

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY (SONOMA WATER), CALIFORNIA**  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**AND**  
**THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF DENMARK IN SILICON VALLEY**  
**TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION & KNOWLEDGE SHARING RELATED TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE, WATER**  
**MANAGEMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley, represented by Deputy Head of Mission, Helena Mølgaard Hansen, and the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), USA, represented by Sonoma Water Board Chair Chris Coursey, as well as any other relevant participants agreed upon by both parties;

Considering the role water plays in current global, national, regional, and local challenges as well as the influence of climate change on that role;

Desiring to develop and promote efficient water and wastewater management, effective and streamlined environmental administration, and climate and environmental strategies, given the pressing need to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. This includes reducing emissions and mitigating the effects of extreme weather events e.g. by reducing emissions from water and wastewater management and developing solutions to live with intense atmospheric rivers, drought, and drier and hotter environmental conditions and by;

Wishing to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in a broad range of fields, including but not limited to the areas of mitigation of climate change and climate change resilience, including climate-mitigating public and private infrastructure, and environmental protection and restoration, and the development of related strategies; and

Bearing in mind that this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is intended to provide a general framework for cooperation on issues of common interest to both Sonoma Water and The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley.

Having reached the following understandings:

**Section 1 – Objective**

The objective of this MOU is to promote the continued and mutually beneficial relationship between The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley and Sonoma Water with a focus on sharing knowledge, data, best practices, business cases and develop solutions to further both parties’ efforts to develop knowledge and water management and solutions related to climate mitigation and resilience, environmental protection and restoration, and efficient water, and wastewater management. The MOU will help both parties advance the goals and objectives of Sonoma Water’s Climate Adaptation Plan and implementation of Sonoma Water’s Energy and Climate Resiliency Policy and the Government of Denmark’s Climate Act and related strategies to reach 70% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.

## **Section 2 – Priorities of Cooperation**

The following topics have been identified as priority areas for continued collaboration between The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley, and Sonoma Water under this MOU:

### **Sustainable and Efficient Water Supply**

- Identifying challenges and finding effective solutions associated with climate friendly, environmentally sound, and efficient water supply and .
- Sharing best practices, policies, and research for water supply that contribute to decreasing water loss; increasing water conservation; increasing water, and energy efficiency; optimizing process control, performance, and asset management; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; ensuring efficient pressure management; addressing water pollution (especially emerging pollutants); utilizing new digital and intelligent technologies more efficiently; and enabling a higher level of resilience and production security in light of local and global challenges such as pandemics, extreme weather, and natural disasters.
- Sharing ideas and approaches for data collection, auditing, and benchmarking in the water supply sector in order to enhance programs and projects as well as promote learning across audiences.

### **Sustainable, Resilient, and Efficient Wastewater Treatment, Resource Recovery, and Energy Production**

- Identifying challenges and finding effective solutions associated with climate friendly, environmentally sound and efficient wastewater treatment and sewer systems.
- Sharing best practices, policies, and research for management and wastewater treatment that contribute to increasing water and energy efficiency; optimizing process control, performance, and asset management; lowering the climate and environmental impact of production and discharge; enabling efficient production of energy and resource recovery of valuable nutrients from waste streams; utilizing new digital and intelligent technologies more efficiently; and enabling a higher level of resilience and production security in light of local and global challenges such as pandemics, extreme weather, and natural disasters.
- Sharing ideas and approaches for data collection, auditing and benchmarking in the wastewater treatment sector in order to enhance programs and projects as well as promote learning across audiences.

### **Efficient and streamlined digital governance of water processes**

- Exchanging knowledge on efficient and streamlined digital governance of water inspections, permits, and public financial assistance mechanisms that further sustainable water administration.

## **Section 3 – Cooperative Mechanisms**

Cooperative mechanisms to accomplish the goals established by this MOU may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Joint activities such as organization of - and participation in - seminars, workshops, and meetings to share information and practices, educate key stakeholders, and promote ties between our two communities; and
2. Facilitation of knowledge sharing with other American counties.
3. Development of joint innovation projects and/or other pilot- or similar projects.

4. Exchange of information relating to policies and regulations, digital administration and documentation;
5. Intergovernmental and international visits involving businesses;

The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley and Sonoma Water plan to designate individuals within their organization as their organization's "Coordinator" to oversee and coordinate the planning, performance, evaluation, and approval of cooperative activities carried out under this MOU. An action plan may be created, and on an annual basis status updates may be developed on the collaboration. The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon Valley is expected to be the focal point for the contribution of Danish knowledge and experiences related to this MOU, including knowledge sharing in connection with bilateral visits between The Consulate General of Denmark in Silicon and the U.S. Sonoma Water's General Manager will coordinate activities throughout the Sonoma Water organization.

#### **Section 4 – Term**

This MOU is intended to be effective upon signature and to remain in effect for three years from the date of final execution. Either Participant may discontinue this MOU by means of a written notice to the other Participant at any time, and this MOU should not be viewed in any way as a binding legal agreement. Discontinuation should take effect three months following the date of notification to wind down any existing programs and collaboration and should not affect activities already underway.

Signed in Santa Rosa, California on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in duplicate, in English.

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Helena Mølgaard Hansen  
Deputy Head of Mission  
Consulate General of Denmark in  
Silicon Valley  
United States of America

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Chris Coursey  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
United States of America