



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

December 2, 2025

Kurt Beckett
EFSEC Chair
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Re: Carriger Solar Project – Response to EFSEC’s Recommendation for Approval
EFSEC Recommendation dated October 24, 2025

Dear Chair Beckett:

Pursuant to RCW 80.50.100(3), I have approved and executed the Site Certification Agreement (SCA) for the Carriger Solar Project in Klickitat County, with the terms and conditions as recommended by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

This decision follows my August 22, 2025, directive for the Council to take further engagement steps with the Yakama Nation. After considering the record, I find that the Council evaluated this application in a manner consistent with the statutory requirements and intent of Chapter 80.50 RCW, and I concur with the Council’s recommendation to approve the application.

In particular, I find that the Council’s draft SCA balances the need for affordable clean energy with mitigation requirements that protect Washington’s environment and consider the broader interests of the public. As stated in my prior letter to the Council, the Carriger Solar Project adds critical solar and battery energy storage resources to our grid as Washington strives to achieve its transformational clean energy targets under the Clean Energy Transformation Act and its greenhouse gas reductions under RCW 70A.45.020. This is my first EFSEC project approval as the Governor of Washington, and I recognize the urgency of the moment we are in. Our state already faces real challenges in building renewable electricity, and we now contend with a federal government that is hostile to renewable electricity development. I recognize that this project also faces a narrow window for beginning construction to qualify for the federal clean energy tax credits, which are essential to building affordable electricity for Washingtonians. All of these elements factored into my decision.

I support the inclusion of language in the draft SCA of a funding commitment from the project developer to the Yakama Nation for continued Traditional Cultural Property research and documentation in the project area. I further find that EFSEC has met its legal obligations and complied with my August 22 directive regarding further tribal engagement. However, I expect EFSEC to take steps to improve its engagement with Tribal Nations in accordance with the best

practices that I want to see under my administration going forward, and my office will provide specific guidance and direction to EFSEC shortly.

On October 22, 2025, I signed Executive Order 25-10 to set a new foundation for meaningful dialogue, engagement, and government-to-government relationships between Tribal Nations and Washington state. As EFSEC considers further energy facility projects, my staff and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs will be working with EFSEC to improve the agency's tribal consultation policies and practices so that they align with the intent of my Executive Order.

It is my belief that Washington can foster collaborative, transparent, and intentional dialogue with Tribal Nations in a manner that respects and upholds their sovereign rights, while simultaneously accelerating the pace and success rate with which we develop clean energy. I look forward to working closely with the Council on these critical matters going forward.

Sincerely,



Bob Ferguson
Governor