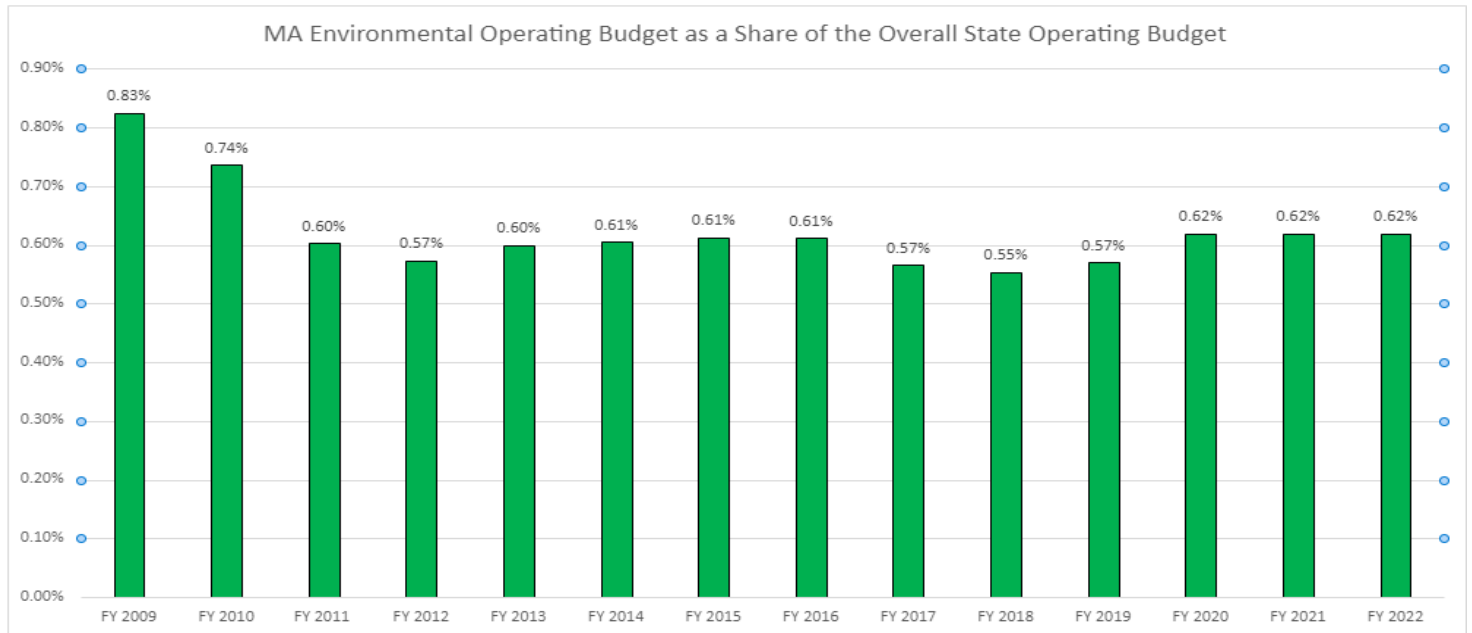


## Green Budget FY23

### Key points about the Massachusetts environmental budget

- Currently, 0.62% of the state’s operating budget goes to protect our environment. By contrast, in the early 2000’s, 1% of the state budget supported our environmental agencies.
- A healthy environment has been sustaining us through the pandemic and demand remains high. Tourism, agriculture, outdoor recreation, the fishing industry, and clean energy are important job and revenue generators.
- Current environmental agency funding is insufficient to meet demands and growing responsibilities.
  - The Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) have suffered drastic cuts during prior downturns and are just recovering from 2008.
  - Many DCR properties are unstaffed or have such minimal staff presence that enforcement, safety, programming, and user experience are being negatively impacted – at a time they are being used more than ever.
  - MassDEP staff is stretched to cover its wide-ranging responsibilities. Additional staff are needed to monitor water quality, enforce solid waste bans, and deal with newer issues such as emerging contaminants (including PFAS) and climate change regulation.

