

DRAFT STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026 (SFY26) CLEAN WATER BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Recommended by the Clean Water Board (10/11/2024)

No.	Agency	Activity	SFY26 BASE FUNDS			SFY26 ONE-TIME FUNDS			Total SFY26 (Base + One-Time)	SFY26 Total Compared to SFY25 Total	
			Clean Water Fund	Capital Bill	Subtotal Base Funds	SFY26 Compared to SFY25 Base Funds	Clean Water Fund Unallocated/Unreserved	Subtotal One-Time Funds			SFY26 Compared to SFY25 One-Time Funds
Clean Water Budget Statutory Tier 1 (Items of Equal Priority)											
1.1	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants to Clean Water Service Providers & O&M	7,210,000		7,210,000	-			(1,150,000)	7,210,000	(1,150,000)
1.2	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Basin Planning, Basin Water Quality Council Participation, Education, and Outreach	750,000		750,000	-			-	750,000	-
Water Quality Enhancement Grants											
1.31	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Statewide Non-regulatory Clean Water Projects	5,000,000		5,000,000	-			-	5,000,000	-
1.32	VHCB	Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects		2,000,000	2,000,000	-			-	2,000,000	-
1.4	AAFM	Water Quality Grants to Partners and Farmers	8,000,000	3,000,000	11,000,000	2,553,113	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,786,887	13,000,000	4,340,000
Agency and Partner Operating Support											
1.51	AAFM	Program Support	1,000,000		1,000,000	100,000			-	1,000,000	100,000
1.52	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Program and Partner Support	1,500,000		1,500,000	570,000	555,112	555,112	(144,888)	2,055,112	425,112
Tier 1 SUBTOTAL			23,460,000	5,000,000	28,460,000	3,223,113	2,555,112	2,555,112	491,999	31,015,112	3,715,112
Tier 1 % of Total			82%	50%	74%		42%	42%		70%	
Clean Water Budget Statutory Priority Tier 2 (Items of Equal Priority)											
2.1 Outreach and Implementation of Forestry Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality											
2.11	ANR-FPR	Forestry Water Quality Practices and Portable Skidder Bridges	150,000		150,000	6,000			-	150,000	6,000
2.12	ANR-FPR	Implement BMPs at State Forests, Parks, and Recreational Access Roads	527,062	200,000	527,062	(22,938)	222,938	222,938	222,938	750,000	200,000
2.2 Municipal Stormwater Implementation											
2.21	VTrans	Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid (MRGP)	3,000,000		3,000,000	-			-	3,000,000	-
2.22	VTrans	Municipal Better Roads (MRGP)	1,000,000		1,000,000	-	750,000	750,000	(250,000)	1,750,000	(250,000)
2.24	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Municipal Three-Acre General Permit and MS4 ¹				-			-		
2.3	VHCB	Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects		800,000	800,000	-			-	800,000	-
2.4	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Innovative or Alternative Technologies or Practices to Improve Water Quality	200,000		200,000	200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	450,000	1,400,000	650,000
Tier 2 SUBTOTAL			4,677,062	1,000,000	5,677,062	183,062	2,172,938	2,172,938	422,938	7,650,000	606,000
Tier 2 % of Total			16%	10%	15%		36%	36%		18%	
Clean Water Budget Statutory Priority Tier 3											
3.1	ANR-DEC (WID)	Developed Lands Implementation Grants ²	200,000		200,000	200,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Tier 3 SUBTOTAL			200,000	-	200,000	200,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Tier 3 % of Total			1%	0%	1%		22%	22%		3%	
Clean Water Budget Other Priorities											
4.1	ANR-DEC (Lates)	Lake in Crisis Fund	120,000		120,000	-			-	120,000	-
4.2	AcA	Stormwater Utility Payments (\$25K each)	25,000		25,000	-			-	25,000	-
4.3	ACCD	Better Connections and Downtown Transportation Fund	-		-	-			-	-	-
Capital Bill Priorities											
4.4	ANR-DEC (WIFP)	State Match to Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Federal Grant ³				(1,600,000)			-		(1,600,000)
4.5	ANR-DEC (WIFP)	Municipal Pollution Control Grants ⁴		4,000,000	4,000,000	700,000			-	4,000,000	700,000
Other SUBTOTAL			145,000	4,000,000	4,145,000	(900,000)	-	-	-	4,145,000	(900,000)
Other % of Total			1%	40%	11%		0%	0%		9%	
Total Proposed for Appropriation⁵			28,482,062	10,000,000	38,482,062	2,706,175	6,028,050	6,028,050	2,214,937	44,510,112	4,921,112
Anticipated SFY26 Revenue/Sources			28,482,062	10,000,000	38,482,062					38,482,062	
Estimated Unallocated/Unreserved Clean Water Fund Revenue							6,028,050	6,028,050		6,028,050	
Anticipated Total Available			28,482,062	10,000,000	38,482,062		6,028,050	6,028,050		44,510,112	
Balance=Total Available-Total Requested			-	-	-					-	

