



Louisiana Senate Finance Committee



FY22 Recommended Budget

13 –Department of Environmental Quality

March 2021

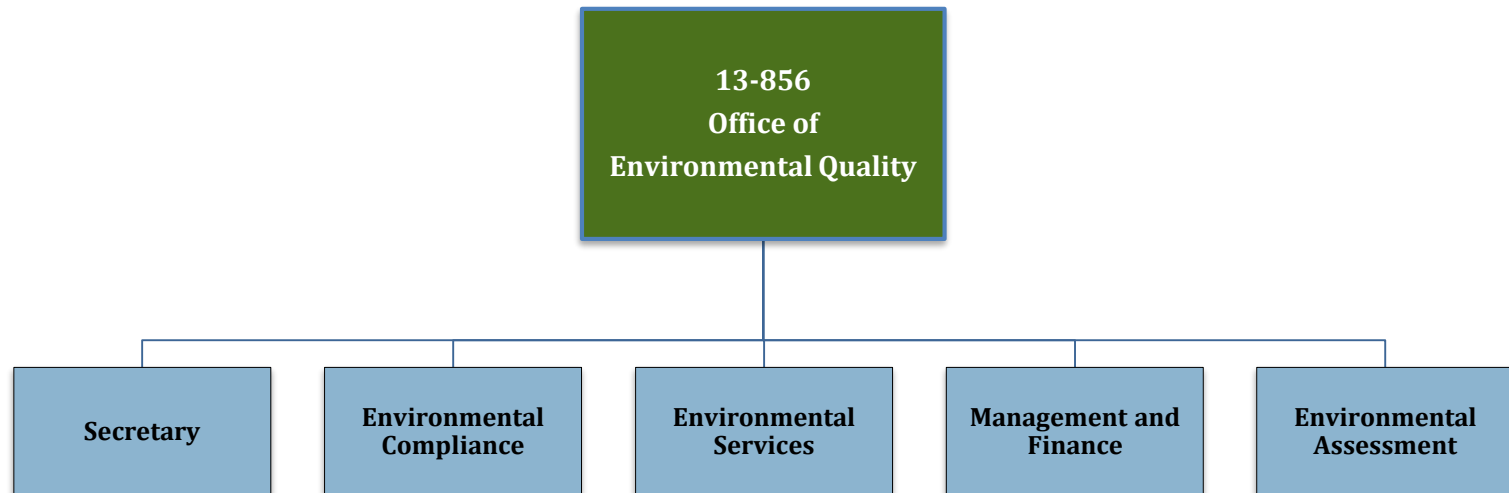
*Senator Patrick Page Cortez, President
Senator Bodi White, Chairman*



FY22 Recommended Budget

Schedule 13 — Environmental Quality Agencies

Departmental mission — “The mission of the Department of Environmental Quality is to provide service to the people of Louisiana through comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect health, safety and welfare while considering sound policies regarding employment and economic development.”





Environmental Quality

FY22 Program Descriptions by Agency



Office of the Secretary

- Audit Services
- Legal Affairs
- Executive Administration
- Business & Community Outreach
- Public Information.
- Criminal Investigations

Office of Environmental Compliance

- Surveillance and Inspection of Facilities
- Enforcement
- Emergency & Radiation Services.

Office of Environmental Services

- Air Permits
- Water Permits
- Waste Permits
- Public Participation & Permits Support
- LA Environmental Lab Accreditation

Office of Management and Finance

- Financial Services
- Human Resources
- Waste Tires (OMF-Payments)
- OMF Support & Department wide Costs
- Technology Service and Records Management

