Agency Name:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
		Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*		Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
	X	Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*	X	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
		Not requesting any proviso changes.

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

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Adair Roark	(803) 608-7775	Adair.Roark@sccbank.sc.gov
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Amber Larck	(803) 917-1033	Amber.Larck@sccbank.sc.gov

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:		Peter King 9-25-2026
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Vacant - Awaiting Senate Confirmation	Dr. Peter King

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

Agency Name:	SC Conservation Bank
Agency Code:	P400
Section:	53

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Conservation Bank Trust Grant Funding	10,000,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B2 - Non-Recurring	Conservation Bank Trust Grant Funding	50,000,000	0	0	0	50,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Working Farmland Protection Fund Grant Funding	6,000,000	0	0	0	6,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Working Farmland Protection Fund Grant Funding	15,000,000	0	0	0	15,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B2 - Non-Recurring	State Resource Agency Strategic Land Acquisition	90,000,000	0	0	0	90,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Grant Coordinator	115,000	0	0	0	115,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	B1 - Recurring	AUTHORITY ONLY: Realignment of Earmarked to Restricted Funds	0	0	-11,000,000	11,000,000	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			171,115,000	0	-11,000,000	11,000,000	171,115,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**1**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Conservation Bank Trust Grant Funding**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $10,000,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $10,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report. Funding enables the Conservation Bank to permanently protect significant natural, agricultural, and historical resources including farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, open space, archaeological sites, and urban parks via easements, low-interest loans, and strategic land acquisitions across South Carolina.

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

Funds are awarded to qualified applicants following an individual Board vote on every

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	application, satisfying statutory and Board-established criteria, with disbursement occurring only after staff review and approval of all required due diligence items.

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	The requested increase in Standard Grant funding supports the State's established land protection goals. Governor McMaster has set a goal of protecting 10 million acres in South Carolina, and the General Assembly passed H. 5069, the South Carolina Protected Lands and Conservation Coordination Act, establishing a statewide benchmark of 7 million protected acres by 2050. H. 5069 recognizes approximately 3.4 million acres as currently protected, leaving approximately 3.6 million additional acres to reach the 2050 benchmark. Meeting the General Assembly's benchmark will require protecting approximately 160,000 acres annually through 2050, nearly three times the current rate. The requested funding increase is based on the additional acreage required annually, demonstrated demand for Conservation Bank grants, and the funding historically required to complete projects. FY26 demonstrates both demand and the Bank's ability to deploy additional funding. The Bank closed 89 projects protecting 32,951 acres with $75.8 million in Bank funding. At year-end, another $43.2 million was obligated to 60 projects expected to protect 21,253 acres, demonstrating a continued pipeline of projects. State funding also generates significant offsets and matching opportunities. The projects closed in FY26 had a fair market value of approximately $167 million. These transactions included approximately $48 million in landowner donations and $37 million from local and private sources, with the potential for approximately $35 million in federal matching funds. These non-state resources reduce the amount that would otherwise be required by the State and increase the impact of Conservation Bank funding. If additional funding is not received, the Conservation Bank will be unable to increase the pace of land protection necessary to meet the Governor's 10-million-acre goal and the General Assembly's 7 million-acre benchmark, potentially resulting in lost opportunities to leverage federal, local, private and landowner contributions.

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	**3**

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	**Working Farmland Protection Fund Grant Funding**

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	**General: $6,000,000** **Federal: $0** **Other: $0** **Total: $6,000,000**

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS	**0.00**

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS	This funding request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report. Funding enables the Conservation Bank to permanently conserve, preserve and protect working farmland properties.

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

	Funds are awarded to qualified applicants following an individual Board vote on every

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS	application, satisfying statutory and Board-established criteria, with disbursement occurring only after staff review and approval of all required due diligence items.

