

AGENCY NAME:	Department of Environmental Services		
AGENCY CODE:	P500	SECTION:	55



Fiscal Year 2026-27 Agency Budget Plan

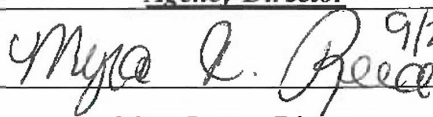
FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

OPERATING REQUESTS (FORM B1)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☒	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.	
	☒	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.	
	☐	Not requesting any changes.	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS (FORM B2)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☒	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.	
	☐	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.	
	☐	Not requesting any changes.	
CAPITAL REQUESTS (FORM C)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☐	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.	
	☒	Not requesting any changes.	
PROVISOS (FORM D)	For FY 2026-27, my agency is (mark "X"):		
	☒	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.	
	☐	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).	
	☐	Not requesting any proviso changes.	

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Chris Wimberly	803.898.1230	Chris.wimberly@des.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Simon Li	803.898.3443	Simon.li@des.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2026-27 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

SIGN/DATE:	<i>Agency Director</i>	<i>Board or Commission Chair</i>
	 9/26/2025 Myra Reece, Director	
TYPE/PRINT NAME:		

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services
Agency Code:	P500
Section:	55

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Recruitment and Retention of Credentialed Workforce	2,884,866	0	0	0	2,884,866	8.00	-3.00	-3.75	-1.25	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Modernizing Permit Review Processes with AI Skilled Staff and Technologies	2,545,756	0	0	0	2,545,756	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Recreational Waters Program for Environmental and Economic Success	806,246	0	0	0	806,246	6.47	0.00	-6.47	0.00	0.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Aquatic Science and Resource Management Programs for Environmental and Economic Success	996,893	0	0	0	996,893	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Sustainable Funding for the Clean-Up of Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites	3,500,000	0	0	0	3,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Laboratory Certification Program to Maintain Delegation	213,924	0	0	0	213,924	1.97	0.00	-1.97	0.00	0.00
7	B1 - Recurring	Supporting the prevention and removal of abandoned & derelict vessels (ADV).	150,000	0	0	0	150,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B2 - Non-Recurring	Fleet Vehicle Replacement	3,000,000	0	0	0	3,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	B2 - Non-Recurring	Sustaining SC's Aquatic Science and Resource Management Programs for Environmental and Economic Success	179,923	0	0	0	179,923	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	B1 - Recurring	Other Funds Authority to Support Ongoing Operations	0	0	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			14,277,608	0	5,000,000	0	19,277,608	24.44	-3.00	-12.19	-1.25	8.00

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	1
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Recruitment and Retention of Credentialed Workforce
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$2,884,866 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$2,884,866
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 3: Strengthen Workforce Retention and Capacity. Strategy 3.: Develop a workforce needs assessment to help establish succession planning. Funds will be used to retain credentialed workforce by allowing it to provide increases to varied staff across the agency and give the agency opportunities to recruit in non-traditional methods through different talent pools.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	This budget request is for the retention of credentialed workforce through merit-
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

based/performance increase to ensure SCDES is able to retain experienced staff and for other funding opportunities to hire and build the workforce through other recruiting methods without increasing the position count at the agency.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Issue

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) is tasked with safeguarding the state's air, land, water, and coastal resources through its mission of Science, Service, and Sustainability. As a newly consolidated agency, SCDES has rapidly scaled its operations to deliver critical environmental services across regulatory, permitting, and conservation programs. However, the agency faces a significant challenge in sustaining service continuity due to high levels of workforce eligibility for retirement. Within the first year, 25 employees retired, and over 200 staff members—more than 20% of the agency, are eligible or will become eligible to retire by July 2026. These are many of the agency's most experienced and productive staff. This level of turnover threatens the agency's ability to maintain operational efficiency, meet statutory timelines (such as the 90-day permit issuance goal), and uphold service quality across its core programs.

Solution

To preserve the integrity and continuity of SCDES's mission-driven services, the agency requests \$1,779,952 in general funds to support strategic staffing initiatives that reinforce service delivery capacity:

- **Merit-Based Performance Increases:** Funding will be used to retain high-performing experienced staff who permit complex environmental permits whose contributions directly advance agency goals such as improved permitting timelines, cost-saving innovations, and measurable increases in service output. These performance-based increases will be tied to criteria including exceptional EPMS ratings, productivity gains, and alignment with strategic objectives.

- o This plan aligns with current initiatives to focus on merit and rewarding high performers.

- o Additionally, it encourages high performers to remain with the agency as pay continues to be more competitive.

- **Flexible Staffing Resources:** Additional personnel funds will support nontraditional staffing models that will allow trained and experienced staff to immediately be productive in a full-time equivalent position. This includes:

- o Temporary staff to support time-sensitive regulatory functions.

