

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



**Fiscal Year FY 2025-2026**

**Agency Budget Plan**

**FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

<b>OPERATING REQUESTS</b> <i>(FORM B1)</i>	<b>For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>NON-RECURRING REQUESTS</b> <i>(FORM B2)</i>	<b>For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.

<b>CAPITAL REQUESTS</b> <i>(FORM C)</i>	<b>For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not requesting any changes.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>PROVISOS</b> <i>(FORM D)</i>	<b>For FY 2025-2026, my agency is (mark "X"):</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	Simon Li	(803) 422-0711	simon.li@des.sc.gov
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Chris Wimberly	(803) 898-1230	chris.wimberly@des.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2025-2026 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<u>Agency Director</u>	<u>Board or Commission Chair</u>
<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>		
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>		

*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	Retaining Experienced & Credentialed Workforce	7,740,379	0	0	0	7,740,379	35.00	-12.00	-13.00	-4.00	6.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Implementing and Modernizing SCDES IT Applications	1,590,408	0	0	0	1,590,408	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Environmental and Economic Success	1,976,464	0	0	0	1,976,464	15.35	0.00	-8.35	0.00	7.00
4	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Drinking Water Program for Environmental and Economic Success	4,485,442	0	0	0	4,485,442	24.36	0.00	-23.36	0.00	1.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Mining and Reclamation Program for Environmental and Economic Success	641,093	0	0	0	641,093	5.30	0.00	-3.30	0.00	2.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Air Quality Program for Environmental and Economic Success	2,267,756	0	0	0	2,267,756	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
7	B1 - Recurring	Sustainable Funding for the Clean-Up of Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites	2,500,000	0	0	0	2,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	B1 - Recurring	Enhancing Compliance Assistance	1,104,685	0	0	0	1,104,685	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
9	B1 - Recurring	Sustaining SC's Laboratory Certification Program to Maintain Delegation	293,901	0	0	0	293,901	2.66	0.00	-2.66	0.00	0.00
10	B1 - Recurring	Recover and Rebuild SC's Fish Advisory Program	401,935	0	0	0	401,935	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
11	B1 - Recurring	Maintaining SC's Asbestos Program	346,642	0	0	0	346,642	3.20	0.00	-2.20	0.00	1.00

12	B2 - Non-Recurring	Supporting Local Solutions for Managing Food Waste	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	B2 - Non-Recurring	Recover and Rebuild SC's Fish Advisory Program	207,132	0	0	0	207,132	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	B1 - Recurring	Other Funds Authorization Increase	0	0	3,750,000	0	3,750,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			28,555,837	0	3,750,000	0	32,305,837	105.87	-12.00	-52.87	-4.00	37.00

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

## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>1</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Retaining Experienced &amp; Credentialed Workforce</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$7,740,379</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$7,740,379</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>6.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 4: Build a Specialized and Competent Workforce</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 4.1: Retaining and increasing specialized staff.</i></p> <p>Funds will be used to retain an experienced and credentialed workforce. This will allow the agency to reduce turnover rates and decrease initial hiring/training costs.</p>
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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 retention of experienced and credentialed workforce to
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## RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

ensure that the Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) is able to hire and retain experienced staff, provide continual technical training to maintain a competent workforce and work toward establishing an incentive-based compensation plan for future retention opportunities.

*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:** SCDES is facing an upcoming wave of employee retirements as almost 25 percent of the agency's expert workforce is eligible to retire within the next three to five years, including 15 percent that can retire immediately from the state. Meanwhile, 40 percent of future SCDES employees have been with the agency less than five years.

Like other environmental regulatory agencies across the nation, the work that we do is very complex and requires 5 or more years of experience to gain the knowledge and expertise to be effective. To prepare for anticipated staff attrition, we are aggressively working to implement several succession planning, recruiting and retention initiatives designed to allow SCDES to meet its critical mission of environmental protection and South Carolina's economic prosperity goals.

### **Engineer and Technical Workforce Salaries:**

Using the funds received last year, we were able to make an impact to increase our average salaries to remain more competitive with other agencies within the State, but this request will continue to ensure that we have a strong and credentialed workforce. We once again will use funding to address salaries for Microbiologist, Chemist, Geologist/Hydrologist, and entry-level Engineer staff. As staff continue to leave for higher-paid opportunities, we are losing credentialed staff in our management chain. Credentialed staff are necessary to address emerging issues and issue legally defensible permits.

### **Need for Credentialed Workforce:**

The State recognizes this need for qualified engineers and geologists to support the state's economy and encourages efforts to increase access to accredited education, the examinations, and the experience necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of South Carolina citizens and its environment.

Licensed engineers are essential to complete the agency's core mission and to supervise engineers in training. Additionally, encouraging and supporting staff to attain professional status will heighten the caliber and quality of our planning, permitting, and report reviewing for programs regulated and overseen by the agency.

### **SOLUTION:**

#### **Engineer and Technical Workforce Salary Increases:**

Increase starting salaries for critical technical staff and increase the capacity of the current workforce so they are more in line with market averages and competitive with other state agencies. The current workforce will receive the new starting salaries or a 2 percent increase, whichever is higher.

#### **Training to Build Credentialed Workforce:**

Increase capacity and retention of workforce and improve customer service to citizens

## JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

by implementing training plans to develop a premier workforce. Training will help to ensure sound and consistent decision permitting decision, support compliance initiatives, and support retention by building a competent and confident workforce.

