Badger Mountain Solar Energy Project

ATTACHMENT K: PRELIMINARY HYDROLOGY REPORT

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Westwood

Preliminary Hydrology Report Badger Mountain Solar Project

Douglas County, Washington February 2020, Revised September 2020



Prepared For:



Preliminary Hydrology Report for Badger Mountain Solar Project

Douglas County, Washington

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EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1: Location Map
- Exhibit 2: Base Hydrology Map
- Exhibit 3: Soils Map
- Exhibit 4: Landcover Map
- Exhibit 5: Curve Number and Topographic Source Map
- Exhibit 6: 100-Year Max Water Depth Map
- Exhibit 6A: 100-Year Max Water Depth Project Area Map
- Exhibit 6B: 100-Year Max Water Depth Proposed T-Line Zoom Map
- Exhibit 7: 100-Year Peak Velocity Map
- Exhibit 7A: 100-Year Peak Velocity Project Area Map
- Exhibit 7B: 100-Year Peak Velocity Proposed T-Line Zoom Map
- Exhibit 8A: 100-Year Scour Depth Project Area Map
- Exhibit 8B: 100-Year Scour Depth Proposed T-Line Zoom Map

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Rainfall Data
- Appendix B: Curve Number Table
- Appendix C: FEMA Firm Panels

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the study is to analyze and review the existing hydrology of the proposed Badger Mountain Solar Project ("the project") and any impacts that the hydrology may play in the design of the proposed solar array. This report was prepared to be used by the project team in the design and layout of the project and not intended for submittal to reviewing agencies for stormwater permitting.

The project site is proposed on approximately 1,865 acres and is located roughly 4 miles northeast of East Wenatchee in Douglas County, Washington. The site is located on sloped terrain of generally greater than 3% sloping to the east. The modeled watershed area encompasses approximately 18 square miles with the eastern portion generally sloping to the east and the western portion generally sloping to the west. An additional 6.5 square miles was modeled to the west and northwest to account for drainage to the existing and proposed portions of the transmission line to the site. This watershed primarily drains to the west.

FEMA has completed a study to determine flood hazards for portions of the selected location; the project area does not contain FEMA Zone A or AE Flood hazards; however, the project is located within a FEMA Zone C. No preliminary or pending FEMA data was located that will affect the project area.

The majority of the proposed solar facility will consist of above ground mounted solar modules. A meadow grass will be planted below the modules and will make up a majority of the site's land cover. A small amount of impervious surface will also be added from the gravel access roads and electrical equipment pads, but typically only makes up approximately 3-5% of the total project area. The project should be designed to minimize grading and maintain existing drainage patterns.

The project should utilize low-impact development techniques to provide post-construction stormwater management. The proposed meadow grass beneath the solar modules will act as a vegetated filter providing both runoff treatment and reduction when compared to existing conditions.

The hydrologic modeling in this report was created using FLO-2D modeling software. FLO-2D was used to review the overall watershed drainage to and through the project to determine if any overland runoff causes flooding, high velocity, or scour impacts to the site.

The analysis shows low water depths and low velocities (Exhibits 6 and 7) across the majority of the site. Higher flood depths occur in existing flowpaths on site. High velocities and scour are also expected in the existing flow paths on site.

Based on experience with similar projects, the majority of the site is suitable for the planned development by avoiding or designing to areas of high flood depths.

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DATA SOURCES

The models and methods for this project utilize a combination of public and private data as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Data Sources

Data Type	Format	Source	Use
Elevation	1-meter LiDAR	NOAA	FLO-2D Model
			Elevations
Crop Data	Shapefile	USDA 2013 Crop	Landcover
		Data Layer	
Soils	Shapefile	USGS SSURGO	Curve Numbers
		Dataset	
Precipitation	PDF File	NOAA Atlas 2	Design storms
HUC-12 Drainage	Shapefile	USGS	Define Model
Boundary			Extents
Site Boundary	Badger Mt.	Avangrid	Define Model
	Solar_20191206.kmz	Renewables	Extents
2014 Aerial	ArcGIS Map Service	USDA FSA	Reference
Photography			

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project area is located approximately 4 miles northeast of East Wenatchee in Douglas County, Washington. The project site is approximately 1,865 acres and is located on relatively sloped terrain of generally greater than 3% sloping to the east.

Watershed Hydrology

The modeled watershed for the project area encompasses approximately 18 square miles with the eastern portion sloping to the east and the western portion sloping to the west. The modeled watershed for the transmission line encompasses approximately 6.5 square miles and slopes primarily to the west.

Onsite Conditions

In general the slopes throughout the project area are mild with a grade of greater than 3%. The project area is primarily fallow/idle cropland or used for agricultural row crops (Exhibit 4) with soils generally belong to Hydrologic Soil Groups B and C (Exhibit 3). The main potential hydrologic issue on site is flooding and erosive velocities.

FEMA Flood Zone

FEMA has completed a study to determine flood hazards for the selected location; the project area is covered by FEMA Firm Panel 5300360555A. The project area is located in a FEMA Zone C flood area (Appendix C). A FEMA Zone C is an area of minimal flooding. No preliminary or pending FEMA changes are proposed within the project area.

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

The majority of the proposed solar facility will consist of above ground mounted solar modules. A transmission line will extend to the site. Meadow grass will be planted below the modules and will make up a majority of the land cover. A small amount of impervious surface will be added from the gravel access roads and electrical equipment pads. The project should be designed to minimize grading and maintain existing drainage patterns.

Post- Construction Stormwater Management

The typical solar project's low-impact development technique of converting the land cover from a row crop field to a meadow grass will provide post-construction stormwater management to meet most agency requirements. The proposed meadow grass will act as a vegetated filter providing both runoff treatment and reduction when compared to existing conditions. A stormwater management report will be prepared summarizing the county and state requirements. As the project design advances the post-construction stormwater management should be reviewed in further detail with the County Engineer.

FLO-2D MODELING

FLO-2D is a physical process model that routes rainfall runoff and flood hydrographs over flow surfaces or in channels using the dynamic wave approximation to the momentum equation. FLO-2D offers advantages over 1-D models and unit hydrograph methods by allowing for breakout flows and visualization of flows across a potential site. The primary inputs are a DTM (elevation data), curve numbers and precipitation. Culverts were not modeled and roads were allowed to overtop.

Because of the complex and distributary nature of flow paths upstream and through the project site, a FLO-2D model with 40' grid cells was utilized to determine flow depths and velocities throughout the site.

Elevation Data

The elevation data input into the FLO-2D model was 1-meter DEM data from NOAA (Exhibit 5), which was incorporated into the DTM using the export to xyz function in Global Mapper. These XYZ files are read directly into FLO-2D.

Watershed Soils and Land Cover

USDA-NRCS SSURGO soil data provides soil types within the project boundary and full coverage of the contributing watershed. Soils in the area are primarily classified as Hydrologic Soil Groups B and C (Exhibit 3). Land cover was obtained from the USDA 2013 Crop Data Layer. Exhibit 4 displays the land cover classes for the entire watershed. Curve numbers were applied to each grid cell in the FLO-2D model based on intersecting the grid with the curve numbers (Exhibit 5).

Precipitation

Precipitation data was obtained from the NOAA Atlas 2 (Appendix A) and used for the FLO-2D analysis for the 100-year, 24-hour storm. Using the 100-year rainfall event of 3.2 inches for this location allows for the best initial analysis in order to determine the worst areas of flooding and erosion. Rainfall is distributed in a nested distribution pattern.

FLOOD ANALYSIS RESULTS

Existing Conditions Flood Analysis

The analysis shows low water depths and velocities (Exhibits 6 through 7B) across the majority of the site. During a 100-year storm, the flood depths across the majority of the project area are less than 0.5 feet with velocities less than 1 foot/second. Higher flood depths and velocities occur in the existing flowpaths throughout the site and watershed. See Exhibits 6 through 7B for areas within the project with higher flood depths and velocities. In general, large scour depths are contained within the existing flowpaths (Exhibits 8A and 2B).

4

RECOMMENDATIONS

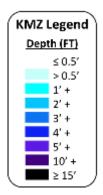
Based on experience on similar projects, the bulk of the site is suitable for the planned development and hydrologic concerns can be addressed by either avoiding areas of high flood depths or through detailed engineering design.

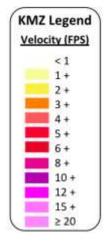
NEXT STEPS

- 1. Final engineering design should account for the flood depths and velocities presented in Exhibits 6-7.
- 2. Facilities to be elevated 1' above the 100-year, 24-hour peak flood elevations.
- 3. Stormwater management should be revisited to ensure the final design meets the local and state requirements.

