

## PACE OWNER CONTRACT

THIS PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (“PACE”) OWNER CONTRACT (“**Owner Contract**”) is made as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the City of Houston, Texas (“**Local Government**”), a home-rule municipality, and \_\_\_\_\_ (“**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 commercial, industrial, agricultural, 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 Ordinance No. 2015-1040 dated November 4, 2015, adopted by the Houston City Council (the “**PACE Program**”), and has designated the Texas Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority (“**Authorized City Representative**”) as the representative authorized to enter into the Assessment, Owner Contract and Lender Contract described herein, and has designated the entire territory within the City of Houston city-limits and its extra-territorial jurisdiction as a region (“**Region**”) within which the **Authorized City 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. Property Owner is the legal and record owner of the qualified “real property,” as defined in Section 399.002 of the PACE Act, within the Region located at \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, Texas (the “**Property**”).

D. Pursuant to Application number \_\_\_\_\_, 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 (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 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

in the Official Public Records of [REDACTED], County, Texas (the “**Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien**”), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof, to repay the financing of such Qualified Improvements. The Property, Qualified Improvements and Assessment are more fully described in the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien.

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 and by the PACE Program (the “**Lender Contract**”). The financing will include only those costs and fees for which an assessment may be imposed under the PACE Act. Local Government has agreed to maintain and continue the Assessment for the benefit of Lender until such financing is repaid in full and to release the Assessment upon notice from Lender of such payment, or foreclose the lien securing the Assessment for the benefit of Lender upon notice from Lender of a default by Property Owner.

F. As required by Section 399.010 of the PACE Act, Property Owner 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 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 amount of \$ [REDACTED], as set forth in the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien, including all interest, fees, penalties, costs, and other sums due under and/or authorized by the PACE Act, PACE Program and the financing documents between Property Owner and Lender (the “**Financing Documents**”) which are described or listed on Exhibit C attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference. Property Owner promises and agrees to pay such amount and interest to Local Government, 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 secure the payment of such amount, 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, including all interest, fees, penalties, costs, and other sums due under and/or authorized by the PACE Act, PACE Program and the Financing Documents are paid in full, and to release the Assessment upon notice from Lender of such payment. Local Government agrees to undertake reasonable efforts to enforce the Assessment against the Property for the benefit of Lender in the event of a default by Property Owner.

Interest and penalties in the event of default are explicitly authorized by Section 399.014(d) of the PACE Act.

- Notices (Optional – only applies if checked). Local Government agrees to send an annual notice of assessment to the Property Owner with a utility bill each year there is an Assessment balance. This notification may be listed with other charges, or appear alone as a separate insert.

3. Installments. The Assessment, including the amount financed and contractual interest, is due and payable in installments as set forth in the Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien and the Financing Documents. The Assessment shall include: (1) an application fee paid by Property Owner to Authorized City Representative at loan closing, and (2) a recurring administration fee paid by Property Owner, collected by the Lender, and remitted to the **Authorized City Representative** within thirty (30) days of receipt by Lender. The amounts due to the Authorized City Representative are identified in Exhibit C 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. When the Assessment together with any prepayment premium, and default penalties and interest, if any, has been paid in full, Local Government's and the Owner's rights under this Owner Contract will cease and terminate, except for rights under Sections 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21. Upon notice from Lender that all amounts owing have been paid in full, Local Government will execute a release of the Assessment. Thereafter, the Authorized City Representative will record the release.

4. Assignment of Right to Receive Installments. Lender will have the right to assign or transfer the right to receive the installments of the financing secured by the Assessment, provided 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 City 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 Notice of Contractual Assessment Lien and the Financing Documents; and

(c) The assignee or transferee of the right to receive the payments executes an explicit written assumption of all of Lender's obligations under Lender Contract.

Upon written notice to Property Owner and **Authorized City Representative** of an assignment or transfer of the right to receive the installments that meets all of these conditions, the assignor shall be released of all of the obligations of the Lender under such Lender Contract accruing after the date of the assignment assumed by and transferred to such assignee or transferee and all of such obligations shall be assumed by and transferred to the assignee. Any attempt to assign or transfer the right to receive the installments that does not meet all of these conditions is void.

