



STAFF REPORT

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: FEB 2, 2026
FROM: TOM DUBOIS
**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AND FILE A
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION WITH THE STATE WATER
RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign and file a Financial Assistance Application with the State Water Resources Control Board for planning, design and/or construction activities associated with the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Design Project.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Sutter Creek has long studied options for its aging wastewater plant. It has developed master plans, evaluated options and chosen a preferred scenario, a new wastewater treatment plant with disposal into Sutter Creek.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Project represents the initial planning and design phase of this effort, continuing on to a construction agreement. Planning and design is a critical prerequisite for construction, permitting, and long-term compliance. Completion of design work will position the City to pursue construction funding through state and federal programs.

DISCUSSION:

The cost of achieving compliance with current wastewater treatment standards far exceeds what a small, rural, disadvantaged community can reasonably absorb through sewer rates alone. Securing state and federal grant and low-cost financing assistance is therefore essential to minimizing financial impacts on City customers while ensuring equitable access to safe and reliable wastewater treatment systems.

The attached resolution authorizes the City Manager, or designee, to sign and file Financial Assistance Applications and related documents with the State Water Resources Control Board. This authorization is an administrative but necessary step to allow the City to pursue available state funding programs for planning, design and construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project and to execute associated agreements if funding is awarded.

Adoption of the proposed resolution will allow the City to advance critical planning and design work that is needed. This action supports public health protection, regulatory compliance, and long-term wastewater system sustainability while prioritizing affordability for the Sutter Creek community. Staff recommends approval.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Approval of the resolution does not obligate City funds or commit the City to any specific financing. Rather, it enables the City to apply for external financial assistance. Any future funding agreements brought before the Council for approval will include detailed fiscal terms and conditions.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Sign and File a Financial Assistance Application for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Design Project