

**REPORT REQUIRED BY TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 399.009**  
**FOR PROPOSED PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAM**

This Report is adopted by the County Commissioners Court for Smith County, Texas (“**Local Government**”) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program (**the “Program”**) in accordance with the requirements of the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (**the “PACE Act”**) as set forth in Texas Local Government Code Chapter 399.

The Local Government and its constituents benefit when older existing buildings are modified with new technology and equipment that increases energy efficiency and reduces water consumption. As described in this Report, the Local Government is establishing the commercial PACE Program to encourage private sector investment in energy efficiency and water conservation. The PACE Program will be offered to property owners on a strictly voluntary basis and will not require the use of any public funds or resources.

Authorized under the PACE Act enacted in 2013, the PACE program is an innovative financing program that enables private sector owners of privately owned commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential properties with five or more dwelling units to obtain low-cost, long-term loans to pay for water conservation, energy-efficiency improvements, and renewable energy retrofits. PACE loans provide up to 100% financing of all project costs, with little or no up-front out-of-pocket cost to the owner. The Local Government has chosen to follow the administrative principles, program processes, and model documents of the uniform Texas PACE in a Box model program.<sup>1</sup>

Loans made under the PACE Program will be secured by assessments on the property that are voluntarily imposed by the owner. Assessments may be amortized over the projected life of the improvements. The utility cost savings derived from improvements financed with PACE loans are expected to equal or exceed the amount of the assessment. In turn, these improvements are able to generate positive cash flow upon installation because the debt service will be less than the savings.

PACE assessments are tied to the property and follow title from one owner to the next. Each owner is responsible only for payment of the assessments accruing during its period of ownership. When the property is sold, the payment obligation for the remaining balance of the assessment is transferred automatically to the next owner. As a result, the program will help property owners overcome market barriers that often discourage investment in energy efficiency and water conservation improvements.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.keepingpaceintexas.org/pace-in-a-box>

## 1. Eligible Properties

The Local Government's PACE program is a strictly voluntary program. All private sector owners of Eligible Properties located within the Local Government's PACE region may participate in PACE financing. "*Eligible Properties*" include commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential properties with five or more dwelling units. Government, residential<sup>2</sup>, and undeveloped property and property undergoing development at the time of the assessment are not Eligible Properties.

## 2. Qualified Improvements

PACE financing may be used to pay for Qualified Improvements to Eligible Properties. "*Qualified Improvements*" are permanent improvements intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand, including a product, device, or interacting group of products or devices on the customer's side of the meter that use energy technology to generate electricity, provide thermal energy, or regulate temperature. Under the PACE Act, products or devices that are not permanently fixed to real property are not considered to be Qualified Improvements.

The following items may constitute Qualified Improvements:

- High efficiency heating, ventilating and air conditioning ("HVAC") systems
- High efficiency chillers, boilers, and furnaces
- High efficiency water heating systems
- Energy management systems and controls
- Distributed generation systems
- High efficiency lighting system upgrades
- Building enclosure and envelope improvements
- Water conservation and wastewater recovery and reuse systems
- Combustion and burner upgrades
- Heat recovery and steam traps
- Water management systems and controls (indoor and outdoor)
- High efficiency irrigation equipment

## 3. Benefits of PACE to Property Owners

The PACE program will enable owners of Eligible Properties to overcome traditional barriers to capital investments in energy efficiency and water conservation improvements, such as unattractive returns on investment, split incentives between landlords and tenants, and uncertainty of recouping the investment upon sale of the property.

By financing Qualified Improvements through the program, property owners may achieve utility cost savings that exceed the amount of the assessment and reduce their exposure to utility price volatility. As a result, the value of the property will be enhanced, and the owner will only be obligated to pay the assessment installments that accrue during its period of ownership of the property. Additionally, by investing in energy efficiency and water conservation with PACE

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<sup>2</sup> This encompasses single family residential and any multi-family properties with fewer than five units.

financing, property owners may also qualify for various rebate, tax credit, and incentive programs offered by utility providers and state or federal governmental authorities to encourage these types of investments.

#### **4. Benefits of PACE to the Local Government**

Among other things, projects financed through PACE will:

- Enable property owners and occupants to save substantial amounts in utility costs,
- Reduce demand on the electricity grid
- Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy generation
- Enhance the value and efficiency of existing buildings
- Boost the local economy by creating new job opportunities and new business opportunities for contractors, engineers, commercial lenders, professionals, and equipment vendors and manufactures
- Increase business retention and expansion in the PACE region by enabling cost effective energy and water saving updates to existing property
- Improve productivity through optimized energy usage
- Support the State's water conservation plan
- Better enable the Local Government to meet its water conservation goals

Finally, through the reduction in energy consumption as a result of the PACE program, there will be a decreased demand for power resulting in lower emissions from power plants. EPA regulations have significant impacts on air quality standards in Texas. Being non-attainment for priority pollutants in the Clean Air Act endangers federal transportation funding.

The PACE program requires minimal support from the Local Government. It is designed to be self-sustaining. Furthermore, because the PACE program is tax neutral, it achieves all of the benefits listed in this Report without imposing a burden on the Local Government's general fund.

The 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature added a provision that explicitly shields the Local Government and its employees, members of the governing body of a local government, employees of a local government, and board members, executives, employees, and contractors of a third party who enter into a contract with a local government to provide administrative services for a program under this chapter.<sup>3</sup>

#### **5. The Benefits of PACE to Lenders**

PACE loans are attractive to lenders because they are very secure investments. Like a property tax lien, the assessment lien securing the PACE loan has priority over other liens on the property. Therefore, the risk of loss from non-payment of a PACE loan is low compared to most other types of loans. PACE assessments provide lenders with an attractive new product to assist

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<sup>3</sup> TX. Local Gov't Code §399.019. In the 85th legislature, HB 2654 clarified that the personal immunity provisions apply to all elected officials performing rights and duties under chapter 399 of the Local Government Code.

existing and new customers in addressing an almost universal pent-up demand for needed commercial and industrial property equipment modernization. In order to protect the interests of holders of existing mortgage loans on the property, the PACE Act requires their written consent to the PACE assessment as a condition to obtaining a PACE loan.

## **6. The Benefits of PACE to Contractors, Engineers, and Manufacturers**

PACE loans provide attractive sources of financing for water and energy saving retrofits and upgrades, thereby encouraging property owners to make substantial investments in existing commercial and industrial buildings. As a result, PACE will unlock business opportunities for contractors, engineers, and manufacturers throughout the commercial and industrial sectors.

## **7. Administration of the Local Government PACE Program**

Under the PACE Act, the establishment and operation of the program are considered to be governmental functions.<sup>4</sup> The PACE Act further authorizes the Local Government to enter into a contract with a third party to provide administrative services for the PACE program (the “*Authorized Representative*”). The Local Government will delegate administration of the PACE program to Texas PACE Authority, a qualified, non-profit organization that can administer the program at no cost to the Local Government.

The Authorized Representative’s role is to serve as an extension of the local government staff to provide oversight of the program to ensure best practices and consumer protections at the lowest possible cost to the property owner in a transparent and ethical manner and to provide education and outreach.

The Authorized Representative will be funded by administrative fees paid by the property owners establishing a PACE project, charitable grants or other authorized sources of revenue. The Authorized Representative will not receive compensation or reimbursement from the Local Government.

## **8. Eligible Lenders**

The PACE Act does not set criteria for financial institutions or investors to be PACE lenders. The Local Government will follow best practices of other PACE programs and the Texas PACE in a Box model program by recommending that lenders be:

- Any federally insured depository institution such as a bank, savings bank, savings and loan association and federal or state credit union;
- Any insurance company authorized to conduct business in one or more states;
- Any registered investment company, registered business development company, or a Small Business Administration small business investment company;
- Any publicly traded entity; or
- Any private entity that:
  - Has a minimum net worth of \$5 million; and

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<sup>4</sup> TX Local Government Code §399.003(b)

- Has at least three years' experience in business or industrial lending or commercial real estate lending (including multifamily lending), or has a lending officer that has at least three years' experience in business or industrial lending or commercial real estate lending; and
- Can provide independent certification as to availability of funds; and
- All lenders must have the ability to carry out, either directly or through a servicer, the bookkeeping and customer service work necessary to manage the assessment accounts.

Any lender can participate in the PACE program as long as it is a financially stable entity with the ability to carry out, either directly or through a servicer, the bookkeeping and customer service work necessary to manage the assessment accounts. The property owner, not the Local Government or the Authorized Representative, selects the lender.

The Authorized Representative will not guarantee or imply that funding will automatically be provided from a third-party lender, imply or create any endorsement of, or responsibility for, any lender; or create any type of express or implied favoritism for any eligible lender.

