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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair  
Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Stacy Brenner, Senate Chair *SB det*  
Representative Lori Gramlich, House Chair *LG det*  
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJ: Supplemental budget recommendations

On March 4, 2024, the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources reviewed the budget items pertaining to the agencies under its jurisdiction in the Governor’s proposed supplemental budget for FY24, as considered in LD 2214.

As described below, all ENR members present and voting at the March 4th meeting recommend acceptance of the budget proposals pertaining to the Department of Environmental Protection and to the Saco River Corridor Commission.

Department of Environmental Protection

The 7 members<sup>1</sup> present and voting on March 4th, 2024 recommend acceptance of the Department of Environmental Protection budget proposal presented on OFPR Worksheet pages 1-3 and the associated Part B reclassification initiative on OFPR Worksheet page 5.

Saco River Corridor Commission

The 7 members<sup>2</sup> present and voting on March 4th, 2024 recommend acceptance of the Saco River Corridor Commission budget proposal presented on OFPR Worksheet page 4.

<sup>1</sup> Members present: Senator Brenner; Representatives Gramlich, Bell, Bridgeo, Doudera, Hobbs, O’Neil. Members absent: Senators Carney, Lyford; Representatives Campbell, Schmiersal-Burgess, Soboleski, Woodsome.

<sup>2</sup> Same votes as in prior footnote.

Attached is the OFPR Worksheet indicating the Committee's votes on these initiatives. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or assistance in connection with above described budget item.

Enc.

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Sec. A-11. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administration - Environmental Protection 0251**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Senior Planner position to a Policy Development Specialist position, retroactive to December 14, 2022.

Ref. #: 272 Committee Vote: 7-0 IN AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$25,509	\$21,044
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,509</b>	<b>\$21,044</b>

**Justification:**

The Bureau of Human Resources approved the reclassification on 10/31/2023 to better align the position with actual duties being performed. This request includes one-time funding for retroactive pay and interest due the employee.

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**Administration - Environmental Protection 0251**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Associate I position to an Office Associate II position and transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the reorganization.

Ref. #: 273 Committee Vote: 7-0 IN AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$3,267
All Other	\$0	\$0	(\$3,267)
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

Provides funding to upgrade an Office Associate I position to an Office Associate II and transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the position that will better align the position title with actual work being performed.

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**Land Resources Z188**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Environmental Licensing Specialist I position to an Assistant Environmental Engineer position and transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the reorganization.

Ref. #: 278 Committee Vote: 7-0 IN AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$6,907
All Other	\$0	\$0	(\$6,907)



FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,381,182
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,381,182</b>

**Justification:**

Provides a baseline allocation in the Federal Waste Planning and Management Programs account to authorize the expenditure of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program, which provides grants to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure, local recycling programs and local waste management systems. Increases allocation in the federal Cooperative Agreement Superfund account to authorize the expenditure of additional grant funds for the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program through Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Additional funds were authorized by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This funding will enhance the capacity of Maine's Brownfields response program and support the oversight, planning, assessment and cleanup of sites throughout the State.

**Water Quality 0248**

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected available resources in the Water Quality program.

Ref. #: 269

Committee Vote:

7-0 IN

AFA Vote:

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$866,529
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$866,529</b>

**Justification:**

Increases allocation in the federal Water Quality account to authorize the expenditure of the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program and funding received through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support existing federal programs. The Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program supports municipalities with infrastructure improvement projects such as pump stations and collection systems to reduce or prevent sewer overflow events. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides additional funding for Water Quality Management Planning grants under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$25,509	\$21,044
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0	\$2,247,711
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$7,843	\$7,467
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$33,352</b>	<b>\$2,276,222</b>

**Sec. A-30. Appropriations and allocations.**

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**SACO RIVER CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

**Saco River Corridor Commission 0322**

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocation with projected available resources within the Saco River Corridor Commission program.

Ref. #: 784

Committee Vote:

7-0 IN

AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**Justification:**

Actual revenues for this account have been higher than allocation for the past several years, due to steady increases in revenues from a 1% assessment fee on the sale of water drawn from the Saco River or its groundwater, as defined in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 969, subsection 3. This has led to financial orders of \$40,130 in 2022 and \$45,609 in 2023. We expect continuing increases in this fund over time. The Saco River Corridor Commission program upholds the legislative mandate to protect the drinking water integrity of the Saco River, which is the reservoir for Saco, Biddeford, and several other Maine communities. The Commission protects 130 river miles through the review of development applications to ensure development is compatible with maintenance of water quality and natural resources. Development applications and incidents of violations have been increasing along the Corridor, leading to increased need for Personal Services at the Commission. Increased public education in the next several years will be needed to reduce unintentional violation and encourage best practices for water quality. The Commission also coordinates and administers a broad and growing water quality monitoring program, now covering 43 sample sites in 20 municipalities, to gauge effectiveness of protection efforts.

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**SACO RIVER CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations.**

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Water Quality 0248**

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 270

Committee Vote:

7-0 IN

AFA Vote:

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,732	\$19,149
All Other	\$0	\$254	\$499
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,986</b>	<b>\$19,648</b>

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,986</b>	<b>\$19,648</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,986</b>	<b>\$19,648</b>