



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

ONE-TIME FUNDING

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
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ISSUE BRIEF

BACKGROUND

During the 2011 General Session, budget reductions were implemented throughout all state agencies. The 2011 Legislature's final decision on budget reductions for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) included the following:

1. Consolidate director positions from the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (\$132,300);
2. Eliminate one financial analyst position from the Division of Air Quality (\$49,500); and
3. Eliminate one financial analyst position from the Division of Water Quality (\$47,000).

During the 2011 Interim, DEQ reported to the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst what budget reductions were implemented. The overall budget was reduced by the General Fund amount of \$228,800 but not in the areas defined during the session. DEQ reduced spending on a Documentum Project, eliminated vacant positions, and reduced travel expenses.

During the 2012 General Session, the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee voted to implement the cuts as specified by the 2011 Legislature. The Legislature reduced DEQ's ongoing General Fund appropriation by an additional \$228,800 starting in FY 2013.

House Bill 3, Appropriations Adjustments, from the 2012 General Session restored the \$228,800 one-time for FY 2013. DEQ has requested to have the authority to implement the base budget for FY 2014 at their discretion in each affected division.

OPTIONS

The subcommittee may wish to consider two options:

1. The subcommittee may authorize intent language in the final budget bill to allow DEQ to implement its base budget at the discretion of each respective division; or
2. The subcommittee may recommend restoring the funding on an ongoing or one-time basis for FY 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Analyst recommends the subcommittee pass the following intent language:

The Legislature intends that the Department of Environmental Quality adjust ongoing spending to achieve the following reductions: a General Fund reduction of \$132,300 from Division of Environmental Response and Remediation; a General Fund reduction of \$49,500 from the Division of Air Quality; and a General Fund reduction of \$47,000 from the Division of Water Quality.