## 9. Components of the PACE Program

As required under Section 399.009 of the PACE Act, the following describes all aspects of the PACE Program:

- a. Map of Region. A map of the boundaries of the region included in the program is attached to this Report as Exhibit 1. The region encompasses the Local Government limits.
- b. Form Contract with Owner. A form contract between the Local Government and the record owner of the Eligible Property is attached as Exhibit 2. It specifies the terms of the assessment under the PACE program and the financing to be provided by an Eligible Lender of the property owner's choosing.
- c. Form Contract with Lender. A form contract between the Local Government and the Eligible Lender chosen by a property owner is attached to this Report as Exhibit 3. It specifies the financing and servicing of the debt through assessments.

Form Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien. A form Notice of Assessment Lien to be filed by the Local Government with the County Clerk is attached to this Report as Exhibit 4.

- d. Qualified Improvement. The following types of projects are qualified improvements that may be subject to contractual assessments under the PACE program:

Projects that (a) involve the installation or modification of a permanent improvement fixed to privately owned commercial,

industrial or residential real property with five (5) or more dwelling units;<sup>5</sup> and (b) are intended to decrease energy or water consumption or demand by installing a product, device, or interacting group of products or devices on the customer's side of the meter that uses energy technology to generate electricity, provide thermal energy, or regulate temperature.<sup>6</sup>

A sample list of potential Qualified Improvements appears in Section 2 above.

The PACE program may not be used to finance improvements to undeveloped lots or lots undergoing development at the time of the assessment, or for the purchase or installation of products or devices not permanently fixed to real property.<sup>7</sup>

- e. Authorized Representative. HB 3187 was signed into law on June 16, 2015. It authorizes the Local Government to delegate administration of the PACE program to a third-party "Authorized Representative." The Local Government may delegate all official administrative responsibilities, such as the execution of individual contracts with property owners and lenders, to an Authorized Representative. This relationship will be monitored and maintained by the County Judge or his/her designee.
- f. Project Review. Track and provide a public overview with savings metrics for all PACE projects
- g. Plans for Insuring Sufficient Capital<sup>8</sup>. Lenders will extend loans to finance Qualified Improvements. Financing documents executed between owners and lenders will impose a contractual assessment on Eligible Property to repay the owner's financing of the Qualified Improvements. The lenders will ensure that property owners demonstrate the financial ability to fulfill the financial obligations to be repaid through contractual assessments.
- h. No Use of Bonds or Public Funds. The Local Government does not intend to issue bonds or use any other public monies to fund PACE projects. Property owners will obtain all financing from the Eligible Lenders they choose.
- i. Limit on Length of Loan. One of the statutory criteria of a PACE loan is that the assessment payment period cannot exceed the useful life of the Qualified Improvement that is the basis for the loan and assessment. As part of the application process, the property owners will submit an independent third-party review prepared by a licensed engineer showing the water or energy baseline

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<sup>5</sup> TX. Local Gov't Code §399.002(5).

<sup>6</sup> TX. Local Gov't Code §399.002(3).

<sup>7</sup> TX. Local Gov't Code §399.004.

<sup>8</sup> The Texas PACE Authority's website ([www.texaspaceauthority.org](http://www.texaspaceauthority.org)) offers a non-exhaustive list of interested and qualified lenders to assist property owners in funding PACE projects in Texas.

conditions and the projected water or energy savings. This review will aid the Authorized Representative in making a determination that the period of the requested assessment does not exceed the useful life of the Qualified Improvement.

- j. Application Process. The Authorized Representative will accept applications from property owners seeking to finance Qualified Improvements under the program. Each application must be accompanied by the required application fee and must include:
- (1) A description of the specific Qualified Improvements to be installed or modified on the property,
  - (2) A description of the specific real property to which the Qualified Improvements will be permanently fixed, and
  - (3) The total amount of financing, including any transaction costs, to be repaid through assessments.

Based on this information, the Authorized Representative may issue a preliminary letter indicating that, subject to verification of all requirements at closing, the proposed project appears to meet program requirements. Based on this preliminary letter, the property owner may initiate an independent third-party review of the project and submit the project to Eligible Lenders for approval of financing.

Once the above processes are completed, the property owner will submit the application to the Authorized Representative to obtain preliminary approval. The property owner is expected to produce the following documentation prior to closing on the PACE loan:

- (1) A Report conducted by a qualified, independent third-party reviewer, showing water or energy baseline conditions and the projected water or energy savings, or the amount of renewable energy generated attributable to the project;
  - (2) Such financial information about the owner and the property as the lender chosen by the owner deems necessary to determine that the owner has demonstrated the financial ability to fulfill the financial obligations to be paid through assessments; and
  - (3) All other information required by the Authorized Representative.
- k. Financial Eligibility Requirements. The Authorized Representative will determine whether the owner, the property and the improvements are eligible for financing under the program. The Eligible Lender chosen by the owner will determine whether the owner has demonstrated the financial ability to repay the financial obligations to be collected through contractual assessments. The statutory method<sup>9</sup> for ensuring such a demonstration of financial ability must be based on appropriate underwriting factors, including the following:

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<sup>9</sup> TX. Local Gov't Code §399.009(b).

- (1) verification that the person requesting to participate in the program is the legal record owner of the benefitted property,
- (2) the applicant is current on mortgage and property tax payments,
- (3) the applicant is not insolvent or in bankruptcy proceedings,
- (4) the title of the benefitted property is not in dispute; and
- (5) there is an appropriate ratio of the amount of the assessment to the assessed value of the property. The Local Government determines that it will follow the Texas PACE in a Box model program recommendation for determining the appropriate loan to assessed value of the property.

The Local Government determines to be eligible for PACE financing, the projected savings derived from the Qualified Improvement must be greater than the cost of the PACE assessment and lien over the life of the assessment (i.e., the Savings to Investment Ratio (SIR) should be greater than one,  $SIR > 1$ ). A third-party lender and a for profit-property owner may request a waiver in writing for a project with an  $SIR < 1$  and address the interests of tenants and future property owners. The Authorized Representative may consider factors in a variance request including:

- (a). Are there other environmental benefits such as air or water quality or resiliency that are not captured in the SIR analysis;
- (b) Will the proposed qualifying improvements generate environmental marketable credits that can be monetized?
- (c). What is the SIR calculation for the project (how far below 1?);
- (d). If the SIR is  $< 1$  over the term of the assessment, is the  $SIR > 1$  over the useful life of the equipment?
- (e). What is the impact of a variance request on affected third parties? and
- (f) Other information the owner and lender wish to submit regarding the impact of the qualified improvements on the company and the community.

l. Mortgage Holder Notice and Consent. As a condition to the execution of a written contract between the Authorized Representative and the property owner imposing an assessment under the program, the holder of any mortgage lien on the property must be given notice of the owner's intention to participate in the program on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day before the date the contract is executed, and the owner must obtain the written consent of all mortgage holders.<sup>10</sup>

m. Imposition of Assessment. The Authorized Representative will enter into a written contract with the property owner, only after:

- (1) The property owner delivers to the Authorized Representative written consent of all mortgage lien holders;
- (2) The Authorized Representative's determination that the owner and the property are eligible to participate in the program, that the proposed improvements are reasonably likely to decrease energy or water

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<sup>10</sup> TX. Local Gov't Code §399.010.



consumption or demand, and that the period of the requested assessment does not exceed the useful life of the Qualified Improvements; and  
(3) The Eligible Lender notifies the Authorized Representative that the owner has demonstrated the financial ability to fulfill the financial obligations to be repaid through contractual assessments.

The contract will impose a contractual assessment on the owner's Eligible Property to repay the lender's financing of the Qualified Improvements. The Authorized Representative will file "A Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien," in substantially the form in Exhibit 4 in the Official Public Records of the County in which the property is located, as notice to the public of the assessment, from the date of filing. The contract and the notice must contain the amount of the assessment, the legal description of the property, the name of the property owner, and a reference to the statutory assessment lien provided under the PACE Act.

- n. Collection of Assessments. The execution of the written contract between the Local Government and the property owner and recording of the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien incorporate the terms of the financing documents executed between the property owner and with the lender to repay the financing secured by the assessment. The third-party lender will advance financing to the owner, and the terms for repayment will be such terms as are agreed between the lender and the owner. Under the form lender contract attached as Exhibit 3, the lender or a designated servicer will agree to service the debt secured by the assessment.<sup>11</sup>

With funds from the lender, the property owner can purchase directly the equipment and materials for the Qualified Improvement and contract directly, including through lease, power purchase agreement, or other service contract, for the installation or modification of the Qualified Improvements. Alternatively, the lender may make progress payments to the property owner as the Qualified Improvement is installed.

The lender will receive the owner's assessment payments to repay the debt and remit to the Authorized Representative any administrative fees. The lender will have the right to assign or transfer the right to receive the installments of the debt secured by the assessment, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) The assignment or transfer is made to an Eligible Lender, as defined above;
- (2) The property owner and the Authorized Representative are notified in writing of the assignment or transfer and the address to which payment of the future installments should be mailed at least 30 days before the next installment is due according to the schedule for repayment of the debt; and

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<sup>11</sup> The servicer will be responsible for maintaining payment records, account balances, and reporting to the Authorized Representative as required.

(3) The assignee or transferee, by operation of the financing documents or otherwise, written evidence of which shall be provided, assumes lender's obligations under the lender contract.

- o. Verification Review. After a Qualified Improvement is completed, the Authorized Representative will require the property owner to provide verification by a qualified independent third-party reviewer that the Qualified Improvement was properly completed and is operating as intended.<sup>12</sup> The verification report conclusively establishes that the improvement is a Qualified Improvement and the project is qualified under the PACE program.<sup>13</sup>
- p. Marketing and Education Services. The Program Administrator will provide service provider training workshops for contractors, engineers, property managers and other stakeholders, provide outreach and education for all stakeholders including presentations, conference booths and individual meetings, and provide written and electronic materials such as case studies, flyers, and webinars.
- q. The Local Government may subsequently enter into agreements with one or more other local governments or non-profit organizations that promote energy and water conservation and/or economic development to provide marketing and education services for the PACE program.
- r. Quality Assurance and Antifraud Measures. The Authorized Representative will institute quality assurance and antifraud measures for the Program. The Authorized Representative will review each PACE application for completeness and supporting documents through independent review and verification procedures. The application and required attachments will identify and supply the information necessary to ensure that the property owner, the property itself, and the proposed project all satisfy PACE program underwriting and technical standard requirements. Measures will be put in place to provide safeguards, including a review of the energy and water savings baseline and certification of compliance with the technical standards manual from an independent third-party reviewer (ITPR), who must be a registered professional engineer, before the project can proceed. This review will include a site visit, report, and a letter from the ITPR certifying that he or she has no financial interest in the project and is an independent reviewer. After the construction of the project is complete, an ITPR will conduct a final site inspection and determine whether the project was completed and is operating properly. The reviewer's certification will also include a statement that the reviewer is qualified and has no financial interest in the project.

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<sup>12</sup> TX Local Gov't Code §399.011.

<sup>13</sup> TX Local Government Code §399.011(a-1)

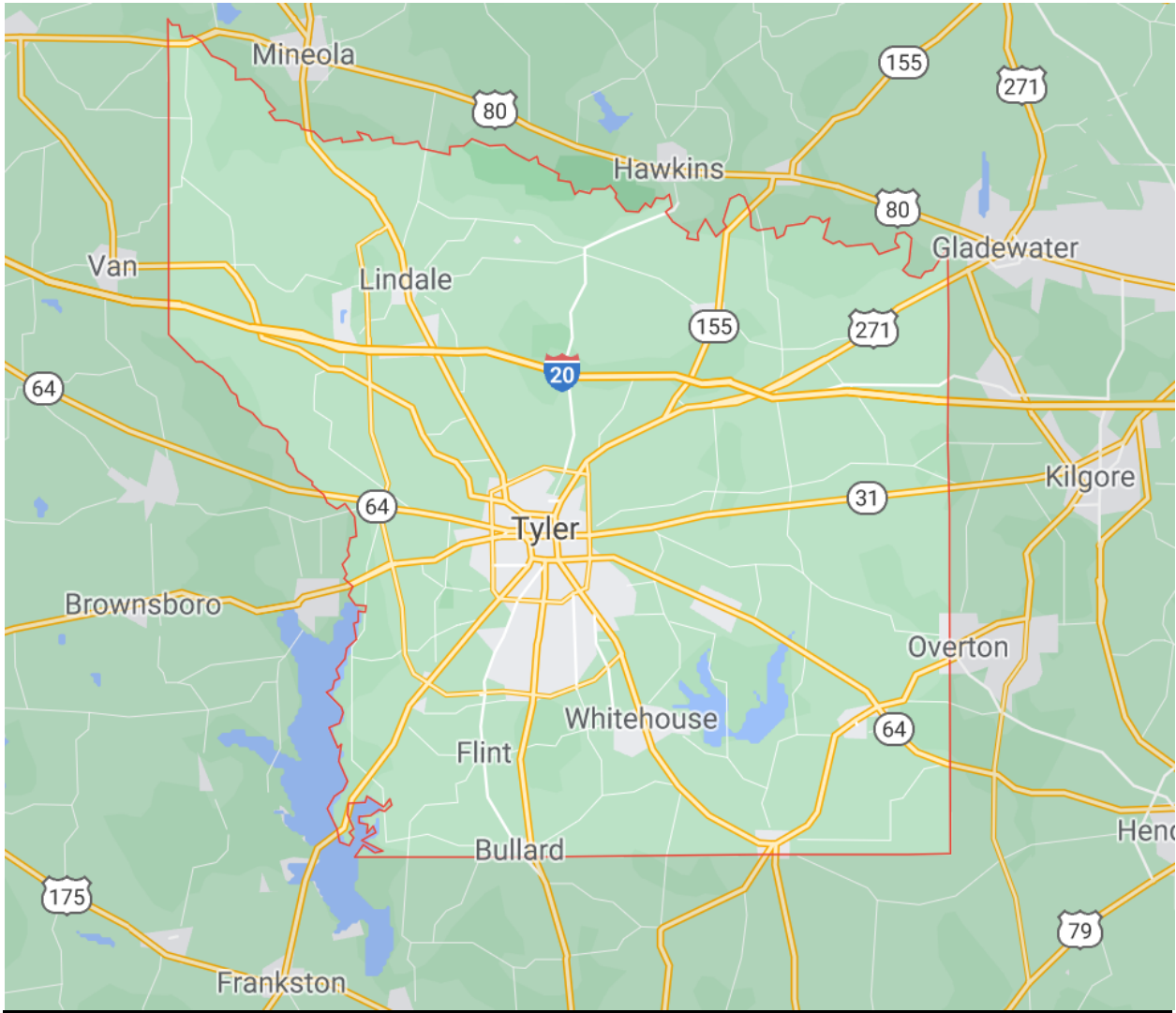
- s. Delinquency. Under the terms of the form lender contract attached as Exhibit 3, if a property owner fails to pay an agreed installment when due on the PACE assessment, the lender will agree to take at least the following steps to collect the delinquent installment:
- (1) Mail to the owner a written notice of delinquency and demand for payment by both certified mail (return receipt requested) and first-class mail, and
  - (2) Mail to the owner a second notice of delinquency and demand for payment by both certified mail (return receipt requested) and first-class mail, at least 30 days after the date of the first notice if the delinquency is continuing.

If the owner fails to cure the delinquency within 30 days after mailing the second notice of delinquency, the lender may notify the Authorized Representative of the owner's default. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 399.014(c), the Authorized Representative will initiate steps for the Local Government to enforce the assessment lien in the same manner as a property tax lien against real property may be enforced, to the extent the enforcement is consistent with Section 50, Article XVI, of the Texas Constitution. Delinquent installments will incur penalties and interest in the same manner and at the same rate as delinquent property taxes, according to Texas Local Government Code Section 399.014(d), and such statutory penalties and interest will be due to the Local Government to offset the cost of collection.

If the Local Government files suit to enforce collection, the Local Government may also recover costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, in a suit to collect a delinquent installment of an assessment in the same manner and at the same rate as in suit to collect a delinquent property tax. If a delinquent installment of an assessment is collected after the filing of a suit, the Local Government will remit to the lender the net amount of the delinquent installments and contractual interest collected and remit to the Authorized Representative the amount of any administrative fees collected but will retain any statutory penalties, interest, and attorney's fees collected.

**EXHIBIT 1**

**MAP OF SMITH COUNTY PACE REGION**



**EXHIBIT 2**  
**FORM OWNER CONTRACT**

## FORM PACE OWNER CONTRACT

THIS PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (“**PACE**”) OWNER CONTRACT including the attached exhibits (“**Owner Contract**”) is made as of the [REDACTED] day of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (“**Effective Date**”), by and between Smith County, Texas (“**Local Government**”), and [REDACTED] (“**Property Owner**”).

### RECITALS

A. The Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (“**PACE Act**”), Texas Local Government Code Chapter 399, authorizes the governing body of a local government to establish a program and designate a region within the local government’s jurisdiction within which an authorized representative of the local government may enter into written contracts with the record owners of privately owned commercial, industrial, and large multifamily residential (5 or more dwelling units) real property to impose assessments on the property to finance the cost of permanent improvements fixed to the property intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand.