- o Skilled staff in those temporary positions will be ready to fill vacated positions with reduced training timeframes and limited impact to program functions.

- o Expansion of internship programs with institutions such as the University of South Carolina to build early-career pipelines for environmental service roles.

- o Continued development of partnerships such as the STAYS program with the Department of Administration and the Department of Employment and Workforce to

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

engage veterans with relevant skillsets in environmental service work.

These tools allow SCDES to maintain momentum in service delivery while building resilience into its staffing model.

Impact if Not Received

Without these strategic investments, SCDES will have service delays, reduced regulatory responsiveness, reduced effectiveness in responding to and recovering from natural disasters and other environmental emergencies, and diminished capacity to meet statutory and public expectations. Permit timeframe uncertainty, delayed responses to compliance issues, and gaps in environmental monitoring could undermine the agency's ability to support South Carolina's economic growth and prosperity while protecting its citizens and natural resources. The absence of flexible staffing tools would also limit SCDES's ability to adapt to emerging needs, partner with educational institutions, and leverage alternative talent pools. Ultimately, failure to secure this funding would compromise the agency's ability to fulfill its mission of Science, Service, and Sustainability for South Carolina.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Modernizing Permit Review Processes with AI Skilled Staff and Technologies
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$2,545,756 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$2,545,756
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	4.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
		Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	X	IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
	X	Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 4 - Modernize Agency Operations Strategy 4.2 - Replace legacy IT systems and adopt transformative solutions. Strategy 4.3- Increase the use of AI and GIS tools to augment tasks and routine workflows. Funds will be used to support software implementation, equipment and develop technical expertise with agency systems. The expertise required will include system administration and support for solutions leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI).
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

SCDES will utilize funding to support personnel, licensing and equipment costs. All expenditures will be made in accordance with the current state procurement code and personnel guidelines.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

ISSUE:

Continued modernization of the permit review process is essential to meet new permitting timeframe requirements, and for improving permitting efficiency and consistency. A current lack of AI-skilled staff limits our ability to modernize and streamline critical permitting and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request processes. Without this expertise, we remain dependent on manual, time-consuming tasks, reducing efficiency, delaying service delivery, and preventing the effective use of data for decision making. This not only hampers innovation but also risks falling behind in meeting regulatory obligations and public expectations. Staff need access to modern software and applications to enhance their workload capacity and performance while increasing transparency in line with that goal.

SOLUTION:

By investing in AI skilled staff and AI technologies, SCDES aims to implement tools that remove administrative burden from technical permit staff (engineers and scientist), reduce permitting timeframes, and introduce more consistency into permitting decisions. This will result in higher quality application information and improved utilization of environmental data, leading to better permit decisions and greater predictability for stakeholders. The implementation of these technologies will streamline processes, enhance data accuracy, and ensure that permitting decisions are made based on comprehensive and reliable information.

SCDES is proposing to broaden support of agency staff and business systems to streamline processes. This would include meeting demands of personnel with FTE positions, licensing for AI capabilities through Copilot and Copilot Studio, and annual licensing for critical permitting and FOIA request support software; ePermitting and a modern Electronic Document Management System.

Benefits of investing in these skills and technologies include:

- Streamlined permitting processes
- Cost-savings in fulfilling or minimizing FOIA requests
- Improved communication – easier interpretation and access of information on documents and forms
- Strengthening our processes and investing in our technology to support a high-performance organization and culture of continuous improvement

SCDES strives to embrace service internally and externally

IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:

Without additional funding, critical implementations and staffing necessary to modernize permitting and information systems will be delayed. This will significantly hinder our ability to meet mandated permitting timeframes and respond to FOIA requests in a timely manner. Delays in permitting and public information access will negatively impact economic development and reduce transparency.

METHOD OF CALCULATION:

	Calculations were based on existing costs and a thorough review of IT and operational needs. IT systems were reviewed for usage and impact. Personnel costs are calculated using current state pay grades for the classification of positions requested.
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Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	3
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Sustaining SC’s Recreational Waters Program for Environmental and Economic Success
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$806,246 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$806,246
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 1: Streamline Permitting Processes. Strategy 1.4: Right-sizing staff levels to better service customer demand. Public swimming pools in the state are required to meet the standards for design, construction, operation and maintenance set forth in R.61-51 – Public Swimming Pools.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

