

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (N.C.S.)**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A RESIDENTIAL SEWER PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2025, City Council received the sewer rate study findings and recommended completion of the Sewer Rate Study (the “Study”) which recommends increases to the sewer rate over a 5-year period to meet the City of Salinas wastewater enterprise program operational and maintenance costs needs; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the sewer rate study process, City Council identified the need to develop a program to assist need-based residential sewer ratepayers regardless of the residence type; and

**WHEREAS**, as required by law, the program cannot be funded through user fees assessed to ratepayers; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 17, 2025, City Council appropriated \$150,000 from the General Fund for a sewer assistance program as part of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 City Budget, per Resolution No. 23269; and

**WHEREAS**, Monterey One Water (“M1W”) serves as the billing and collection agency for sewer charges assessed to Salinas ratepayers, and M1W bills properties, not units, on a bimonthly basis; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to provide an assistance program that allows for discounts to be provided to multi-family properties (duplexes, apartments, mobile home parks, etc.), the City must administer a program independent of sewer billing; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Salinas Residential Sewer Payment Assistance Program (the “Program”) will provide qualifying residential ratepayers with a one-time annual payment equal to 15% of their cumulative City Sewer System charges for the fiscal year regardless of their housing type; and

**WHEREAS**, Program eligibility criteria and requirements are outlined in Attachment 1, “Residential Sewer Payment Assistance Program”; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, the Program will be contingent on the appropriation from the General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15378.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Salinas City Council hereby establishes a Residential Sewer Payment Assistance Program as shown on the attached Exhibit A.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2025, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**APPROVED:**

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Dennis Donohue, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk

Attachment: Exhibit A