B. Local Government has established a program under the PACE Act pursuant to a resolution dated [REDACTED], adopted by the Commissioners Court (“**PACE Program**”), and has designated Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority, dba Texas PACE Authority as the representative of Local Government (“**Authorized Representative**”) authorized to enter into the written contracts with the owners of such property and the providers of such financing described herein, and has designated the entire territory within the boundaries of Smith County, Texas as a region (**the “Region”**) within which the Authorized Representative and the record owners of such real property may enter into written contracts to impose assessments to repay the financing by owners of qualified improvements on the owners’ property pursuant to the PACE Program.

C. Property Owner is/are the sole legal and record owner of the qualified “real property,” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act, within the Region located at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Texas [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] (the “**Property**”).

D. Pursuant to Application number [REDACTED], Property Owner has applied to Local Government to participate in the PACE Program by installing or modifying on the Property certain permanent improvements which are intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand, and which are or will be fixed to the Property as “qualified improvements”, as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act (“**Qualified Improvements**”). The installation or modification of such Qualified Improvements on the Property will be a “qualified project” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act (the “**Project**”). Property Owner has requested that Local Government enter into this Owner Contract pursuant to the PACE Act and the PACE Program and has requested Local Government to impose an assessment (the “**Assessment**”) on the Property as set forth in the Notice Of Contractual Assessment Lien Pursuant To Property Assessed Clean Energy Act to be filed in the real property records of Smith County, Texas (the “**Notice of Contractual Assessment**”).

**Lien**”), to repay the financing of such Qualified Improvements. A copy of the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof. The Property, Qualified Improvements and Assessment are more fully described in the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien.

E. Financing for the Project (“**Financing**”) will be provided to Property Owner by [REDACTED] (“**Lender**”), a qualified lender selected by Property Owner, pursuant to a written contract executed by Lender and Local Government as required by Section 399.006(c) of the PACE Act (the “**Lender Contract**”). The financing will include only those costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed under Section 399.006(e) of the PACE Act. Local Government has agreed to maintain and continue the Assessment for the benefit of Lender until the Financing, all contractual interest due to Lender (“**Contractual Interest**”), any prepayment penalty, and any penalties, interest, fees, and costs due under or authorized by the PACE Act are paid in full and to release the Assessment upon notice from Lender of such payment, or to foreclose the lien securing the Assessment for the benefit of Lender upon notice from Lender of a default in payment by Property Owner.

F. As required by Section 399.010 of the PACE Act, Property Owner has notified the holder(s) of any mortgage liens on the Property at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of this Owner Contract of Property Owner’s intention to participate in the PACE Program. The written consent of each mortgage holder to the Assessment was obtained on or prior to the date of this Owner Contract and is attached hereto as Exhibit B and made a part hereof.

#### AGREEMENT

The parties agree as follows:

1. Imposition of Assessment. In consideration for the Financing advanced or to be advanced to Property Owner by Lender for the Project under the PACE Program pursuant to the Lender Contract, Property Owner hereby requests and agrees to the imposition by Local Government of the Assessment in the principal amount of \$ [REDACTED], as set forth in the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien. In the event the actual total of costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed under the PACE Act is different from the stated amount or any other term requires correction, Local Government, Property Owner, and Lender agree to execute an amended Owner Contract and Lender Contract, and Authorized Representative will record an amended Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien. The Assessment includes the application and administration fees authorized by the PACE Program and Section 399.006(e) of the PACE Act. Property Owner promises and agrees to pay the Assessment, Contractual Interest thereon, any prepayment penalty, and all penalties, interest, fees, and costs due under or authorized by the PACE Act and the financing documents executed between Property Owner and Lender (the “**Financing Documents**”) described in or copies of which are attached as Exhibit C attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference. Property Owner will pay such amount in care of or as directed by Lender, in satisfaction of the Assessment imposed pursuant to this Owner Contract and the PACE Act. Accordingly, Local Government hereby imposes the Assessment on the Property to repay the Financing of the Project, Contractual Interest, any prepayment penalty, and any penalties, interest, fees and costs due under or authorized by the PACE Act and the Financing

Documents, in accordance with the requirements of the PACE Program and the provisions of the PACE Act.

2. Maintenance and Enforcement of Assessment. In consideration for Lender's agreement to advance Financing to Property Owner for the Project pursuant to the Financing Documents, Local Government agrees to maintain and continue the Assessment on the Property for the benefit of Lender until the Assessment, Contractual Interest, any prepayment penalty, and any penalties, interest, fees, and costs, due under or authorized by the PACE Act and the Financing Documents are paid in full, and to release the Assessment upon notice from Lender of such payment. Local Government agrees to enforce the assessment lien against the Property at the request of Lender in the event of a default in payment by Property Owner, in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph 5. Authorized Representative will deliver an annual notice of assessment to Property Owner by electronic mail each year until the Assessment is released. If requested by Property Owner by marking the box below, Local Government agrees to also deliver an annual notice of assessment to Property Owner by first-class mail in the envelope with the tax bill of the Property each year until the Assessment is released.

Property Owner requests an annual notice of assessment from Local Government.

Any failure of Local Government or Authorized Representative to deliver an annual notice of assessment to Property Owner will not affect the Assessment or Property's Owner's obligations under this Owner Contract.

3. Installments. The Assessment and Contractual Interest thereon are due and payable to Lender in installments ("**Installments**"), according to the payment schedule set forth in the Financing Documents attached hereto as Exhibit C. The Assessment includes (1) an application fee paid by Property Owner to Authorized Representative at closing of the Financing, and (2) a recurring administration fee paid by Property Owner to Authorized Representative until the Assessment is released. The recurring administration fee amount will be collected by Lender and paid to Authorized Representative within thirty (30) days of receipt by Lender, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by Authorized Representative. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a delinquency in the payment of any Installment, Lender will, upon notice to Authorized Representative, withhold payment of any administration fee due to Authorized Representative in connection with such Installment until the Installment is paid. Any such temporary withholding will not reduce the amount of the administration fees included in the Assessment. The amounts due to Authorized Representative are identified in Exhibit C hereto. When the Assessment, Contractual Interest, any prepayment penalty, and any penalties, interest, fees and costs due under or authorized by the PACE Act and the Financing Documents, have been paid in full, Local Government's rights under this Owner Contract will cease and terminate. Upon notice from Lender that all amounts due have been paid in full, Authorized Representative will execute a release of the Assessment and this Owner Contract and record the release. As required by Section 399.009(a) (8) of the PACE Act, the period during which such Installments are payable does not exceed the useful life of the Project.

4. Assignment of Right to Receive Installments or Require Enforcement of Lien. Lender will have the right, with or without the consent of Property Owner, to assign or transfer the right to receive the Installments or require Local Government to enforce the assessment lien in the



event of a default in payment, together with all corresponding obligations, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The assignment or transfer is made to a qualified lender as defined in the Lender Contract;

(b) Property Owner and Authorized Representative are notified in writing of the assignment or transfer and the address to which payment of the future Installments should be mailed at least 30 days before the next Installment is due according to the payment schedule included in the Financing Documents, and

(c) The assignee or transferee executes a written assumption agreement according to the Financing Documents of all of Lender's rights and obligations under the Lender Contract related to the receipt of the Installments or the enforcement of the assessment lien and provides a copy of such assumption to Property Owner and Authorized Representative within 10 days after execution of the agreement.

Lender may assign or transfer the right to receive the Installments or the right to require enforcement of the assessment lien separately. Upon written notice to Property Owner and Authorized Representative of an assignment or transfer that meets all of these conditions, the assignor will be released of all of the rights and obligations of the Lender under such Lender Contract accruing after the date of the assignment that are specified in the assignment or transfer document, and all of such rights and obligations will be assumed by and transferred to the assignee. Any attempt to assign or transfer the right to receive the Installments or require enforcement of the assessment lien that does not meet all of these conditions is void. Lender will retain all of the rights and obligations of Lender under the Lender Contract until such rights and obligations are assigned or transferred according to this paragraph.