Our current workforce requires a high level of technical expertise, and we often find it difficult to hire staff with the qualifications we need. This is especially true for our Chemist, Microbiologist, and Engineer positions. Funding for targeted Environmentally focused training is needed. Training budget will be used to:

- Provide mandated EPA training and additional job-related certifications,
- Pay for classes and resources to obtain job-related certifications, · Grow number of Professional Engineers and Professional Geologists,
- Reduce the amount of time spent on travel expenses by holding local in-person training for groups of staff, and
- Partner with Department of Administration for customer service and additional soft skill training, when possible.

#### **Additional Capacity to Support Economic Development:**

Ongoing growth in the state requires complex permits be completed timely. This effort requires seasoned staff to be redirected to support high priority projects to meet expected timelines. This redirection leaves a gap in core program activities. Funding will be utilized to recruit new talent to fill those gaps and support core program activities. Paired with training opportunities, these new staff will be able to support more complex permitting needs as their experience grows.

#### **IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

SCDES is competing for the same workforce as industry for permitting and technical staff. If we are not able to retain and train our current workforce,

- Permitting times will continue to increase,
- Number of PEs and PGs in management will continue to decline,
- Customer service to the regulated community and other stakeholders will suffer, and
- EPA delegation of authority could be compromised.
- Expedited and/or complex projects would not be completed in expected timelines which directly impacts business development.

#### **METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

SCDES calculated the cost to increase our Engineer salaries to be more aligned with other state agency salaries. Additional technical staff salaries will also be increased based on the level of education and technical skills needed for job duties.

Current mandated training budgets were pulled to calculate training costs.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	2
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Implementing and Modernizing SCDES IT Applications</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$1,590,408</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$1,590,408</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	8.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 1 - Lead with Data-Driven Decisions to Implement Policy</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 1.1 - Comprehensive use of modern tools and technologies for agency decision-making.</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 1.3- Ensuring environmental data and information are easily accessible and provided in a meaningful way for public use.</i></p> <p><i>Goal 2 - Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.1 - Implement a comprehensive environmental permitting process that serves users, stakeholders and communities.</i></p> <p><b>Funds will be used to support software implementation and develop technical expertise with agency systems.</b></p>
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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 and ongoing shared services 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**

**IT INFRASTRUCTURE:**

The successful launch of SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) as a new cabinet level agency occurred on July 1, 2024. This launch is providing an opportunity to modernize technology systems and hardware to increase efficiency and provide better service to our customers. Funding will allow for the agency to implement software superusers within the programs and implement new software development. Additionally, this funding will be used to fully cover the costs of shared services anticipated for the upcoming fiscal years.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

Without additional funding, we must redirect core environmental program resources (air, water, etc) to cover necessary expenses or delay implementations. Redirection of funds would delay the timely delivery of permitting and other services which will impact economic development in the state and risk loss of federal delegation of environmental programs to South Carolina.

**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. An estimate was made to identify ongoing shared services costs based on current actual charges.

Additional state FTEs are needed because all available FTEs have been assigned to existing programs.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	3
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Sustaining SC’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program for Environmental and Economic Success</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$1,976,464</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$1,976,464</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	7.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2 - Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.1 - Implement a comprehensive environmental permitting process that serves users, stakeholders and communities.</i></p> <p>The regulation of discharges to waters of the state minimizes industrial source and stormwater impacts to water quality. A state delegated program provides the best quality oversight while supporting economic growth.</p>
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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 will be used by the agency to convert 8.35 existing fee-funded FTEs to state
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

FTEs as well as to fund 7 additional positions.

*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:**

It is vital to have good water quality and water that is available in the growing and thriving state of South Carolina. The agency achieves this by the authority given under the Clean Water Act and South Carolina Pollution Control Act. Both give the agency the authority to regulate the discharge of pollutants from wastewater and stormwater sources into waters of the state through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Currently there are over 6,000 NPDES permits that protect water quality. The agency implements the program in the state, employing engineers and technical staff to:

- Review applications and make permitting decisions to protect South Carolina’s water quality.
- Coordinate with internal and external stakeholders on specific applications and broader programmatic topics.
- Issue permits with pollution reduction measures needed to aid in reducing contributions of pollutants to impaired water and ultimately return the waterway to state standards.

Heightened levels of pollution elevate the risk of health issues for the state’s residents and environmental impairments, each of which may negatively impact our communities, tourism, and economy.

At the current level, funds are projected to drop below the level to sustain current staffing in 2026, jeopardizing our federal delegation of the program which would result in EPA taking lead over this program.

**SOLUTION:**

Convert 8.35 fee funded FTEs to state FTEs and fund unfunded FTEs to sustain the current level of service. Additional staff are needed to support enhanced stormwater permitting capacity in line with recent Coastal Zone Consistency positions received in the FY25 budget cycle.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

In the absence of the requested state funds, the NPDES Program will not be capable of providing the current level of service and growing demands. In addition:

- The agency will be at risk of third-party litigation for failure to issue permits in a timely manner.
- EPA may take full control over the program, increases permit timeframes and impacting the state’s economic development goals.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

Used projection report to determine the needed state offset to the fee fund to keep revenue ahead of expenditures for personnel and operating. Analyzed current staff salaries to determine the fewest number of FTEs needed to convert to state funding.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	4
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Sustaining SC’s Drinking Water Program for Environmental and Economic Success</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$4,485,442</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$4,485,442</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	1.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2 – Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.2 - Increasing pollution prevention by offering compliance assistance to permittees.</i></p> <p>Compliance of public drinking water systems is a federal requirement and ensures health protection of consumers.</p>
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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 23.36 existing fee-funded FTEs to
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

state FTEs as well as fund an additional position.