Office of Environmental Assessment

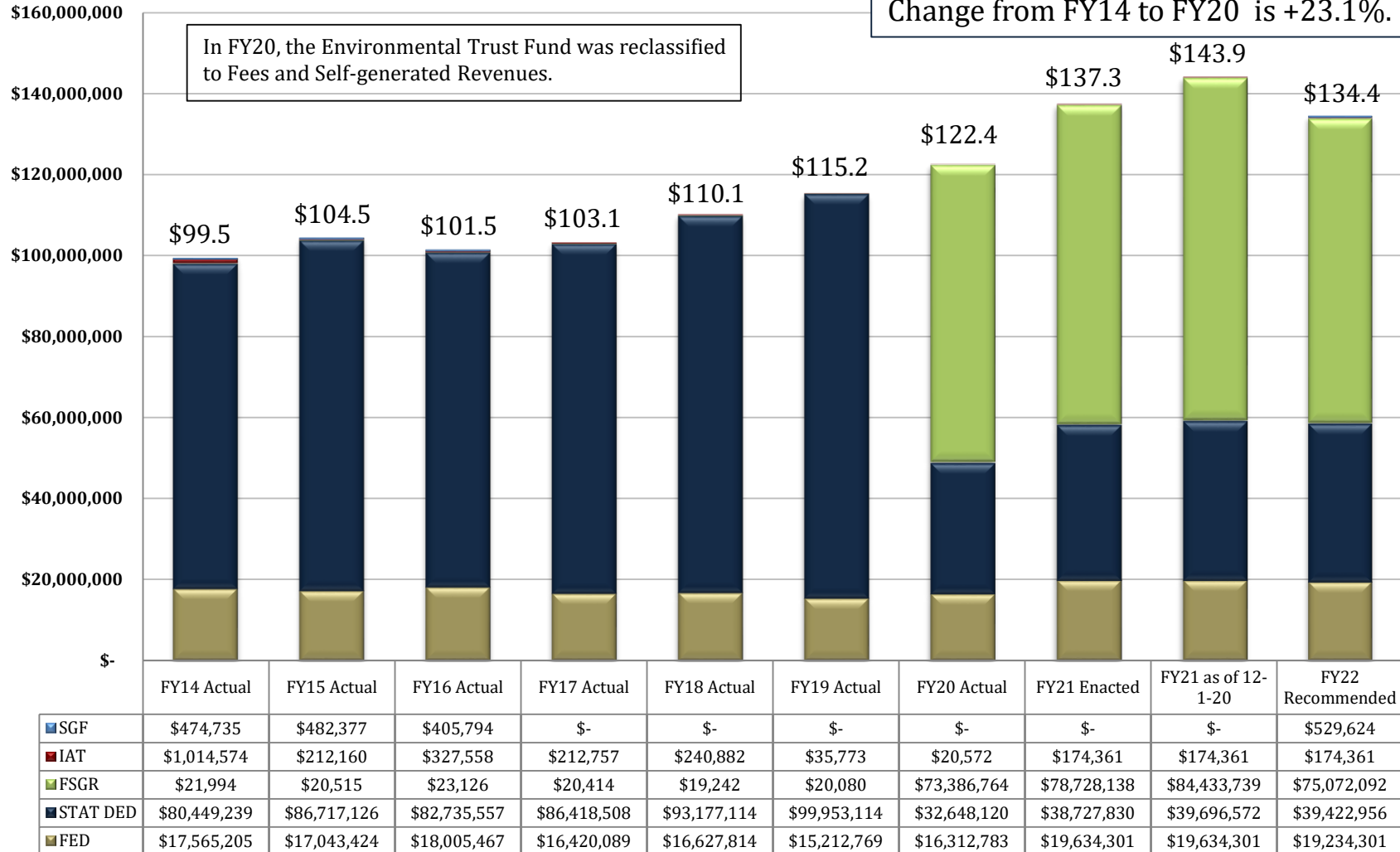
- Air Planning and Assessment
- Water Planning and Assessment
- Remediation
- Underground Storage Tanks



Environmental Quality

Changes in Funding since FY14

Total Budget by Fiscal Year and Means of Finance (in \$ millions)





Environmental Quality

Statewide Adjustments Recommended for FY22

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$174,361	\$84,433,739	\$39,696,572	\$19,634,301	\$143,938,973	710	FY21 Existing Operating Budget as of 12-1-20
\$0	\$0	\$1,669,955	\$0	\$0	\$1,669,955	0	Market Rate Salary Adjustment – Classified
\$0	\$0	\$165,628	\$0	\$0	\$165,628	0	Civil Service Training Series Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$376,013	\$0	\$0	\$376,013	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$0	(\$251,341)	\$0	\$0	(\$251,341)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$146,207	\$0	\$0	\$146,207	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$0	\$113,401	\$0	\$0	\$113,401	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$0	\$531,509	\$0	\$0	\$531,509	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$0	(\$1,382,463)	\$0	\$0	(\$1,382,463)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$0	(\$1,158,400)	\$0	\$0	(\$1,158,400)	0	Non-recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$0	(\$5,705,601)	(\$968,742)	\$0	(\$6,674,343)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$0	\$0	\$38,984	\$0	\$0	\$38,984	0	Risk Management
\$0	\$0	\$4,013	\$0	\$0	\$4,013	0	Legislative Auditor Fees
\$0	\$0	(\$1,972,904)	\$0	\$0	(\$1,972,904)	0	Rent in State-owned Buildings
\$0	\$0	\$2,596	\$0	\$0	\$2,596	0	Maintenance in State-owned Buildings
\$0	\$0	(\$44,878)	\$0	\$0	(\$44,878)	0	Capitol Park Security
\$0	\$0	\$651	\$0	\$0	\$651	0	Capitol Police
\$0	\$0	\$537	\$0	\$0	\$537	0	UPS Fees
\$0	\$0	\$7,538	\$0	\$0	\$7,538	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$0	(\$1,551)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	State Treasury Fees
\$0	\$0	\$182,956	\$286	\$0	\$183,242	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$0	\$0	(\$2,875)	\$0	\$0	(\$2,875)	0	Administrative Law Judges
\$0	\$0	\$10,876	\$0	\$0	\$10,876	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$0	(\$7,269,149)	(\$968,456)	\$0	(\$8,237,605)	0	Total Statewide Adjustments
\$529,624	\$0	(\$529,624)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	Total Means of Financing Substitution Adjustments
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	0	Total New and Expanded Adjustments
\$0	\$0	(\$1,562,874)	\$194,840	(\$400,000)	(\$1,768,034)	(3)	Total Other Adjustments
\$529,624	\$174,361	\$75,072,092	\$39,422,956	\$19,234,301	\$134,433,334	707	Total FY22 Recommended Budget
\$529,624	\$0	(\$9,361,647)	(\$273,616)	(\$400,000)	(\$9,505,639)	(3)	Total Adjustments (Statewide and Agency-Specific)