INCLUDED OUTPUT FILES

- Shapefile of Existing Flow Depth, Project Watershed 2020-02-21_Badger_Prelim_Flow_Depth_at_Cell.shp Attribute "ID" = Grid Cell Number Attribute "VAR" = Max Flow Depth (Feet)
- KMZ of Existing Flow Depth, Project Watershed 2020-02-21_Badger_Flow_Depth_Preliminary.kmz Overlay in Google Earth for graphical representation.
- Shapefile of Existing Flow Depth, T-Line Watershed 2020-08-31_Badger_TLine_Prelim_Flow_Depth_at_Cell.shp Attribute "ID" = Grid Cell Number Attribute "VAR" = Max Flow Depth (Feet)
- KMZ of Existing Flow Depth, T-Line Watershed 2020-08-31_Badger_Flow_Depth_TLine_Preliminary.kmz Overlay in Google Earth for graphical representation.
- Shapefile of Existing Velocity, Project Watershed 2020-02-21_Badger_Prelim_Velocity_at_Cell.shp Attribute "ID" = Grid Cell Number Attribute "VAR" = Velocity (FPS)
- KMZ of Existing Velocity, Project Watershed 2020-02-21_Badger_Velocity_Preliminary.kmz
 Overlay in Google Earth for graphical representation.
- Shapefile of Existing Velocity, T-Line Watershed 2020-08-31_Badger_TLine_Prelim_Velocity_at_Cell.shp Attribute "ID" = Grid Cell Number Attribute "VAR" = Velocity (FPS)
- KMZ of Existing Velocity, T-Line watershed 2020-08-31_Badger_Velocity_TLine_Preliminary.kmz Overlay in Google Earth for graphical representation.





REFERENCES

National Engineering Handbook, Part 630 Hydrology. Chapter 9 Hydrologic Soil-Cover Complexes. USDA. NRCS. 210-VI-NEH, July 2004

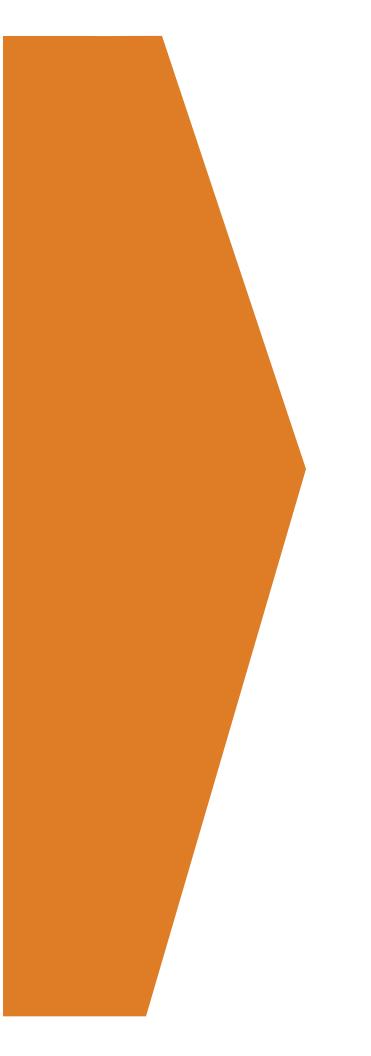
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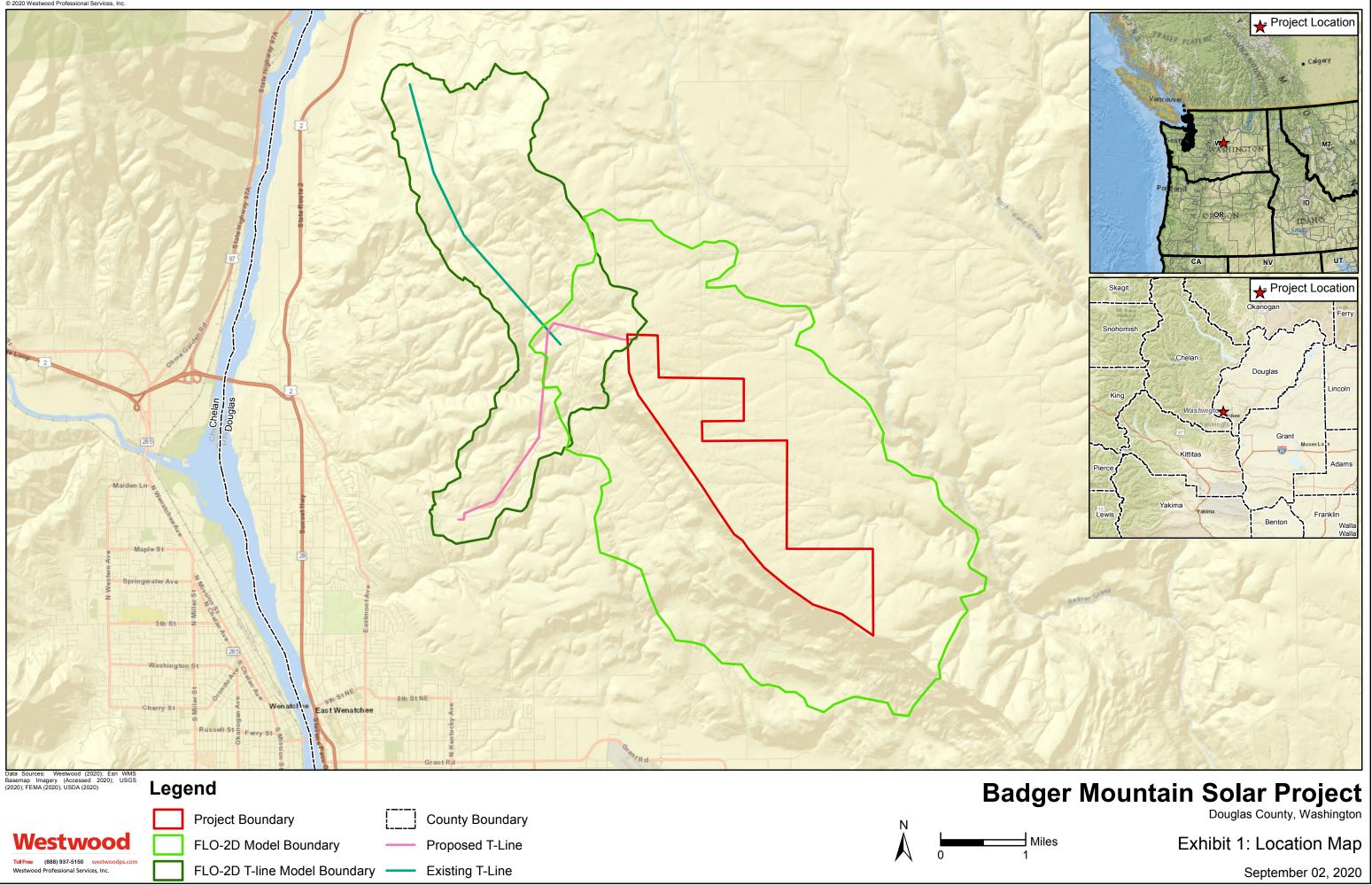
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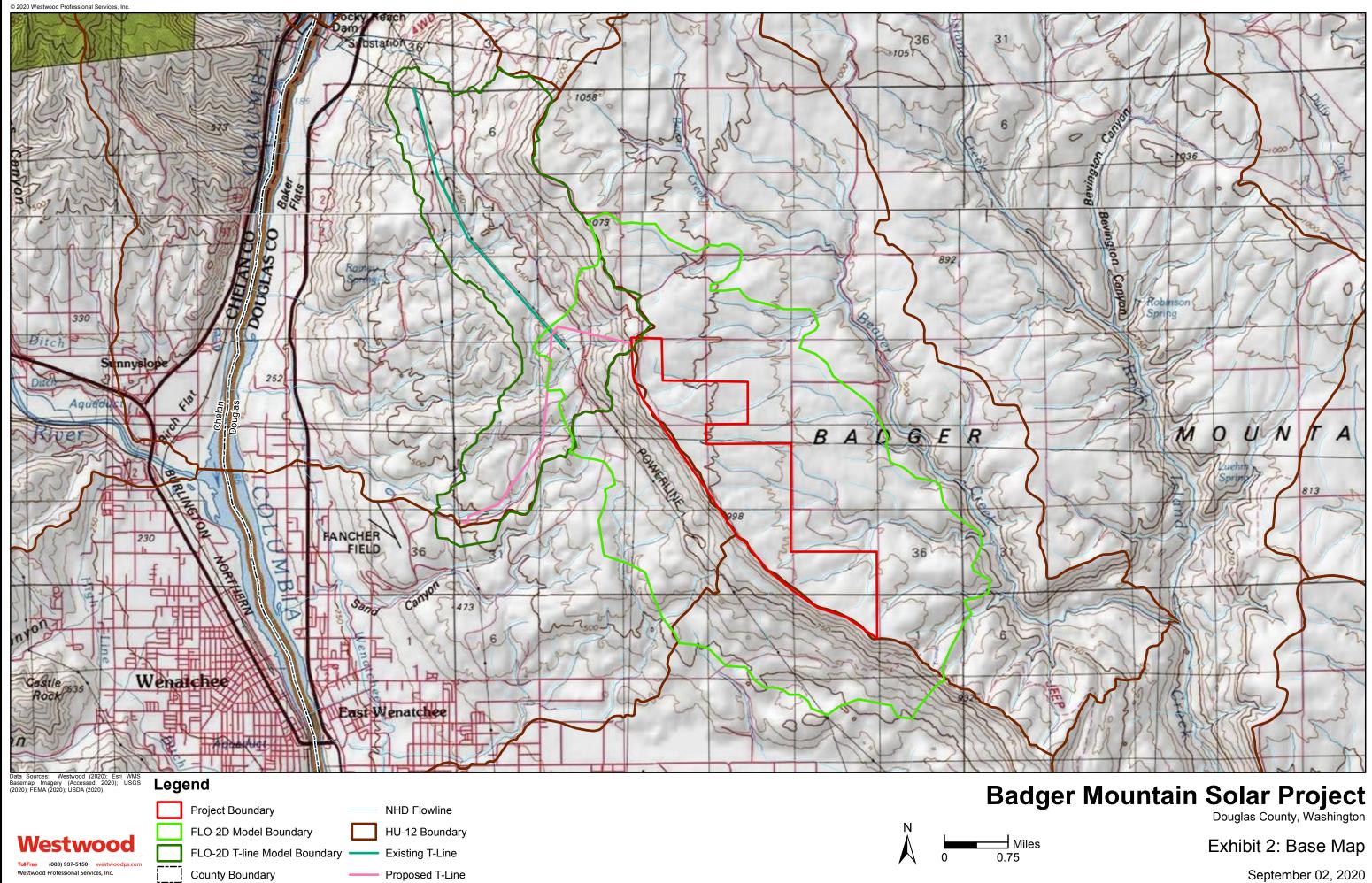
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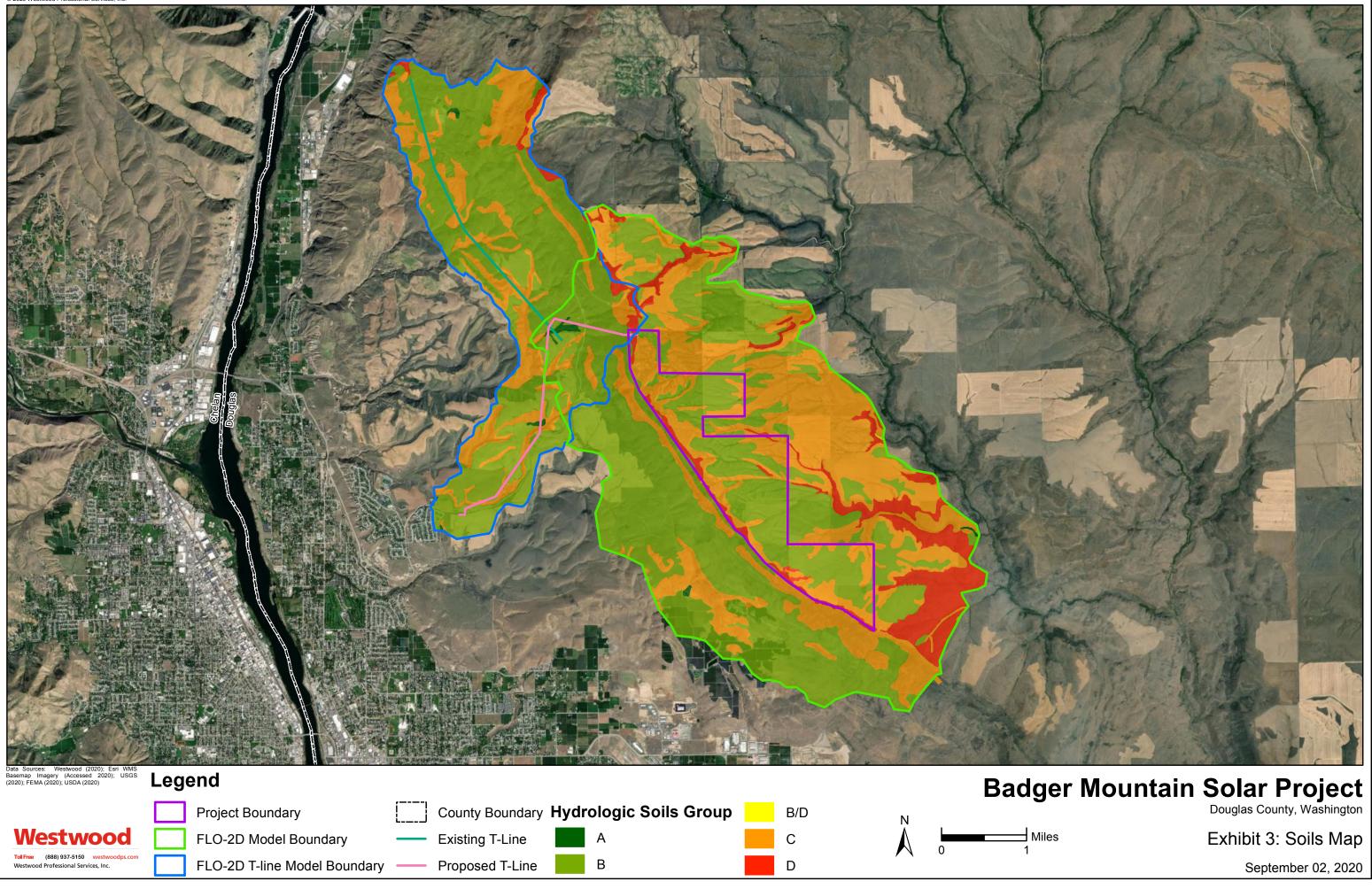


