



# Weed Management Plan

Iyuhána Solar Project

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**Weed Management Plan**

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# 1 Introduction

Iyuhána Solar Limited Partnership (Iyuhána Solar) is proposing to develop the Iyuhána Solar Project (the Project). The Project will be a transmission connected ground mount solar photovoltaic facility which will have a generation capacity of 100 megawatts (MW<sub>AC</sub>) located approximately 8 kilometres (km) southwest of the City of Estevan, in the Rural Municipality (RM) of Estevan No. 005 (**Figure 1**).

Iyuhána Solar, a partnership with GSI Management Inc. and Ocean Man First Nation has been awarded an exclusive Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Saskatchewan Power Corporation (SaskPower) to develop, construct, own, operate and maintain the Project for 25 years. SaskPower will have the exclusive right to purchase metered energy, Ancillary Services and Environmental Attributes under a PPA for the fixed 25-year term.

Green Cat Renewables Canada Corporation was retained by Iyuhána Solar to provide environmental consulting services for the Project and assist with the preparation of the required documents and applications to be submitted to the applicable regulatory agencies for regulatory approval. This Weed Management Plan (WMP) has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of a Development Permit application, which is currently targeted for submission to the RM of Estevan in January 2025.

## 1.1 Purpose of the Weed Management Plan

The purpose of this WMP is to describe the weed management practices to be implemented during the construction and operation (including maintenance) phases of the Project. These weed management practices were proposed based on the details of the Project, applicable regulatory requirements, and existing environmental conditions within and surrounding the Project location. This information is provided in the following sections of the WMP:

- **Section 1.2** – Project Description;
- **Section 1.3** – Regulatory Framework;
- **Section 2.0** – Existing Environmental Conditions; and
- **Section 3.0** – Weed Management Practices.

## 1.2 Project Description

The approximately 223-hectare (ha) Project site is located approximately 5 km south of Highway 18 and 7 km north of the border between Canada and the United States of America (**Figure 1**). The Project is situated entirely on lands owned by SaskPower, on which Iyuhána has secured a long-term surface land lease. The lands leased for the Project include the following quarter sections:

- Southeast quarter of Section 26, Township 01, Range 09, West of the Second Meridian (SE 26-01-09 W2M);
- SW 26-01-09 W2M;
- NE 26-01-09 W2M; and
- SE 27-01-09 W2M.

These lands comprise the Project Development Area (PDA), which is comprised of the maximum area of physical disturbance associated with the construction and operation phases of the Project.



Figure 1: Project Location

The key infrastructure required for the Project include the following components (based on the current preliminary site layout):

- Approximately 197,932 photovoltaic (PV) modules, each with a power output of 655 watts;
- Approximately 7,074 PV tables with racking systems mounted over helical piles installed to a depth that will be determined during final engineering and design;
- Approximately 27 string inverters connected via an underground cable collector system;
- A high voltage transformer substation, will be constructed in the southwest corner of the PDA, which will transform the 34.5kV electricity up to 230kV to match the voltage of the local SaskPower grid;
- Interconnection infrastructure at the Point of Interconnection (POI) within the substation, at which point the Project will connect to SaskPower’s overhead transmission system;
- Gravel access roads, approximately 6 m in width, which will be used to access each PV table block;
- Approximately 12 km of chain-link perimeter fence with double-swing entry gates, which will be approximately 2.1 m in height, and will enclose all Project components; and
- Six laydown areas, comprising a total area of approximately 7.4 ha within the PDA, which will be used to stage equipment and materials during construction. All laydown areas will be reclaimed and revegetated following construction, with the exception of the area beside the substation, which would be left for operations and maintenance purposes.

During construction, soil disturbance will be minimized to the extent that is required to install the Project infrastructure. However, some localized topsoil stripping and subsoil grading will be required for development of the access roads and substation area. Although not anticipated, any contouring of the Project area during the decommissioning phase will be determined in consultation with the landowner to support returning the Project area to an equivalent land capability.

## 1.3 Regulatory Framework

Iyuhána Solar has chosen to self-declare the Project as a “development”, as defined under Section 2(d) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. On September 30, 2024, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV) issued a Ministerial Determination to Iyuhána Solar acknowledging this self-declaration. Therefore, the Project is required to undergo an environmental assessment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be submitted for regulatory and public review, upon which a Ministerial Decision will be issued for the Project. Iyuhána Solar has targeted December 2024 for the EIS submission to ENV; it is anticipated that the Ministerial Decision will be issued by ENV in March 2025.