Environmental Quality

Non-Statewide Adjustments for FY22

Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$0	(\$30,500)	\$0	\$0	(\$30,500)	0	OFFICE OF SECRETARY -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account due to a projected decrease in collections. This decrease is due to the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference.
\$0	\$0	(\$399,231)	\$0	\$0	(\$399,231)	(3)	OFFICE OF SECRETARY -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account for three positions in the Criminal Investigations Section as a result of internal reorganization. DEQ did an analysis of the Criminal Investigations Section and determined that the three (3) vacant positions were not necessary and did not need to be filled.
\$0	\$0	\$47,100	\$0	\$0	\$47,100	0	COMPLIANCE -Increase Fund in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Account to accommodate a new lease for the Alexandria Office. Currently, the office is located on property owned by LDH for the Central State Hospital in Pineville, LA. DEQ is vacating this hospital in December of 2020 due to the hospital moving to new construction at a different location. DEQ will not lease office space in the new hospital. Another location has been secured for the Alexandria Office. This will be a five-year lease with a five-year renewal option.
\$0	\$0	(\$146,840)	\$0	\$0	(\$146,840)	0	COMPLIANCE -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account due to a decrease in collections. This decrease is due to the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference.
\$0	\$0	(\$136,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$136,000)	0	COMPLIANCE -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account due to a projected decrease in collections. This decrease is due to the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference.
\$0	\$0	(\$29,500)	\$0	\$0	(\$29,500)	0	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account due to a projected decrease in collections. This decrease is due to the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference.
\$0	\$0	(\$399,179)	\$0	\$0	(\$399,179)	(1)	MANAGEMENT & FINANCE -Eliminates the Aircraft Services Section and one (1) pilot position in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account from the Office of Management and Finance Program. DEQ did an analysis of the Aircraft Services Section and determined that it was inefficient to use their own planes and pilot.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$144,840	\$0	\$144,840	1	MANAGEMENT & FINANCE -Increases Statutory Dedications out of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for an Accountant 4 position. This position is needed because of the re-establishment of the Brownfields Loan Program, the new Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal grants program and the expansion of the CWSRF.
\$0	\$0	(\$428,724)	\$0	\$0	(\$428,724)	0	MANAGEMENT & FINANCE -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account due to a projected decrease in collections. This decrease is due to the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	0	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT -Increases Statutory Dedications out of the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. LDEQ received a federal award from EPA for the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Grant which allows loans to be issued to qualified borrowers who are willing to participate and follow the guidelines of the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Program. These funds will be used to address sites contaminated by petroleum and/or hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. This amount represents the administrative costs associated with the loans. Loan funds will be issued through 21-860 Environmental State Revolving Loan Funds.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$400,000)	(\$400,000)	0	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT -Reduction due to excess federal budget authority
\$0	\$0	(\$40,000)	\$0	\$0	(\$40,000)	0	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT -Reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account due to a projected decrease in collections. This decrease is due to the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference.
\$0	\$0	(\$1,562,874)	\$194,840	(\$400,000)	(\$1,768,034)	(3)	Total Other Adjustments



Environmental Quality Non-Statewide Adjustments for FY22

Means of Financing Substitutions

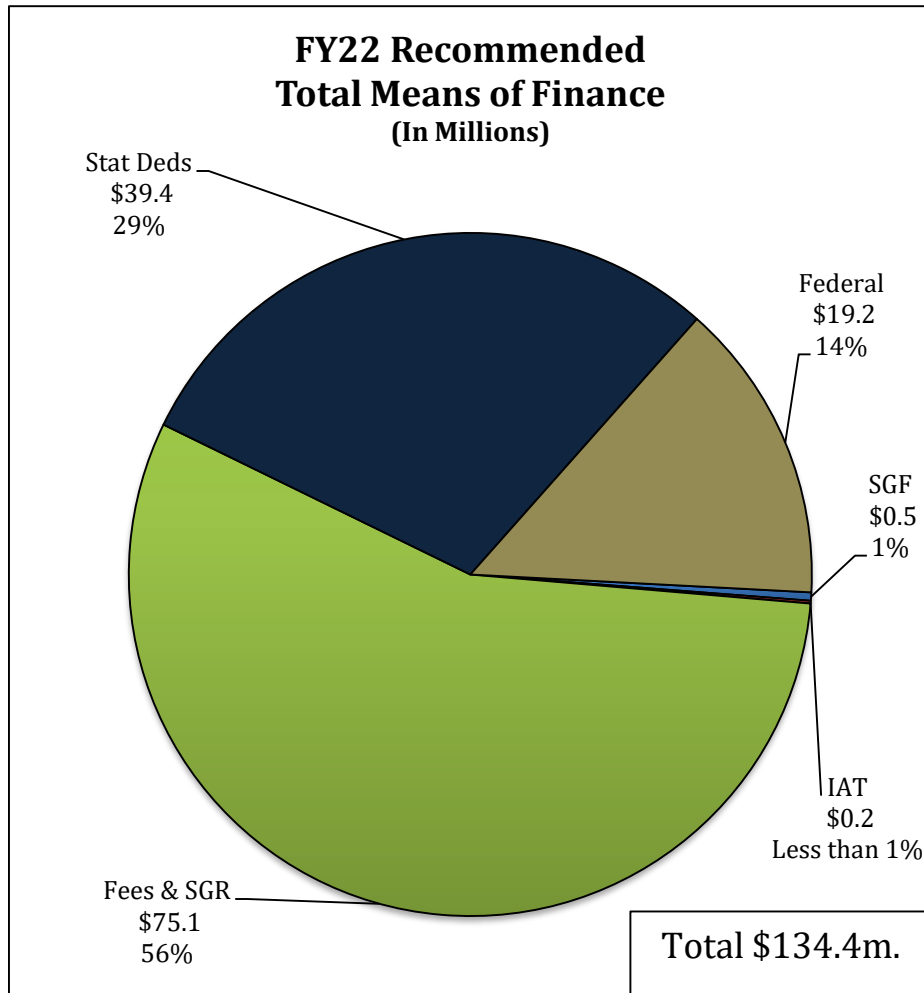
State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$30,000	\$0	(\$30,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	COMPLIANCE -Means of finance substitution reducing Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account and increasing State General Fund (Direct) for the Mercury Program due to Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP) revenues no longer being available for this program.
\$11,000	\$0	(\$11,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	MGT & FINANCE -Means of finance substitution reducing Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account and increasing State General Fund (Direct) for the Mercury Program due to Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP) revenues no longer being available for this program.
\$488,624	\$0	(\$488,624)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	ENV Assessment -Means of finance substitution reducing Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Environmental Trust Fund Account and increasing State General Fund (Direct) for the Mercury Program due to Beneficial Environmental Project (BEP) revenues no longer being available for this program.
\$529,624	\$0	(\$529,624)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Total MOF Substitutions