Agency	SFY26 BASE FUNDS			SFY26 ONE-TIME FUNDS			Total SFY26 (Base + One-Time)	SFY26 Total Compared to SFY25 Total			
	Clean Water Fund	Capital Bill	Subtotal Base Funds	SFY26 Compared to SFY25 Base Funds	Clean Water Fund Unallocated/Unreserved	Subtotal One-Time Funds			SFY26 Compared to SFY25 One-Time Funds		
AAFM	9,000,000	3,000,000	12,000,000	2,653,113	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,786,887	14,000,000	4,440,000		
ACCD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ANR (DEC)	14,980,000	4,000,000	18,980,000	70,000	3,055,112	3,055,112	455,112	22,035,112	525,112		
ANR (FPR)	477,062	200,000	677,062	(16,938)	222,938	222,938	222,938	900,000	206,000		
AcA	25,000		25,000					25,000			
VHCB		2,800,000	2,800,000					2,800,000			
VTrans	4,000,000		4,000,000		750,000	750,000	(250,000)	4,750,000	(250,000)		
Total Proposed for Appropriation⁵			28,482,062	10,000,000	38,482,062	2,706,175	6,028,050	6,028,050	2,214,937	44,510,112	4,921,112

Footnotes:

¹ - The "Municipal Three-Acre General Permit and MS4" line item was primarily funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars, no longer available to budget in SFY25-26, but will be expended through December 2026/SFY27. In SFY25-26, activities previously supported by this line item will transition to a combination of Lake Champlain Basin Program federal funding (\$3 million available) and CWSRF financing.

² - Three-Acre General Permit projects, which are the focus of the "Developed Lands Implementation Grants" line item, were primarily funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. ARPA dollars are no longer available to budget in SFY25-26, but will be expended through December 2026/SFY27. Three-Acre General Permit projects will eventually transition to a financing structure.

³ - The required state match to the CWSRF federal grant is fully covered by prior year funds in SFY26. This is a one-time pause in this line item and state match will be required again in SFY27 to continue to leverage substantial federal investment. In prior years, up to \$2.2 million has been needed.

⁴ - The SFY26 Clean Water Budget only covers \$4 million of the estimated \$20 million Municipal Pollution Control Grant need in SFY26. Need is estimated based on CWSRF financed projects in the pipeline eligible for that portion of the project to be covered by grant funds.

⁵ - Projected SFY26 Clean Water Fund revenue are based on the consensus revenue forecast adopted by the Vermont Emergency Board at its July 2024 meeting, summarized in the September 30, 2024 Clean Water Fund Operating Statement. Unallocated/unreserved funds proposed for appropriation as one-time funds are also based on the September 30, 2024 Clean Water Fund Operating Statement. Unallocated/unreserved balances materialize when actual revenue received exceeds projections and/or when revenue forecast upgrades are made after the Board's budget recommendation or its passage. Since the prior (SFY 2024) and current (SFY 2025) fiscal years already have approved budgets, any increases in revenue, whether actual or projected, become available as one-time surpluses in the following (SFY 2026) budget development process. Unallocated/unreserved revenue available for allocation in SFY 2026 are a combination of actual balances at the close of SFY 2024 and projected balances based on SFY 2025 revenue projections. Actual unallocated/unreserved balances at the close of SFY 2024 include \$2.6 million in interest income generated based on the overall Clean Water Fund balance. The Clean Water Fund balance generates interest based on all unexpended dollars in the Fund, including prior and current year revenues. Interest income is difficult to project and will vary year-to-year depending on interest rates and the rate of cashflow/expenditures from the Fund.