

# CDHI INTERMEDIATE HOLDCO, LLC GREEN LOAN

### **DNV ASSURANCE OPINION**

# **Scope and objectives**

CDHI Intermediate Holdco, LLC ("CDHI" or "Borrower") has executed the revolving credit sublimit in USD (henceforth referred to as "Loan") and has submitted the proposed Loan for verification and certification against the Climate Bonds Standard (CBS). DNV notes that the requirements of the CBS meet and exceed the guidance set out in the Loan Market Association's Green Loan Principles 2021.

CDHI intends to use the proceeds of the Loan to finance nominated project and assets falling under the following categories:

- Electrical Grids and Storage
- Solar Energy

DNV Business Assurance USA, Inc. (henceforth referred to as "DNV") has been commissioned by CDHI to provide verification of the Loan as an independent and approved verifier under the Climate Bonds Standard. Our criteria and information covered to achieve this is described under 'Work Undertaken' below.

No assurance is provided regarding the financial performance of the Loan, the value of any investments in the Loans, or the long-term environmental benefits of the transaction. Our objective has been to provide an assessment that the Loan has met the criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard and the associated Technical Criteria.

The scope of this DNV opinion is limited to the Climate Bond Standard Version 3.0 and the following associated Sector Technical Criteria:

- · Electrical Grids and Storage
- Solar Energy

# Responsibilities of the Management of CDHI and DNV

The management of CDHI has provided the information and data used by DNV during the delivery of this review. Our statement represents an independent opinion and is intended to inform CDHI management and other interested stakeholders in the Loan as to whether the established criteria have been met, based on the information provided to us. In our work we have relied on the information and the facts presented to us by CDHI.

DNV is not responsible for any aspect of the nominated assets referred to in this opinion and cannot be held liable if estimates, findings, opinions, or conclusions are incorrect. Thus, DNV shall not be held liable if any of the information or data provided by CDHI's management and used as a basis for this assessment were not correct or complete.



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### **Basis of DNV's opinion**

DNV has conducted the verification against the CBS v3.0 and associated Sector Technical Criteria through the creation and execution of a verification protocol addressing each requirements of the CBS v3.0 and the associated Sector Technical Criteria. The detail of areas covered in the DNV verification is summarized in Schedule 2 below.

### Work undertaken

Our work constituted a high-level review of the available information, based on the understanding that this information was provided to us by CDHI in good faith. We have not performed an audit or other tests to check the veracity of the information provided to us. The work undertaken to form our opinion included:

- Creation and execution of a Climate Bonds Standard Protocol, adapted to include the relevant Sector Technical Criteria for the Loan Nominated Projects and Assets, as described above and in Schedule 2 to this Assessment;
- Assessment of documentary evidence provided by CDHI on the Loan and supplemented by a high-level desktop research, meetings and correspondence for documentation review and interviews with key personnel from the Borrower, CDHI. These checks refer to current assessment best practices and standards methodology;
- Discussions with CDHI management and review of relevant documentation;
- Documentation of findings against each element of the criteria. Our opinion as detailed below is a summary of these findings.



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# Findings and DNV's opinion

DNV has performed the Pre and Post Issuance Verification of the Loan. It is DNV's responsibility to provide an independent verification statement on the compliance of the Loan with the Climate Bonds Standard and alignment with the Loan Market Association Green Loan Principles 2021.

DNV conducted the verification in accordance with the Climate Bonds Standard Version 3.0 and with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Information. The verification included i) checking whether the provisions of the Climate Bonds Standard were consistently and appropriately applied and ii) the collection of evidence supporting the verification.

DNV's verification approach draws on an understanding of the risks associated with conforming to the Climate Bonds Standard and the controls in place to mitigate these. DNV planned and performed the verification by obtaining evidence and other information and explanations that DNV considers necessary to give limited assurance that the Loan meets the requirements of the Climate Bonds Standard.

Based on the limited assurance procedures conducted, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Loan is not, in all material respects, in accordance with the Pre and Post Issuance requirements of the Climate Bonds Standard Version 3.0 and associated Electrical Grids and Storage Technical Criteria. DNV also confirms that the CDHI Green Loan is aligned with the Green Loan Principles 2021.