New and Expanded Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	0	ENV Assessment -Provides an increase out of the Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund for the remediation of the American Creosote-Winnfield-Superfund Site in Winnfield, LA. This site was designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a superfund site for management and cleanup.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	0	Total New and Expanded Adjustments



Environmental Quality FY22 Recommended Means of Finance



Non-SGF Sources of Funding:

Non-State General Fund sources of funding for the Department of Environmental Quality are derived from Interagency Transfers, Fees and Self-generated Revenues, Statutory Dedications, and Federal Funds.

The **Interagency Transfers** are from CPRA for BP Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) work. DEQ bills CPRA quarterly for these charges.

Fees and Self-generated Revenues are derived from the sale of regulations, manifest forms, and photocopies. The Statutorily Dedicated Environmental Trust Fund was re-classified as Fees and Self-generated Revenues in accordance with Act 404 of the 2019 Regular Session.

Statutory Dedications, which make up twenty-nine percent of DEQ's total means of finance, are derived from the Oil Spill Contingency Fund, Motor Fuels Underground Tank Fund, Waste Tire Management Fund, Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Federal Funds are derived from grants issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of Defense.



Environmental Quality Dedicated Funds

FY20, FY21, and FY22 Recommended

Dedicated Funds	Source of Funding	FY20 Actual	FY21 EOB	FY22 Recommended
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	Federal grants	\$2,855,479	\$2,855,500	\$3,000,626
Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund	Federal or state grants or state appropriation.	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Fund	Judgments, settlements, assessments of civil or criminal penalties.	\$5,111,420	\$6,814,613	\$6,345,871
Lead Hazard Reduction Fund	Fund for the fees collected from Lead contractors and inspectors obtaining a license to be involved in lead hazard reduction activities.	\$136,092	\$150,000	\$150,000
Motor Fuels Underground Tank Fund	The annual underground storage tank trust fee collected from every owner of an underground storage tank, any late charge penalty and or any interest earned on the trust are transferred into this fund.	\$13,201,537	\$16,649,485	\$16,649,485
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	Settlements and judgements.	\$43,769	\$226,974	\$226,974
Waste Tire Management Fund	Fund for any fees collected on the sale of new tires, and any other appropriations, gifts, grants, or other monies received.	\$11,299,823	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000
TOTALS		\$32,648,120	\$39,696,572	\$39,422,956



Environmental Quality

FY21 Enacted vs. FY22 Recommended Means of Finance by Agency

FY21 Enacted Total MOF by Agency	SGF	IAT	FSGR	Stat Deds	Federal	Total
Office of the Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$6,817,769	\$250,000	\$1,458,661	\$8,526,430
Environmental Compliance	\$0	\$0	\$21,130,512	\$281,229	\$2,952,974	\$24,364,715
Environmental Services	\$0	\$0	\$11,918,126	\$878,992	\$3,423,151	\$16,220,269
Management and Finance	\$0	\$0	\$19,489,222	\$30,612,493	\$3,176,058	\$53,277,773
Environmental Assessment	\$0	\$174,361	\$19,372,509	\$6,705,116	\$8,623,457	\$34,875,443
TOTALS	\$0	\$174,361	\$78,728,138	\$38,727,830	\$19,634,301	\$137,264,630
FY22 Recommended Total MOF by Agency	SGF	IAT	FSGR	Stat Deds	Federal	Total
Office of the Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$6,366,229	\$250,000	\$1,458,661	\$8,074,890
Environmental Compliance	\$30,000	\$0	\$20,709,694	\$281,229	\$3,012,974	\$24,033,897
Environmental Services	\$0	\$0	\$12,059,473	\$878,992	\$3,423,151	\$16,361,616
Management and Finance	\$11,000	\$0	\$17,317,563	\$30,757,619	\$3,176,058	\$51,262,240
Environmental Assessment	\$488,624	\$174,361	\$18,619,133	\$7,255,116	\$8,163,457	\$34,700,691
TOTALS	\$529,624	\$174,361	\$75,072,092	\$39,422,956	\$19,234,301	\$134,433,334
<i>Difference FY21 Enacted to FY22 Recommended</i>	<i>\$529,624</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>(\$3,656,046)</i>	<i>\$695,126</i>	<i>(\$400,000)</i>	<i>(\$2,831,296)</i>

The FY22 Recommended Budget for DEQ is a decrease of \$2.8 million under FY21 Enacted. This equates to a 2.1 percentage decrease.