*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:**

Safe drinking water is a priority for the agency. There are over 2,500 public drinking water systems in the state that are required to meet complex state and federal drinking water regulations, including monitoring for over eighty (81) regulated compounds. In the late 1990's, the State Legislature authorized the agency to collect a fee annually from each public drinking water system in the state to be deposited in the Drinking Water Fee Fund for the purpose of implementing the state and federal Safe Drinking Water Acts. Unfortunately, the federal funding and fees have not kept up with the increasing cost to monitor. In addition, more compounds need monitoring, as the regulations continue to become more stringent. Using these funds, the agency arranges for the collection and analyses of a vast majority of drinking water samples required for compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations.

*Funding issues include:*

- The existing cash balance from fees is decreasing to a point where the Drinking Water Fee Fund will not be able to support the program needs by FY27.
- EPA requires water systems to conduct 2 yearlong sampling events, with 1 year off in between, under the Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR).
  - Between the last UCMR and the current one, the drinking water fee fund will have expended nearly \$1 million. These are federally mandated programs with no additional federal funding to support the effort.

**SOLUTION:**

Convert 23.36 fee funded FTEs to state FTEs and fund unfunded FTEs to sustain the current level of service currently being provided to the regulated community and request one additional position to further support the agency's missions.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

In the absence of the requested state funds, the Drinking Water Fee Fund will not be capable of providing the current level of service beginning FY27. In addition:

- The agency may risk losing primary enforcement authority over the federal Safe Drinking Water Act if it does not have the resources necessary to adopt new regulations and continue to enforce existing federal regulations.
- Increased fees to regulated systems will likely result in increased costs to consumers.
- The agency may be required to curtail some services to public water systems that are designed to ensure that they remain in compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. Currently, the agency conducts most compliance monitoring for public water systems in the state utilizing monies in the Drinking Water Fee Fund. If the fund is unable to support these monitoring services in the future, the rate of public water system non-compliance with state and federal monitoring regulations will increase.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

Used projection report to determine the needed state offset to the fee fund to keep revenue ahead of expenditures for personnel and operating. Analyzed current staff salaries to determine the fewest number of FTEs needed to convert to state funding.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	5
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Sustaining SC’s Mining and Reclamation Program for Environmental and Economic Success</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$641,093</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$641,093</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	2.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2 – Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.1 - Implement a comprehensive environmental permitting process that serves users, stakeholders, and communities.</i></p> <p>Funds will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• perform administrative and technical reviews of applications (including public notices, public meetings, and public hearings),</li> <li>• issue permits and certificates of exploration,</li> <li>• conduct annual and complaint-driven inspections of active sites, and</li> </ul> <p>follow through with compliance assistance. Resources will support personnel and operating costs to implement the Mining program. All activities are reported annually to the SC Mining Council, established by <a href="#">S.C. Section 48-21-20</a>.</p>
	<p><i>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?</i></p>

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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

Funds will be used to pay staff salaries and associated operating costs including the costs for public notice and public meetings/hearing and the required annual Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) cost.

*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:**

Infrastructure and construction materials from mine sites are essential to South Carolina's growing economy. Examples include cement, sand and gravel (construction and industrial), stone (crushed), and gold. Due to high transportation costs, mine sites are required to be within a set radius of the construction location. The current funding available to the program through fee revenue and appropriations is insufficient to meet the demands on the program to support the increased mining activity in the state that is driven by population, economic, and infrastructure growth. Additional funding is needed to support the regulatory program to meet the mining industry's need for timely permits and the public's expectation for oversight of mining and reclamation activities.

**SOLUTION:**

A recurring appropriation of \$319,743 is needed to sustain the program's current staffing. This amount will cover the conversion of 3.27 FTEs converted to state funding. An additional recurring appropriation of \$255,438 will be used to add 2 new FTEs to meet the growth in mines and to ensure the future augmentation of the program. The remaining \$65,911 will be used to support operating and travel needs.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

Without this recurring appropriation, the mining program will continue to see expenditures exceed revenues and the program will be unable to meet the state's increasing demand for mined materials. The Mining program's funding would not be sufficient to support existing staffing starting in FY25. Additional resources will be needed to meet the state's needs for mined materials to support economic and population growth. This will impact the rate at which applications are processed and permits are issued.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

Requested funding will be used to support staff and operations. \$321,349 will cover some general operating costs and two (2) new positions. The remainder of the request will cover costs for the 3.27 existing FTEs and operating needs. Personnel costs are calculated using current staff salary amounts.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	6
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Sustaining SC’s Air Quality Program for Environmental and Economic Success</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$2,267,756</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$2,267,756</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	2.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2 – Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.2 - Increasing pollution prevention by offering compliance assistance to permittees.</i></p> <p>This request supports needed funding for Air Quality program staff who write air permits, directly provide support, and regulatory oversight. Not having adequate funding to support the state’s air quality program ultimately impacts public health and economic growth in South Carolina.</p>
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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?*

	All funds would be used by the agency to support existing personnel, two new
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## RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

positions, and operating costs associated with the Air Quality program.