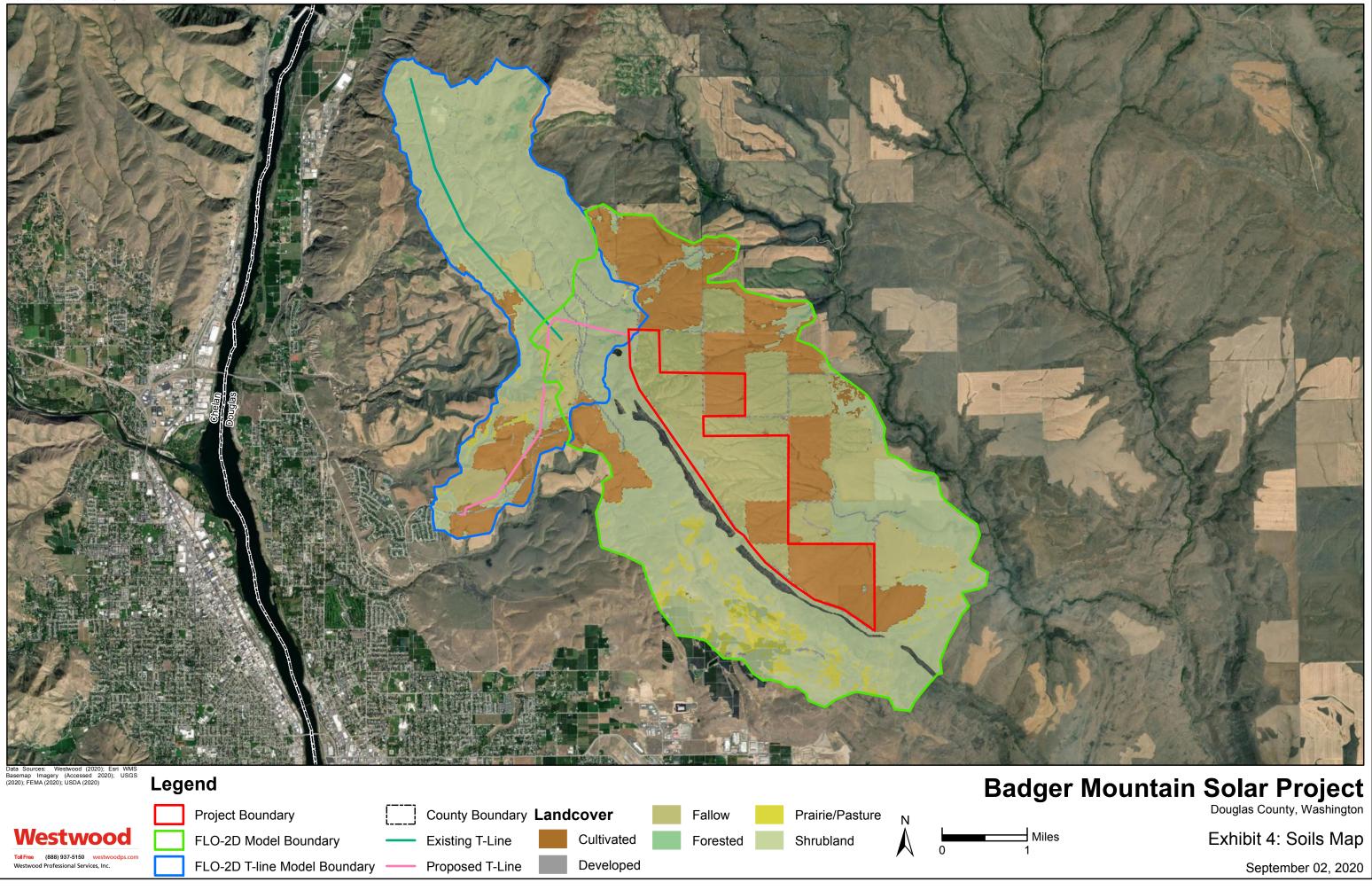
Exhibits

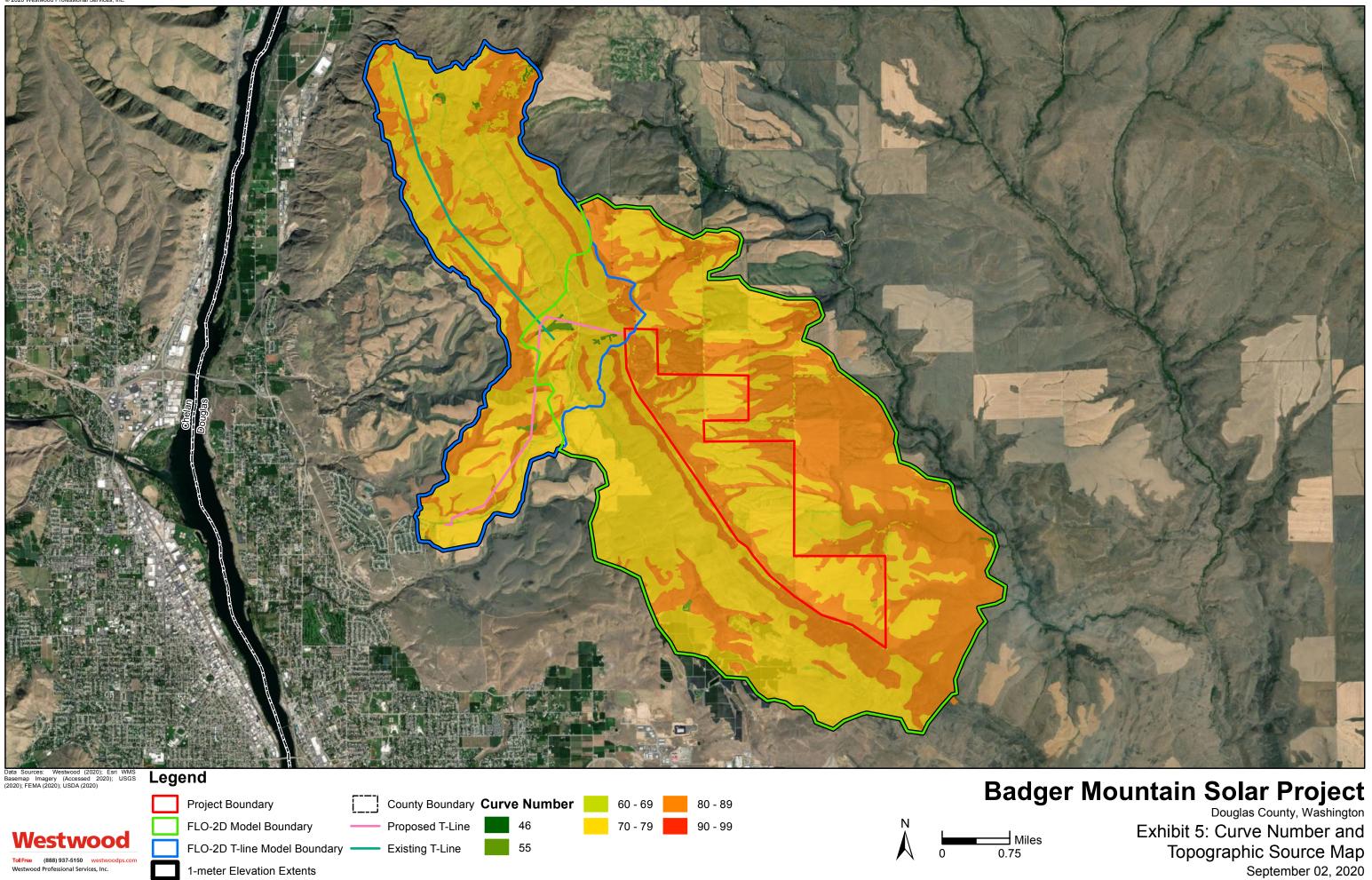


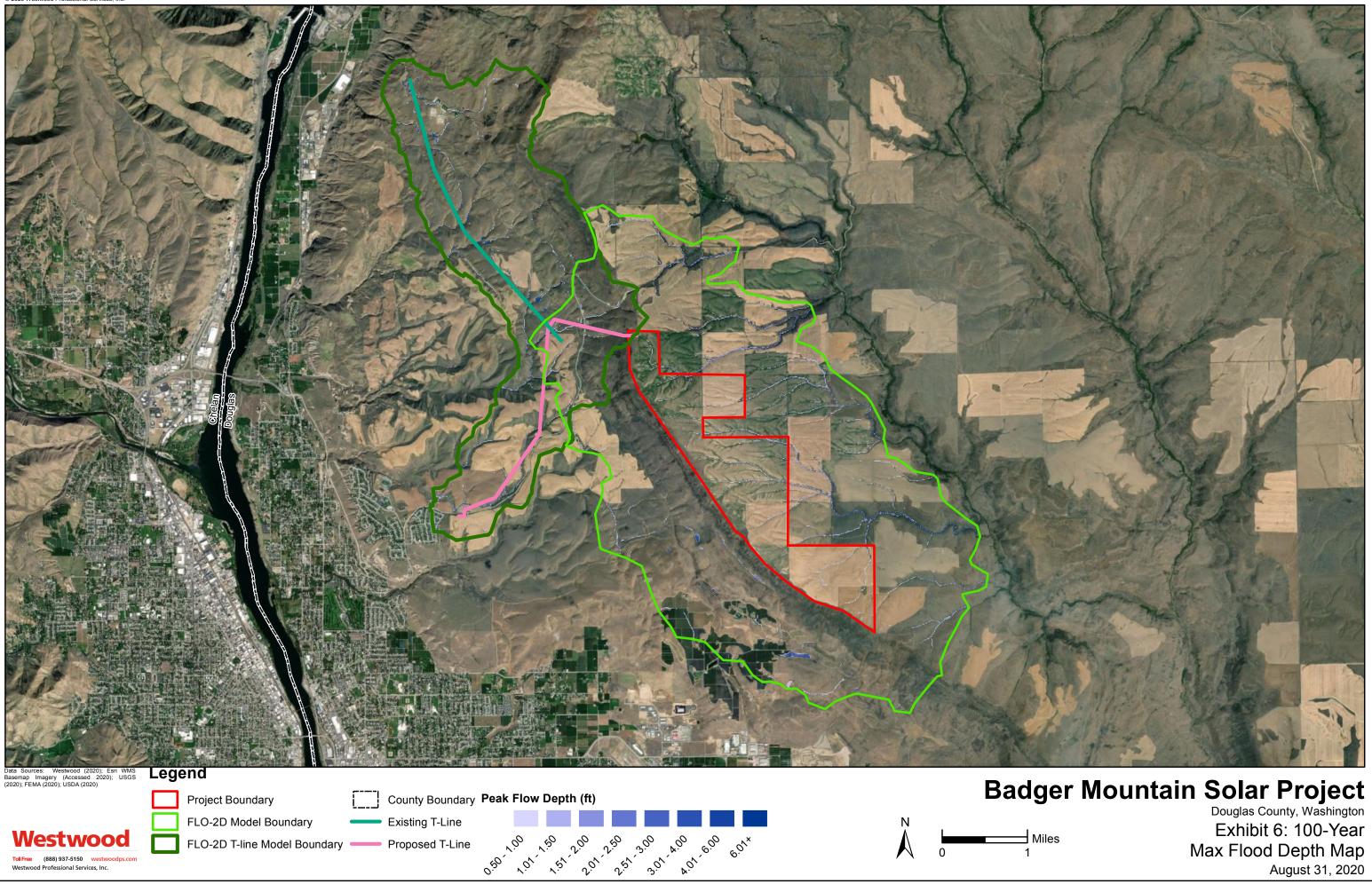