The Office of Environmental Services showed an increase of \$141,347.

The Office of Management and Finance showed the largest decrease of **(\$2,015,533)**, was a minor decrease in the Office of Environmental Compliance at (\$10,083).

Statutory Dedications was the means of finance with the greatest increase at \$695,126, followed by State General Fund at \$529,624. There was a reduction in Fees and Self-generated Revenues of **(\$3,656,046)**.



DEQ Categorical Expenditures FY20, FY21, and FY22

Expenditure Category	FY20 Actual	FY21 EOB (as of 12-01-20)	FY22		Difference FY21 to FY22
			Recommended Budget	Category as Percent of Total	
Personal Services:	\$69,089,546	\$72,260,580	\$73,155,258	54%	\$894,678
Salaries	\$43,448,730	\$45,845,167	\$46,479,888	35%	\$634,721
Other Compensation	\$787,498	\$211,043	\$211,043	0%	\$0
Related Benefits	\$24,853,318	\$26,204,370	\$26,464,327	20%	\$259,957
Operating Expenses:	\$2,714,545	\$3,932,269	\$3,450,623	3%	(\$481,646)
Travel	\$229,289	\$376,443	\$293,443	0%	(\$83,000)
Operating Services	\$1,781,427	\$2,628,472	\$2,509,096	2%	(\$119,376)
Supplies	\$703,829	\$927,354	\$648,084	0%	(\$279,270)
Professional Services	\$3,224,460	\$4,200,810	\$3,597,110	3%	(\$603,700)
Other Charges:	\$43,803,759	\$62,237,963	\$54,230,343	40%	(\$8,007,620)
Other Charges	\$29,449,448	\$44,110,662	\$41,729,702	31%	(\$2,380,960)
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0
Interagency Transfers	\$14,354,311	\$18,127,301	\$12,500,641	9%	(\$5,626,660)
Acquisitions & Major Repairs:	\$3,535,929	\$1,307,351	\$0	0%	(\$1,307,351)
Acquisitions	\$3,535,929	\$1,307,351	\$0	0%	(\$1,307,351)
Major Repairs	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$122,368,239	\$143,938,973	\$134,433,334	100%	(\$9,505,639)

Note: Other Charges include funding for Motor Fuels Underground Storage Tank to reimburse Response Action Contractors of eligible tanks for cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks; Legal services provided by the Department of Justice; Waste Tire program for payments to permitted processors for proper disposal of collected waste tires to authorized end use markets; To provide services for investigation, testing, containment, control and cleanup of hazardous waste sites; Louisiana Volkswagen Settlement funds to be used to purchase buses for various school boards across the state.



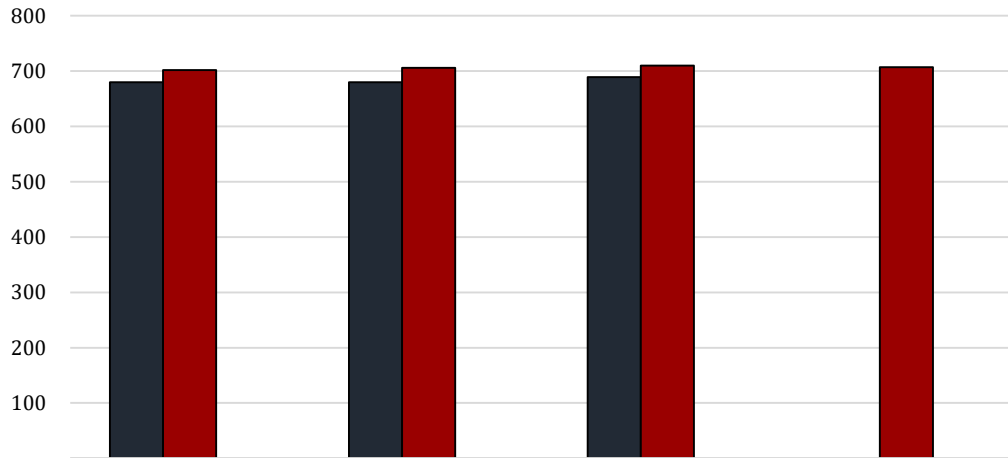
Environmental Quality

FTEs, Authorized, and Other Charges Positions and Related Employment Information

Number and Types of Positions

This Department Represents 2.1% Percent of Total State Positions of 34,081.

FY21 number of funded, but not filled, positions as of March 1 = 39



	2019	2020	2021	2022 Rec.
■ Total FTEs (1st July Report)	680	680	689	-
■ Authorized Positions	702	706	710	707
■ Other Charges Positions	-	-	-	-

* Remaining Benefits include employer contribution to authorized positions' retirement, health, Medicare, FICA, Emoluments etc. The authorized positions include authorized T.O. positions and authorized other charges positions, both filled and vacant.

Personal Services	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Enacted	2022 Recommended
Salaries	\$42,003,791	\$43,448,730	\$45,845,167	\$46,479,888
Other Compensation	\$789,364	\$787,498	\$211,043	\$211,043
Related Benefits	\$23,168,761	\$24,853,318	\$26,204,370	\$26,464,327
Total Personal Services	\$65,961,916	\$69,089,546	\$72,260,580	\$73,155,258

Examples of Other Compensation include pay for WAE employees, part-time employees, student workers, etc.

Other Charges Benefits
\$0

Related Benefits FY22 Recommended	Total Funding	%
Total Related Benefits	\$26,464,327	
UAL payments	\$14,787,085	55.9%
Retiree Health Benefits	\$3,618,937	
Remaining Benefits*	\$8,058,305	
Means of Finance	General Fund = 0%	Other = 100%

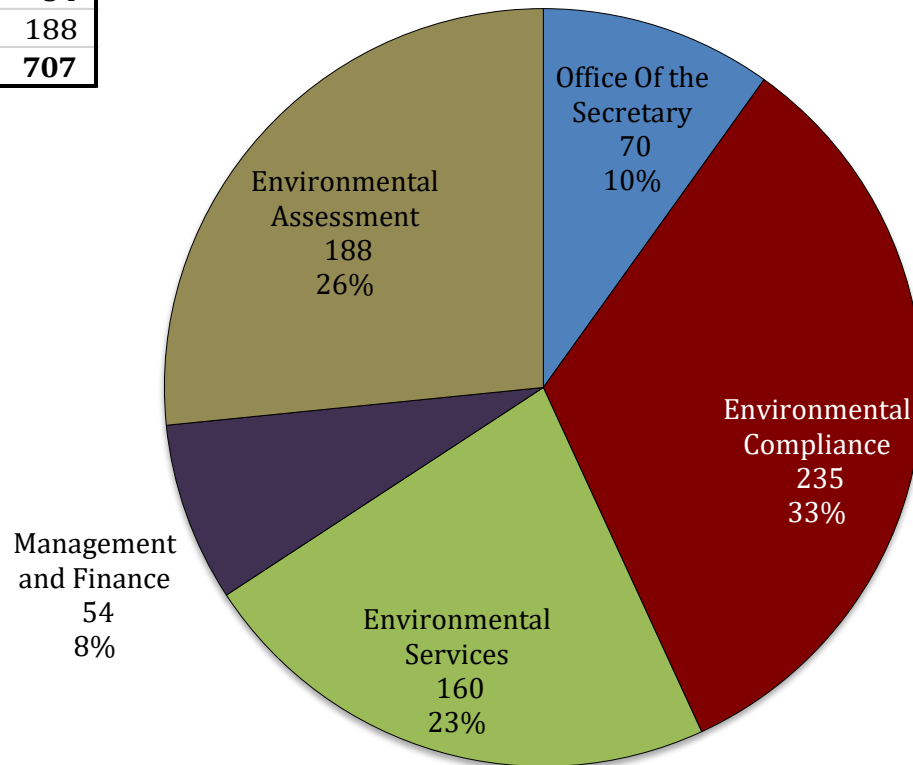
Average Salary = \$64,211



Environmental Quality

FY22 Recommended Total Authorized Positions by Agency

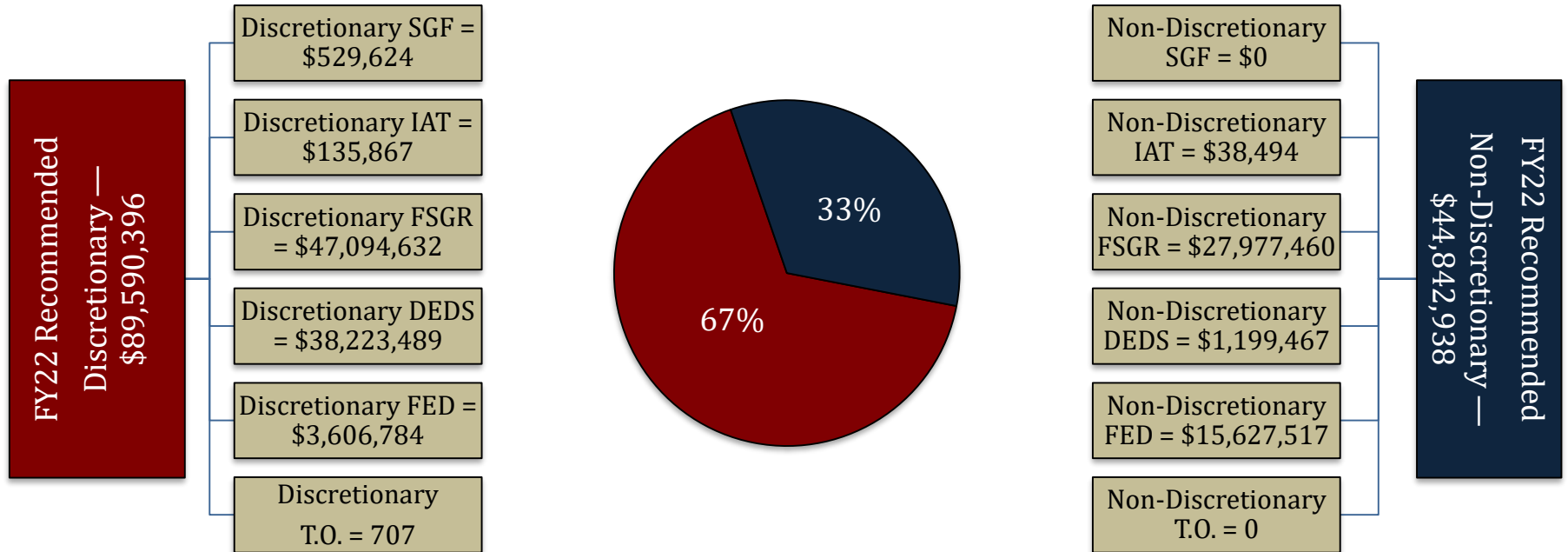
Office of Environmental Quality	
Office of the Secretary	70
Office of Environmental Compliance	235
Office of Environmental Services	160
Office of Management and Finance	54
Office of Environmental Assessment	188
Total Positions	707