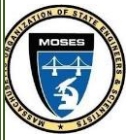


The Green Budget includes the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Department of Agricultural Resources, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Fish and Game.

#### Priority line-items

- Increase DCR’s State Parks and Recreation line item (2810-0100) to \$60M
- Increase MassDEP’s Administration line item (2200-0100) to \$45M
- Increase EEA Climate’s line item (2000-0101) to \$5M
- Increase EEA Environmental Justice line item (2000-0102) to \$1.3M
- Increase DER’s line item (2300-0101) to \$4M

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## Green Budget FY23

### Department of Environmental Protection Administration

#### Request

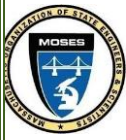
- Increase the Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Administration line-item (2200-0100) by \$5M to \$45M (from \$40M in FY22 with pull through from FY21). H2 is \$36.2M.

#### Overview

- MassDEP has a broad set of critical responsibilities for public health and safety, including ensuring clean air and water, watershed planning and permitting, the safe management of toxics, enforcing environmental laws, reducing solid waste, the timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.
- The Administration line-item is the primary funding source supporting MassDEP's permit, compliance, and enforcement mission.
- This account funds personnel for statewide planning, monitoring, permit review, compliance inspections, enforcement, and technical assistance for the following environmental programs:
  - Clean Air
  - Solid and Hazardous Waste Management
  - Drinking Water Program
  - Wetlands and Waterways
  - Watershed Planning and Assessment
  - Industrial Wastewater Management
- MassDEP is continuing to spearhead significant water related initiatives. They are working with EPA to investigate pesticide products for toxic PFAS contamination, revising the statewide Stormwater Handbook, developing performance standards for coastal wetlands, developing a targeted statewide monitoring network with the U.S. Geological Survey, and updating water registrations to further protect water supply during periods of drought.

#### Examples of Need

- MassDEP's Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program is carved out of its operating budget, meaning that neither staff nor grantees know the scope of grants available until later in the year.
- More than 100 MassDEP employees took advantage of the Early Retirement Incentive Program in 2015. MassDEP currently has 75% of the FTEs it had in 2009; this dip in staffing levels contributes to significant work backlog. An addition of \$1 million for the MassDEP Administration line-item would enable the agency to hire back approximately 10-12 staff. DEP, as of January, had 691 FTEs with a cap of 721.
- Despite these staffing cuts, MassDEP faces additional responsibilities to comply with the new climate law, which requires them to develop regulations for a cumulative impact assessment for some air permits, and to implement new laws and regulations, including a new sewage discharge notification law.
- Deep budget cuts have jeopardized the ability of MassDEP to do its work. The agency is limited in its ability to issue permits in a timely fashion, provide technical assistance, and enforce state law.
- According to an investigation in 2020 by the Boston Globe, MassDEP failed to submit watershed safety data to federal regulators, as required by the Clean Water Act, in addition to a 50% decrease in enforcement of serious violations and a 75% decrease in fine collections. This inaction is a direct result of MassDEP's elimination of compliance and enforcement positions.



## Green Budget FY23

### Department of Conservation and Recreation: State Parks and Recreation

#### Request

Increase the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) State Parks and Recreation line item (2810-0100) by \$10M to \$60M (from \$50M in FY22). H2 is \$73.5M, but includes retained revenue, formerly line item (2810-2042)

#### Overview

- DCR is responsible for the stewardship, management, and safety of our parks, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks, and campgrounds including:
  - 450,000 acres of land across over 250 properties and nearly 2,000 miles of trails.
  - Habitat for 291 state listed rare species, including 8 species found only on DCR lands
  - Forests that protect drinking water supplies for millions of people in the Commonwealth.
- DCR contributes to our quality of life, public health, and our economy.
- DCR's parks supports the state's total of \$10.5 billion in annual recreation spending.
- State parks serve people of all income levels, offering access to outdoor recreational opportunities, natural treasures and beauty of Massachusetts.
- According to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) COVID-19 Community Mobility Report, DCR parks saw an average of 99% increase in traffic across the state, with a 300% increase in some counties.
- Relative to its population, income, and total government spending, Massachusetts' local and state investments in parks and recreation are at or near the bottom of all states