The Project’s location, proposed activities and components were assessed as they pertain to federal assessment legislation, and it was determined that no federal criteria were triggered as defined under the federal *Impact Assessment Act* (Government of Canada 2019a), as the Project is not located on federal lands, and solar energy projects are not considered designated projects under the *Physical Activities Regulations* (Government of Canada 2019b). Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment report for federal review will not be carried forward for the Project.

### 1.3.1 Other Legislation, Guidance or Constitutional Requirements

In addition to the provincial assessment legislation, the Project may be subject to other federal, provincial and municipal legislative regulatory requirements, as summarized below in **Table 1**.



**Table 1: Summary of Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Approvals**

Legislation	Regulatory Agency	Approval or Permit Required	Relevance
<b>Federal Regulatory Requirements</b>			
<i>Fisheries Act, 1985</i> (amended 2019)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Letter of Advice or Authorization	<p>Applies to projects conducted in or near waterbodies and watercourses that are part of or that support commercial, recreational and Indigenous fisheries. The Act requires that projects avoid causing serious harm to fish, unless authorized. The Act also provides standard measures and mitigation to avoid causing serious harm to fish.</p> <p>The Project infrastructure is not proposed to interact with waterbodies or watercourses that are fish-bearing.</p>
<i>Migratory Birds Convention Act and Regulations, 1994</i>	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	Not Applicable	<p>Applies to all lands where migratory birds breed and nest; prohibits the disruption or loss of active migratory bird nests. It prohibits the taking of migratory birds, their eggs or nests unless permitted.</p> <p>Strategies such as Project siting considerations, timing of construction and pre-construction surveys will be utilized to avoid the disruption or loss of active migratory bird nests.</p>
<i>Species at Risk Act, 2002 (SARA)</i>	ECCC	Not Applicable	<p>Protects endangered or threatened species and their habitats in Canada. SARA outlines the methods for steps that need to be taken to help protect existing habitat and recover threatened habitats.</p> <p>Mitigation or avoidance of SARA-listed species for infrastructure siting reflect the Saskatchewan Activity Restriction Guidelines for Sensitive Species (ENV 2017) to avoid disturbance of SARA-listed species.</p>
<b>Saskatchewan Provincial Regulatory Requirements</b>			
<i>Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010</i>	ENV; Water Security Agency (WSA)	Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit (AHPP)	<p>Provides for the protection of aquatic habitat from development or alterations to waterbodies or watercourses.</p> <p>An AHPP will be required for wetlands that may be impacted by construction activities.</p>
<i>Heritage Property Act, 1980</i>	Heritage Conservation Branch (HCB)	Clearance Letter, Archaeological Investigation Permit	<p>Protects and conserves heritage resources on provincial and municipal lands.</p> <p>The Project area was screened for heritage sensitivities using the HCB Developer’s Online Screening Tool (Government of Saskatchewan 2024a). Based on the screening results the lands on which the Project is located are not heritage sensitive; therefore, no approvals or permits pertaining to heritage resources are required for the Project.</p> <p>The Project will be screened again using the HCB Developer’s Online Screening Tool (Government of Saskatchewan 2024a) within six months of construction commencing to ensure that the heritage sensitivity status has not changed.</p>

Legislation	Regulatory Agency	Approval or Permit Required	Relevance
<i>The Plant Health Act, 2024</i>	Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture	Not Applicable	Governs the control and destruction of certain pests, as designated by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, such as clubroot.  Measures will be implemented to control and eradicate pests, as required, during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project.
<i>Weed Control Act, 2010</i>	Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture	Not Applicable	The <i>Weed Control Act</i> designates weeds into three categories: Prohibited, Noxious and Nuisance. The objective of the Act is to promote early detection and eradication of these weeds.  Measures will be implemented during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project to control and eradicate weeds in accordance with this Act and its regulations.
<i>The Wildlife Act, 1998</i>	ENV – Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch	Species Detection Research Permits	This Act protects designated plant and animal species at risk from being disturbed, collected, harvested, captured, killed, sold or exported without a permit.  Species Detection Research Permits were obtained through the Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch of ENV for the 2022 and 2024 field seasons as per the requirements in those years for field surveys completed, and in accordance with this Act. Mitigation or avoidance may be required if species at risk are identified within the Project area.
<i>The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act (WHPA), 1992</i>	ENV – Fish, Wildlife and Lands Branch	Crown Land Clearance	This Act allows the protection of wildlife habitat on Crown Land within the agricultural region.  Permitting or crossing agreements may be required for any potential alteration to protected lands. Project infrastructure is not proposed to encounter any WHPA-designated lands.
<i>The Saskatchewan Employment Act, 2013</i>	Saskatchewan Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety	Not Applicable	This Act provides employment standards, occupational health and safety, labour relations, and related matters for workers in Saskatchewan.  All Project activities will comply with the standards and requirements provided in <i>The Saskatchewan Employment Act</i> .
<i>Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020</i>	Saskatchewan Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety	Not Applicable	These Regulations provide standards and requirements to protect the health, safety, and well-being of workers in Saskatchewan.  All Project activities will comply with the standards and requirements provided in The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.