Environmental Quality

FY22 Discretionary/Non-Discretionary Comparison



Total Discretionary Funding by Office		
Secretary	\$ 5,299,507	6%
Environmental Compliance	\$ 18,425,374	21%
Environmental Services	\$ 5,564,607	6%
Management and Finance	\$ 41,533,879	46%
Environmental Assessment	\$ 18,767,029	21%
Total Discretionary	\$ 89,590,396	100%

Total Non-Discretionary Funding by Type		
Required by the Constitution	\$ 14,787,085	33%
Needed for Debt Service	\$ 1,551,895	3%
Due to Federal Mandate	\$ 24,727,302	55%
Unavoidable Obligations	\$ 3,776,656	8%
Total Non-Discretionary	\$ 44,842,938	100%

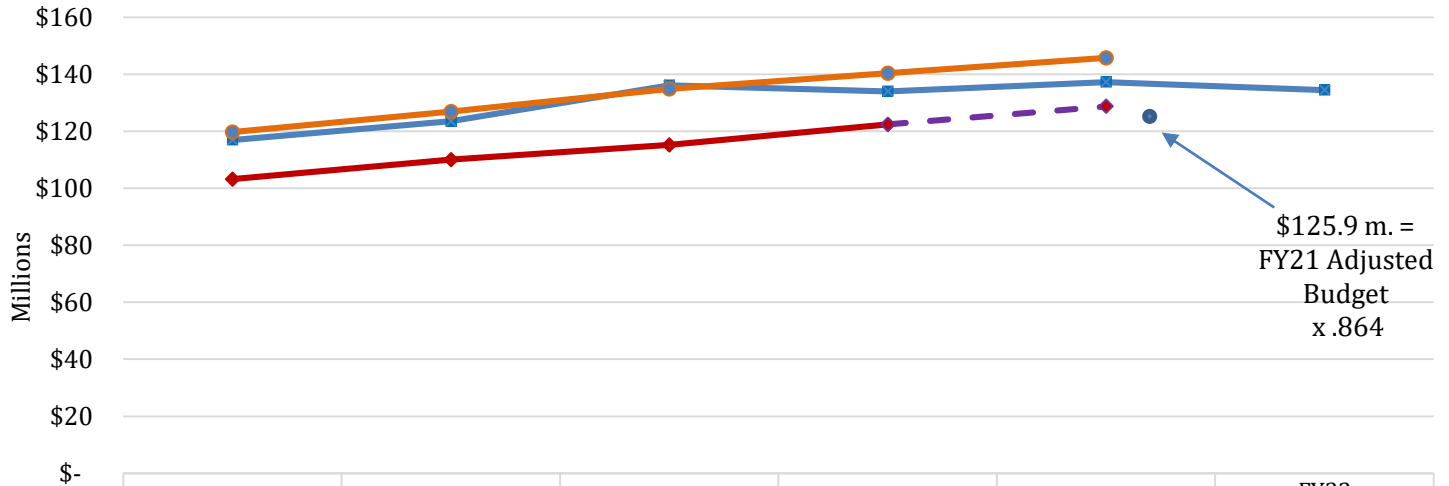
Required by the Constitution = State Retirement Systems UAL
 Unavoidable Obligations = Retirees Group Insurance;
 Legislative Auditor Fees; Maintenance of State-owned Buildings.
 Due to Federal Mandate = PPG Grant, Title V of the Clean Air Act,
 Clean Water Revolving Loan.



Environmental Quality

Enacted & FYE Budget vs. Actual Expenditures FY17 to FY20

FYE Budget = "Fiscal Year End" Budget includes all in-house and regular BA-7s through June 30 of the fiscal year. For FY21, it is as of February.



Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY21 Adjusted Budget	FY21 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
Jul-20	\$ 137,264,630	\$ 8,608,508	\$ 128,656,122	6.3%
Aug-20	\$ 143,938,973	\$ 17,115,101	\$ 126,823,872	11.9%
Sep-20	\$ 143,938,973	\$ 29,036,621	\$ 114,902,352	20.2%
Oct-20	\$ 143,938,973	\$ 38,557,579	\$ 105,381,394	26.8%
Nov-20	\$ 143,938,973	\$ 49,122,113	\$ 94,816,860	34.1%
Dec-20	\$ 143,938,973	\$ 60,968,010	\$ 82,970,963	42.4%
Jan-21	\$ 143,938,973	\$ 73,155,676	\$ 70,783,297	50.8%

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY21 Adjusted Budget	FY21 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
Feb-21	\$ 145,722,417	\$ 82,532,500	\$ 63,189,917	56.6%
<i>(Trend based on average monthly expenditures to date)</i>				
Mar-21	\$ 145,722,417	\$ 94,081,317	\$ 51,641,100	64.6%
Apr-21	\$ 145,722,417	\$ 105,630,134	\$ 40,092,283	72.5%
May-21	\$ 145,722,417	\$ 117,178,951	\$ 28,543,466	80.4%
Jun-21	\$ 145,722,417	\$ 128,727,768	\$ 16,994,649	88.3%