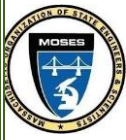
#### Examples of Need

- The DCR Special Commission found that DCR is chronically underfunded
- DCR currently has approximately 892 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs), down from 1,279 in 2008.
- While operating expenditures have increased slightly since 2016, inflation adjusted FY20 expenditures were still down nearly \$18 million, or 16 percent, relative to 2009.<sup>1</sup>
- Fully staff and fund the development of Resource Management Plans
- Ensure continued and distributed use with digital marketing and outreach for state parks and programs with clear performance metrics
- Build needed capacity to develop and manage partnerships
- Ongoing monitoring & stewardship for maintaining the habitat integrity for species of concern
- The impacts of climate change are worsening. DCR properties need to be prepared for flooding, new pests, risk of infections, and other climate risks.

#### Special Projects (2810-0122)

It continues to be helpful to assign special projects to a separate account (2810-0122) rather than the State Parks and Recreation account. Continuing that practice is appreciated.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Conservation & Recreation Special Commission Draft Report. UMass Donohue Institute. October 2021



## Green Budget FY23 Energy and Environmental Affairs: Climate Adaptation and Preparedness

### Request

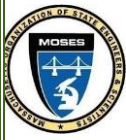
Increase the Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA): Climate Adaptation and Preparedness line item (2000-0101) by \$2.8M to \$5M (from \$2.2M in FY22). H2 is \$3.7M.

### Overview

- This line item was created for the first time in 2015 to help specifically address the growing threat of climate change. For the first time in H2, the Governor specifically broke out environmental justice which had previously been funded from here.
- Environmental justice is critical to an equitable response to adaptation and preparedness. These are some of the most vulnerable communities in the Commonwealth.
- EEA's Executive Office is responsible for coordinating and implementing strategies for climate change adaptation and preparedness including:
  - the resiliency of the commonwealth's transportation, energy and public health infrastructures;
  - built environments;
  - municipal assistance;
  - improved data collection, analysis, and planning; and
  - improved resiliency through the strengthening and revitalization of natural resources.
- All of the funding for regional Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program coordinators falls under this line item.
- Resiliency is becoming central to the success of Massachusetts. By the end of the century, we can expect:
  - Tides to rise 4- to 10.5-feet along the MA coast;
  - Nearly 11 degrees increase in average annual temperature;
  - 18% increase in consecutive dry days; and
  - Increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather.

### Examples of Need

- Planning and executing resiliency work across the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns is labor intensive and will require additional staff, resources, and expertise.



## Green Budget FY23 Energy and Environmental Affairs: Environmental Justice

### Request

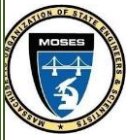
Increase the Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA): Environmental Justice initiatives in (2000-0102) by \$1M to \$1.3M. H2 is \$330K. This is a new line item.

### Overview

- This line item was created for the first time this year to specifically carve out funding for environmental justice (EJ) programs and staff which had previously been funded through the EEA Climate line item.
  - This new line item is welcome as it allows more oversight of the EJ spending. Traditionally, the legislature has asked for a report on EJ from EEA, and a separate line item would increase visibility and accountability on important EJ issues.
- With the EJ provisions included in the Next Generation Roadmap law, it is critical to provide adequate funding for staff to carry out the responsibilities detailed in the law including working across the Secretariat and with other agencies going forward.
- The new definition of an EJ community included in the Roadmap law indicates that these are some of the most vulnerable communities in the Commonwealth. The criteria are:
  - the annual median household income is not more than 65 per cent of the statewide annual median household income;
  - minorities comprise 40 per cent or more of the population;
  - 25 per cent or more of households lack English language proficiency; or
  - minorities comprise 25 per cent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 per cent of the statewide annual median household income.
- Currently the \$330K funds the Director of Environmental Justice and a new hire for community engagement.