Legislation	Regulatory Agency	Approval or Permit Required	Relevance
<p><i>The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997</i></p>	<p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways</p>	<p>Overweight and Over Dimensional Load Permit</p>	<p>This Act includes governance of the movement of loads that exceed what is normally permitted to travel on provincial roads.</p> <p>An Overweight and Over Dimensional Load Permit may be required during construction to allow the movement of trucks carrying heavy equipment and Project components on provincial roads. The Proponent will contact the Trucking Policy and Regulations team of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways if additional information is required, and permits will be obtained prior to construction.</p>
<p><b>Municipal Regulatory Requirements</b></p>			
<p><i>The Planning and Development Act, 2007</i></p>	<p>Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations; RM of Estevan</p>	<p>Development Permit; Zoning Bylaw Amendment</p>	<p>This Act allows the RM to address land use and development issues through the adoption of an official community plan and zoning bylaw.</p> <p>The Proponent has engaged with the RM of Estevan to determine the development permit requirements for the Project. The RM of Estevan has established an Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 4-2014), which was amended on May 27, 2024, under Bylaw No. 2024-02 to include a policy on the specific zoning districts within which commercial/industrial renewable energy projects shall be considered.</p> <p>RM of Estevan also has a Zoning Bylaw in place (Bylaw No. 5-2014), which was amended on April 12, 2024, under Bylaw 2024-03, for the development of renewable energy projects. Commercial/industrial renewable energy projects are listed under discretionary uses in the Agricultural/Resource zone under the Zoning Bylaw.</p>

## 2 Existing Environmental Conditions

The WMP includes a high-level description of the existing environmental conditions within the PDA and surrounding area to provide context for the conditions upon which the proposed vegetation management practices were developed. Information on the existing environmental conditions was obtained through a desktop assessment and completion of environmental field surveys. A detailed description of the methods and results of the desktop assessment and environmental field surveys is included in the EIS that will be submitted for Ministerial Decision.

### 2.1 Topography and Soils

The Project is located within the Dark Brown Soil Zone, which is typically found in the prairies of central and southern Saskatchewan. Overall, soils in the PDA have moderately severe limitations that restrict the range of crop growth or require special conservation practices (Class 3) and are typically moisture deficient (Subclass M). The Saskatchewan Soil Information System (SKSIS; SKSIS Working Group 2018) web viewer was used to identify soil polygons overlapping with the PDA. A review of the SKSIS identified that Brooking and Asquith soils occur within the PDA (SKSIS Working Group 2018). These soils are generally characterized as a mixture of dark brown Chernozemic and Solonetzic soils, with strongly saline conditions limited to the bottoms of dissections and drainage channels (SKSIS Working Group 2018).

A review of the Hunting, Angling, and Biodiversity Saskatchewan (HABISask) database (ENV 2024) revealed that no confirmed cases of the clubroot soil pathogen have been reported within the PDA or the surrounding areas. Preventative measures will be implemented during Project construction to mitigate the potential for the introduction of clubroot and other soil-borne pathogens into the PDA, including cleaning vehicles and equipment prior to arrival on-site, and completing vehicles and equipment inspections throughout construction.

### 2.2 Vegetation and Wetlands

Land cover within the PDA and surrounding area has been extensively modified by anthropogenic activity and primarily consists of cultivated cropland. The extent of native vegetation communities in the PDA is limited to temporary wetland communities that have been heavily disturbed by agricultural practices, similar to the surrounding landscape. Native treed vegetation communities are generally absent from the PDA; however, several shelterbelts comprised of planted trees (i.e., trembling aspen [*Populus tremuloides*] and green ash [*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*]) and shrubs (i.e., caragana [*Caragana aborescens*]) were observed in the PDA during field surveys. In the spring of 2024, lands within the PDA were seeded with an annual cereal crop (which was harvested in the fall of 2024), along with a perennial forage crop (i.e., alfalfa [*Medicago sativa*]), which will continue to establish and be utilized for agricultural purposes prior to commencing construction.

