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The State of New Hampshire

Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

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August 2, 2021

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend $880,452 in Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Funds for the purpose of continuing emergency drought assistance to low-income residential well owners, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2023. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

Funding is to be appropriated as follows:

Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust
03-44-44-444010-74280000
FY 2022

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
009-401831	DWG Trust Funds	($37,314,525)	($880,452)	($38,194,977)
Expenditures				
018-500106	Overtime	$10,000	-0-	$10,000
020-500200	Current Expenses	$12,960	-0-	$12,960
022-500255	Rents-Leases Other than State	$500	-0-	$500
024-500225	Maint Other than Blg/Grd	$100	-0-	$100
027-582703	Transfers to OIT	$54,279	-0-	$54,279
028-582814	Transfers to General Services	$21,723	-0-	$21,723
030-500321	Equipment	$4,536	-0-	$4,536
039-500188	Telecommunications	$4,500	-0-	$4,500
040-500800	Indirect Costs	$62,343	-0-	$62,343
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	$32,488	-0-	$32,488
049-584920	Transfers to Other Agencies	$86,006	-0-	$86,006

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Class Con't.	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
050-500109	Personnel Services Temp	$267,591	-0-	$267,591
059-500117	Personnel Services Temp Full Time	$357,513	-0-	$357,513
060-500601	Benefits	$373,479	-0-	$373,479
066-500544	Employee Training	$4,400	-0-	$4,400
070-500705	Instate Travel	$1,500	-0-	$1,500
073-500580	Grants - Non federal	$15,000,000	-0-	$15,000,000
080-500710	Out-of-State Travel	$2,250	-0-	$2,250
101-500729	Medical Payments to Provider	$500	-0-	$500
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	$1,017,857	-0-	$1,017,857
300-500830	Reimbursements	-0-	$880,452	$880,452
301-504059	Loans	$20,000,000	-0-	$20,000,000
	Total	$37,314,525	$880,452	$38,194,977

EXPLANATION

On October 23, 2020, the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) Advisory Commision awarded $1.5M to NHDES to provide short-term relief and financial assistance in the form of reimbursements for low-income New Hampshire homeowners served by residential wells that are experiencing insufficient water or no water due to drought conditions. This reimbursement funding was approved by the Fiscal Committee and Governor & Council in November of 2020. The ongoing program has to date received approximately 100 applications and completed 54 projects. The program has thusfar reimbursed $619,548 to homeowners.

The purpose of this request is to authorize NHDES to accept the unspent balance of the $1.5M award into class 300 Reimbursements. This will enable NHDES to continue reimbursing approved projects and allow the providers of the services, in this case the many licensed well installers and contractors that will be providing drought related solutions to eligible homeowners, to apply for direct reimbursement, thereby relieving the eligible homeowners of the burden of first making payment. When the funding for the FY 22/23 biennium Operating Budget was developed it was anticipated that this program would have been completed by June 30, 2021, however because of the widespread demand on the well installers and contractors throughout the state because of the drought, projects are backlogged and continue to be accomplished on a priority basis across the state.

Through financial assistance to eligible homeowners selected on the basis of household income, these funds will support New Hampshire citizens that have been hardest hit by the drought.

NHDES is requesting to budget these additional funds as shown below:

Class 300 To reimburse costs incurred by eligible homeowners whose wells have run dry for remedies to include a temporary auxiliary storage tank and bulk water, increasing storage capacity, lowering an existing well pump, deepening an existing well, installing a replacement well, and water quality sampling of the deepened/replacement well.

We respectfully request your approval.

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner