

TOWN OF WINDSOR AGENDA REPORT

Joint Windsor Town Council, Windsor Redevelopment Successor Agency and Windsor Water District Meeting Date: May 21, 2025

To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Adrienne Cibor, Environmental Program Manager
Subject: Approve Phosphorus Offset Credit Agreement

Recommendation to Council:

Approve a phosphorus offset credit agreement between the Lytton Rancheria and the Town of Windsor.

Strategic Plan Element:

The recommended action supports the goal of Infrastructure. Goal Statement: Through a lens of sustainability and innovation, invest in the Town's infrastructure and public facilities to meet the needs of future generations.

Background:

The Windsor Wastewater Treatment, Reclamation, and Disposal Facility (Windsor WRF) is permitted to operate under North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) NPDES Permit No. CA0023345. This permit sets forth discharge requirements and limitations for treated wastewater effluent discharged to Mark West Creek during wet weather months. One of the conditions in the current NPDES Permit is that the Windsor WRF must reduce and/or offset 100 percent of discharged total phosphorus. The City of Santa Rosa Laguna Treatment Plant and the Lytton Wastewater Treatment Plant have similar requirements in their permits. This requirement means that the total phosphorus discharged to water bodies through the effluent must be equivalent to 0.0 mg/L, which is effectively unachievable. Any phosphorus discharged in excess of a concentration of 0.0 mg/L must be offset by equivalent water quality credits.

The NCRWQCB adopted a Water Quality Trading Framework (WQT Framework) in 2018 and amended the WQT Framework in 2020 under Resolution R1-2020-0010. The WQT Framework establishes a procedure for the generation of water quality credits in the Laguna de Santa Rosa watershed to offset phosphorus discharge, and creates a mechanism for purchasing, selling, or trading water quality credits with other entities that have similar permit requirements. The City of Santa Rosa and Town of Windsor have had an agreement in place since 2023 to trade water quality credits generated by NCRWQCB-approved projects to remove phosphorus from the watershed. Approval of this agreement would bring the Lytton Rancheria in as an additional partner in collaboration for improved water quality within the watershed while maintaining regulatory compliance.

The anticipated number of credits to be purchased by Lytton in the near future is approximately 50-100 per year. At the end of this 2024-2025 wet season, the Town will have 2,054 credits available that expire in 2033 and we are in the process of developing future projects to generate additional offset credits.

Under this proposed agreement, credits will be sold for the cost required to produce the credit plus a 20% administration fee, which will account for staff time and other resources expended in relation to

the credit generation and trading process.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action as the approval of the Agreement does not require any water quality credits to be purchased or sold.

Environmental Review:

There is no environmental review required as a result of this action. The current recommended action is not in-and-of-itself a “project” (pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378) since it does not result in a physical change in the environment.

Attachment(s):

[1. Phosphorus Credit Trading Agreement](#)

Prepared by:

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Environmental Program Manager

Reviewed by:

Shannon Cotulla
Public Works Director/Town Engineer

Approved by:

Jon Davis
Town Manager