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	H3951, an Act amending the South Carolina Code of Laws to add Section 48-59-150, established the Working Farmland Protection Fund to permanently protect working farmland critical to the long-term viability of South Carolina's agricultural economy. Funding is awarded through the South Carolina Conservation Bank's competitive grant process to eligible recipients for qualified agricultural projects. Demand for the program has been strong. As of the end of FY26, 31 qualified projects totaling more than $17 million have been approved, protecting nearly 9,000 acres of working farmland. In addition, land trust partners have identified a pipeline of projects currently being developed representing approximately 23,250 acres and $34.8 million in anticipated funding needs. The funding request is based on this documented project pipeline and demonstrated program demand. The projected $34.8 million in future funding needs provides a measurable basis for the request and reflects projects currently being worked by conservation partners that may be submitted to the Bank as they become eligible and complete the required due diligence. Working Farmland Protection Fund dollars may be combined with landowner contributions and federal, local, private, or other funding sources, providing potential offsets to the State's investment. Funding also supports the State's broader land protection objectives, including the Governor's 10-million-acre goal and the General Assembly's 7-million-acre benchmark established through H. 5069. If additional funding is not received, available resources will be insufficient to address the identified project pipeline, limiting the number of qualified farmland projects that can be funded and potentially reducing opportunities to leverage federal and other non-state dollars.

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Grant Coordinator

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $115,000

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $115,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report. Funding enables the Conservation Bank to permanently protect significant natural, agricultural, and historical resources including farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, open space, archaeological sites, and urban parks via easements, low-interest loans, and strategic land acquisitions across South Carolina.

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

RECIPIENTS OF

The requested funds would be directed to staff via payroll

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	The Conservation Bank is requesting funding for the vacant Grants Administrator position to provide the additional administrative capacity necessary to manage the significant and sustained increase in grant activity. This request is to fill a current vacant FTE position and consists of a salary of $80,000 + $35,000 benefits. The budget request has been reviewed and is supported by DSHR. The Bank's workload has more than doubled. Through FY23, the Bank averaged approximately 30 project closings per year. Over the last three fiscal years, that average increased to approximately 70 projects per year, including a record 89 projects closed in FY26. This represents more than a 130% increase in the average annual number of projects requiring grant administration, due diligence, compliance review, payment processing, records management, and closing coordination. The increase in workload is expected to continue as the Bank administers Standard Grants, the Working Farmland Grants, and State Resource Agency acquisitions while supporting the State's increased land protection goals. The Grants Administrator will support the Grants Program Director by coordinating application review, due diligence, grant agreements, compliance monitoring, payment documentation, records management, and project closeout. The request is based on the sustained increase in project volume and expansion of programs administered by the Bank. Existing staff capacity was structured around a substantially lower level of annual project activity and is not sufficient to efficiently administer the current workload. If the position is not funded, the increased workload will continue to be absorbed by existing staff, increasing processing and closing timelines and limiting the Bank's capacity to effectively administer and monitor its growing portfolio of state-funded projects

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

AUTHORITY ONLY: Realignment of Earmarked to Restricted Funds

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $0

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

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

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report. Funding enables the Conservation Bank to permanently conserve, preserve and protect working farmland properties.

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

RECIPIENTS OF

Funds are awarded to qualified applicants following an individual Board vote on every application, satisfying statutory and Board-established criteria, with disbursement occurring only after staff review and approval of all required due diligence items.

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	The Bank would like to realign $11M from Earmarked to Restricted. The change is due to less than anticipated reimbursements and an increase in need for the Working Farmland Protection Fund.

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Conservation Bank Trust Grant Funding

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$50,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report. Funding enables the Conservation Bank to permanently protect significant natural, agricultural, and historical resources including farmlands, forestlands, wetlands, open space, archaeological sites, and urban parks via easements, low-interest loans, and strategic land acquisitions across South Carolina.

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

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funds are awarded to qualified applicants following an individual Board vote on every application, satisfying statutory and Board-established criteria, with disbursement occurring only after staff review and approval of all required due diligence items.