Two vascular plant species tracked by the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (SKCDC) were identified within the PDA during the 2022 rare vascular plant surveys. Least mouse-tail (*Myosurus minimus*) was observed in two locations, and aster-like boltonia (*Boltonia asteroides* var. *recognita*) was observed at one location within the PDA. Both of these species have a provincial ranking of S3 (vulnerable/rare to uncommon) by the SKCDC (SKCDC 2024a; 2024b); however, neither species are federally listed under SARA. These plant occurrences were considered during Project design and will be avoided by Project components.

The PDA and surrounding area were screened using the iMapInvasives online database (NatureServe 2024) to identify previously documented occurrences of noxious or prohibited weed species included under the provincial *Weed Control Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 2010). No noxious or prohibited weed species have been previously

recorded and submitted to iMapInvasives. The following noxious weed species were observed in the PDA and/or surrounding area during the field surveys:

- Absinthe wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*);
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*);
- Slender leafy spurge (*Euphorbia virgata*);
- Prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*); and
- Perennial sow-thistle (*Sonchus arvensis* ssp. *arvensis*).

No prohibited weed species were observed during the field surveys.

Wetland classification surveys were completed within the PDA and surrounding area, which included a combination of desktop and field-based mapping and classification. Wetlands were classified according to the Stewart and Kantrud (1971) classification system. A total of 20 wetlands are encountered by the PDA, either partially or entirely. The majority of these wetlands were classified as Class II (i.e., temporary) wetlands, which typically do not hold water longer than a few weeks following spring thaw or storm events. These wetlands have been historically impacted by agricultural practices and are typically cultivated and seeded with agronomic crops in dry seasons when ground conditions allow access for equipment. The remaining wetlands encountered by the PDA are Class III (i.e., seasonal) or Class IV (i.e., semi-permanent) wetlands, which typically hold surface water throughout the majority of a normal growing season. These wetlands with higher permanence were considered during Project design and will be avoided by Project components.

No watercourses were identified within the PDA or surrounding area during field surveys.

### 2.3 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Agricultural lands may provide some elements of suitable habitat for wildlife species. They provide passage for some wildlife species travelling across the landscape and serve as a food source for species that feed on annual and perennial forage crops. However, agricultural lands are generally considered to be low in overall habitat suitability for wildlife, due to the regular disturbance from agricultural practices during the breeding or nesting periods for most wildlife species, and the lack of thermal or protective cover.

Within the Project area, suitable wildlife habitat is limited to wetlands and tree/shrub shelterbelts, which are isolated and surrounded by cultivated cropland. The Project lands do not overlap any designated wildlife conservation lands, including wind energy project avoidance zones, Crown lands designated under the WHPA, Fish and Wildlife Development Fund designated lands, registered Crown Conservation Easements, or National Wildlife Areas. The nearest designated lands include WHPA designated lands, which are located approximately 3.2 km north of the PDA, and the Buffalograss Grasslands Important Plant Area, which is located approximately 4.8 km north of the PDA.

In 2024, lands within the PDA were seeded with an annual cereal crop (which was harvested in the fall of 2024), along with a perennial forage crop (i.e., alfalfa), which will continue to establish and be utilized for agricultural purposes prior to commencing construction.

## 3 Weed Management Practices

The following sections detail the weed management practices to be implemented during the construction and operation phases of the Project.

### 3.1 Management Practices during Construction

#### 3.1.1 Roles and Responsibilities

##### **Iyuhána Solar – Project Owner**

As the owner and operator of the Project, Iyuhána Solar is ultimately responsible for the Project schedule, scope and budget. Iyuhána Solar's Project Manager and Director of Engineering will provide Project oversight to ensure that all construction and operations activities will meet the relevant federal, provincial and municipal regulatory requirements, as well as its corporate standards.

##### **Environmental Monitor**

Iyuhána Solar will retain the services of a qualified Environmental Monitor during Project construction. The Environmental Monitor will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Monitoring construction activities to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements as well as Project-specific management and mitigation plans;
- Review management and mitigation plans regularly and recommend updates as required;
- Ensure that environmental concerns are appropriately documented;
- Report any non-compliance to Iyuhána Solar personnel, and work with the Construction Contractor to correct the non-compliance;
- Conduct regular site inspections to identify environmental issues (e.g., noxious weed infestations, excessive disturbance to soil and/or vegetation communities), and work with Iyuhána Solar personnel and the Construction Contractor to implement appropriate corrective actions;
- Record any corrective actions and track them to completion; and
- Provide guidance and recommendations during reclamation of disturbed areas once construction of the permanent solar energy infrastructure is complete, with the objective to return the PDA to an equivalent land capability upon decommissioning.

