Town of Windsor
9291 Old Redwood Highway
P.O. Box 100
Windsor, CA 95492-0100
Main Line (707) 838-1000
www.townofwindsor.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2023

CONTACT:
Veronica Siwy
Deputy Direct of Water &
Environmental Management
Public Works
Ph. # (707) 838-1218
vsiwy@townofwindsor.com

Windsor Gaining National Recognition for Progress Toward Net-Zero Status at Water Reclamation Plant

Windsor, California (September 25, 2023) – Since 2019, the Town of Windsor has been diligently working toward achieving net-zero status at its Water Reclamation Facility, which handles the treatment, storage, and disposal of the Town's wastewater. As the Town continues to make progress in this effort, it was featured in the September 2023 issue of Treatment Plant Operator Magazine, a national publication focused on wastewater treatment technology, services, and operations. This national recognition of the Town's work in addressing local impacts of climate change is helping it become a model for other small municipalities for making wastewater treatment a truly sustainable, net-zero process.

The magazine and website article describe how the small Town of Windsor is thinking big, aiming to achieve net-zero status of its Facility by 2030. Windsor is approaching this "net-zero trifecta," as the article calls it, through projects to maximize efficiency and sustainability in its energy usage, wastewater recycling, and biosolids reuse. See the article at tpomag.com.

"The entire Windsor community can be proud that our hard work is making news within the national wastewater treatment industry," said Shannon Cotulla, Town of Windsor Public Works Director. "We're becoming a shining example of how a smaller city can have a big impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and do our part for a better, more sustainable future."

The first phase of Windsor's net-zero efforts was the 2020 activation of a distinctive solar array floating on the surface of the Town's recycled water pond (one of the largest floating solar power

systems in the U.S.). This provides nearly three-quarters of the power needed to operate the Facility, with the remaining power needs met by purchasing 100% clean energy – significantly reducing total GHG emissions.

Following that success, Windsor implemented a five-part plan toward net-zero carbon emissions at the Facility. These projects are at various stages of design and development.

- Improve wastewater treatment and energy efficiency, and upgrade treatment capacity with an Enhanced Biological Nutrient Removal System
- Reduce GHG emissions and improve quality of biosolids (nutrient-rich organic matter recycled from sewage; suitable for use in agriculture) through a new Biosolids Handling Facility
- Reduce the use of drinking water by extending the recycled water irrigation system to the Airport Business Center
- Provide increased recycled water storage, maximize regional resources, and contribute to rate stabilization by combining Windsor's Facility with a Sonoma Water facility.
- Improve regional collaboration toward water resource sustainability and improved wastewater treatment and management by implementing the Russian River Reuse Collaborative.

These projects illustrate that Windsor is indeed a small town that thinks big and is becoming a leader in sustainability at the municipal level with deliberate, forward-thinking, productive efforts toward net-zero status at its Water Reclamation Facility.

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 the Town's website for more information: www.townofwindsor.com.

# # #