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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Town of Windsor receives prestigious Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Public Works, Infrastructure, Transportation**

**Windsor, Calif.** – The League of California Cities has awarded the 2021 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in Public Works, Infrastructure, Transportation to the Town of Windsor for its 1.8-megawatt photovoltaic floating solar energy project.

The [Helen Putnam Award for Excellence](#) recognizes exceptional achievements by California's 482 cities and promotes innovative solutions by city governments. The nonprofit League of California Cities chose Windsor and the winners in other categories from 125 submissions.

The floating solar array – which addresses the Town's climate-action goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions – has generated more than 2 million kilowatt hours and counting of renewable energy since it went online in October 2020; that equates to more than \$210,000 worth of electricity for the Town.

“We appreciate the recognition for our floating solar project,” said Windsor Mayor Sam Salmon. “It not only helps us save money, but also helps us to operate in a cleaner, greener and more efficient way.”

Public Works Director Shannon Cotulla noted that Windsor's floating solar combines the technology of ground-based solar with marine engineering in a way that's just being implemented in the U.S.

“Our floating solar array has reduced our reliance on higher-pollution energy sources by about 350 metric tons a year,” Mr. Cotulla added. “This is a significant step in achieving our climate action plan emission-reduction goals.”

The large-scale solar array covers 4 acres of the Town's largest recycled water pond and is composed of almost 5,000 high-output (360-watt) panels atop a floating rack system. It is designed to generate 90 percent of the electricity needed to power Windsor's wastewater treatment facility, public works corporation yard, public works administration building, and the Town's Geysers pump station, which delivers reclaimed water to the geothermal field in the Mayacamas Mountains.

Windsor collaborated closely with Ciel et Terre, a Petaluma-based floating-solar company, which built the array and entered into a 25-year lease and power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Town to provide discounted clean energy. The solar array is estimated to save Windsor up to \$175,000 per year. The Town also partnered with the Sonoma County Water Agency, PG&E, North Coast Regional Water Control Board, and Marin Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District on the project.