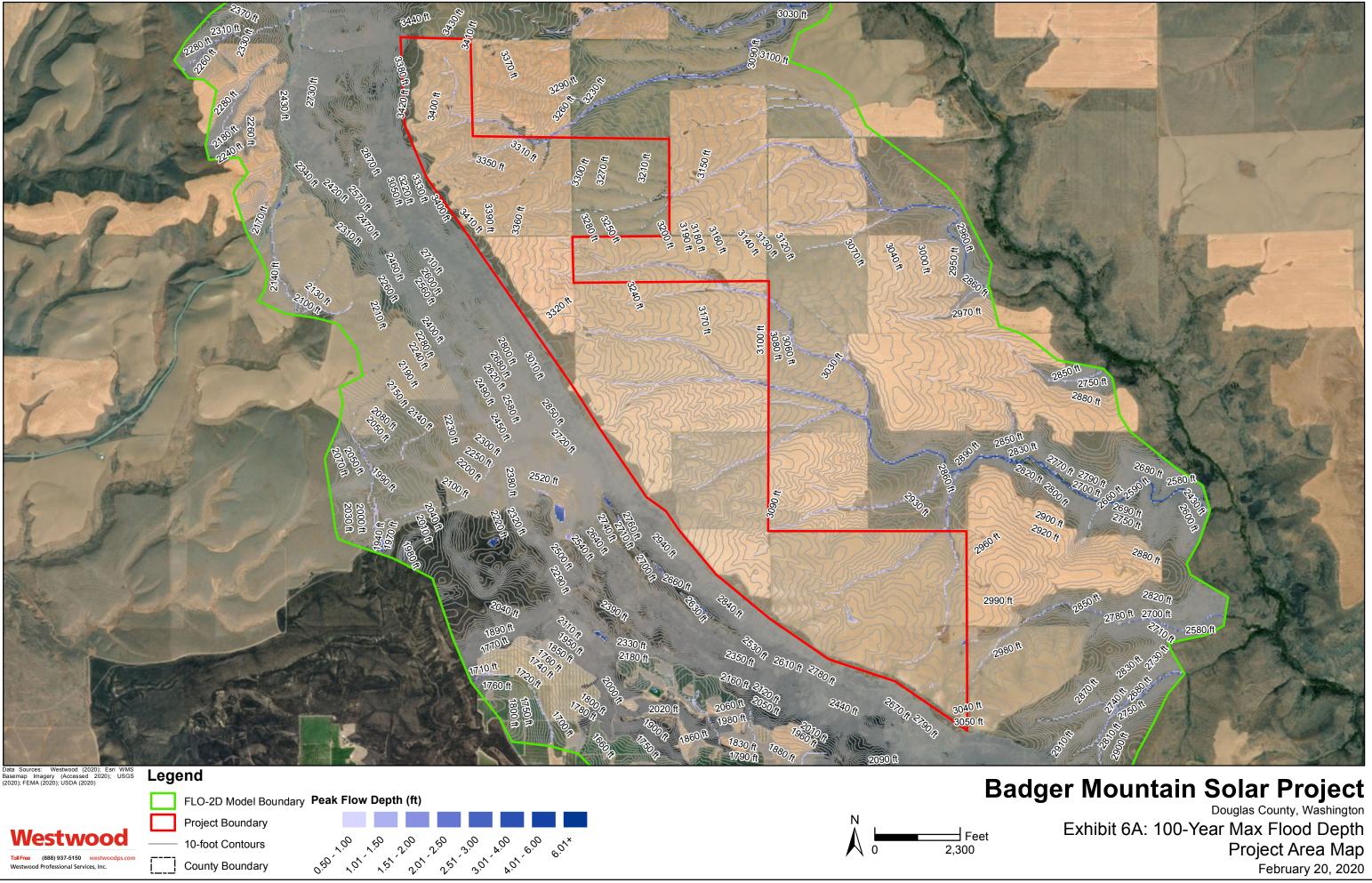










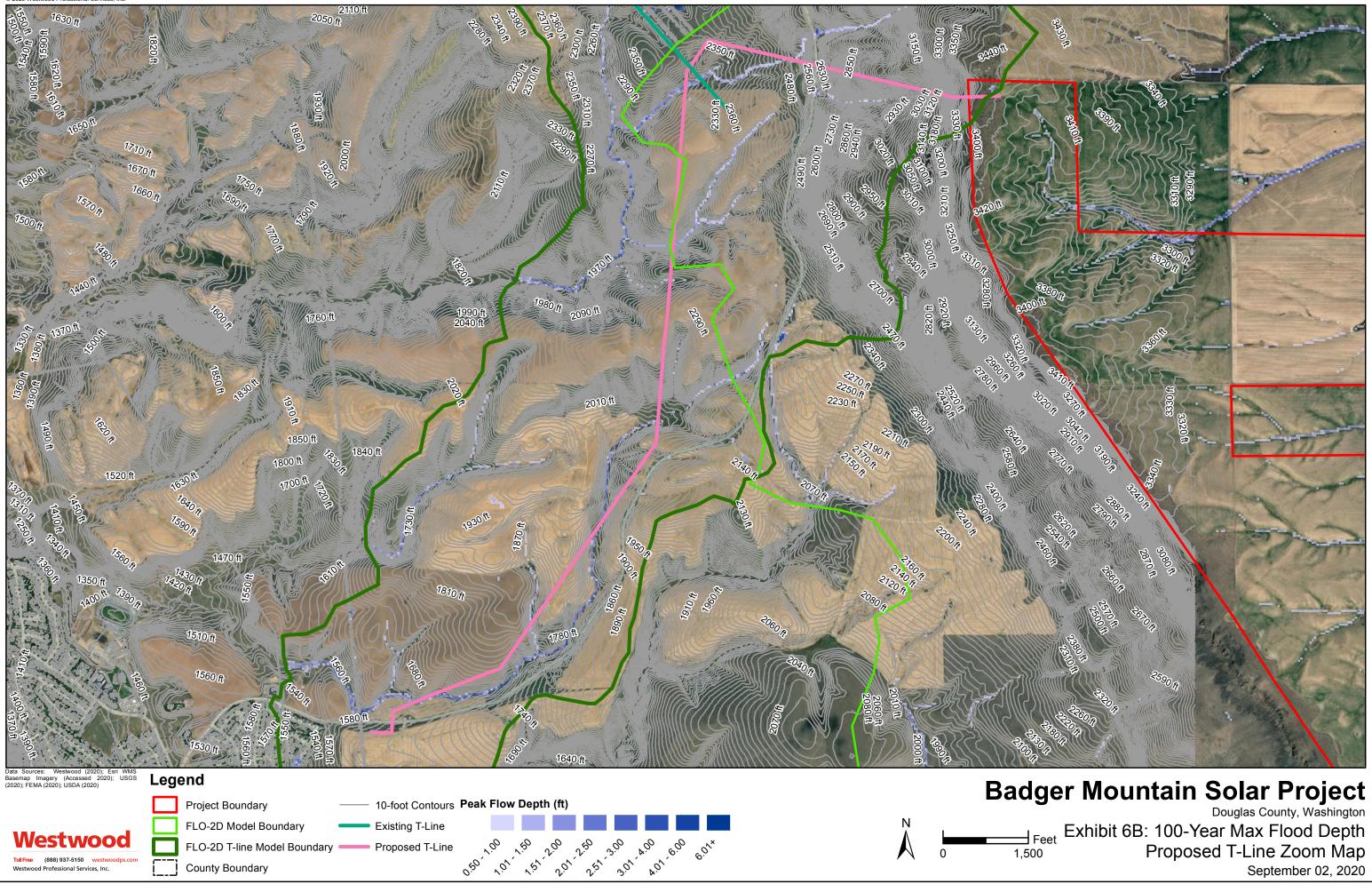


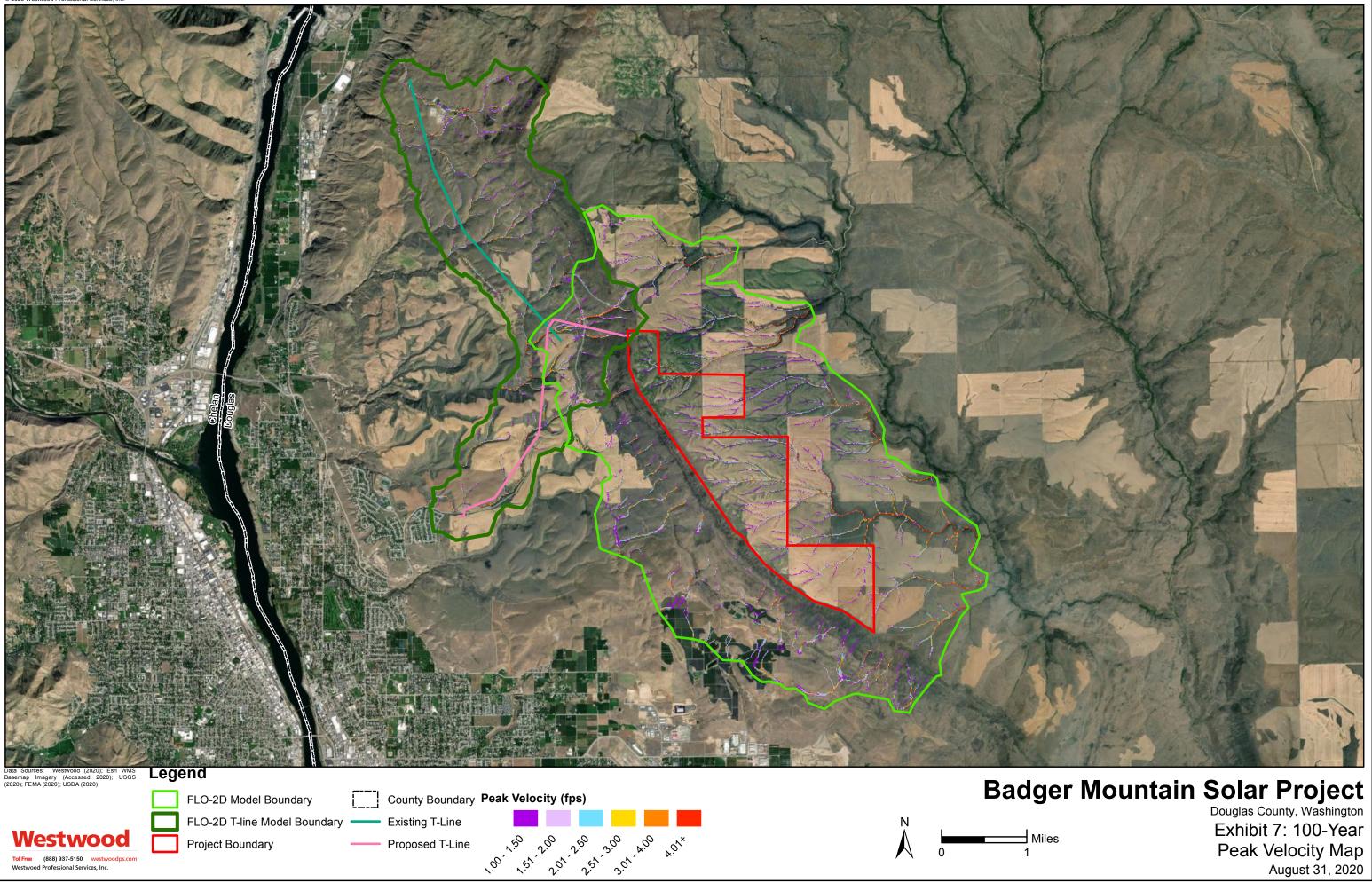