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	The requested increase in Standard Grant funding supports the State's established land protection goals. Governor McMaster has set a goal of protecting 10 million acres in South Carolina, and the General Assembly passed H. 5069, the South Carolina Protected Lands and Conservation Coordination Act, establishing a statewide benchmark of 7 million protected acres by 2050. H. 5069 recognizes approximately 3.4 million acres as currently protected, leaving approximately 3.6 million additional acres to reach the 2050 benchmark. Meeting the General Assembly's benchmark will require protecting approximately 160,000 acres annually through 2050, nearly three times the current rate. The requested funding increase is based on the additional acreage required annually, demonstrated demand for Conservation Bank grants, and the funding historically required to complete projects. FY26 demonstrates both demand and the Bank's ability to deploy additional funding. The Bank closed 89 projects protecting 32,951 acres with $75.8 million in Bank funding. At year-end, another $43.2 million was obligated to 60 projects expected to protect 21,253 acres, demonstrating a continued pipeline of projects. State funding also generates significant offsets and matching opportunities. The projects closed in FY26 had a fair market value of approximately $167 million. These transactions included approximately $48 million in landowner donations and $37 million from local and private sources, with the potential for approximately $35 million in federal matching funds. These non-state resources reduce the amount that would otherwise be required by the State and increase the impact of Conservation Bank funding. If funding is not received, the Conservation Bank will be unable to increase the pace of land protection necessary to meet the Governor's 10-million-acre goal and the General Assembly's 7-million-acre benchmark, potentially resulting in lost opportunities to leverage federal, local, private and landowner contributions. This non-recurring appropriation does not create an annualization or ongoing recurring funding requirement. Funds will be used for one-time grant awards for eligible conservation projects. Each grant award is project specific and does not obligate the State to provide funding in subsequent fiscal years. Any future funding for grants would be subject to availability and annual appropriations.

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Working Farmland Protection Fund Grant Funding

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$15,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report. Funding enables the Conservation Bank to permanently conserve, preserve and protect working farmland properties.

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

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funds are awarded to qualified applicants following an individual Board vote on every application, satisfying statutory and Board-established criteria, with disbursement occurring only after staff review and approval of all required due diligence items.

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	H3951, an Act amending the South Carolina Code of Laws to add Section 48-59-150, established the Working Farmland Protection Fund to permanently protect working farmland critical to the long-term viability of South Carolina's agricultural economy. Funding is awarded through the South Carolina Conservation Bank's competitive grant process to eligible recipients for qualified agricultural projects. Demand for the program has been strong. As of the end of FY26, 31 qualified projects totaling more than $17 million have been approved, protecting nearly 9,000 acres of working farmland. In addition, land trust partners have identified a pipeline of projects currently being developed representing approximately 23,250 acres and $34.8 million in anticipated funding needs. The funding request is based on this documented project pipeline and demonstrated program demand. The projected $34.8 million in future funding needs provides a measurable basis for the request and reflects projects currently being worked by conservation partners that may be submitted to the Bank as they become eligible and complete the required due diligence. Working Farmland Protection Fund dollars may be combined with landowner contributions and federal, local, private, or other funding sources, providing potential offsets to the State's investment. Funding also supports the State's broader land protection objectives, including the Governor's 10-million-acre goal and the General Assembly's 7-million-acre benchmark established through H. 5069. If additional funding is not received, available resources will be insufficient to address the identified project pipeline, limiting the number of qualified farmland projects that can be funded and potentially reducing opportunities to leverage federal and other non-state dollars. This non-recurring appropriation does not create an annualization or ongoing recurring funding requirement. Funds will be used for one-time grant awards for eligible conservation projects. Each grant award is project specific and does not obligate the State to provide funding in subsequent fiscal years. Any future funding for grants would be subject to availability and annual appropriations.

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

State Resource Agency Strategic Land Acquisition

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$90,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

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

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

This funding request supports the strategic goals outlined in the FY2026 Accountability Report, specifically 1.2.1 and 1.2.2, by enabling the Conservation Bank and partnering Resource Agencies—including the SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Forestry Commission, SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and the SC Office of Resilience—to acquire properties for the benefit and enjoyment of South Carolina's citizens, while conserving and protecting the natural resources of those properties. This initiative ultimately enhances the quality of life for current and future generations. While this appropriation is reserved only for state acquisitions, the SC Conservation Bank can utilize its Conservation Bank Trust Fund to fund state acquisitions in addition to this fund.

