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MEDIA RELEASE

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Town of Windsor Receives Grant from US Bureau of Reclamation

Funding for feasibility study toward increasing production, storage and use of recycled water

Windsor, California (September 28, 2023) – The Town of Windsor has received a $249,866 grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART/Title XVI program. These matching funds will be used to help finance a Multi-Feasibility Study to evaluate the feasibility of several projects aimed at maximizing the use of recycled water.

The projects would reduce reliance on the Russian River - on which the Town depends for nearly all its water - protecting local surface water and its ecosystems, while preserving the drinking water supply. All three projects are part of Windsor's efforts to attain net-zero status at their Water Reclamation Facility, which handles the treatment, storage, and disposal of the Town's wastewater.

"*We're very grateful to the Bureau of Reclamation for this grant*," said Town of Windsor Councilmember Debora Fudge. "*The funding support allows our community to take a significant step toward recycling 100% of our treated wastewater and supports the region by preserving valuable water supplies from the Russian River*."

The projects to be addressed by the study are:

- Extending the Town's recycled water irrigation system to serve the Airport Business Center area for its irrigation needs, which will reduce the use of potable water by up to an estimated 130 million gallons annually.
- Upgrading the existing aeration basin system to an Enhanced Biological Nutrient Removal System, to provide increased overall facility efficiency, deliver higher quality recycled and discharged water, and provide sufficient capacity to meet current and expected future growth.
- Combining Windsor's Water Reclamation Facility with Sonoma Water's Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Facility to provide increased recycled water storage, maximize regional resources, and contribute to rate stabilization. Consolidation will provide an estimated 100 million gallons of additional recycled water annually.

Regarding the consolidation of the two facilities, Grant Davis, General Manager of Sonoma Water, says, "*Sonoma Water is looking forward to working with the Town of Windsor to study opportunities for both increasing operational efficiencies and expanding recycled water use*."

These projects to maximize the production, quality, storage, and use of recycled water are critical elements of the Windsor's work to help address local impacts of climate change. With this funding for a Multi-Feasibility Study, the Town can more quickly move forward toward increasing available recycled water, offsetting the need to divert that significant amount of water from the Russian River.

More information about how the Town is planning to achieve net-zero status at its Water Reclamation Facility is available on the Town's website.

The Town of Windsor is located 63 miles north of San Francisco in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley, part of the Northern California wine country. It encompasses an area of 7.3 square miles and has a population of about 26,000. Windsor draws visitors from around the world to enjoy the area's extraordinary natural beauty, first-rate lodging, and abundance of world-class wineries. Visit www.townofwindsor.com.

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