	Funds would be used by the agency to convert 6.47 existing fee-funded FTEs to state
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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	FTEs.
	<i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i>
JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	Providing a safe and healthful swimming environment for residents and visitors to the state is a priority for the agency. There are over 7,600 public swimming pools in the state that are required to meet the requirements for design, construction, operation and maintenance set forth in R.61-51, Public Swimming Pools. The funding for oversight of the public swimming pool program in the state is provided in accordance with R.61-30, Environmental Protection Fees. Under R.61-30, proposed new public swimming pools must submit a permit application review fee based on the size and type of pool to be constructed. The original fee schedule was adopted in 2010 and has not been updated since adoption. While this fee would ideally cover all costs associated with staff review, increased complexity of current industry design parameters requires additional staff time and resources to determine if they meet the intent of the design standards in R.61-51. In addition, increased economic and tourism-based development in the state has led to more demand for public swimming pool construction over time. To make sure that the agency is able to make permit decisions on public swimming pool applications in a timely manner, it is necessary to commit additional resources to the permit review process. Funding Challenges and Program Impact: · The Recreational Waters Fee Fund is experiencing a declining cash balance and is projected to be insufficient to support program operations by FY27 without additional funding. · The increasing volume and complexity of public pool designs require more time and technical expertise to review and permit in compliance with R.61-51 design standards. This growing demand necessitates the need to keep staff positions in place to maintain timely permitting and avoid service delays for customers. Without the requested state funding, the Recreational Waters Fee Fund will be unable to sustain the current level of service beginning in FY27, potentially impacting public health and regulatory compliance. METHOD OF CALCULATION: A projection analysis was conducted to determine the necessary state funding offset required to maintain a positive revenue balance in the fee fund, ensuring coverage of both personnel and operating expenses. Current staff salaries were reviewed to identify the minimum number of FTEs that could be transitioned to state funding while maintaining program effectiveness. Personnel cost estimates were based on current state pay bands for the requested position classifications
	<i>Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.</i>

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	4
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Sustaining SC's Aquatic Science and Resource Management Programs for Environmental and Economic Success
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$996,893 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$996,893
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	4.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
		Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
X	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 9	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 2 – Enhance Compliance Assistance and Customer Service.
	Strategy 2.2 – Evaluate compliance data and inspection reports to identify trends.
	The requested funds would be used to directly support two (2) South Carolina Department of Environmental Services Bureau of Water Aquatic Science programs: - Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Program - Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program

These programs are chronically understaffed, and funding has not kept pace with increasing pressures imposed by a rapidly growing State and increasing environmental challenges. Together, these Aquatic Science programs allow for surveillance of toxic algal blooms in State waters and protect and maintain waterways and native ecology providing important recreational and economic benefits to the people of South Carolina.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Service's Bureau of Water will receive these funds to hire four (4) new positions across two (2) program areas. Requested Operating funding will support necessary enhancements to these program areas to meet rising challenges, create synergies within the Division, promote external collaboration, and position these programs for continued success.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

ISSUE:

These Aquatic Science programs are critical for:

- Conducting surveillance of toxic algal blooms in State waters.
- Protecting and maintaining waterways and native ecology providing important recreational and economic benefits to the people of South Carolina.

The agency has operated these programs for years with limited staff support and resources from State appropriations and federal EPA grants (Performance Partnerships Grants (PPG), Section 106 Supplemental Monitoring Initiative grants, etc.). State support for these programs has not kept pace with increasing demands on water resources, exacerbating water quality issues, and evolving water quality concerns related to a rapidly growing State. Staff time from other program areas is continually needed to address staffing shortfalls for certain programs. For example, the Harmful Algal Bloom program is understaffed with only 1.5 dedicated FTEs and struggle to meet rigorous program goals or expand capacity without support from other programs, which has a cascading impact. Further, the Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Program needs to expand the amount of area it currently treats to protect waterways from further expansion of certain invasive plant species. These areas include, but are not limited to, the Santee River, the Cooper River, the Pee Dee River Basin, and the waterways of the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve. These waterways are critically important public resources and support local and State economies.

SOLUTION:

Through the heightened awareness of evolving environmental and water quality issues, additional personnel and operating funding will allow for these programs to expand and modernize to meet the challenges of a rapidly growing South Carolina. These funds will:

- Enhance the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) program to meet the growing needs of the State and expansion of algal bloom related issues statewide.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

- Expand containment of invasive aquatic vegetation by the Aquatic Plant Management Program by allowing for treatment in additional waterbodies.

- Promote synergies within the Division and foster external partnerships.

- Participate in other federal environmental monitoring programs.

IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:

Without the requested increase in staff and funding support, these programs will continue to have to rely on additional staffing assistance from other programs to meet program goals. Further, these programs will not have the capacity to expand to meet the increasing challenges of a growing South Carolina. Without adequate and proportionate funding:

- Programs could be prevented from responding to an increasing number of highly visible water quality issues such as potentially toxic algal blooms.

- Invasive plant expansion could threaten native ecology and important commercial and recreational waterways.