5. Lien Priority and Enforcement. Pursuant to Section 399.014 of the PACE Act:

(a) Delinquent Installments will incur penalties and interest on the principal of the Installment in the same manner and in the same amount as delinquent property taxes, that is, a delinquent Installment incurs a penalty of 6% of the principal amount of the Installment for the first calendar month it is delinquent plus 1% for each additional month or portion of a month the Installment remains unpaid prior to July 1 of the year in which it becomes delinquent. However, an Installment delinquent on July 1 incurs a total penalty of 12% of the principal amount of the delinquent Installment without regard to the number of months it has been delinquent. A delinquent Installment will also accrue interest on the principal of the Installment at the rate of 1% for each month or portion of a month that the Installment remains unpaid. Subject to paragraph 16 below, penalties, interest, fees, and costs payable under this paragraph will be retained by Local Government to compensate it for the cost of enforcing the Assessment. Additional interest at any default rate imposed by Lender pursuant to the Financing Documents, along with any other fees that become due pursuant to the Financing Documents, may be imposed and retained by Lender.

(b) The Assessment and any interest or penalties thereon,

(1) are a first and prior lien against the Property from the date on which the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is recorded in the real property records of Smith County, Texas as provided by Section 399.013 of the PACE Act, until the Assessment, interest, or penalty is paid; and

(2) such lien has the same priority status as a lien for any other ad valorem tax.

(c) The lien created by the Assessment runs with the land, and according to Section 399.014(b) of the PACE Act, any portion of the Assessment that has not yet become due will not be eliminated by foreclosure of (i) a property tax lien, or (ii) the lien for a delinquent installment of the Assessment. In the event of a sale or transfer of the Property by Property Owner, the obligation for the Assessment and the Property Owner's obligations under the Financing Documents will be transferred to the succeeding owner without recourse to Lender, Local Government, or Authorized Representative.

(d) In the event of a default by Property Owner in payment of an Installment called for by the Financing Documents or the filing of a case under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code by or against Property Owner, the lien created by the Assessment will be enforced by Local Government for the benefit of Lender, in the same manner according to Texas Tax Code Secs. 33.41 to 34.23 that a property tax lien against real property may be enforced by a local government, to the extent the enforcement is consistent with Section 50, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

(e) In a suit to collect a delinquent Installment of the Assessment, Local Government will be entitled to recover costs and expenses, including attorney's fees in the amount of 15% of the total principal amount of the delinquent Installment, penalties, and interest due, in the same manner according to Texas Tax Code Sec. 33.48 as in a suit to collect a delinquent property tax. Lender will be entitled to any additional sums due to it under the Financing Documents in connection with a suit to collect a delinquent Installment of the Assessment.

(f) As provided in Section 399.014 (a-1) of the PACE Act, after the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is recorded in the real property records of the county in which the Property is located, the lien created by the Assessment may not be contested on the basis that the improvement is not a "qualified improvement" or the project is not a "qualified project", as such terms are defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act.

6. Written Contract Required by PACE Act. This Owner Contract constitutes a written contract for the Assessment between Property Owner and Local Government as required by Section 399.005 of the PACE Act. The Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien will be recorded in the real property records of Smith County, Texas as public notice of the contractual Assessment, in accordance with the requirements of Section 399.013 of the PACE Act.

7. Qualified Improvements. Property Owner agrees that all improvements purchased, constructed, or installed through the Financing obtained pursuant to this Owner Contract will be permanently affixed to the Property and will transfer with the Property to the transferee in the

event of a sale or transfer of the Property. Property Owner agrees to provide to Authorized Representative within 30 days after the completion of the Project a verification by an independent third party reviewer (“ITPR”) that the project was properly completed and is operating as intended. Property Owner agrees that Lender may retain the final advance of Financing until such verification is submitted or require Property Owner to pay liquidated damages for a failure to do so, according to paragraph 19 below.

8. Water or Energy Savings. For so long as the Assessment encumbers the Property, Property Owner agrees, on or before January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, to report to Authorized Representative the water or energy savings realized through the Project in accordance with the reporting requirements established by Authorized Representative.

9. Construction and Definitions. This Owner Contract is to be construed in accordance with and with reference to the PACE Program and PACE Act. Terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the PACE Program and/or the PACE Act.

10. Binding Effect. This Owner Contract is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, representatives, successors, and assigns.

11. Notices. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices and other communications required or permitted by this Owner Contract shall be in writing and delivered by first-class mail or by electronic mail, addressed to the other party at the address stated below the signature of such party or at such other address as such party may from time to time designate in writing to the other party, and shall be effective from the date of receipt.

12. Governing Law. This Owner Contract shall in all respects be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

13. Entire Agreement. This Owner Contract constitutes the entire agreement between Local Government and Property Owner with respect to the subject matter hereof and may not be amended or altered in any manner except by a document in writing executed by both parties.

14. Captions. Paragraph and section titles are for convenience of reference only and shall not be of any legal effect.

15. Counterparts. This Owner Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart may be delivered on paper or by electronic transmission, all of which when taken together will constitute one agreement binding on the parties, notwithstanding that all parties are not signatories to the same counterpart.

16. Interest. Interest and penalties in the event of default, as provided above, are explicitly authorized by Section 399.014(d) of the PACE Act. However, in no event will the total amount of interest on the Assessment, including statutory interest payable to Local Government and Contractual Interest payable to Lender under the Financing Documents, exceed the maximum amount or rate of nonusurious interest that may be contracted for, charged, or collected under Texas law (the “**usury limit**”). If the total amount of interest payable to Local Government and Contractual Interest payable to Lender exceeds the usury limit, the interest payable to Local

Government will be reduced and any interest in excess of the usury limit will be credited to the amount payable to Local Government or refunded. This provision overrides any conflicting provisions in this Owner Contract.

17. Costs. No provision of this Owner Contract will require Local Government to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its duties hereunder.

18. Further Assurances. Property Owner further covenants and agrees to do, execute and deliver, or cause to be done, executed, and delivered all such further acts for implementing the intention of this Owner Contract as may be reasonably necessary or required.

19. Construction Terms. The Financing Documents executed by Lender and Property Owner must include a requirement that Lender will withhold [REDACTED] % of the Financing until verification that the Project was properly completed and is operating as intended is provided to Authorized Representative by an Independent Third Party Reviewer ("ITPR), or Property Owner will pay liquidated damages to Lender of \$ [REDACTED] per day for every day after 30 days following completion of the Project that such verification of completion is not provided. If verification of completion is not provided by Property Owner within 30 days after completion of the Project, such verification shall be submitted by Lender. If the Lender Contract includes requirements related to the construction of the Project and disbursement of Financing, such requirements are set forth in Exhibit D attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Such requirements may include, among other things, (1) the disbursement schedule and (2) any holdback amount to be funded following verification of final project completion.

**PROPERTY OWNER:**

[Redacted]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF [Redacted] §

COUNTY OF [Redacted] §

This PACE Owner Contract pursuant to Property Assessed Clean Energy Act was acknowledged before me on [Redacted], [Redacted] by [Redacted], [Redacted], on behalf of [Redacted].

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF [Redacted]

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

By: TEXAS PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AUTHORITY  
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Pursuant to Tex. Local Gov't Code §399.006(b)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: CHARLENE HEYDINGER

Title: PRESIDENT, TEXAS PACE AUTHORITY

Address: PO BOX 200368  
AUSTIN, TX 78720-0368

Email Address: charlene@texaspaceauthority.org

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF            §

This PACE Owner Contract pursuant to Property Assessed Clean Energy Act was acknowledged before me on           , 20   by Charlene Heydinger, President, Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority, dba Texas PACE Authority, a Texas nonprofit corporation, on behalf of said corporation as Authorized Representative for the Local Government.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF TEXAS

**OWNER CONTRACT EXHIBIT A**

**NOTICE OF CONTRACTUAL ASSESSMENT LIEN**  
**PURSUANT TO**  
**PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY ACT**

**OWNER CONTRACT EXHIBIT B**

**MORTGAGE HOLDER(S) CONSENT**





**OWNER CONTRACT EXHIBIT D**

**CONSTRUCTION TERMS**

**Retainage or Liquidated Damages:**

Lender will retain \_\_\_\_\_% of the Financing until a report of completion by a qualified Independent Third Party Reviewer (“ITPR”) is provided to Authorized Representative.

**OR**

Property Owner will pay liquidated damages to Lender of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per day for every day after 30 days following completion of the Project that such a report of completion is not provided. Lender will then provide the report of completion to Authorized Representative.

**Additional Construction Terms**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Draw down Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>

**EXHIBIT 3**  
**FORM LENDER CONTRACT**

## FORM PACE LENDER CONTRACT

THIS PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (“**PACE**”) LENDER CONTRACT including the attached exhibits (“**Lender Contract**”) is made as of the [REDACTED] day of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], (“**Effective Date**”) by and between Smith County, Texas (“**Local Government**”) and [REDACTED] (“**Lender**”).

### RECITALS

A. The Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (“**PACE Act**”), Texas Local Government Code Chapter 399, authorizes the governing body of a local government to establish a program and designate a region within the local government’s jurisdiction within which an authorized representative of the local government may enter into written contracts with the record owners of privately owned commercial, industrial, and large multifamily residential (5 or more dwelling units) real property to impose assessments on the property to finance the cost of permanent improvements fixed to the property intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand.

