MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2024

CONTACT:
Irene Camacho-Werby
Town Clerk / Public Information Officer
Ph. # (707) 838-5315|iwerby@townofwindsor.com

Andrea Rodriguez
Communications Manager, Sonoma Water
Ph.# (707) 331 2040|Andrea.Rodriguez@scwa.ca.gov

Windsor Water District, Sonoma Water Approve Operational Agreement for Wastewater Treatment of Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone

Windsor, California (June 27, 2024) – The Sonoma Water Board of Directors on June 4 voted unanimously to approve an operational agreement between the Windsor Water District and Sonoma Water for wastewater collection and treatment of Sonoma Water's Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone. Director James Gore acknowledged the unprecedented collaboration at the meeting.

"Recycled water is an increasingly important part of our water resource management needs," Sonoma Water Director James Gore said. "I am grateful to both parties for their earnest collaboration and moving together into greater resiliency."

Windsor Water District's Board followed suit and approved the agreement at its meeting the following night.

"Windsor is grateful for the collaboration with Sonoma Water to develop this agreement that is a win-win for both agencies and the local rate payers," Windsor Water District Board Chair Rosa Reynoza said. "We have come together to find a solution that benefits the organizations, community, and the environment, supporting Windsor's NetZero Goals."

Approval of the operational agreement comes after a year of negotiations between the two agencies. Under the agreement, Windsor will assume treatment of wastewater from the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone service area, which includes the Airport Business Center and the Mark West area, east of Highway 101. In exchange, Windsor will gain access to

approximately 300 million gallons of Sonoma Water's recycled water storage ponds, and Sonoma Water will benefit from avoided capital investments on the magnitude of $50 million to rehabilitate infrastructure at its wastewater treatment plant.

Combining the operation of the two systems will result in higher efficiency and a greater volume of recycled water stored in the winter. The additional stored recycled water can then be used for irrigation by residents, commercial businesses and agriculture during the dry season.

The agreement becomes effective on July 1 and will take approximately one year to combine the two systems' operations.

This aligns with Windsor's NetZero Wastewater goal of recycling 100% of its treated wastewater, beneficially reusing 100% of its biosolids, and doing all of this with 100% clean energy.

Visit the Sonoma Water website for more information about the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone.

More information about how the Town of Windsor's efforts to achieve net-zero status at its Water Reclamation Facility is available on the Town's website. You may also contact Shannon Cotulla, Public Works Director / Town Engineer at scotulla@townofwindsor.com or (707) 838-1006.

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.

The Sonoma County Water Agency or Sonoma Water is dedicated to ensuring daily clean, reliable, and essential water for more than 600,000 people in parts of Sonoma and Marin counties. Sonoma Water manages flood control infrastructure, supports ecosystem health, and manages or operates eight sanitation districts or zones within its area of responsibility. With a commitment to innovation, environmental stewardship and community collaboration, Sonoma Water balances the needs of people and nature while securing a water supply that supports economic vitality and quality of life for generations to come. For more information, visit www.sonomawater.org.

#####