### Examples of Need

- Translation services during public comment periods remain inadequate. EEA is facing a civil rights complaint as a result. EEA and its agencies would be better served with funding to address this gap.
- Additional mapping technology to overlay environmental and public health data to fully implement the cumulative impacts component of the Next Generation Roadmap law.



## Green Budget FY23 Division of Ecological Restoration

### Request

Increase the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) line item (2300-0101) by \$750K to \$4M (from \$3.25M in FY22). H2 is funded at \$3.16M.

### Overview

- DER has over 100 [active river and wetland projects](#) across the state, including dam removals, wetland restoration, culvert upgrades, urban river revitalization efforts, floodplain and streamflow restoration, and cranberry bog restoration. All of DER's projects work to restore healthy habitat and help communities adapt to climate change, while also generating significant economic benefits.
- DER staff guide restoration projects through design and permitting, thereby positioning projects for successful implementation through state, federal, and NGO funding programs.
- DER's technical assistance and project leadership is critical to helping communities carry out restoration and adaptation projects identified in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plans and to helping state agencies carry out many of the priority actions identified in the 2018 State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan. In 2020, 144 towns received technical assistance from DER staff.

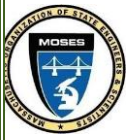
### Examples of Need

- Requests for DER's technical, project management, and funding assistance far exceed DER's resources. There are 3,000 dams and 25,000 culverts and small bridges across the state, many of which are deteriorating and are vulnerable to threats from severe storms and flooding. Aging dams and culverts impact environmental health, public safety, municipal budgets, and community resilience to climate change. Communities want to remove dams and upgrade culverts but lack the knowledge, technical skills, and funds to do so.
- Over the last 5 years, DER has received \$30,000,000 in requests from 170 towns for culvert upgrade projects (note: towns are only allowed to request funds for one culvert at a time, so the true need is likely much higher). In FY21 alone, DER received requests from 70 towns for a total of \$6.8 million.
- In FY22, the municipal culvert upgrades program was tripled, from \$750k to \$2.75 million, which allows DER to double the number of municipal grants awarded (from grants to 12 towns per year to grants to 26 towns in F22) and increase the amount of the grants to better meet the needs of the communities.

### Return on Investment

- The proposed increase would allow DER to add ten program staff (they currently have 26 FTE's). New staff would support direct project management, grants to municipalities and NGOs, and capacity building for local and regional partners to carry out ecological restoration and climate resilience projects in their communities.
- As a result of recent staff increases, DER will be taking on 9 new dam removal projects this fiscal year. They received applications for 20 dam removal projects and expect to remove six dams this year.
- Each of DER's project managers oversees 5-10 dam removal, culvert replacement, or wetland restoration projects, completing 1-3 projects every year. State investment through DER creates or sustains high-paying jobs in construction and engineering sectors (12.5 jobs per \$1 million spent).
- Completed restoration-adaptation projects also save communities money through avoided infrastructure maintenance and storm damage costs, and reduced expenses for emergency response, evacuations, and business shutdowns resulting from flooding and road closures.

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### **Past successes of the Green Budget Coalition:**

We would urge the Legislature to, at a minimum, maintain the increases that the following line items have achieved over the past few years.

#### **Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (2310-0300): \$1,000,000**

- The \$1M figure accounts for approximately 35% of the operating budget, up from a mere 5% in FY20. Allows NHESP to focus on its mission of protection, management, and restoration of the Commonwealth's most imperiled animals and plants and the sensitive communities and habitats on which they depend, including species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA).

#### **Department of Conservation and Recreation: Watershed Management (2800-0101): \$1,563,282**

- The over \$600,000 increase from a low of just under \$900,000 in FY16 allows the DCR Office of Water Resources, to protecting our precious water resources by providing scientific information, policy guidance, technical assistance, and resource management through four program areas: the Flood Hazard Management Program, the Lakes and Ponds Program, the Water Resources Assessment and Planning Program, and the U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Program.