability to the Company hereunder or otherwise, unless extended in the discretion of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, or the Assistant Treasurer for good cause shown.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately, and shall expire one (1) year from the date hereof unless extended for good cause by the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, the Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, or the Assistant Treasurer.

Dated: March 27, 2024