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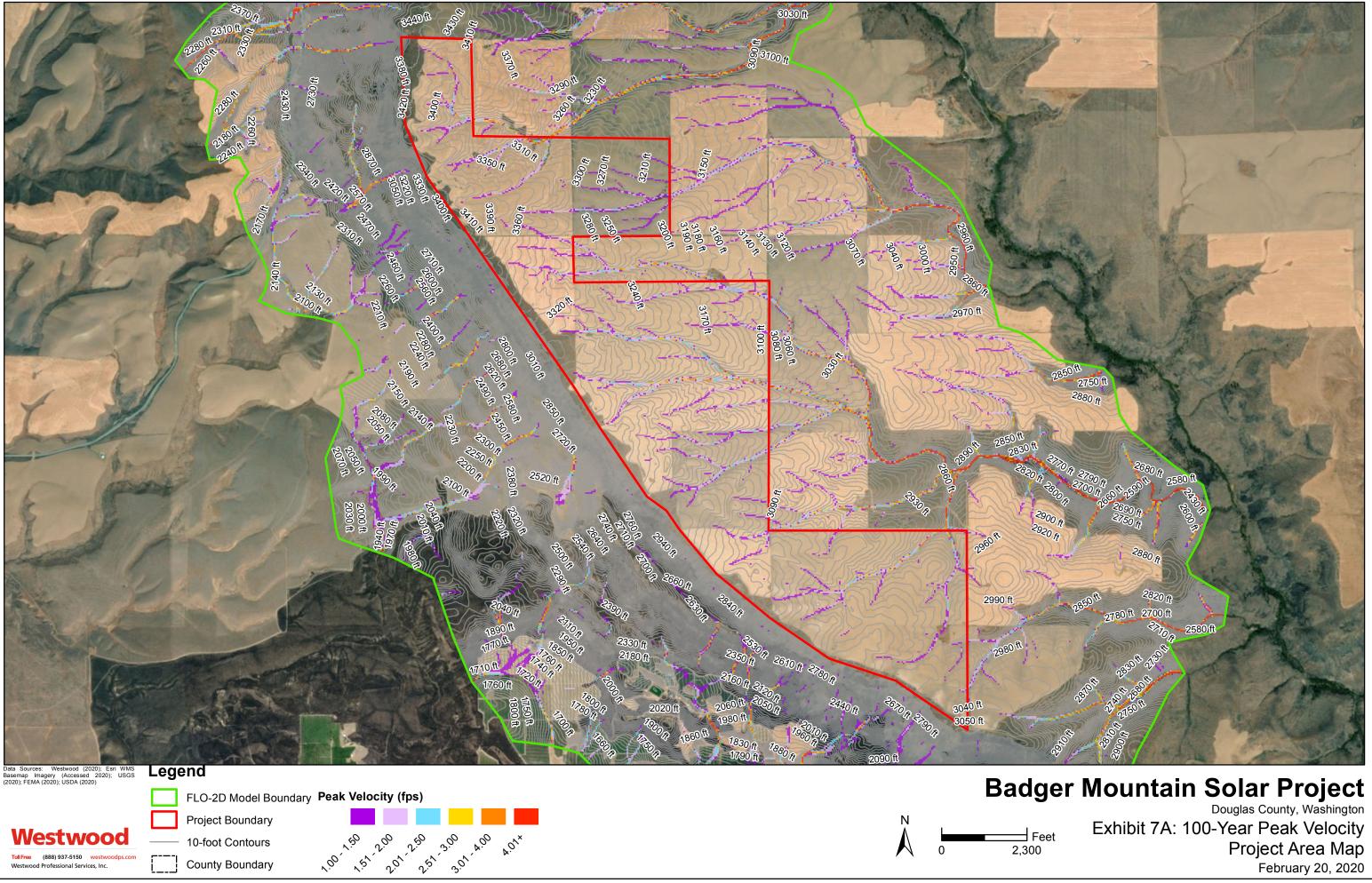
County Boundary

