

August 19, 2024

Design Review Committee
Medway Conservation Commission
155 Village St
Medway, MA 02053

Subject: DRC Letter of Recommendation

Dear Chair Buckley and Design Review Committee Members,

Thank you for your August 14th letter of recommendations with regard to the Vegetative Screening and Sound Wall aesthetics of the Medway Grid battery storage project. We appreciate the Boards feedback and have continued to work with the Landscape Architect experts at Lagan Engineering and the Sound Wall manufacturer to refine the design in accordance with your specific feedback.

Please find responses / updates below with respect to the Boards August 14th recommendations.

Vegetative Screening – DRC Feedback	Medway Grid Update
It is important that this screening plan be robust and permanent, once established, at no time should this wall system be unscreened.	<p>Since our first meeting with the DRC on June 24th the project has updated and bolstered its landscaping plan with 450 additional plantings targeted along Milford Street including native Virginia Creeper vines that were specifically recommended by our landscape architect to screen the surface of the wall. The total landscaping plan now includes over 640 native plantings that include a variety of trees, shrubs and vines that are robust and permanent.</p> <p>We cannot promise that the wall will be fully screened at all times and during all seasons. However, the landscaping plans that we have developed provide a diverse selection of plantings with superior aesthetic appearance, including fast growing vines that will quickly cover the wall.</p>
Install irrigation system to ensure the health and survival of plantings.	The project intends to work with a vegetation management contractor to install a drip irrigation system that will ensure health of the plantings. All selected species are native and have been chosen for the light and spatial considerations of their planting locations.
Explore use of a selection of different climbing or creeper species that will not negatively impact the growth and maturation of the other plantings.	<p>In working with our landscape architect, Virginia Creeper was specifically selected and recommended as a native species with robust growth / screening characteristics that can be properly maintained.</p> <p>We have explored English Ivy and Boston Ivy as additional options; however, our landscape architect has specifically recommended these species be avoided</p>

	<p>as they are non-native and may be harmful to the other plantings.</p> <p>Virginia creeper is a fast growing, native vine with year-round characteristics and three season leaves, flowers in spring, berries in late summer, an array of fall color and twisted bare wood in winter. This deciduous vine also grows well in shade and a variety of soil types.</p>
Climbing ivy or creepers should include species that provide 4 season screening.	Kindly see response above. Virginia Creeper is the best suited vinelike plant to provide robust and fast screening that meets the Conservation Committees native species planting requirements.
Establish a maintenance schedule for vegetation and a plan to replace plantings in perpetuity. This would include an upkeep plan to prevent overgrowth and keep tall plantings from growing into power lines and being poorly pruned.	<p>As part of the project operations and maintenance plan the project will engage a vegetation management contractor to upkeep landscaping and prevent overgrowth.</p> <p>There will be a two-year vegetation establishment period where the project can agree to one replacement in the event a planting does not survive. After the establishment period the drip irrigation system should serve to support the vegetation long term.</p>
Sound Wall – DRC Feedback	Medway Grid Update
Present the specific proposed wall system that will be installed and its variations, to allow the DRC to properly recommend a color and texture.	<p>The Aftec SoundTec wall product was selected to meet project engineering requirements and provides superior visual and maintenance characteristics as compared to alternative metal wall options that would also meet site engineering requirements.</p> <p>Four additional rendering / color options have been prepared by our Landscape Architect for the Boards consideration.</p> <p>The project is currently planning to use the Stacked Stone wall texture option, but three additional textures that are compatible with the SoundTec product have also been provided for the boards review. We would appreciate the Boards final recommendation on a texture selection so that manufacturing can be released and the Project construction schedule kept on track.</p> <p>Four texture options are listed below and provided in the updated attached Langan rendering for your consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stacked Stone (<i>current selection</i>) 2. Slate Block 3. Ledge Stone 4. Brick

The proposed system should also provide the available structural elements that join and install the wall system.	The wall utilizes structural metal H-beam posts that are slotted every 16 feet. The posts will be coated with a matt epoxy paint that matches the color of the wall. The top of the wall has a 16" smooth boarder that is also detailed in the updated rendering.
Further refine color type that more closely resembles existing area soil types	<p>A darker color has been proposed in the updated rendering for the (1) Stacked Stone and (2) Slate Block texture options.</p> <p>An additional (3) Ledge Stone option is also presented (a darker color representation was not available from the manufacturer), as well as a (4) Red Brick option (the brick could be colored darker if desired).</p>
Explore the use of different exterior textures	As discussed above – four potential texture options are available for selection.
Further explore design techniques that mask the visibility of structural beams	As discussed above – the H-beams will be painted with a matt epoxy coating that will match the color of the wall.

Should you require any additional information regarding this submission please contact Mr. Andrew Catania by email at afc@vcrenewables.com or by telephone at 201-275-4871.

Sincerely,

MEDWAY GRID, LLC

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