B. Local Government has established a program under the PACE Act pursuant to a resolution dated [REDACTED], adopted by the Commissioners Court (“**PACE Program**”), and has designated Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority, dba Texas PACE Authority as the representative of Local Government (“**Authorized Representative**”) authorized to enter into the written contracts with the owners of such property and the providers of such financing described herein, and has designated the entire territory within the boundaries of Smith County, Texas jurisdiction as a region (the “**Region**”) within which the Authorized Representative and the record owners of such real property may enter into written contracts to impose assessments to repay the financing by owners of qualified improvements on the owner’s property pursuant to the PACE Program.

C. Pursuant to Application number [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (“**Property Owner**”), the sole legal and record owner of the following qualified “real property,” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act, within the Region has/have applied to Local Government to participate in the PACE Program with respect to certain real property located at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Texas, [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] (the “**Property**”) by installing or modifying on the Property certain permanent improvements which are intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand, and which are or will be fixed to the Property as “qualified improvements”, as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act (“**Qualified Improvements**”). The installation or modification of such Qualified Improvements on the Property will be a “qualified project” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act (the “**Project**”).

D. Property Owner and Local Government have entered into a written contract as required by Section 399.005 of the PACE Act, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof (the “**Owner Contract**”), in which Property Owner has requested that Local

Government impose an assessment (the “**Assessment**”) on the Property as set forth in the Notice Of Contractual Assessment Lien Pursuant To Property Assessed Clean Energy Act to be filed in the real property records of Smith County, Texas (the “**Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien**”), to repay the financing of such Qualified Improvements. A copy of the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is attached as Exhibit A to the Owner Contract and made a part hereof. The Property, Qualified Improvements, and Assessment are more fully described in the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien.

E. Financing for the Project (“**Financing**”) will be provided to Property Owner by Lender in accordance with financing documents which are described in or copies of which are attached as Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part hereof (the “**Financing Documents**”). Such Financing will include only those costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed under Section 399.006 (e) of the PACE Act. This Lender Contract is entered into between Local Government and Lender as required by Section 399.006(c) of the PACE Act to provide for repayment of the Financing through the Assessment.

F. As required by Section 399.010 of the PACE Act, Property Owner has notified the holder(s) of any mortgage liens on the Property at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Owner Contract of Property Owner’s intention to participate in the PACE Program. The written consent of each mortgage lien holder to the Assessment was obtained on or prior to the date of the Owner Contract, as shown by the copy of such consent(s) attached as Exhibit B to the Owner Contract.

## **AGREEMENT**

The parties agree as follows:

1. Maintenance and Enforcement of Assessment. Lender agrees to provide Financing for the Project in the total principal amount of \$                     , according to the terms set out in the Financing Documents attached hereto as Exhibit B. In the event the actual total of costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed under the PACE Act is different from the stated amount or any other term requires correction, Local Government, Property Owner, and Lender agree to execute an amended Owner Contract and Lender Contract, and Authorized Representative will record an amended Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien. In consideration for the Financing provided or to be provided by Lender for the Project, and subject to the terms and conditions of this Lender Contract, Local Government agrees to maintain and continue the Assessment for the benefit of Lender until the Assessment, all contractual interest due to Lender according to the Financing Documents (“**Contractual Interest**”), any prepayment penalty, and any penalties, interest, fees, or costs due under or authorized by the PACE Act and the Financing Documents are paid in full, and to release the Assessment upon notice from Lender of such payment. Local Government will not release, sell, assign or transfer the Assessment or the lien securing it without the prior written consent of Lender. Local Government agrees to enforce the assessment lien against the Property at the request of Lender in the event of a default in payment by Property Owner in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph 6. Local Government shall have no obligation to repurchase the Assessment and no liability to Lender should there be a default in the payment thereof or should there be any other loss or expense suffered by Lender or under any other circumstances.

2. Installments. The Assessment and Contractual Interest thereon are due and payable to Lender in installments (“**Installments**”) according to the payment schedule set forth in the Financing Documents attached hereto as Exhibit B. The Assessment includes (1) an application fee paid by Property Owner to Authorized Representative at closing of the Financing and (2) a recurring administration fee paid by Property Owner to Authorized Representative until the Assessment is released. The recurring administration fee amount will be collected by Lender and paid to Authorized Representative within thirty (30) days of receipt by Lender, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by Authorized Representative. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of delinquency in the payment of any Installment, Lender will, upon notice to Authorized Representative, withhold payment of any amounts due to Authorized Representative in connection with such Installment until the Installment is paid. Any such temporary withholding will not reduce the amount of administration fees included in the Assessment. The amounts due to Authorized Representative are identified in Exhibit B hereto. As required by Section 399.009(a)(8) of the PACE Act, the period during which such Installments are payable does not exceed the useful life of the Project.

3. Assignment of Right to Receive Installments or Require Enforcement of Lien. Lender will have the right, with or without the consent of Property Owner, to assign or transfer the right to receive the Installments or require Local Government to enforce the assessment lien in the event of a default in payment, together with the corresponding obligations, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The assignment or transfer is made to a qualified lender, which may be one of the following:

(1) Any federally insured depository institution such as a bank, savings bank, savings and loan association and federal or state credit union;

(2) Any insurance company authorized to conduct business in one or more states;

(3) Any registered investment company, registered business development company, or a Small Business Administration small business investment company;

(4) Any publicly traded entity; or

(5) Any private entity that:

(i) Has a minimum net worth of \$5 million;

(ii) Has at least three years’ experience in business or industrial lending or commercial real estate lending (including multifamily lending), or has a lending officer that has at least three years’ experience in business or industrial lending or commercial real estate lending;

(iii) Can provide independent certification as to availability of funds; and

(iv) Has the ability to carry out, either directly or through a servicer, the bookkeeping and customer service work necessary to manage the assessment accounts

(6) A financially stable entity, whether or not from the list above, with the ability to carry out, either directly or through a servicer, the obligations of this Lender Contract related to the receipt and accounting of the Installments or the enforcement of the assessment lien.

(b) Property Owner and Authorized Representative are notified in writing of the assignment or transfer and the address to which payment of the future Installments should be mailed at least 30 days before the next Installment is due according to the payment schedule included in the Financing Documents; and

(c) The assignee or transferee executes a written assumption agreement according to the Financing Documents of all of Lender's rights and obligations under this Lender Contract related to the receipt of the Installments or enforcement of the assessment lien and provides a copy of such assumption to Property Owner and Authorized Representative within 10 days after execution of the agreement. Lender may assign or transfer the right to receive the Installments or the right to require enforcement of the assessment lien separately. Upon written notice to Property Owner and Authorized Representative of an assignment or transfer that meets all of these conditions, the assignor will be released of all of the rights and obligations of the Lender under this Lender Contract accruing after the date of the assignment that are specified in the assignment or transfer document, and all of such rights and obligations will be assumed by and transferred to the assignee. Any attempt to assign or transfer the right to receive the Installments or to require enforcement of the assessment lien that does not meet all of these conditions is void. Lender will retain all of the rights and obligations of Lender under this Lender Contract until such rights and obligations are assigned or transferred according to this paragraph.

4. Financing Responsibility. Lender assumes full responsibility for determining the financial ability of the Property Owner to repay the Financing and for advancing the funds as set forth in the Financing Documents and performing Lender's obligations and responsibilities thereunder. In the event the assessment lien on the Property is enforced by foreclosure as provided below, Lender will have no further obligations to Property Owner with respect to the Installments that were the subject of the foreclosure, but Lender will retain the rights to enforcement of the lien for any Installments that are not eliminated by the foreclosure, and the succeeding owner of the Property will be subject to such lien.

5. Lien Priority and Enforcement. As provided in the Owner Contract and Section 399.014 of the PACE Act:

(a) Delinquent Installments will incur penalties and interest on the principal of the Installment in the same manner and in the same amount as delinquent property taxes, that is, a delinquent Installment incurs a penalty of 6% of the principal amount of the Installment for the first calendar month it is delinquent plus 1% for each additional month

or portion of a month the Installment remains unpaid prior to July 1 of the year in which it becomes delinquent. However, an Installment delinquent on July 1 incurs a total penalty of 12% of the principal amount of the delinquent Installment without regard to the number of months it has been delinquent. A delinquent Installment will also accrue interest on the principal of the Installment at the rate of 1% for each month or portion of a month that the Installment remains unpaid. Subject to paragraph 16 below, penalties, interest, fees, and costs payable under this paragraph will be retained by Local Government to compensate it for the cost of enforcing the Assessment. Additional interest at any default rate imposed by Lender pursuant to the Financing Documents, along with any other fees and charges that become due pursuant to the Financing Documents may be imposed and retained by Lender.

