RESOLUTION NO. 3965-24

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR OPPOSING THE PROPOSED COUNTY PROHIBITION ON CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFOS), ALSO KNOWN AS MEASURE J AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, Sonoma County has a rich farming history dating back more than a century; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County's agricultural heritage continues to be celebrated annually, from local County Fairs, the Healdsburg Future Farmers Country Fair to the Cloverdale Citrus Fair, and numerous other Sonoma County ag and fair events; and

WHEREAS, modern agriculture in Sonoma County have embraced organic farming and specialty produce, supporting farm to table restaurants and numerous farmers' markets, and hosting storied food producers; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County farming accounts for significant economic activity and food production for the region, with Sonoma County hosting 50 dairies, 84% of them certified organic, milking an average of 350 cows and comprising nearly 41% of California's certified organic dairies and certified organic mature dairy cattle producing 42.4 Million gallons of milk annually valued at $114 million, with Sonoma County producing 13% of the national volume of organic milk in 2022, and annual values produced of almost $33 million in poultry, $30 million in eggs, $20 million in cattle and calves, and $5 million in sheep, with livestock and poultry production alone responsible for $418 million in total output, $80 million in labor income and almost 1,400 jobs annually; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County dairies currently graze over 45,000 acres and farm 8,100 acres, managing over 53,000 acres, and lands managed by dairies sequester almost 23 million tons of carbon dioxide more than they would otherwise; and

WHEREAS, Sonoma County is proud to have a history of producing world-class agricultural products and stands with family farmers, local brands, and entrepreneurs who continue this tradition today; and

WHEREAS, animal agriculture is important to preserving natural landscape and open space we all enjoy; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is an economic engine for our community, and it is essential to protect our agricultural heritage and access to sustainably produced products; and

WHEREAS, while Measure J may be well-intentioned, its unintended consequences are far too great.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Windsor opposes Measure J and urges a "No" vote on Measure J to safeguard our local economy, environment, and agricultural heritage.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of September 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:	**COUNCILMEMBERS FUDGE, SALMON, WALL, VICE MAYOR POTTER AND MAYOR REYNOZA**
NOES:	**NONE**
ABSTAIN:	**NONE**
ABSENT:	**NONE**

ROSA REYNOZA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

IRENE CAMACHO-WERBY, TOWN CLERK