##### **Construction Project Manager – Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Contractor**

The Construction Project Manager will oversee the execution of construction activities and will ensure that all necessary licences and approvals are obtained prior to the commencement of construction. The Construction Project Manager will be responsible to ensure that the management practices included in the WMP are implemented and will work with Iyuhána Solar and the Environmental Monitor to appropriately address any areas of non-compliance.

#### 3.1.2 Pre-Construction Meeting

Prior to commencement of construction, a pre-construction meeting shall be held with Iyuhána Solar personnel, the Environmental Monitor, and the Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractor for the Project. During the meeting, the key environmental issues will be discussed, including those included in the WMP, to inform Project

personnel about the regulatory requirements applicable to the Project, specific environmental concerns and the planned mitigation measures to be implemented during construction.

### 3.1.3 Environmental Training

Environmental training shall be provided to field level Project personnel as part of the site orientation, prior to starting work. This training will be provided by the Construction Contractor, following review by Iyuhána Solar personnel and the Environmental Monitor, and will include the management practices outlined in the WMP.

### 3.1.4 Project Vehicle and Equipment Operation

All vehicles and equipment used during Project construction will arrive on-site in a clean and well-maintained condition, and will be free of leaks, oil and grease residue to reduce the potential for soil contamination. Further, vehicles and equipment will be free of soil and vegetative debris and propagules, to mitigate the potential for the introduction of invasive weeds or soil-borne diseases. In the event that vehicles or equipment arrive to the Project site in an unacceptable condition (e.g., exhibiting signs of leaks or not properly cleaned), they will be denied access to the site until they are properly repaired or washed.

During construction, all vehicles and equipment will be regularly inspected to ensure they are being properly maintained and cleaned.

### 3.1.5 Soil Management

Proper soil management is a critical component of the WMP, as soil provides the medium on which vegetation is established. Where soil quality and/or quantity is affected by inadequate or improper management practices, the establishment of a healthy vegetation community may also be thereby affected.

During construction, soil disturbance will be limited to the extents required for the installation of Project infrastructure. Where soil disturbance is required, the following soil management measures will be implemented:

- Construction activities will be halted during extreme weather events (e.g., heavy precipitation) to avoid rutting and compaction that could lead to topsoil loss or erosion;
- Topsoil will be salvaged and stored separately on disturbed topsoil, to prevent soil admixing and maintain soil integrity;
- Where grading is required, subsoil will be stockpiled on areas where topsoil has been previously removed, or on stable barriers to prevent soil admixing;
- Soil stockpiles left for longer than 30 days will be covered or stabilized by seeding, mulching, or equivalent;
- Soil stockpiles will be placed outside of areas of natural surface drainage patterns to avoid erosion and sediment transportation;
- Appropriate erosion and sediment control measures (e.g., sediment fencing, check dams, matting) will be implemented to prevent sediment transfer from construction areas into undisturbed areas;
- Following construction, graded non-operational areas of the Project site will be contoured to a stable surface profile that is consistent with natural drainage patterns;
- During post-construction reclamation, soil compaction can be alleviated by deep ploughing subsoils prior to replacement of salvaged topsoil; and

- Salvaged topsoil will be replaced on stripped areas with minimal soil handling to maintain soil integrity and prevent admixing.

### 3.1.6 Weed Management

The objective of weed management during construction is to implement appropriate measures to prevent the establishment of new weed populations or increase the areas of infestation of known weed populations in the Project area. This will be accomplished by the following weed management measures:

