
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region

Order No. R1-2026-0003

Rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2019-0007

for the

Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone and Sonoma County Water Agency

**Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone
Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility**

**Order No. R1-2019-0007
WDID No. 1B84124OSON**

Sonoma County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (hereinafter Regional Water Board) finds that:

1. Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water or Permittee) owns and previously operated the Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone Wastewater Treatment Facility (ALWSZ, Airport Plant or Facility), a municipal wastewater treatment plant. The Facility is located at 800 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California in Sonoma County.
2. The Facility historically discharged secondary and tertiary treated municipal wastewater to effluent storage ponds and water reclamation systems under Order No. R1-2019-0007, Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Reclamation Requirements (Permit), adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on April 18, 2019. In accordance with conditions in this Permit, secondary treated wastewater was discharged to a storage pond and pasture irrigation at the Sonoma County Airport, and tertiary treated wastewater was discharged to tertiary recycled water storage ponds, land applied for irrigation or transferred to Windsor and Santa Rosa reclamation systems.

3. Sonoma Water and Windsor Water District (Windsor) have historically cooperated to transfer, store and dispose of treated wastewater on a mutual-aid basis. Wastewater has been transferred between the facilities through an existing connection.
4. Windsor is the owner and operator of the Windsor Wastewater Treatment, Reclamation, and Disposal Facility (Windsor WRF) and is authorized to discharge subject to waste discharge requirements in Order No. R1-2020-0010 and NPDES Permit No. CA0023345 (Windsor's Order). Windsor WRF discharges tertiary treated wastewater to Mark West Creek, a tributary to the Russian River, and a water of the United States. Attachment F (Fact Sheet of Order R1-2020-0010) describes planned changes to Windsor's WRF, including implementation of a Joint Use Program with the Airport Plant, Sonoma Water, and City of Santa Rosa to enable transfer of effluent and reuse and distribution of recycled water from the tertiary storage ponds owned by the agencies to maximize recycling and minimize surface water discharges.
5. On June 4, 2024, Sonoma Water and Windsor entered into an agreement, titled *Agreement Between the Windsor Water District and the Sonoma County Water Agency Regarding Wastewater Collection and Treatment* (Agreement). The agreement is intended to address challenges faced by both parties. Sonoma Water's Airport Plant is approaching the end of its operational lifetime and would require substantial financial investment to extend its operational life. Concurrently, Windsor was seeking additional storage capacity to accommodate all of the recycled water produced by the Windsor WRF, rather than discharging wastewater volumes exceeding storage capacity into Mark West Creek, a tributary of the Russian River.
6. The Agreement includes provisions to transfer wastewater treatment responsibilities of the wastewater flow entering the Airport Plant from Sonoma Water to Windsor. Section G of the Agreement states:

“The parties desire to enter into an agreement whereby Windsor is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater from the ALWSZ [i.e., the Airport Plant] on a contractual basis and is able to transfer and store recycled water from the WRF in recycled water storage ponds owned by Sonoma Water and located within the ALSWZ. There are existing pipelines that connect the ALWSZ Wastewater System to the Windsor Wastewater System that will facilitate this arrangement, and the Parties plan to construct a new intertie pipeline connection (“Intertie Connection”) to link the two systems on a more permanent and efficient basis. The responsibilities and duties of the Parties will differ before and after the Intertie Connection is completed...”

7. Sonoma Water confirmed via email dated September 26, 2025, that the Intertie Connection became operational on October 16, 2024.
8. On September 22, 2025, Sonoma Water submitted an updated request for the rescission of the Airport Facility permit. This communication stated that Sonoma Water and Windsor implemented the “Post-Intertie Connection” operations phase of the Agreement on July 1, 2025, and that current and future responsibilities are that:
 - a. Windsor is responsible for treating all wastewater transferred from the Airport Plant to the Windsor WRF. Flows from the Airport Plant are conveyed through the newly constructed intertie connection pipeline into the Windsor collection system. Windsor is responsible for treatment and discharge of this wastewater in accordance with applicable permits.
 - b. Windsor is responsible for operation and maintenance of infrastructure at the Airport Plant (including pumps, pipes, process ponds, recycled water storage ponds, electrical systems, and emergency power generation used to convey wastewater from the Airport Facility to Windsor’s WRF).
9. Per the Post-Intertie Connection provisions of the Agreement, Windsor may receive raw wastewater from the Airport Plant or elect to continue to operate a portion of the Airport Plant. Should Windsor elect to conduct wastewater treatment operations at the Airport Plant, such operations would require revisions to Windsor’s Order or other appropriate permit coverage. Windsor must provide the Regional Water Board notice of any intent to operate the Airport Plant.
10. Sonoma Water’s updated request for rescission states that the Airport Plant previously produced and distributed disinfected tertiary recycled water for beneficial reuse. This communication also stated that, per the Agreement and effective July 1, 2024, Windsor assumed responsibility for the recycled water program, including compliance with Title 22 regulations for production and use of disinfected tertiary recycled water.
11. Sonoma Water (as of the date of this Order) owns the Airport Plant wastewater collection system and maintains coverage under Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Water Quality Order No. 2022-0103-DWQ.
12. The Regional Water Board has notified the Permittee and all known interested parties of its intent to rescind the Permit.
13. The Regional Water Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed rescission of the Permit in a public meeting on February 18, 2026.

14. Regional Water Board action to rescind Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2019-0007 is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15301.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2019-0007 is rescinded.

I, Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, on February 18, 2026.

Valerie Quinto, Executive Officer