*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:

Emission-based fee structure: Air emission fees are based on actual emissions and as emissions decrease, so does the program's primary revenue. Emission fees collected from regulated facilities have been declining steadily for the last decade as air emissions decrease due to federal Clean Air Act reduction standards. This fee structure worked to significantly lower emissions; however, due to the emission reductions, fees also reduced significantly. Fee revenue also significantly decreased due to business decisions made by power utility companies to shut down less-efficient units and to switch the fuel of many remaining units from coal to natural gas. A flat maintenance fee was added to the emission-based fees in 2014 to help address the projected shortfall at that time. The program is currently projected to have another deficit by FY25.

The program's workload has also continued to increase as South Carolina's business economy and population has grown. Due to the increased infrastructure work on South Carolina's roads and bridges, the agency has seen a large increase in permit applications for concrete and asphalt plants. An additional Environmental Engineer/Associate I position will allow the agency to assign these applications to a permit writer and ensure the agency meets construction deadlines and addresses South Carolina's economic growth.

As Air Program fee revenue has declined, it no longer covers the associated costs of operating South Carolina's ambient air quality monitoring network. The agency operates 21 monitoring sites with 60 monitors and samplers across South Carolina. Past EPA audits of the state's monitoring network cited many deficiencies, including the age of the monitoring equipment and the agency's failure to meet federal data completeness requirements. Older monitoring equipment can result in invalid and lost data. As South Carolina's population grows, the agency will also be required to install and maintain additional monitoring sites across the state.

### SOLUTION:

Fund existing Air Quality program to ensure:

- issuance of timely construction and operating permits to new businesses and expansion projects which will continue to fuel economic growth in the state
- compliance with state and federal air quality regulations and standards
- the agency's ambient air quality monitoring network is upgraded to become more automated and efficient resulting in more reliable data
- South Carolinians continue to breathe healthy, clean air
- adequate funding for the Air Quality program until changes can be made to the fee statute and/or fee regulation to sustain the program long term

The agency will continue streamlining the permitting process, refining program costs and revenue projections, and working with industry stakeholders to determine other appropriate future funding structures as SC's population and economic goals continue to grow.

### IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:

**1) Adverse Impacts to Economic Development:** The Air Quality program is critical to South Carolina's business economy as most new companies cannot locate into a state (or existing businesses cannot expand) prior to first obtaining an air permit. South Carolina is the third fastest growing state in the U.S. and is experiencing tremendous growth in businesses that need air permits to operate. When new businesses are considering locations to build new facilities, they carefully consider the status of the area's attainment (or compliance) with air standards. States who are not in attainment with air quality standards are typically not selected for new development. South Carolina currently meets all national ambient air quality standards and has no non-attainment areas; however, without adequate funding, the Air Quality program cannot maintain the necessary staff levels to maintain compliance with these standards and issue timely construction and operating air permits to meet business demands.

**2) Potential Loss of State Program Delegation:** SCDES currently has delegation of authority to implement Federal air quality standards. As identified by EPA in a recent

## JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST



audit, adequate funding is necessary for the program to maintain delegation. If delegation is revoked, the state will experience increased permitting timeframes and limit economic growth throughout the state.

**3) Impact on small businesses:** Many of these small businesses rely on Air Quality program staff to assist them with completing their permit applications and providing compliance assistance. The agency works directly with small businesses and their trade organizations to keep them abreast of regulatory changes, to assist them with emissions calculations and permit forms, and to oversee compliance assistance efforts. Without adequate funding, these opportunities for compliance assistance may be lost.

**4) Inability to determine compliance with Federal Ambient Air Quality Standards:** The agency's Air Program is responsible for assuring South Carolinians continue to breathe clean air that meets all National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Federal law requires all states to operate and maintain an ambient air quality monitoring network to demonstrate compliance with the NAAQS. Without properly functioning monitoring equipment, the agency cannot demonstrate compliance with the NAAQS, cannot maintain its delegation of authority, cannot qualify for and continue to receive federal grants, and cannot assure the citizens of South Carolina that they are breathing clean air.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

The requested salary funding will be used to support current personnel costs for 8.77 existing FTEs. Specific existing FTEs will be converted from "Other" to State Appropriations. Additionally, these funds will support 2 new positions. Personnel costs were calculated using current staff salaries. Operating costs will support the 2 new FTEs. The requested \$700,000 in recurring equipment costs is needed to replace aging equipment and maintain a reliable monitoring network.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	7
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

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

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$2,500,000</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$2,500,000</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	0.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2 – Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.4 – Provide regulatory oversight and monitoring to safeguard the states environment and public health.</i></p> <p>Funds will be used to promote healthy communities and protect human health and the environment by providing resources to perform emergency response actions and to address uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.</p>
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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?*

	These funds will be used to pay contractors # to perform state-lead governmental
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

response actions, pay EPA for the state's required 10% cost-share for federal-lead remedial action sites, and pay staff salaries and associated operating costs.

*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 fee and state appropriation funds to assess and clean up uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that may pose unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

Current available resources (\$1.65M annually) are insufficient to maximize the efficiency of the program. Based on historical expenditures, current and projected costs significantly exceed revenues. In recent years, the balance available to the Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Site Clean-up program has dropped to its lowest levels since the 1980s and will be out of resources by the end of FY27 without additional funding.

Because of the declining balance, the agency has postponed assessment and cleanup activities to ensure the agency could meet its routine operating and personnel costs. As a result, the agency currently has approximately 220 sites needing comprehensive site assessments and cleanup studies. These sites pose a potential risk to communities across the state. The reduced balance also limits the agency's ability to respond to a large-scale cleanup, which has historically occurred every 4-5 years.