### for DNV Business Assurance USA, Inc

Oakland, CA 19 September 2022

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#### **About DNV**

Driven by our purpose of safeguarding life, property and the environment, DNV enables organisations to advance the safety and sustainability of their business. Combining leading technical and operational expertise, risk methodology and in-depth industry knowledge, we empower our customers' decisions and actions with trust and confidence. We continuously invest in research and collaborative innovation to provide customers and society with operational and technological foresight. With our origins stretching back to 1864, our reach today is global. Operating in more than 100 countries, our 16,000 professionals are dedicated to helping customers make the world safer, smarter and greener.



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# **SCHEDULE 1: DESCRIPTION OF NOMINATED ASSETS**

	Eligible Projects & Assets Category	Туре	Projects	Loan facility (USDm)
	Electrical Grids and Storage	Battery Energy Storage System	The Santa Ana Storage Project (SASP) – SASP I	48
_	Total Draw as of March 31, 2022			48



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### **SCHEDULE 2: VERIFICATION CRITERIA**

### Summary criteria for assertions of compliance with the Climate Bonds Standard v3.0

The criteria against which CDHI and its nominated projects and assets have been reviewed prior to inclusion in the Loan are grouped under the requirements as detailed within the Climate Bonds Standard Version 3.0 including:

### Part A: Pre and Post Issuance General Requirements

Area	Requirement	
Use of Proceeds	Nominated Projects & Assets which are proposed to be associated with the Loan and which have been assessed as likely to be Eligible Projects & Assets.	
	DNV has verified the nominated category of Electrical Grid and Storage & Solar Energy to be aligned with the CBS Taxonomy.	
Project Selection	Establish, document and maintain a decision-making process which it uses to determine the eligibility of the Nominated Projects & Assets	
	DNV has verified the method for project selection and evaluation set out by CDHI is compliant with the Project Selection requirements of the CBS.	
Management of Proceeds	The systems, policies and processes to be used for management of the Net Proceeds shall be documented by CDHI.	
	DNV has verified the proposed management of proceeds and internal tracking set out by CDHI is compliant with the CBS.	
Reporting Prior to Issuance	The Borrower shall prepare a Green Bond (Loan) Framework and make it publicly available prior to Issuance or at the time of Issuance.	
	DNV has verified the form and content of the CDHI Green Loan Framework against the requirements of the CBS and confirmed its compliance.	
Reporting	Reporting on use of proceeds and nominated projects and assets	
	DNV has reviewed and confirmed CDHI's proposed reporting as being compliant and aligned with the requirements of the CBS.	



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### Part B: Low Carbon Contribution - Eligible projects and physical assets

Nominated Projects and Assets include financing of or investments in equipment and systems which enable the mitigation of greenhouse gases, as detailed in Appendix B.

Area	Requirement	
Solar Energy Generation	Projects eligible include onshore solar electricity generation facilities and supporting infrastructure.  DNV has verified that CDHI's nominated projects and assets include eligible onshore solar projects in USA.	
Electrical Grid and	Criterion 1: Storage Criteria	
Storage	Criterion 2: Mitigation Criteria	
	Criterion 3: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Checklist	
	DNV has verified that CDHI's nominated projects and assets meet the criteria	

#### Part C: Loan structures

Area	Requirement
Project Holding	The Borrower of a Corporate Climate Loan with Nominated Projects linked to a portfolio of assets must continue to hold eligible assets at least equal to the Fair Market Value at the time of issuance of the original principal DNV has conducted Pre and Post Issuance Verification as recorded in this opinion
Settlement Period	Climate Bond issuing entities must demonstrate that the proceeds of a Climate Bond (Loan) have been allocated to the Nominated Project(s) within 24 months after issuance of the loan.
	DNV has conducted Post Issuance Verification as recorded in this opinion and notes that proceeds have been fully allocated within 24 months of drawdown from the loan facility.
Earmarking	The Borrower of the loan shall maintain the earmarking process to manage and account for funding to the Nominated Projects & Assets
	DNV notes that this is an ongoing requirement beyond the scope of this Verification. Per the Green Loan Framework, the Borrower has committed to management of proceeds in compliance with the CBS.