METHOD OF CALCULATION:

Requested funding will be used to support additional staff and operations. \$996,893 will cover general operating and personnel costs for four (4) new Environmental Health Manager I FTEs. Personnel costs are calculated using current state pay bands for the classification of positions requested.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

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FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	5
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Sustainable Funding for the Clean-Up of Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$3,500,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$3,500,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☒	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☒	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☒	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☐	IT Technology/Security related
	☒	HR/Personnel Related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 1 – Streamline Permitting Processes.
	Goal 2 – Enhance Compliance Assistance and Customer Service.
	Funds will be used to pay our obligations, including: 1) continue operation and maintenance (O&M) of existing cleanup/treatment systems at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites to protect human health and the environment; 2) pay the state’s statutorily required 10% cost share for remedial actions at USEPA’s National Priorities List (NPL) Fund-lead sites; 3) continue investigating and cleaning up 24 sites with known risks, six of which have a high potential for redevelopment; 4) perform investigations and potential cleanups at approximately 150 additional uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that have undetermined risks and potential for redevelopment; and 5) staff the program to perform and oversee aforementioned activities. In addition to protecting human health and the environment, the program’s cleanup efforts also promote economic development of previously blighted properties.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Recipients of these funds are: 1) environmental remediation contractors performing ongoing remedial action and site O&M; 2) EPA--for the state's statutorily required 10% cost-share for federal Fund-lead remedial actions at NPL sites; 3) contractors performing state-lead governmental response actions; and 4) staff--for salaries and associated operating costs. Note: Contractors are selected through a competitive process based on qualifications and experience per state procurement guidelines.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

ISSUE:

The Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Site Clean-up program uses state appropriation funds and fees imposed on hazardous waste generators to assess and clean up uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that pose unacceptable risks to human health and the environment and hinder redevelopment.

Recurring state appropriations (\$1M) and variable generator fees and interest (currently \$950K) are insufficient to sustain the program based on current and projected expenditures. Current costs for known state FY26 program liabilities include contractor costs for long term operation and maintenance of ongoing remediation systems (\$668K); the state's statutorily required 10% cost-share payment to the USEPA for the federal Fund-lead remedial action at the Palmetto Wood Preserving NPL site in Lexington County (\$52K); committed contractor costs for active assessments and cleanups (\$1.9M); and staff salaries (\$1.9M). These FY26 liabilities total \$4.5M and significantly exceed annual revenue of \$1.9M. In the absence of any additional funding and due to current liabilities, the Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Site Clean-up fund will be depleted by the end of state FY28.

Because of the declining balance, the Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Site Clean-up program has postponed additional assessment and cleanup activities to ensure the agency could fund its ongoing liabilities. Currently 24 sites with known environmental impacts and significant risk are being addressed by the program. Six of these sites have been identified as having a high potential for redevelopment. In addition, approximately 150 other sites which may pose a risk to communities across the state are awaiting funding for comprehensive site assessments and potential cleanup. Known or potential environmental conditions at these sites may hinder redevelopment. The declining balance also limits the agency's ability to respond to a large-scale cleanup, which has historically occurred every 4-5 years.

SOLUTION:

The requested recurring state appropriation to the Hazardous Waste Contingency Fund would allow the agency to pay its ongoing liabilities and address sites of significant concern, mitigating risk and fostering redevelopment. A recurring appropriation of \$3.5 million would support the agency's current operating costs, known cleanup costs, and allow adequate funding to be directed to investigate and potentially remediate approximately 150 sites that may pose a health risk. Conditions at these sites are a blight on neighboring communities and hinder economic development.

IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:

Without the requested recurring state appropriation, and based on current known financial obligations, the capacity for the program to continue ongoing site clean-up is projected to be exhausted by the end of state FY28. At that point, the agency will be forced to "shut down" remediation systems and be unable to conduct necessary response actions for other ongoing cleanups, resulting in the continuing migration of

contamination into the environment. Examples of system “shutdowns” include the stream air-sparging system at the I-85 Site (Spartanburg Co) and the groundwater treatment system at the Exide Site (Greenville).

METHOD OF CALCULATION:

The requested appropriation of \$3.5 million is based on known costs/liabilities to 1) continue operation and maintenance (O&M) of existing cleanup/treatment systems at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites to protect human health and the environment; 2) pay the state’s statutorily required 10% cost share for remedial actions at USEPA’s Fund-lead NPL sites; 3) continue investigating and cleaning up 24 sites with known risks, six of which have a high potential for redevelopment; 4) perform investigations and potential cleanups at approximately 150 additional uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that have undetermined risks and potential for redevelopment; and 5) staff the program to perform and oversee aforementioned activities. In recent years, annual expenditures have been approximately \$2.8 million without any large-scale cost events.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	6
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Sustaining SC’s Laboratory Certification Program to Maintain Delegation
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$213,924 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$213,924
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
		Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	X	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
	X	HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 1: Streamline Permitting Processes. Strategy 1.4: Right-sizing staff levels to better service customer demand. The purpose of Environmental Lab Certification is to ensure quality data is generated to determine regulatory compliance with environmental regulations. An Environmental Lab Certification Program is required by law to maintain South Carolina’s delegation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act programs (also known as “primacy”). The Environmental Laboratory Certification Program certifies laboratories performing analyses for environmental data submitted to the Agency.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	These funds will be utilized to convert 1.97 existing fee-funded FTEs to state appropriations.
JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	<i>What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?</i> ISSUE: Current funding is inadequate to support the program. The purpose of the Environmental Laboratory Certification program is to ensure quality data is generated and reported to the agency for decision making and to determine compliance with environmental regulations. To make data driven decisions, quality data must be provided. There are approximately 500 certified laboratories – both in state and out of state. Additionally, to maintain primacy for the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), meaning the authority to implement and enforce SDWA within South Carolina, the state must have a program to certify laboratories that analyze water samples required by the federal regulations. SOLUTION: Convert and fund 1.97 fee funded FTEs to state FTEs to sustain the level of service currently being provided to the regulated community and citizens of SC. IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED: The agency would be unable to ensure that data submitted meets quality standards for decision making and would be unable to meet statutory requirements of issuing certifications within 90 days and regulatory requirement of conducting re-evaluation of laboratories every three years. Additionally, SC would be unable to meet federal Safe Drinking Water Act requirements to maintain federal enforcement responsibility for public water systems (primacy). METHOD OF CALCULATION: Projection report was used to determine the needed state offset to the fee fund to keep revenue ahead of expenditures. Analyzed current staff salaries to determine the fewest number of FTEs needed to convert to state funding.
<i>Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.</i>	

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	7
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Supporting the prevention and removal of abandoned & derelict vessels (ADV).
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$150,000 Federal: \$0 Other: \$0 Total: \$150,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
		Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
		Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
		HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
		Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	This request is necessary to fully implement Act No. 22 of FY2025. Additional funding will support the SC Department of Environmental Services’ (SCDES) development and implementation of a statewide abandoned and derelict vessel database pursuant to Section 50-21-290, S.C. Code of Laws. SCDES will coordinate with state, county, and local law enforcement to ensure accurate reporting, maintain the database functionality and data quality long-term. This funding request further supports Goal 2 - Enhance Compliance Assistance and Customer Service. Strategy 2.4 - Conduct sector-specific workshops and webinars.
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

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RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

SCDES will contract with the vendor that provides hosting and enhancement services for the South Carolina MyCoast platform to provide annual maintenance of the statewide ADV database.

SCDES will also select a contractor(s) through a competitive procurement process for the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP), including the laydown yard, transportation, materials separation and disposal.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV) are a chronic problem in South Carolina’s coastal and inland waters. ADVs directly impact critical habitat, diminish the safe recreational use of our waterways, and are a visual blight on the landscape.

In May 2025, SC General Assembly passed Act No. 22 to address challenges with abandoned, derelict, and sunken vessels. In addition to modifying timeframes and procedures for documentation and removal of vessels, Section 50-21-290 requires SCDES, in cooperation with SCDNR, to develop and maintain an application and website for law enforcement and the public to report vessels that are wrecked, junked, or that have sunk.

SCDES’s Bureau of Coastal Management (SCDES BCM) hosts a public ADV reporting tool within the South Carolina MyCoast platform to allow users to report vessels that may be abandoned or derelict. In 2021, BCM received one-time federal funding for two efforts: 1.) to enhance the state’s MyCoast ADV reporting system and 2.) to pilot an ADV prevention program called the Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP).

The MyCoast ADV enhancement involved expanding the reporting form and developing an ADV Database to document and map vessels currently under investigation by the state, vessels cleared for removal, and vessels that have been removed. The enhanced system also increases communication and collaboration among local and state agencies involved with addressing ADV. Completion of the MyCoast ADV database, which currently covers South Carolina’s eight-county coastal zone, is anticipated in early 2026.

In order to implement Act No. 22, this system must be expanded statewide to accommodate the full geographic scope of SCDNR’s jurisdiction, capturing inland lakes and waterways where ADV’s are also a problem. This geographic expansion will require additional development work and substantial long-term maintenance efforts. Recurring funds are needed to support this statewide effort to maintain the ADV database and ensure accurate reporting across local, county and state partners. Additionally, SCDNR received \$750,000 in one-time funds in SFY26, Waterways Protection Fund, to assist in this effort.

Simultaneously, the ADV prevention program (VTIP) was designed to address at-risk, end-of-life vessels before they become abandoned in SC’s waterways and marshes. Boat owners had the opportunity to surrender and properly dispose of unwanted vessels. This program was successfully piloted in 2024, with BCM accepting 13 vessels and 3 outboard motors. Post-project analysis showed that disposal costs for vessels through VTIP were 60% lower than removal efforts. Recurring funds will support expansion and replication of the VTIP as a cost effective ADV prevention effort.