In addition to conducting State-lead cleanups, the State has leveraged over \$50M in EPA funds over the last two decades by having the fund available to commit South Carolina's required 10% cost share toward remedial activities at EPA fund-lead Superfund sites.

Clean-up of contaminated sites also brings the potential for future economic redevelopment opportunities. A current example is the former Cone Mills site in Greenville. The availability of these funds allowed SC to commit to its 10% cost share to EPA, which, in turn, allowed EPA to move forward to list the abandoned site as a federal Superfund site, address the environmental contamination at the site, and to provide the avenue for the site to be successfully redeveloped into productive use once again.

**SOLUTION:**

Additional state appropriations would ensure sites of concern can be addressed as quickly and efficiently as possible. An additional recurring appropriation of \$2.5 million would support the agency's current routine operating and response costs and allow adequate funding to be directed to investigate and potentially remediate approximately 220 known contaminated sites that pose a risk to communities across the state.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

Without the requested recurring appropriation, and based on current workload, the capacity for the program to continue existing site clean-up work is projected to be exhausted by the end of FY27. At that point, the agency will not be able to conduct necessary response actions for ongoing cleanups. Future emergency responses and protection of South Carolina's communities would be impacted, putting the health of these communities at risk.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

The requested recurring appropriation of \$2.5 million is based on known costs to conduct routine and ongoing response actions plus personnel and operating costs compared to the existing revenue stream. Approximately \$2.5 million per year has been the average expenditures without 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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	8
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Enhancing Compliance Assistance</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$1,104,685</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$1,104,685</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	7.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2 – Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.2 - Increasing pollution prevention by offering compliance assistance to permittees.</i></p> <p>This request advances pollution prevention strategies for clean air, water, and land. Engaging with regulated entities early to offer compliance assistance with the regulations and their permits can prevent negative environmental impacts and minimize costs of non-compliance related to enforcement activities including civil penalties. Working collaboratively with our regulated entities to provide compliance assistance efforts and pollution prevention strategies provide additional environmental and pollution protection. The program's effectiveness can be evaluated by collecting and analyzing data to determine correlation between compliance assistance activities and reduction in violations and enforcement actions.</p>
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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**

All funds would be allocated to the agency for 7 additional positions.

*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:**

Compliance is required throughout the lifetime of a facility and their permit. Many facilities that the agency regulates find environmental regulations complicated and the often don't understand the specific requirements that apply to their facility making it difficult for them to comply with regulatory and permit requirements. Our goal is to increase compliance with all applicable regulations through intentional strategies that prevent pollution and provide enhanced environmental education with the goal of protecting public health.

Permittees must understand applicable regulatory requirements and stay engaged through:

- regulatory changes,
- emerging contaminants,
- permit updates,
- technology changes,
- community/citizen concerns,
- local and state-wide development, and
- economic growth.

**SOLUTION:**

A robust technical assistance program with permittee collaboration is critical to understanding and implementing complex environmental regulations and should reduce non-compliance and impacts to South Carolina's communities. Enhancing the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' (SCDES) technical/compliance assistance team serves a non-regulatory function and builds meaningful partnerships that reflect trust and collaboration. This team will work directly with individual businesses (especially small businesses), industry groups, and local governments to deliver compliance assistance and reduce how often the enforcement process must be used.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

Currently, there is no coordinated compliance assistance/pollution prevention program and the agency will continue to operate with a more reactive compliance approach after the environmental impact occurs. Without a designated team, the focus continues to be on traditional inspection and enforcement processes. While compliance assistance may be provided on a permit by permit or inspection by inspection basis, there is a lost opportunity to take a non-regulatory assistance approach, globally address issues, and conduct comprehensive and coordinated technical assistance campaigns.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

The requested recurring appropriation will support 7 FTEs. These staff will be program experts and therefore have a solid understanding of industrial process and regulatory compliance.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	9
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

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

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$293,901</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$293,901</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	0.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<i>Goal 1 – Lead with Data-Driven Decisions to Implement Policy</i>
	<i>Strategy 1.1 - Comprehensive use of modern tools and technologies for agency decision-making.</i>  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.

*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?*

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	These funds will be utilized to convert 2.66 existing fee-funded FTEs to state
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

appropriations.

*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:**

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 2.66 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.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>10</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Recover and Rebuild SC's Fish Advisory Program</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$401,935</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$401,935</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>3.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<i>Goal 1 - Lead with Data-Driven Decisions to Implement Policy</i>
	<p><i>Strategy 1.1 - Comprehensive use of modern tools and technologies for agency decision-making.</i></p> <p>Rebuilding a fish tissue monitoring program will provide data needed for a comprehensive fish consumption advisory program, which is essential for citizens across the state to make informed decisions affecting their health. Increased funding will also allow for surveilling and assessing of new or emerging contaminants of concern.</p>

*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?*

	The Agency will use the funds to hire 3 new positions (personnel and operating) for
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

the Fish Advisory Program.

*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:**

A comprehensive statewide Fish Advisory Program is necessary to ensure that the citizens of the state who enjoy our state’s freshwater fishing are provided data-based information to help them make healthy fish consumption decisions. The agency has operated a statewide Fish Advisory Program for more than thirty years. Due to funding shortfalls, sampling has been reduced and is mainly focused on the larger water bodies, lakes and rivers. This program is understaffed and underfunded, with only 1.5 dedicated FTEs to complete this work. The agency needs to expand the number of fish collection sites to include smaller tributaries and streams used by the general population for fishing. Additionally, the Fish Advisory Program has a need to begin assessing the bioaccumulation risks of emerging contaminants (ECs) into fish tissue consumed by the public.

