## Exhibit F NDDB Determination



7/21/2023

Blake Nicholson VINEYARD SKY FARMS CORP 222 S 9th St Minneapolis, MN 55402 blake.nicholson@ecosenergy.com Subject: Borrelli Solar

Filing #: 98550

NDDB - Request Additional Info

We have received the materials that you submitted pursuant to a Natural Diversity Data Base review request for the project referenced above, however, additional information is required in order to make a determination.

The following species has been documented in the vicinity of your project site: Sand blackberry (Rubus cuneifolius) – State Special Concern

- Habitat: Old fields, utility transmission corridors, roadsides, openings in woods, red cedar woodlands. Often on dry sandy or rocky soils, less often on moderately well drained soils. Critical habitats include Acidic and Subacidic Rocky Summit/Outcrop, Sand Barren
- Flowers May Jul. Identifiable based on vegetative characters.

In order to complete your request and to prevent impacts to State-listed species, field surveys of the site should be performed by a qualified botanist with the appropriate scientific collecting permits at a time when these target species is identifiable. A report summarizing the results of such surveys should include:

- 1. Survey date(s) and duration.
- 2. Descriptions and representative photographs of the habitats occurring on the site.
- 3. List of component vascular plant species within the survey area (including scientific binomials).
- 4. Good quality photographs of any state listed plants found, which show the identifying characters clearly.
- 5. A discussion of the identifying characters that distinguish each listed species from other similar species. This discussion should demonstrate a thorough understanding of all the salient identifying characters of each target species.
- 6. Data regarding population numbers and/or area occupied by State-listed species. Include special plant and/or animal forms found at: Contribute Data to the NDDB (ct.gov)
- 7. Detailed maps of the area surveyed including the survey route and locations of State listed species.
- 8. Conservation strategies or protection plans that indicate how impacts may be avoided for all state listed plant species present on the site.
- 9. Statement/résumé indicating the botanist's qualifications. Please be sure when you hire a consulting qualified botanist to help conduct this site survey that they have the proper experience with the target species.

The site survey report should be sent to our CT DEEP-NDDB Program (deep.nddbrequest@ct.gov) for further review by our program biologists. Incomplete reports may not be accepted.

If you do not intend to do site surveys to determine the presence or absence of state-listed species, then you should presume species are present and let us know how you will protect the state-listed species from being









impacted by this project. Please be sure these protection plans are developed by a taxonomic expert (botanist) familiar with Connecticut plants. After reviewing your new NDDB request form and the documents describing how you will protect these species from project impacts we will make a final determination and provide you with a letter from our program.

## Please reference the filing number 98550 on all correspondence regarding this request.

The necessary materials should be sent to:

Robin Blum
CT DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
Natural Diversity Database
79 Elm Street, 6th floor
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

or submitted via email to: Robin.Blum@ct.gov

Please note that if the necessary information is not received by 09/31/2024, we will be unable to provide a determination. Materials already submitted will not be retained or returned. You will need to initiate a new review request by submitting a new and complete *Request for Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) State Listed Species Review* via DEEP's ezFile Portal. For more information and guidance on submitting a request for a Natural Diversity Data Base review visit our website. Feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Robin Blum
Wildlife Division- Natural Diversity Data Base
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
Robin.Blum@ct.gov