SCDES is requesting funding to implement inland expansion, provide coordination with state, county, and local law enforcement, and maintain the database and data quality long-term. SCDES is also requesting dedicated funding to support the enhanced and geographically expanded SC MyCoast platform and to support ADV prevention through a Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP).

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	10
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Other Funds Authority to Support Ongoing Operations
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	General: \$0 Federal: \$0 Other: \$5,000,000 Total: \$5,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	0.00
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Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
		Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
		HR/Personnel Related
		Consulted DTO during development
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 1 – Streamlining Permitting Processes
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What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF	The agency would utilize this authority for continued support of core services.
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FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

**JUSTIFICATION OF
REQUEST****Issue**

In its first year as a cabinet-level agency, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) has completed a comprehensive internal needs assessment. This assessment identified a critical need for additional other funds authority to utilize existing cash balances. As the agency works to improve permitting efficiency and reduce processing timeframes, it has allocated additional resources to support these efforts. Many of these permitting programs are funded through fee revenues. Without increased authority, the agency is unable to fully leverage these existing resources, hindering progress toward key operational goals and placing additional strain on limited state and federal funding sources.

Proposed Solution

Granting additional other funds authority will enable SCDES to access and utilize existing program revenue to support ongoing operations, allowing the agency to reinvest collected fees into the programs from which they were generated, ensuring continuity of service and alignment with legislative intent.

Impact if Not Approved

If the requested authority is not granted, SCDES will be unable to fully utilize available program funds. This limitation may result in reduced program capacity, delays in permitting processes, and the need to divert resources from other critical agency functions.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Fleet Vehicle Replacement
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$3,000,000
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
	☐	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	☐	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	☐	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	☐	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	☐	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	☐	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	☐	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	☐	IT Technology/Security related
	☐	Consulted DTO during development
	☐	HR/Personnel Related
	☒	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	☐	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	☐	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	☐	Education, Training, and Human Development
	☐	Healthy and Safe Families
	☐	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	☐	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	☒	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 2: Enhance Compliance Assistance and Customer Service.
	Strategy 2.3: Offer compliance assistance site visits.
	Reliable transportation is essential for staff to effectively perform their duties and deliver critical services to citizens statewide. Establishing a consistent process for evaluating and replacing aging or compromised vehicles will enhance employee safety and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of agency operations.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency’s accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	Funds will be expended with vendors to purchase vehicles and accessories through state contracts and competitive bidding.
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What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST	SCDES has over two hundred and thirty-four vehicles that have exceeded the replacement criteria as defined by the South Carolina Department of Administration's State Fleet Management's Vehicle Replacement Criteria. This non-recurring funding request in the amount of \$3,000,000 will replace approximately seventy-five (75) of these fleet vehicles. SCDES fleet is essential to fulfilling our core regulatory functions, including inspection, investigation, environmental monitoring, and emergency response throughout the state. These duties require consistent, safe, and reliable transportation to maintain oversight and compliance within South Carolina's environmental protection framework. Justification for Replacement: * Excessive Vehicle Age & Use: All seventy-five (75) vehicles targeted for replacement have surpassed the recommended age, mileage, or usage limits outlined by Department of Administration's State Fleet Management - Crossovers – 100,000 - Minivan – 125,000 - Utilities, SUV – 150,000 - Truck, large pickup – 150,000 *Increased Repair Costs: These older units experience frequent mechanical issues, resulting in higher maintenance costs and extended downtime. *Operational Inefficiency: Delays in response times and reduced field coverage due to unreliable vehicles hinder our ability to execute regulatory mandates effectively. *Safety & Liability Risks: Aged fleet vehicles pose increased risks to staff safety and elevate potential liability concerns. *Sustainability Goals: Older vehicles contribute to greater fuel consumption and environmental emissions, conflicting with our department's mission to promote environmental stewardship. Approval of this \$3,000,000 non-recurring allocation would allow the department to procure modern, fuel-efficient vehicles aligned with current regulatory and operational needs. This investment would: - Enhance response capability and coverage in inspections and investigations - Reduce long-term maintenance expenditures - Support state sustainability targets and reduce environmental impact - Improve staff safety and operational morale
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Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	9
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Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Sustaining SC's Aquatic Science and Resource Management Programs for Environmental and Economic Success
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	\$179,923
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What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2026-2027? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
		Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
		Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
		Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
		Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
		Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
		IT Technology/Security related
		Consulted DTO during development
		HR/Personnel Related
		Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
		Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	X	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # Sustaining SC's Aquatic Science and Resource Management Programs for Environmental and Economic Success

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
		Education, Training, and Human Development
		Healthy and Safe Families
		Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
		Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	Goal 2 – Enhance Compliance Assistance and Customer Service.
	Strategy 2.2 – Evaluate compliance data and inspection reports to identify trends.
	?The requested funds would be used to support two (2) South Carolina Department of Environmental Services Bureau of Water Aquatic Science programs.
	- Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Program?
	- Aquatic Invasive Plant Control Program?
	?These programs are chronically understaffed, and funding has not kept pace with increasing pressures imposed by a rapidly growing State and increasing environmental challenges. Together, these Aquatic Science programs provide critical data to allow for surveillance of toxic algal blooms in State waters and protect and maintain waterways and native ecology providing important recreational and economic benefits to the people of South Carolina.