- All vehicles and equipment will arrive to the Project free of soil and vegetative debris and propagules, to mitigate the potential for the introduction of invasive weeds;
- The Project site will be inspected for invasive weeds prior to construction. Identified areas of infestation will be documented, marked on-site, communicated to on-site Project personnel, and avoided where possible;
- Where avoidance of areas of weed infestation is not possible, soil stripped from infested areas will be salvaged and stockpiled separately from other stockpiles to avoid unnecessarily spreading weed propagules into non-infested areas of the site;
- Weed control by mechanical (i.e., mowing, hand-pulling) or chemical (i.e., spraying) treatment will be undertaken during construction as required. Chemical treatment will be completed by provincially licensed personnel approved by Iyuhána Solar, and will be completed in accordance with *The Pest Control Products Act* (Government of Saskatchewan 1978);
- Equipment used for stripping soil from areas of known noxious weed infestation should be diligently cleaned with hand tools (i.e., shovels, brooms), compressed air, or using a dedicated wash station, as appropriate, to prevent unnecessarily spreading weed propagules into non-infested areas of the site;
- Aggregate or other fill material required for construction will be sourced from areas free of noxious or invasive weeds;
- Access matting or other similar barriers will be used in areas of weed infestation that cannot be avoided by vehicle or equipment traffic, as appropriate, to limit the spread of infestation;
- Weed growth on stockpiled topsoil will be monitored during the course of construction, and mitigation measures (e.g., spraying) will be conducted as appropriate;
- Following construction, topsoil will be replaced and seeded as quickly as possible to limit the establishment of weed populations on the disturbed soil.

### 3.1.7 Clubroot Management

Clubroot is a soil-borne disease that impacts canola, mustard, and other plants in the brassica family. The disease is often spread between locations through equipment transportation, vehicles, and personnel movement.

While provincial reports on cumulative clubroot infestations have not identified clubroot in the RM of Estevan (ENV 2024), the following clubroot management procedures will be implemented during construction to reduce the risk of clubroot dispersal resulting from Project activities:

- All vehicles and equipment must arrive to site in a clean condition and free of soil and vegetative debris;
- Vehicles and equipment will be inspected upon arrival to the Project to ensure they are in acceptable condition;
- If vehicles and equipment are arriving to the Project from areas known to have a clubroot infestation, they will be appropriately sanitized (e.g., using steam or a 2% bleach solution) prior to entering the Project site;



- Personnel will avoid tracking topsoil onto surfaces outside of the PDA;
- Topsoil transfer between land outside the Project boundary and land within the Project boundary will be prohibited; and
- Topsoil or vegetative debris will be mechanically removed from vehicles, equipment, and personnel footwear, prior to leaving the Project site.

### 3.1.8 Vegetation Establishment

The land on which the Project will be developed was historically used for the annual production of crops. As such, a perennial sod layer has not been established within the PDA. In 2024, the Project area was seeded with a perennial forage crop to facilitate access within the Project site and manage weeds during construction and operation. An established perennial vegetation community will also preserve soil integrity within the PDA for the duration of the operation phase, by stabilizing the soil and preventing erosion and sediment transfer. This will in turn facilitate final reclamation objective of returning the Project area to an equivalent land capability (i.e., agricultural production) upon decommissioning.

Upon completion of construction and final grading, disturbed topsoil within the PDA will be prepared for reseeding by discing or harrowing, to improve seed-to-soil contact and facilitate seed germination. As the Project is located on previously cultivated agricultural land, the Project site will be seeded with a blend of alfalfa varieties (i.e., creeping root alfalfa and tap root alfalfa). Only Canada No. 1 grade (Common or Certified) seed will be used for vegetation establishment on the PDA. Areas of the PDA requiring seeding will be drill-seeded where possible, and broadcast seeding will be used for areas inaccessible to drill-seeding equipment.

## 3.2 Management Practices during Operation

During the operation phase of the Project, Iyuhána Solar will manage vegetation within the PDA, primarily by mowing one or more times per year to maintain a vegetation height suitable for Project operation. To prevent excessive soil disturbance (i.e., rutting or soil compaction), mowing will not occur within 24 hours following heavy rainfall events.

### 3.2.1 Weed Management

Throughout the operational phase of the Project, Iyuhána Solar personnel will continue to monitor and manage weed populations within and surrounding the PDA as required. Weed management will include mechanical treatment (i.e., mowing, hand-pulling) or chemical treatment (i.e., spraying) as required and as determined by the weed species, and the extent and density of the area of infestation. If required, chemical treatment will be completed by trained and licensed chemical applicators and completed using appropriate personal protective equipment.

### 3.2.2 Clubroot Management

During operation, Project personnel will continue the clubroot management practices that will be implemented during construction, as described in **Section 3.1.7**.

## 3.3 Project Decommissioning and Final Reclamation

Upon completion of operations, the entirety of the Project facility will be decommissioned and the site restored to a state similar, or better, to that of pre-construction, where traditional agricultural land-use can continue at the property. The lands on which the Project is located will be reclaimed to a land use capability that will be determined through discussions between the Proponent and the landowner, prior to commencing with decommissioning activities.

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## Weed Management Plan

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