**SOLUTION:**

The addition of three (3) staff and funding to support the program will allow the agency to expand the number of collection sites statewide as well as the diversity of species collected at these sites. Additional parameters will also be added for laboratory fish tissue analysis (whole fish and filets) to include emerging contaminants along with the currently analyzed parameters.

This additional data will allow for the publication of a more robust Fish Consumption Advisory which will be distributed across the state, but especially to critical segments of the population and physicians to inform health decisions. The most sensitive population is made up of, but not limited to, pregnant or nursing mothers, the elderly, underserved communities including subsistence fishermen.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

Without the requested increase in staff and funding support, the agency’s Fish Advisory Program will be unable to provide a statewide comprehensive program to keep the state’s citizens informed, including our most sensitive populations. The agency will not be able to increase the number of collection sites for smaller creeks and tributaries or increase the number of different parameters to assess. The expansion of emerging contaminant sampling and laboratory analysis will not be added to the program. This will put certain portions of the population in danger of adverse health issues.

***No other entities in SC are conducting statewide assessments of fish tissue analysis and providing a consumption advisory program.***

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

Requested funding will be used to support additional staff and operations. \$401,935 will cover general operating and personnel costs for three (3) additional 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.*

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

## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>11</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Maintaining SC's Asbestos Program</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$346,642</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$346,642</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>1.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<i>Goal 2 – Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i>
	<p><i>Strategy 2.1 - Implement a comprehensive environmental permitting process that serves users, stakeholders, and communities.</i></p> <p>This request supports the needed funding for 2.20 existing FTEs in the Agency's Asbestos Program and the addition of 1 new FTE for the program. These staff issue asbestos abatement project licenses and asbestos personnel licenses, and provide regulatory oversight, and site inspections.</p>

*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?*

	All funds would be used by the agency to support existing asbestos program staff
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**RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS**

and one new FTE.

*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:**

Asbestos is known to cause adverse health impacts, such as lung cancer, mesothelioma, and cancers of the larynx, ovaries, stomach, colon, and rectum. Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) were widely used in building construction for many years prior to it being first regulated in 1973. There is no current ban on asbestos containing materials, and asbestos is still found in many imported products and buildings across South Carolina today. Without appropriately trained and experienced staff to provide necessary oversight of regulated activities, the risk of public exposure to asbestos is significantly increased.

The current program staffing and funding are not adequate to support the regulated businesses' needs for licenses. On an annual basis, the agency issues over 5,300 asbestos abatement project licenses for building renovation and demolition projects and over 2,800 personnel licenses for asbestos contractors. The agency also audits and oversees asbestos personnel license training providers statewide. As South Carolina's population grows and more existing commercial and industrial buildings need renovations, the additional of 1 FTE and sustainable funding for the program are needed.

The program funding will experience a deficit starting in FY26.

**SOLUTION:**

State appropriations would fund 2.20 existing staff and 1 new FTE to continue:

- issuing timely abatement project and personnel asbestos licenses,
- responding to citizen complaints in a timely manner,
- assuring compliance with state and federal asbestos regulations, and
- minimizing public exposure to asbestos.

The agency will continue streamlining the licensing process, refining program costs and revenue projections and working with stakeholders to determine appropriate future funding structures.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

**1) Adverse Impact to Economic Development:** The Asbestos Program is critical to South Carolina's economic development. South Carolina is one of the fastest growing states in the U.S. and is experiencing tremendous growth in construction projects that need asbestos licenses to demolish or renovate commercial or industrial buildings. Timely issuance of asbestos project licenses is critical to meeting construction time frames.

**2) Loss of Federal Delegation:** To keep federal delegation of the asbestos program the program must be adequately funded and staffed.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

The requested funding will be used to support staff currently funded through asbestos license fees. The requested funds will be used to support current personnel costs for 2.20 existing FTEs and 1 new position. Specific existing asbestos FTEs will be converted to State appropriations. Personnel costs are calculated using current salaries.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>14</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Other Funds Authorization Increase</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$3,750,000</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$3,750,000</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p><i>Goal 2: Ensure Efficient and Optimal Delivery of Services</i></p> <p><i>Strategy 2.5 Improve business efficiencies.</i></p> <p>Authority will be used to support ongoing agency operations and will allow for use of new funds received as part of Act 60.</p>
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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?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>The agency would utilize this authority for continued support of core services.</p>
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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:**

SCDES was established as a new State Cabinet agency July 1, 2024, through the implementation of Act 60. As a new cabinet agency, SCDES has conducted a more comprehensive needs assessment and has determined the necessity for additional Earned/Earmarked authority. In addition, as part of Act 60, the department absorbed additional program activities from the Department Natural Resources (DNR) and will need additional authority to utilize the funding received. The agency is also expecting to enter into agreements for new facility leases and will need authority to cover this additional cost. Additional authority is required to ensure that programs can utilize the resources they currently have to complete their missions.

**Solution:**

Additional authority will allow the agency to use funding received and will support ongoing operations for the programs without an impact to existing programs.

**Impact if not received:**

The agency will not be able to maximize the use of available funding and will need to limit program activities or redirect from other critical programs.