(b) The Assessment and any interest or penalties thereon,

(1) are a first and prior lien against the Property from the date on which the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is recorded in the real property records of Smith County, Texas, as provided by Section 399.013 of the PACE Act, until the Assessment, interest, or penalty is paid; and

(2) such lien has the same priority status as a lien for any other ad valorem tax.

(c) The lien created by the Assessment runs with the land, and according to Section 399.014(b) of the PACE Act, any portion of the Assessment that has not yet become due will not be eliminated by foreclosure of (i) a property tax lien, or (ii) the lien for a delinquent Installment of the Assessment. In the event of a sale or transfer of the Property by Property Owner, the obligation for the Assessment and the Property Owner's obligations under the Financing Documents will be transferred to the succeeding owner without recourse to Lender, Local Government or Authorized Representative

(d) In the event of a default by Property Owner in payment of an Installment called for by the Financing Documents or the filing of a case under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code by or against Property Owner, the lien created by the Assessment will be enforced by Local Government for the benefit of Lender according to paragraph 6(c) below in the same manner according to Texas Tax Code Secs. 33.41 to 34.23 that a property tax lien against real property may be enforced by a local government, to the extent the enforcement is consistent with Section 50, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

(e) In a suit to collect a delinquent Installment of the Assessment, Local Government will be entitled to recover costs and expenses, including attorney's fees in the amount of 15% of the total principal amount of the delinquent Installment, penalties, and interest due, in the same manner according to Texas Tax Code Sec. 33.48 as in a suit to collect a delinquent property tax. Lender will be entitled to any additional sums due to it under the Financing Documents in connection with a suit to collect a delinquent Installment of the Assessment.



(f) As provided in Section 399.014(a-1) of the PACE Act, after written notice of the Assessment is recorded in the real property records of the county in which the Property is located, the lien created by the Assessment may not be contested on the basis that the improvement is not a “qualified improvement” or the project is not a “qualified project”, as such terms are defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act.

6. Servicing and Enforcement of Assessment.

(a) Servicing. The Installments and other amounts due under the Financing Documents will be billed, collected, received, and disbursed in accordance with the procedures set out in the Financing Documents. Lender or its designee will be responsible for all servicing duties other than those specifically undertaken by Local Government in this Lender Contract. Authorized Representative will deliver an annual notice of assessment to Property Owner by electronic mail each year until the Assessment is released. If requested by Property Owner in the Owner Contract, Local Government agrees to also send an annual notice of assessment to Property Owner by first class mail in the envelope with the tax bill of the Property each year until the Assessment is released. However, any failure of Local Government or Authorized Representative to deliver an annual notice of assessment to Property Owner will not affect the Assessment or Property Owner’s obligations under the Owner Contract.

(b) Remittances. Each of the parties covenants and agrees to promptly remit to the other party any payments incorrectly received by such party with respect to the Assessment after the execution of this Lender Contract.

(c) Default and Enforcement. In the event of a default in payment of any Installment according to the Financing Documents, Lender agrees to take at least the following steps to collect the delinquent Installment:

(1) Mail a written notice of delinquency and demand for payment to the Property Owner by both certified mail, return receipt requested, and first class mail; and

(2) Mail a second notice of delinquency to the Property Owner and the holder of any mortgage lien on the property by both certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail at least 30 days after the date of the first notice if the delinquency is continuing.

The holder of any mortgage lien on the property will have not less than a 30-day right to cure the delinquency by paying the amount of the delinquent installment. If the Property Owner fails to cure the delinquency within 30 days after the mailing of the second notice of delinquency, Lender or its designee may notify Authorized Representative in writing of a default in payment by Property Owner. Upon receipt of such notice and after doing its own due diligence, including delivering a notice of foreclosure to Freddie Mac not less than 30 days prior to the foreclosure if the mortgage lien is held by Freddie Mac, Authorized Representative will certify the default to Local Government, which will enforce the assessment lien for the benefit of Lender pursuant to Sec. 399.014(c) of the PACE Act, in the same manner as a property tax lien against real property

may be enforced, to the extent the enforcement is consistent with Section 50, Article XVI, Texas Constitution. However, if a case under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code is filed by or against Property Owner or if the enforcement of the assessment lien is prevented by the order of a court, Local Government will notify Authorized Representative and will file a proof of claim for the balance of the assessment, accrued interest and penalties, and all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, as authorized by Section 399.014 of the PACE Act. Authorized Representative will notify Lender of the filing of the proof of claim. Lender will not be required to mail a notice of delinquency to Property Owner or a notice of default to Local Government. Lender will reimburse Local Government for any costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, required to file and present the claim.

(d) Priority. If the assessment lien is enforced by foreclosure or collected through a bankruptcy or similar proceeding, the assessment balance and any interest or penalties on the assessment will have the same priority status as a lien for any other ad valorem tax, pursuant to Sec. 399.014(a)(2) of the PACE Act.

(e) Final Payment and Release. When the Assessment, Contractual Interest, any prepayment penalty, and any penalties, interest, fees, or costs due under or authorized by the PACE Act or the Financing Documents have been paid in full, Local Government's rights under the Owner Contract will cease and terminate. Upon notice from Lender that all amounts due have been paid in full, Authorized Representative will execute a release of the Assessment and the Owner Contract and record the release.

(f) Limitations on Local Government's Actions. Without the prior written consent of Lender, Local Government will not enter into any amendment or modification of or deviation from the Owner Contract. Local Government or Authorized Representative will not institute any legal action with respect to the Owner Contract, the Assessment, or the assessment lien without the prior written request of Lender.

(g) Limitations of Local Government's Obligations. Local Government undertakes to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Lender Contract, and no implied duties on the part of Local Government are to be read into this Lender Contract. Local Government will not be deemed to have a fiduciary or other similar relationship with Lender. Local Government may request written instructions for action from Lender and refrain from taking action until it receives satisfactory written instructions. Local Government will have no liability to any person for following such instructions, regardless of whether they are to act or refrain from acting.

(h) Costs. No provisions of this Lender Contract will require Local Government to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of any of its duties hereunder.

7. Lender's Warranties and Representations. With respect to this Lender Contract, Lender hereby warrants and represents that on the date on which Lender executes this Lender Contract:

(a) Lender is a qualified lender under the PACE Program, as defined in paragraph 3(a) above, and is fully qualified under the PACE Program to enter into this Lender Contract and the Financing Documents;

(b) Lender has independently and without reliance upon Local Government conducted its own credit evaluation, reviewed such information as it has deemed adequate and appropriate, and made its own analysis of the Owner Contract, the Project, and Property Owner's financial ability to perform the financial obligations set out in the Financing Documents; and

(c) Lender has not relied upon any investigation or analysis conducted by, advice or communication from, or any warranty or representation by Local Government, Authorized Representative, or any agent or employee of Local Government, express or implied, concerning the financial condition of the Property Owner or the tax or economic benefits of an investment in the Assessment.

8. Written Contract Required by the PACE Act. This Lender Contract constitutes a written contract between Local Government and Lender, as required under Section 399.006 (c) of the PACE Act.

9. Construction and Definitions. This Lender Contract is to be construed in accordance with and with reference to the PACE Program and PACE Act. Terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the PACE Program, and/or the PACE Act.

10. Binding Effect. This Lender Contract is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, representatives, successors, and assigns.

11. Notices. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices and other communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and delivered by first-class mail or by electronic mail, addressed to the other party at the address stated below the signature of such party or at such other address as such party may from time to time designate in writing to the other party, and shall be effective from the date of receipt.

12. Governing Law. This Lender Contract shall in all respects be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

13. Entire Agreement. This Lender Contract constitutes the entire agreement between Local Government and Lender with respect to the subject matter hereof and shall not be amended or altered in any manner except by a document in writing executed by both parties.

14. Captions. Paragraph and section titles are for convenience of reference only and shall not be of any legal effect.

15. Counterparts. This Lender Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart may be delivered on paper or by electronic transmission, all of which when taken together will constitute one agreement binding on the parties, notwithstanding that all parties are not signatories to the same counterpart.

16. Interest. Interest and penalties in the event of default, as provided above, are explicitly authorized by Section 399.014(d) of the PACE Act. However, in no event will the total amount of interest on the Assessment, including statutory interest payable to Local Government and Contractual Interest payable to Lender under the Financing Documents, exceed the maximum amount or rate of nonusurious interest that may be contracted for, charged, or collected under Texas law (the “**usury limit**”). If the total amount of interest payable to Local Government and Contractual Interest payable to Lender exceeds the usury limit, interest payable to Local Government will be reduced and any interest in excess of the usury limit will be credited to the amount payable to Local Government or refunded. This provision overrides any conflicting provisions in this Lender Contract.