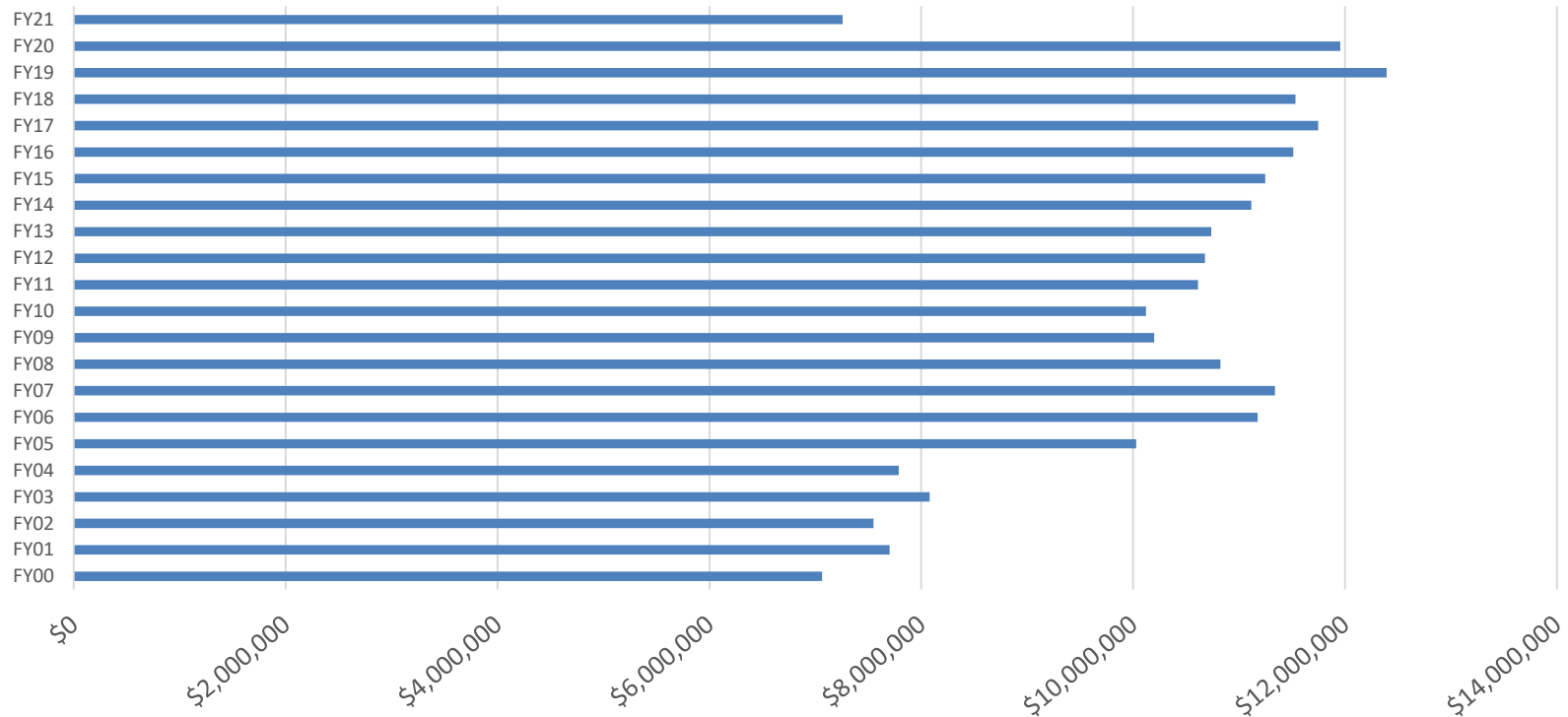
Historical Year End Average

86.4%



Department of Environmental Quality

Waste Tire Fee Collection History – FY00 to FY21



Note: Act 846 of the 2004 RLS changed the tires to which the fee was applicable and greatly increased annual tire fee revenues, as shown. See LRS 30:2418.

Note: As of 3/31/19 FY19 collections total \$8.7 million.

Source: Department of Environmental Quality.

Present law provides for a \$5 fee per medium truck tire, and \$10 per off-road tire be collected for every tire sold. **Act No. 541** of the 2018 Regular Session by **Representative Lyons**, increased the fees on passenger/light truck tires from \$2 to \$2.25.



Environmental Quality Audit Findings

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

August 19, 2020

For the *seventh consecutive report*, the department did not fully implement effective monitoring procedures over the Waste Tire Management Program to ensure the waste tire data used to calculate subsidized payments to waste tire processors were reasonable. In addition, the department did not deactivate fuel card personal identification numbers in a timely manner for employees who left the department and did not monitor the PINs to ensure that only employees with a business need had access. The department also did not have an effective internal audit function and did not fully adhere to the Institute of Internal Auditors' International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing during fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

Monitoring and Enforcement of Air Quality

January 20, 2021

While Louisiana's air quality has improved since 2008, certain areas of the state have high concentrations of air pollution. DEQ should strengthen its monitoring process to identify those permitted facilities that fail to submit their self-monitoring reports. In addition, DEQ should review these reports in a timely manner so it can identify and address facilities with self-reported violations. DEQ also does not issue enforcement actions in a timely manner to permitted facilities that violate air permit requirements. The department does not effectively track the penalties it assesses and whether facilities have paid their penalties, and it could improve its settlement process for penalties by developing deadlines for when facilities must submit their settlement offers and by processing these offers more quickly.

Source: Legislative Auditor, Key Audit Issues 2021