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

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Funds are awarded to qualified applicants following an individual Board vote on every application, satisfying statutory and Board-established criteria, with disbursement occurring only after staff review and approval of all required due diligence items.

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	The South Carolina Conservation Bank has historically provided funding for State Resource Agency land acquisitions through its Standard Grant Program. FY26 was the first year the General Assembly provided a specific appropriation dedicated to State Resource Agency acquisitions, allowing these projects to be funded separately from the Bank's competitive Standard Grant awards. Demand exceeded the dedicated appropriation. One hundred percent of the $20 million was obligated, and the Conservation Bank obligated an additional $10 million from its Standard Grant Program to meet State Resource Agency project needs. Combined, approximately $30,190,252 was committed to protect 7,294 acres of property that will provide public access. The funding request is based on actual utilization, demonstrated demand and projections from the State Resource Agencies. The full obligation of the dedicated $20M appropriation, plus the additional $10M required from Standard Grant funding, demonstrates a need for continued dedicated funding. A separate appropriation also reduces pressure on the Standard Grant Program, preserving those funds for competitive projects submitted by eligible nonprofit and governmental applicants. State Resource Agency acquisitions may also leverage federal, agency, and other funding sources, providing potential offsets to the State's investment. Continued funding allows agencies to pursue available matching opportunities and coordinate resources for priority acquisitions. The request supports Governor McMaster's goal of protecting 10 million acres and the General Assembly's 7 million-acre benchmark established through H. 5069, while adding land that provides direct public access for recreation and other public uses. Without continued dedicated funding, State Resource Agency acquisition needs will crowd the Bank's Standard Grant Program. This shift risks delaying or halting critical projects, missing key opportunities to acquire high-priority properties, and forfeiting valuable outside matching funds.

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:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	53.NEW
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	CB: Working Farmland Trust Program Carry Forward
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	WORKING AG LANDS GRANT
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	Yes, B-1 Working Farmland Protection Fund
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Add
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	The Working Farmland Protection Fund was established pursuant to Section 48-59-150 to provide grants for the permanent protection of qualifying working farmland. State law provides that balances in the Fund are retained and carried forward annually and that interest earned on Fund balances is credited back to the Fund. The requested proviso would provide corresponding budget language for the Working Farmland Protection Fund, similar to existing Proviso 53.1 for the Conservation Bank Trust Program. This will provide clarity in the annual Appropriations Act regarding the treatment of unexpended Working Farmland Protection Fund balances and earned interest. Carry-forward authority is important because conservation grants are multi-year transactions. Funds may be awarded or obligated in one fiscal year but not disbursed until required due diligence and closing requirements are completed. The proviso will ensure that funds dedicated to Working Farmland Protection remain available for their intended statutory purpose across fiscal years.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

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

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT

53.__. (CB: Working Farmland Protection Fund Carry Forward) The Conservation Bank may carry forward any unexpended funds allocated to the Working Farmland Protection Fund from the prior fiscal year into the current fiscal year to be used for the same purpose.

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

Agency Name:	SC Conservation Bank		
Agency Code:	P400	Section:	53

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

TITLE	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
AMOUNT	$798,119 *What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*
ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS	None *How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*
PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT	The General Fund appropriations allocated to the South Carolina Conservation Bank support a wide range of essential activities, including core operational expenses and the funding of competitive grants approved by the Bank's Board. These grants enable the protection of critical natural, cultural, and historical resources across the state, while the operational support ensures the Bank can continue to administer its programs efficiently and transparently. *What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*
SUMMARY	General Fund appropriations empower the Conservation Bank to efficiently administer its programs and award strategic grants that safeguard South Carolina's vital natural, cultural, and historical assets; any reduction in funding would directly impair the Bank's grant-making capacity and ultimately result in fewer lands being conserved across the state. The SC Conservation Bank would reduce obligations and expenditures to its Conservation Bank Trust grants program (0100.030000X000).

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

N/A

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?