Project Area Map February 20, 2020





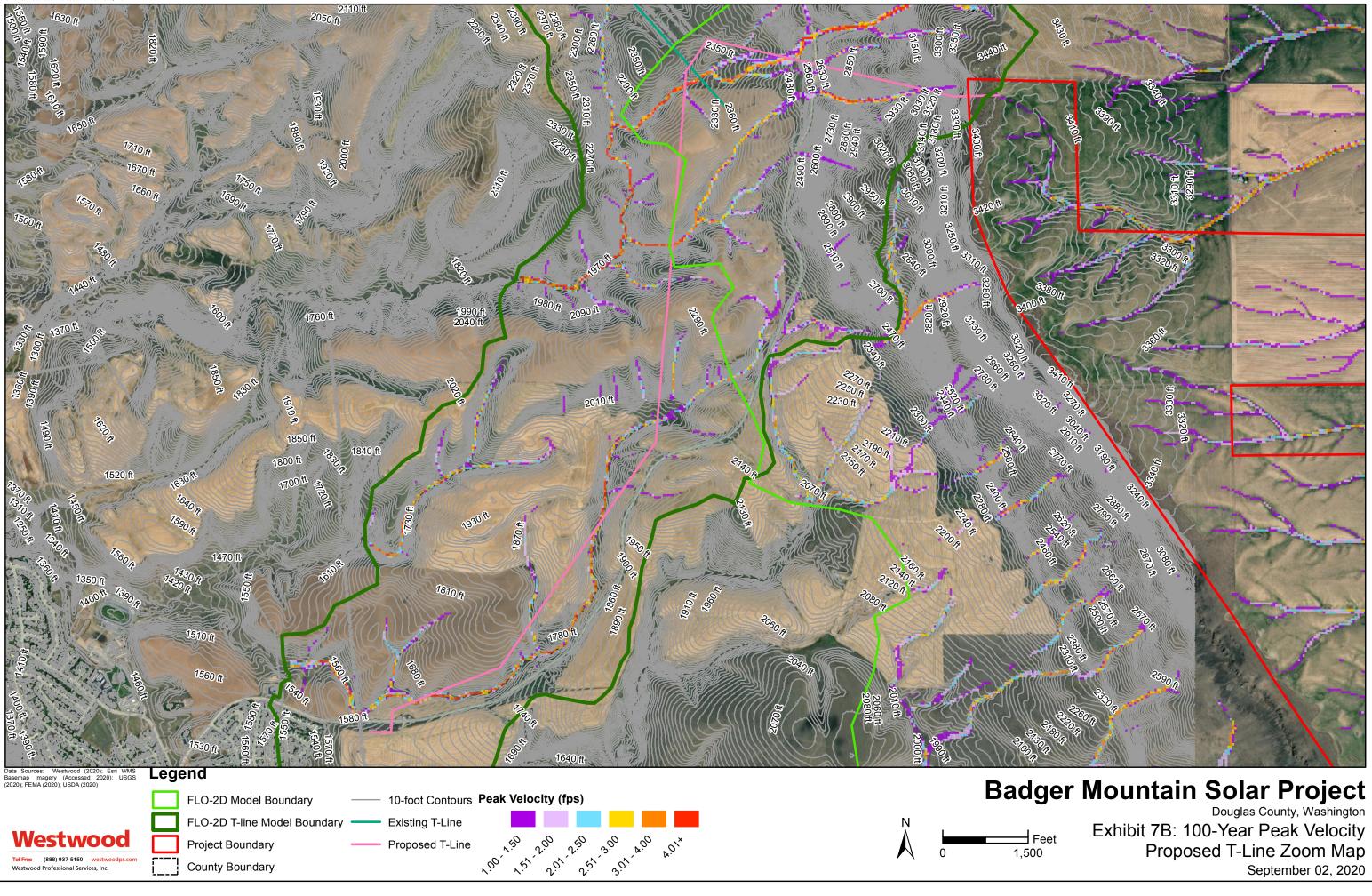




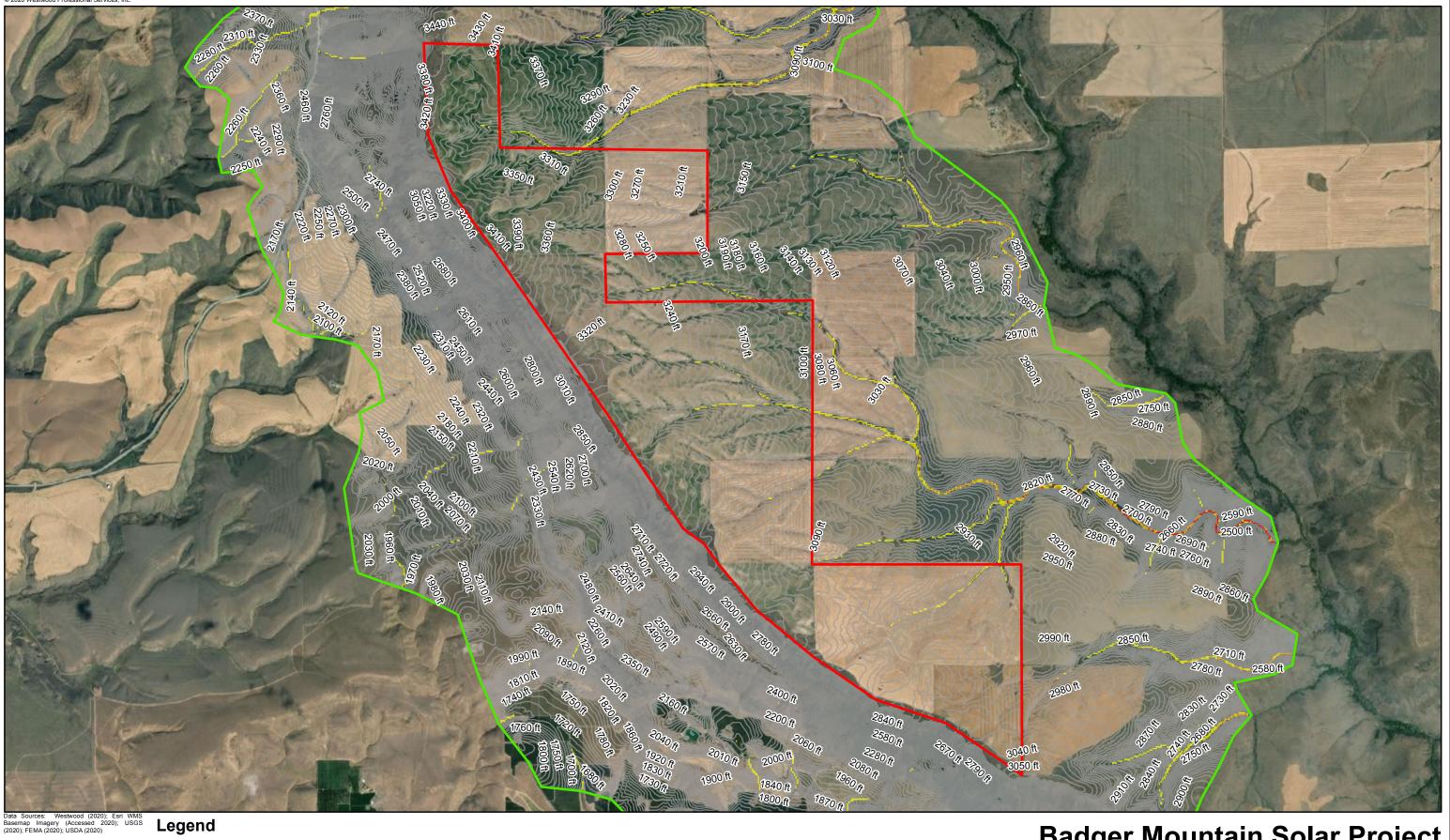
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February 20, 2020





September 02, 2020



Westwood

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(888) 937-5150

FLO-2D Model Boundary Scour (ft)