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



(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 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 shall 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) After written notice of the Assessment is recorded in the real property records of the county in which the Property is located as provided under Section 399.013 of the PACE Act, 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 the 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 Official Public Records of [REDACTED] County as 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 and/or installed through financing obtained pursuant to this Owner Contract shall be permanently affixed to the Property and will transfer with the Property to the transferee in the event of and sale or assignment of the Property. Property Owner further agrees that all improvements shall comply with local construction and fire codes, and provide copies of all permits associated with or required by the improvements to the Authorized City Representative within 30 days of receipt.

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 City Representative the water or energy savings realized through the Project in accordance with the reporting requirements established by the Local Government.

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, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in: (1) the PACE Program, and/or (2) the PACE Act.

10. Binding Effect. This Owner Contract inures to the benefit of Local Government and is binding upon Property Owner, its heirs, successors, and assigns.

11. Notices. All notices and other communications required or permitted by this Owner Contract shall be in writing and mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the other party at its address shown 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. 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.

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

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

18. Costs. In order to comply with Article II, Section 19 and 19a of the City of Houston’s Charter and Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution, no provisions 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.

19. Release. PROPERTY OWNER AGREES TO AND SHALL RELEASE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ITS AUTHORIZED CITY REPRESENTATIVE, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES (COLLECTIVELY THE “CITY”) FROM ALL LIABILITY FOR INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE, OR LOSS TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY SUSTAINED IN CONNECTION WITH OR INCIDENTAL TO PERFORMANCE UNDER THIS CONTRACT, EVEN IF THE INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE, OR LOSS IS CAUSED BY THE CITY’S SOLE OR CONCURRENT NEGLIGENCE AND/OR THE CITY’S STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY OR STRICT STATUTORY LIABILITY, AND EVEN IF THE INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE OR LOSS IS CAUSED BY THE CITY’S WRONGFUL OR NEGLIGENCE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ASSESSMENT OR FORECLOSURE.

20. Indemnification. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, PROPERTY OWNER SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AUTHORIZED CITY REPRESENTATIVE, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE AFFILIATES, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS (EACH SUCH PERSON HEREIN REFERRED TO AS AN “INDEMNITEE”) ABSOLUTELY HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ALL CLAIMS, LIABILITIES, LOSSES, DAMAGES, OBLIGATIONS OR RELATED EXPENSES INCURRED BY OR IMPOSED UPON OR ALLEGED TO BE DUE OF INDEMNITEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXECUTION OR DELIVERY OF THIS CONTRACT, THE NOTICE OF CONTRACTUAL ASSESSMENT LIEN, THE FINANCING DOCUMENTS, AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENT OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT OR INSTRUMENT CONTEMPLATED HEREBY OR THEREBY, THE PERFORMANCE BY THE PARTIES HERETO OF THEIR RESPECTIVE OBLIGATIONS HEREUNDER OR THEREUNDER, THE CONSUMMATION OF THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY OR THEREBY, OR, IN THE CASE OF ANY INDEMNITEE, THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS CONTRACT AND ANY OTHER AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT.

21. No Personal Liability. Pursuant to Section 399.019 of the PACE Act, the Property Owner acknowledges that the members of the governing body and employees of the Local Government, and board members, executives, employees, and contractors of any third-party who enters into a contract with the Local Government to provide administrative services for the PACE Program are not personally liable as a result of exercising any rights or responsibilities under the PACE Program or any agreement in furtherance of the PACE Program.

22. Inspection and Audits. City representatives may perform, or have performed, (a) audits of Property Owner’s books and records, and (b) inspections of all places where Qualified Improvements are undertaken in connection with this Owner Contract. Property Owner shall keep its books and records available for this purpose for at least three (3) years after this Owner Contract terminates. This provision does not affect the applicable statute of limitations.

23. No Tax Debt. THE PROPERTY OWNER AGREES TO COMPLY WITH THE NO DEBT ORDINANCE IN SECTIONS 15-121 ET SEQ. OF THE HOUSTON CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES DURING THE TERM OF THIS OWNER CONTRACT.

24. Construction Terms. If the Lender Contract includes requirements related to 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.

EXECUTED effective as of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

**PROPERTY OWNER:**



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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

: \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORIZED CITY REPRESENTATIVE  
Pursuant to Tex. Local Gov't Code §399.006(b)

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**

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

**EXHIBIT B**

**MORTGAGE HOLDER(S) CONSENT**



**EXHIBIT D**

**CONSTRUCTION TERMS**

[if applicable]

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