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	12
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Supporting Local Solutions for Managing Food Waste
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$5,000,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<i>Goal 3 – Strengthen Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborative Partnerships</i>
	<i>Strategy 3.1 - Enhancing collaborative partnerships with local governments, communities, county leaders, and permittees.</i>
	Ensure that Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is safely and efficiently managed with an emphasis on prevention, reduction, and recycling. The use of funds will be evaluated on the amount of material diverted from disposal, job creation, potential capital investment attracted, markets developed, products created, and more.

*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?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	Funds would be allocated to local governments to purchase equipment, secure services (e.g., collection, hauling, storage, processing), and cover staffing expenses. Funding would be allocated through a competitive process with priority given to those local governments that agree to be part of a regional effort or hub-and-spoke system that focuses on diversion of food waste and other organics from landfill disposal.
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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*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

**Issue:**

Unwanted food is the most common material disposed of in landfills nationwide according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA estimates that wasted food comprised 24.14 percent of the material disposed of in the nation's municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills in 2018 (the latest number available). Applying EPA's disposal percentage to South Carolina, the state disposed of an estimated

992,565.59 tons of unwanted food in fiscal year (FY) 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), the most recent year with data available.

South Carolina does not have adequate infrastructure to recover organics. Currently, the state has 104 permitted composting and wood-grinding facilities. These facilities convert land-clearing debris, yard trimmings, and/ or organics residuals into compost and mulch. Only three permitted facilities, however, currently accept wasted food. In addition, 36 counties reported recycling wasted food in FY22.

The primary impediment to organics recovery infrastructure is the lack of funding.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

South Carolina will lose the opportunity for many significant economic and environmental benefits. Investment into the development and growth of an organics recovery infrastructure will:

- Grow South Carolina's economy by attracting businesses (e.g., composters, processors, haulers) and jobs. Composting creates at least twice as many jobs as landfills.
- Provide recovery opportunities for a wide spectrum of organics and wasted food generators including households, workplaces, farms, restaurants, grocery stores, food manufacturers, food processors, schools, colleges/universities, landscapers, airports, correctional institutions, and hospitals.
- Transform organics from waste to value-added products such as mulch, compost, boiler fuel, and biogas.
- Conserve landfill space by helping to address the challenges in managing increased volumes of MSW in landfills.
- Target the largest waste stream increasing South Carolina's recycling rate and helping the state reach a goal of recycling 50% of MSW by 2030.

There is another significant benefit. SCDES created a campaign in 2016 focused on the prevention of wasted food. The Don't Waste Food SC (DWFSC) campaign – the first statewide initiative of its kind – is designed to:

- Increase the awareness of the economic, environmental, and social impacts of wasting food; and
- Inspire individuals, communities, restaurants, caterers, hospitals, schools, colleges/universities, and other organizations to take action to reduce food waste through prevention and donation and recover unwanted food through composting and other practices.

This organics recovery initiative will seamlessly support and promote the DWFSC campaign.

- SCDES will manage this initiative and grant program with existing staff through its Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Office (Office). This Office has managed grant programs for more than 30 years providing the essential expertise needed for this proposal.
- SCDES will constantly look for other grant opportunities to further support the program.

Lastly, the Act establishes a comprehensive framework for the safe and efficient management of solid waste. It is the policy of South Carolina to encourage:

- A regional approach to solid waste management;
- The creation of waste reduction and recycling programs through planning assistance, technical assistance, grants, and other incentives; and
- The development of the state's recycling industries by promoting the successful development of markets for recycled items and by promoting the acceleration and advancement of the technology used in manufacturing processes that use recycled items.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

The baseline data inputs (i.e., disposal and recovery) listed above were derived from the S.C. Solid Waste Management Annual Report of FY22. Overall, 4,111,705 tons of material was disposed of in the state's MSW landfills. Using EPA's 2018 estimate that 24.14 percent landfill disposal is food waste South Carolina disposed of about 992,565.59 tons of food waste. Conversely, only 28,107.49 tons of food waste was composted and diverted from landfill disposal resulting in 1,020,673.08 tons of food waste generated

(disposed of plus composted).

SCDES adopted the statewide waste reduction and recycling goals to align with EPA's standards of recycling 50 percent of MSW and reducing food loss and waste by 50 percent – increasing recovery to 500,000-plus tons – both by 2030.

These goals cannot be met without a robust infrastructure centered on regionalization or hub-and-spoke approach.

SCDES surveyed local governments earlier this year to collect data on their interest in this initiative, level of expected participation, and true costs to manage that participation (e.g., staffing, equipment, storage, transportation, processing, marketing, outreach/education).

*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**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	13
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Recover and Rebuild SC’s Fish Advisory Program
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$207,132
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2025-2026? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

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

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark “X” for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<i>Goal 1 - Lead with Data-Driven Decisions to Implement Policy</i>
	<i>Strategy 1.1 - Comprehensive use of modern tools and technologies for agency decision-making.</i>
	Additional water bodies would be able to be included in an upgraded fish tissue monitoring program. Increased funding would also allow for surveilling and assessing of new or emerging contaminants of concern.