Project Boundary

10-foot Contours

County Boundary

1.00 - 1.50

1.51 - 2.00

2.01+

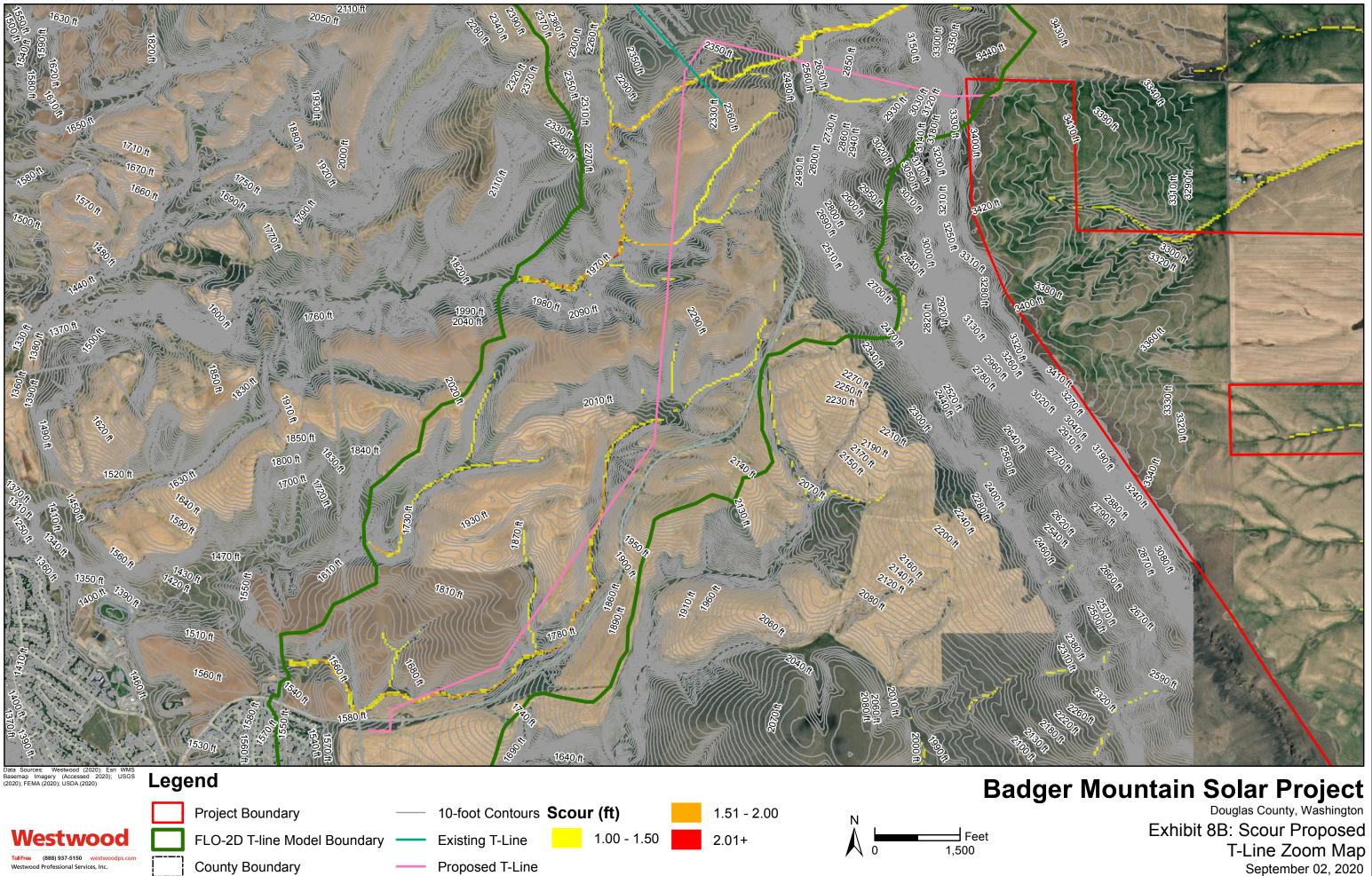


Badger Mountain Solar Project Douglas County, Washington

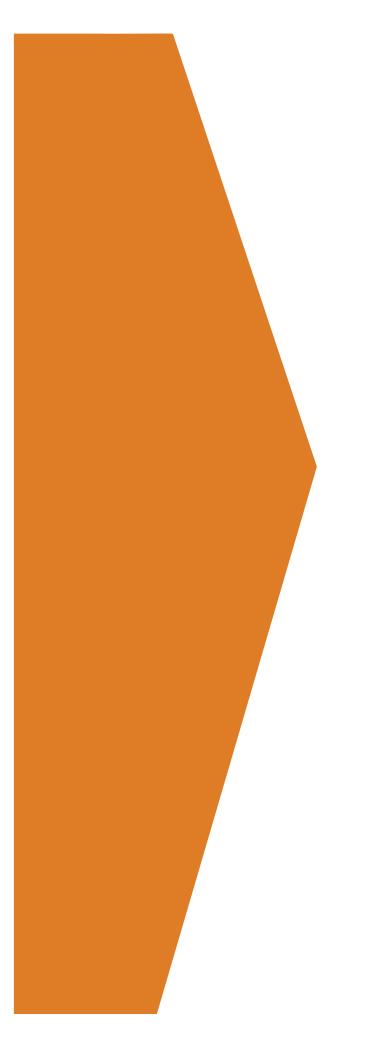
Exhibit 8A: Scour Project Area Map

August 31, 2020

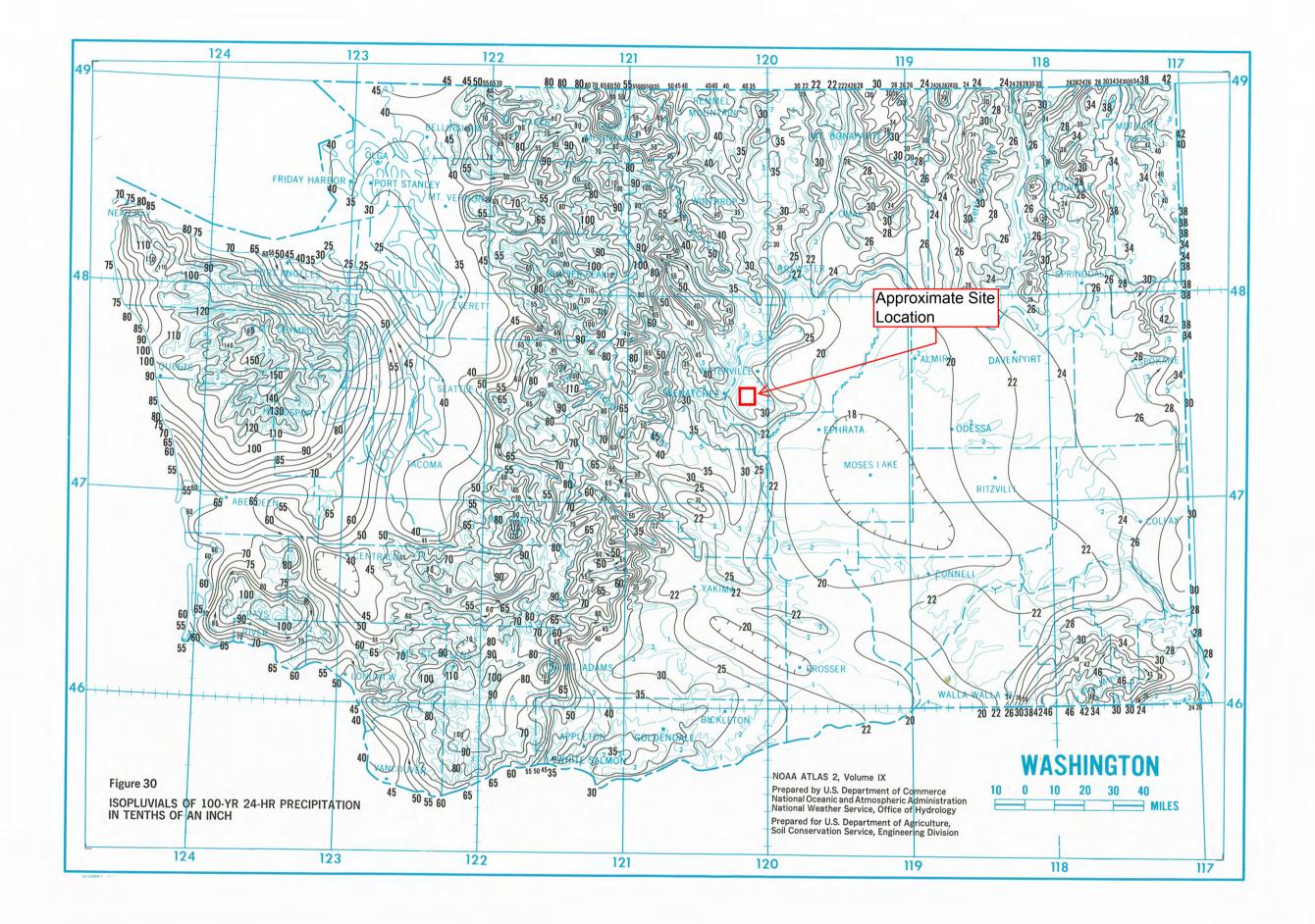




September 02, 2020



Appendix A Rainfall Data



Appendix B *Curve Number Table*

Table 2. Semi-Arid Curve Numbers (adapted from NEH 630)

Class			Curve Number Soil Type*						
	Value	Classification Description	A	В	С	D	w		
ter		Open Water - areas of open water, generally with less than 25% cover of vegetation or soil.	98	9	8 98	3 98			
Water	12	Perennial Ice/Snow - areas characterized by a perennial cover of ice and/or snow, generally greater than 25% of total cover.	98	9	8 98	98	1		
		Developed, Open Space - areas with a mixture of some constructed materials, but mostly vegetation in the form of lawn grasses. Impervious surfaces account for less than 20% of total cover. These areas most commonly include large-lot single-family housing units, parks, golf courses, and vegetation planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes	46	6	5 77	/ 82	. 1		
Developed	22	Developed, Low Intensity - areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 20% to 49% percent of total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.	61	7	5 83	8 87	1		
Deve	23	Developed, Medium Intensity – areas with a mixture of constructed materials and vegetation. Impervious surfaces account for 50% to 79% of the total cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units.	77	8	5 90) 95	1		
	24	Developed High Intensity -highly developed areas where people reside or work in high numbers. Examples include apartment complexes, row houses and commercial/industrial. Impervious surfaces account for 80% to 100% of the total cover.	89	9	2 94	95	1		
Barren	31	Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay) - areas of bedrock, desert pavement, scarps, talus, slides, volcanic material, glacial debris, sand dunes, strip mines, gravel pits and other accumulations of earthen material. Generally, vegetation accounts for less than 15% of total cover.	77	8	6 91	94	1		
		Deciduous Forest - areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. More than 75% of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change.	43		-) 77			
Forest	42	Evergreen Forest - areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. More than 75% of the tree species maintain their leaves all year. Canopy is never without green foliage.	43	5	5 70) 77	1		
	43	Mixed Forest - areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% of total vegetation cover. Neither deciduous nor evergreen species are greater than 75% of total tree cover.	43	5	5 70) 77	1		
land	51	Dwarf Scrub - Alaska only areas dominated by shrubs less than 20 centimeters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20% of total vegetation. This type is often co-associated with grasses, sedges, herbs, and non-vascular vegetation.	55	7	1 81	89	1		
Shrubland	52	Shrub/Scrub - areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall with shrub canopy typically greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class includes true shrubs, young trees in an early successional stage or trees stunted from environmental conditions.	55	7	1 81	89	1		
sn	71	Grassland/Herbaceous - areas dominated by gramanoid or herbaceous vegetation, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation. These areas are not subject to intensive management such as tilling, but can be utilized for grazing.	55	7	1 81	89	1		
Herbaceous	72	Sedge/Herbaceous - Alaska only areas dominated by sedges and forbs, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation. This type can occur with significant other grasses or other grass like plants, and includes sedge tundra, and sedge tussock tundra.	55	7	1 81	89	1		
Her	73	Lichens - Alaska only areas dominated by fruticose or foliose lichens generally greater than 80% of total vegetation.	55	7	1 81	89	-		
	74	Moss - Alaska only areas dominated by mosses, generally greater than 80% of total vegetation.	55						
d d		Pasture/Hay – areas of grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or the production of seed or hay crops, typically on a perennial cycle. Pasture/hay vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation.	55	7	1 81	89	,		
Planted/Culti vated	82	Cultivated Crops – areas used for the production of annual crops, such as corn, soybeans, vegetables, tobacco, and cotton, and also perennial woody crops such as orchards and vineyards. Crop vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of total vegetation. This class also includes all land being actively tilled	67						
Ĩ	83	Small Grains	63						
wetlan ds		Woody Wetlands - areas where forest or shrubland vegetation accounts for greater than 20% of vegetative cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.	45		6 77	/ 83			
d d		Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands - Areas where perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for greater than 80% of vegetative cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.	45	6	6 77	83			

*A/D, B/D and C/D soils lumped as D soils, W denotes water **Curve Numbers for NLCD Codes 41-43 have been increased from 30 to 43 as many of these areas are partially grazed Woods-grass combination.

Appendix C *FEMA Firm Panels*