17. Certification. Local Government certifies that the PACE Program has been duly adopted and is in full force and effect on the date of this Lender Contract. Property Owner has represented to Lender and Local Government that the Project is a “qualified project” as defined in the PACE Program and Section 399.002 of the PACE Act. The Assessment has been imposed on the Property as a lien in accordance with the PACE Owner Contract and the PACE Act. Local Government has not assigned or transferred any interest in the Assessment or the PACE Owner Contract.

18. Construction Terms. The Financing Documents executed by Lender and Property Owner must include a requirement that Lender will withhold [REDACTED] % of the Financing until verification that the Project was properly completed and is operating as intended is provided to Authorized Representative by an Independent Third Party Reviewer (“ITPR”), or Property Owner will pay liquidated damages to Lender of \$ [REDACTED] per day for every day after 30 days following completion of the Project that such verification of completion is not provided. If verification of completion is not provided by Property Owner within 30 days after completion of the Project, such verification shall be submitted by Lender. If this Lender Contract includes any additional requirements related to construction of the Project and disbursement of Financing, such requirements are set forth in Exhibit C attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Such requirements may include, among other things, (1) the disbursement schedule and (2) any holdback amount to be funded following verification of final project completion.

**LENDER:**

[Redacted]

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF [Redacted] §

COUNTY OF [Redacted] §

This PACE Lender Contract pursuant to Property Assessed Clean Energy Act was acknowledged before me on [Redacted], [Redacted] by [Redacted], [Redacted], on behalf of [Redacted].

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF [Redacted]

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

By: TEXAS PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AUTHORITY  
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Pursuant to Tex. Local Gov't Code §399.006(b)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: CHARLENE HEYDINGER

Title: PRESIDENT, TEXAS PACE AUTHORITY

Address: PO BOX 200368  
AUSTIN, TX 78720-0368

Email Address: charlene@texaspaceauthority.org

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF [REDACTED] §

This PACE Lender Contract pursuant to Property Assessed Clean Energy Act was acknowledged before me on [REDACTED], 20[REDACTED] by Charlene Heydinger, President, Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority, dba Texas PACE Authority, a Texas nonprofit corporation, on behalf of said corporation as Authorized Representative for the Local Government.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF TEXAS

**LENDER CONTRACT EXHIBIT A**

**OWNER CONTRACT**





**LENDER CONTRACT EXHIBIT C**

**CONSTRUCTION TERMS**

**Retainage or Liquidated Damages:**

**Lender will retain \_\_\_\_\_% of the Financing until a report of completion by a qualified Independent Third Party Reviewer (“ITPR”) is provided to Authorized Representative.**

**OR**

**Property Owner will pay liquidated damages to Lender of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per day for every day after 30 days following completion of the Project that such a report of completion is not provided. Lender will then provide the report of completion to Authorized Representative.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Draw down Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>

**EXHIBIT 4**

**FORM NOTICE OF CONTRACTUAL ASSESSMENT LIEN**  
**PURSUANT TO PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY ACT**

**FORM NOTICE OF CONTRACTUAL ASSESSMENT LIEN  
PURSUANT TO  
PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY ACT**

STATE OF TEXAS           §  
  §  
SMITH COUNTY            §

**RECITALS**

A. The Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (“**PACE Act**”), Texas Local Government Code Chapter 399, authorizes the governing body of a local government to establish a program and designate a region within the local government’s jurisdiction within which an authorized representative of the local government may enter into written contracts with the record owners of privately owned commercial, industrial, and large multifamily residential (5 or more dwelling units) real property to impose assessments on the property to finance the cost of permanent improvements fixed to the property intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, all terms used herein have the same meanings ascribed to them in the PACE Act.

B. Smith County, Texas (“**Local Government**”) has established a program under the PACE Act (“**PACE Program**”) pursuant to a resolution dated [REDACTED], adopted by the Commissioners Court, and has designated Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority, dba Texas PACE Authority, as the representative of Local Government (“**Authorized Representative**”) authorized to enter into and enforce the written contracts with the owners of such property and the providers of such financing described herein, and has designated the entire territory within the boundaries of Smith County, Texas as a region (the “**Region**”) within which the Authorized Representative and the record owners of such real property may enter into written contracts to impose assessments to repay the financing by owners of qualified improvements on the owners’ property pursuant to the PACE Program.

C. [REDACTED] (“**Property Owner**”) is/are the sole legal and record owner of the qualified “real property,” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act, within the Region located at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Texas [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] and more fully described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof (the “**Property**”).

D. Property Owner has applied to Local Government to participate in the PACE Program by installing or modifying on the Property certain permanent improvements described in Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part hereof, which are intended to decrease water or energy consumption or demand and which are or will be fixed to the Property as “qualified improvements”, as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act (the “**Qualified Improvements**”). The installation or modification of such Qualified Improvements on the Property will be a “qualified project” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act (the “**Project**”). Property Owner has entered into a written contract (the “**Owner Contract**”) with Local Government pursuant to the PACE Act and the PACE Program and has requested Local

Government to impose an assessment on the Property to repay the financing of such Qualified Improvements.

E. The financing of such Qualified Improvements will be provided to Property Owner by [REDACTED] (“**Lender**”), a qualified lender selected by Property Owner, pursuant to a written contract executed by Lender and Local Government as required by Section 399.006(c) of the PACE Act (the “**Lender Contract**”). Lender will be responsible for all servicing duties other than those specifically undertaken by Local Government in the Lender Contract.

THEREFORE, Local Government hereby gives notice to the public pursuant to Section 399.013 of the PACE Act that it has imposed an assessment on the Property in the principal amount of \$ [REDACTED] (the “**Assessment**”). The Assessment includes only those costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed under Section 399.006(e) of the PACE Act. In the event that the actual total of costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed is different from the amount stated or any other term requires correction, Local Government, Property Owner, and Lender will execute an amended Owner Contract and Lender Contract, and Authorized Representative will record an amended Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien.

The Assessment and contractual interest thereon due to the Lender (the “**Contractual Interest**”) are due and payable in installments (“**Installments**”) in accordance with the terms and payment schedule included in the financing documents executed between Property Owner and Lender that are described in or copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit C (the “**Financing Documents**”).

Pursuant to Section 399.014 of the PACE Act,

1. The Assessment and any interest or penalties thereon,
  - (i) are a first and prior lien against the Property from the date on which this Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is recorded in the real property records of Smith County, Texas, until the Assessment, interest, or penalty is paid; and
  - (ii) such lien has the same priority status as a lien for any other ad valorem tax.
2. The lien created by the Assessment runs with the land, and according to Section 399.014(b) of the PACE Act, any portion of the Assessment that has not yet become due will not be eliminated by foreclosure of: (i) a property tax lien, or (ii) the lien for a delinquent Installment of the Assessment. In the event of a sale or transfer of the Property by Property Owner, the obligation for the Assessment and the Property Owner’s obligations under the Financing Documents will be transferred to the succeeding owner without recourse to Local Government, or Authorized Representative.

As provided in Section 399.014(a-1) of the PACE Act, after this Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien is recorded in the real property records of the county in which the Property is located, the lien created by the Assessment may not be contested on the basis that the improvement is not a “qualified improvement” or the project is not a “qualified project”, as such terms are defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act.

EXECUTED on [redacted], [redacted].

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS

By: Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority  
**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE**  
Pursuant to Tex. Local Gov't Code §399.006(b)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: CHARLENE HEYDINGER  
Title: PRESIDENT, TEXAS PACE AUTHORITY  
Address: PO BOX 200368  
AUSTIN, TX 78720-0368

**E-mail: charlene@texaspaceauthority.org**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF [redacted] §

This Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien pursuant to Property Assessed Clean Energy Act was acknowledged before me on [redacted], 20[redacted] by Charlene Heydinger, President, Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority, dba Texas PACE Authority, a Texas nonprofit corporation, on behalf of said corporation as Authorized Representative for the Local Government.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(print name)

**NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF TEXAS**

**NOTICE OF LIEN EXHIBIT A**  
**PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

**NOTICE OF LIEN EXHIBIT B**  
**QUALIFIED IMPROVEMENTS**





INDEXING INSTRUCTION:

Grantor: [REDACTED], Property Owner  
Grantees: [REDACTED], Local Government  
              [REDACTED], Lender

After recording, return to- Texas PACE Authority  
                                  Charlene Heydinger  
                                  PO Box 200368  
                                  Austin, TX 78720-0368