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

The South Carolina Department of Environmental Service's Bureau of Water will receive these one-time funds to outfit four (4) new Aquatic Science Division positions (Recurring Operating Request) and expand and modernize two (2) program areas that directly promote environmental health and economic success.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

ISSUE:

These Aquatic Science programs are critical for:?

- Conducting surveillance of toxic algal blooms in State waters.?
- Protecting and maintaining waterways and native ecology providing important recreational and economic benefits to the people of South Carolina.

The agency has operated these programs for years with limited staff support and resources from State appropriations and federal EPA grants (Performance Partnerships Grants (PPG), Section 106 Supplemental Monitoring Initiative grants, etc.). State support for these programs has not kept pace with increasing demands on water resources, exacerbating water quality issues, and evolving water quality concerns related to a rapidly growing State. Staff time from other program areas is continually needed to address staffing shortfalls for certain programs. For example, the Harmful Algal Bloom program is understaffed with only 1.5 dedicated FTEs each and struggle to meet rigorous program goals or expand capacity without support from other programs, which has a cascading impact. Further, the Aquatic Plant Management Program needs to expand the amount of area it currently treats to protect waterways from further expansion of certain invasive plant species. These areas include, but are not limited to, the Santee River, the Cooper River, the Pee Dee River Basin, and the waterways of the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve. These waterways are critically important public resources and support local and State economies.?

SOLUTION:

Through the heightened awareness of evolving environmental and water quality issues, additional recurring personnel and operating funding and one-time funding will allow for these programs to expand and modernize to meet the challenges of a rapidly growing South Carolina. These funds will:

- Enhance the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) program to meet the growing needs of the State and expansion of algal bloom related issues statewide.?
- Expand containment of invasive aquatic vegetation by the Aquatic Plant Management Program by allowing for treatment in additional waterbodies.?
- Promote synergies within the Division and foster external partnerships.
- Participate in other federal environmental monitoring programs.

	IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED: Without the requested one-time funding for new equipment and supplies, these programs will not have the ability to meet the enhancement, expansion, and modernization objectives outlined above ultimately impacting well-informed permitting decisions leading to negative environmental and economic outcomes in valuable waterways.
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Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	55.22
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark “NEW”).

TITLE	SCDES: York Water Filtration Fund
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	II. A. Water Management
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Delete
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	55.22. (DES: York Water Filtration Fund) Funds remaining of the \$700,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Proviso 118.19 (B)(83)(h) to the Department of Health and Environmental Control for the York Water Filtration Plant shall be transferred and used for the Lincoln Road Sidewalk Project. Funds were transferred to York in FY22 and there is no further action from SCDES needed.
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT	None
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Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT	55.22. (DES: York Water Filtration Fund) Funds remaining of the \$700,000 appropriated in Act 239 of 2022, Proviso 118.19 (B)(83)(h) to the Department of Health and Environmental Control for the York Water Filtration Plant shall be transferred and used for the Lincoln Road Sidewalk Project.
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Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM D – PROVISIO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	New
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Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark “NEW”).

TITLE	SC Dept. Of Environmental Services: State Water Planning Fund Flexibility
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Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	II. A. Water Management
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Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	
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Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2026-2027? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Add
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Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
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Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Special one time items were given to SCDNR for FY22-24 (what are the two smaller items we just got) and SCDES for FY25 (listed below). Pursuant of Act 60 of 2023, the Hydrology program from SCDNR was transferred to SCDES. This program is charged with development and implementation of the SC State Water Plan. In an effort to utilize remaining funds in each special item, it requested that all remaining funds be available statewide use in the order in which funds were received until fully expended. FY15 118.16(B)(48)(h) - Water Study-Outreach FY16 118.14(B)(40)(a) - Surface Water Modeling Phase III - Final FY22 118.18(B)(52)(b) - Pee Dee & Broad River Basin FY23 118.19(B)(44)(a) - Water Planning/Mapping FY24 118.19(B)(37)(g) - River Basin Plan FY25 118.20(B)(42)(d) - Water & River Basin Plan
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Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