*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?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	The agency will use these one-time funds to outfit three (3) new positions (operating) for the Fish Advisory Program to better evaluate bioaccumulation of contaminants and protect the health of the public through more comprehensive fish consumption guidelines.
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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*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

**ISSUE:**

A comprehensive statewide Fish Advisory Program is necessary to ensure that the citizens of the state who enjoy our state's freshwater fishing are provided data-based information to help them make healthy fish consumption decisions. The agency has operated a statewide Fish Advisory Program for more than thirty years, however due to funding shortfalls has reduced its sampling to now mainly focused on the larger water bodies, lakes and rivers. This program is understaffed and underfunded, with only 1.5 dedicated FTEs to complete this work. The agency is requesting additional staffing (3 FTEs) and will also need equipment for these staff. The agency needs to expand the number of fish collection sites to include smaller tributaries and streams used by the general population for fishing. Additionally, the Fish Advisory Program has a need to begin assessing the bioaccumulation risks of emerging contaminants (ECs) into fish tissue consumed by the public

**SOLUTION:**

One-time funding is needed for the program to expand the number of collection sites statewide as well as the diversity of species collected at these sites. This one-time funding will be used to purchase an additional electrofishing boat, trailer, boat motor and truck to outfit additional staff to cover the expansion in collection sites and fish species processed for analysis.

This one-time funding will allow for the needed collection of data for the publication of a more robust Fish Consumption Advisory which will be distributed across the state, but especially to critical segments of the population. The most sensitive population is made up of, but not limited to, pregnant or nursing mothers, the elderly, underserved communities including subsistence fishermen.

**IMPACT IF NOT RECEIVED:**

Without the requested one-time funding for new equipment and supplies, the program will not have the ability to increase the number of collection sites for smaller creeks and tributaries or increase the number of different parameters to assess. The expansion of emerging contaminant sampling and laboratory analysis will not be added to the program. This will put certain portions of the population in danger of adverse health issues.

No other entities in SC are conducting statewide assessments of fish tissue analysis and providing a consumption advisory program.

**METHOD OF CALCULATION:**

Requested one-time funding is based on current state contract pricing, comparable costs of recently purchased supplies and pricing evaluations of more specialized equipment needs.

*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 E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN**

<b>TITLE</b>	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$2,472,393
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*What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*

<b>ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS</b>	<p>Reductions will require that the agency reduce (state) FTE's. A three percent reduction will require that approximately 23 state positions be reduced from the agency. Not all the positions will be FTE slots, some will be hourly positions. All programs will be fully analyzed to determine how to reduce the budget in a way that will minimize the impact to both mission critical services and agency personnel. The actual positions removed from the budget will be determined by analyzing the need for vacancies created through attrition, change in source of funds and reassignment of programs or activities.</p>
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*How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*

<b>PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT</b>	<p>All programs and services will be impacted by a three percent reduction as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administration \$271,000</li> <li>2. Programs and Services \$1,528,499</li> <li>3. State Employer Contributions \$672,894</li> </ol> <p>For a total of \$2,472,393</p> <p>These reductions will strain core programs where demand is already greater than available resources. Additional reductions in other operating and staffing will extend the turnaround time for permitting activities. These include the amount of time it takes to draft and approve a permit, the timeline for inspections, and overall turnaround time for agencywide activities</p>
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*What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>A three percent reduction will result in the loss of \$2,472,393 in state funds. This will result in less state funds to provide services to the citizens of South Carolina. However, the agency will work to minimize the negative impact on mission critical functions and personnel. The agency will lose approximately 23 state-funded positions, and these will be reduced after careful analysis of vacancies resulting from attrition. Where necessary, the agency will reassign positions and activities and change funding sources.</p>
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*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 is actively working to identify efficiencies that will help the agency become more streamlined and effective in performing its core mission. The agency is taking a streamlined approach in reviewing necessary activities to maximize effectiveness. This process is ongoing and will continue throughout the agency as we seek to reduce cost and maximize benefit to the state.

Through this process, the agency has identified activities that can be completed by administrative staff that will lessen the burden on technical staff that allows them to focus on more programmatic functions such as completing complex permitting and inspection activities faster. This makes the use of the funds more effective.

Additionally, the agency actively works to reassess vacancies as they occur and would begin to hold vacancies to generate savings if required. On average, the agency can generate a savings of \$4,576 per vacancy per pay period if a hold is determined to be necessary. Those funds would be redirected to support critical agency activities.

*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**

<b>TITLE</b>	Technology and lean process implementation
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS</b>	The agency is focused on continuous improvement and is actively working through a Lean process to identify bottlenecks and pain- points in our processes and develop plans to improve process times. This process will allow the agency to focus staff and processes to gain efficiencies and meet the needs of our customers, allowing for more efficient use of available funds to complete more with the available resources.
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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.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Repeal or revision of regulations.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

<b>METHOD OF CALCULATION</b>	By completing a lean process and identifying pain points, the agency has been able to identify those activities and processes that stall in the permitting and inspection activities. Identifying those core issues allows for the agency to pivot and rethink which staff need to be completing which activities. This allows for more effective use of administrative and technical staff to allow for better use of each employee's expertise. This analysis has allowed the agency to begin deploying new processes to improve the turnaround time of mission critical activities.
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*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*

<b>REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES</b>	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?*

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

<b>SUMMARY</b>	The agency has brought an expert in process improvement onboard to review agency activities. This has allowed for the agency to see specific stall points in current processes and analysis of potential solutions. The agency is working to implement those continuous improvements to become more efficient with the resources that are available. This includes refocusing existing resources to maximize output by focusing technical staff on inspections and permitting while reducing administrative burden across the board. This focus on continuous improvement will continue to ensure that SCDES is utilizing its resources as efficiently and effectively as possible agencywide.
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*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?*