**PROPOSED
PROVISO TEXT**

All funds previously allocated for State Water Planning purposes may be utilized for statewide water planning and implementation activities. These funds shall support the continued development, completion, and implementation of the South Carolina State Water Plan. Expenditures shall be made in the order in which funds were received until fully expended.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION

CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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AMOUNT	\$3,088,852
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What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	To meet the required budget reduction, the agency will need to scale back its workforce. A three percent cut to the general fund would mean eliminating approximately 30 positions, including a mix of full-time and hourly roles. Before any decisions are made, we'll take a close look at all programs to identify where reductions can happen with the least disruption to essential services and staff. We'll consider current vacancies, expected retirements or resignations, shifts in funding sources, and opportunities to reorganize or streamline activities. The goal is to make thoughtful, strategic choices that preserve the agency's core mission while meeting fiscal targets
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How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	A three percent reduction will affect all areas of the agency's budget, with impacts distributed across key categories: - Administration: \$355,030 - Programs and Services: \$1,893,358 - State Employer Contributions: \$840,464 - Total Reduction: \$3,088,852 These cuts will place added pressure on core programs that are already operating at or beyond capacity. Reduced funding will slow down critical permitting functions — including the time required to draft and approve permits, conduct inspections, and complete other agencywide processes. While every effort will be made to absorb these impacts through operational adjustments, service delays and resource constraints are expected across multiple program areas.
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What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

	A three percent reduction in funding—totaling \$3,088,852—will limit the agency's ability to deliver services to the citizens of South Carolina. While this level of reduction will require the loss of approximately 30 state-funded positions, the agency will take a thoughtful approach to managing the impact. Staffing changes will be guided by a review of existing vacancies, anticipated attrition, and opportunities to shift funding sources or reassign responsibilities. Every effort will be made to protect mission-critical functions and maintain continuity of service wherever possible.
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SUMMARY

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

SCDES continues to pursue cost-saving strategies that enhance efficiency and support the agency's core mission. This includes an ongoing review of operations to identify opportunities for streamlining activities, reducing overhead, and maximizing the value of public funds.

One key approach has been shifting certain responsibilities to administrative staff, which helps free up technical personnel to focus on high-impact tasks such as complex permitting and inspections. This targeted reallocation of duties improves turnaround times and ensures that specialized staff are used where they're most effective. The agency also closely monitors staffing levels and reassesses vacancies as they arise. When necessary, vacant positions may be held to generate savings—averaging \$4,290 per pay period per vacancy—which can then be redirected to support critical functions and offset operational pressures.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Department of Environmental Services		
Agency Code:	P500	Section:	55

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE	Technology and lean process implementation
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Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS	The agency remains committed to continuous improvement and is actively applying Lean principles to streamline operations and reduce burdens on businesses and citizens. By identifying bottlenecks and pain points in key processes, we’re developing targeted strategies to improve turnaround times and service delivery. This approach allows us to better align staff and resources with customer needs, resulting in more efficient use of public funds and enabling the agency to do more with what’s available. As process times improve, businesses and citizens benefit from faster responses, reduced administrative overhead, and a more accessible regulatory environment. SCDES is actively collaborating with local, state, and federal partners to improve permitting workflows and reduce regulatory burdens on businesses and citizens. Through joint training efforts and process alignment, the agency is working to streamline interagency coordination, eliminate redundancies, and shorten turnaround times. These improvements not only reduce costs for regulated entities but also support broader economic development by making it easier and faster to navigate permitting requirements across jurisdictions.
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What is the expected savings to South Carolina’s businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST	Mark “X” for all that apply:	
		Repeal or revision of regulations.
		Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	X	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
		Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION	Through its Lean process review, the agency has identified specific bottlenecks in permitting and inspection workflows that contribute to delays. By analyzing these pain points, we’ve been able to reassess task assignments and determine which activities are best handled by administrative versus technical staff. This realignment ensures that employees are focused on work that matches their expertise, improving overall efficiency. This analysis has informed the development and deployment of new processes aimed at reducing turnaround times for mission-critical functions. As these changes take hold, we expect measurable improvements in service delivery and reduced burden on both agency staff and external stakeholders.
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Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES	N/A
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Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION	N/A
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Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

	SCDES has engaged a process improvement specialist to conduct a comprehensive review of agency operations. This effort has helped identify specific points of delay within key workflows and provided actionable recommendations for streamlining activities and improving overall efficiency.
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As part of this initiative, the agency is reallocating responsibilities to ensure that technical staff are focused on high-value functions such as inspections and permitting, while administrative tasks are redistributed to appropriate support personnel. These changes are designed to reduce operational burden, improve turnaround times, and ensure that resources are being used as effectively as possible across the agency. The commitment to continuous improvement remains central to SCDES's strategy for delivering high-quality service to the citizens and businesses of South Carolina. This refocus of responsibility will help the agency stretch the limited funding available for maximum economic impact.

SUMMARY

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?