

Permit Backlog Reduction

FY2022 Request: \$3,500,000
Reference No: 63482

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Workforce Dev

Category: Development

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Cheri Lowenstein

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026

Contact Phone: (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Division of Mining, Land and Water’s mission is to provide for the appropriate use and management of Alaska’s state-owned land and water, aiming toward maximum use consistent with the public interest. This water rights backlog project will aid the division in achieving its mission by delivering Alaskans' water rights that are legitimately requested from the Department. This project will allow the division to process and adjudicate new land applications quicker and more efficiently.

| Funding: | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1002 Fed Rcpts | | | | | | | \$0 |
| 1004 Gen Fund | | | | | | | \$0 |
| 1243 SBR | \$3,500,000 | | | | | | \$3,500,000 |
| Total: | \$3,500,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,500,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway | <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing |
| 0% = Minimum State Match % Required | | <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill | |

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Staff</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Project Development: | 0 | 0 |
| Ongoing Operating: | 0 | 0 |
| One-Time Startup: | 0 | 0 |
| Totals: | 0 | 0 |

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The department continues to experience backlogs in both the water use authorizations and the land use authorizations.

The backlog in processing water right applications stands at 516 complete applications and spans multiple decades. The water right backlog project will aid us in achieving our mission by delivering Alaskans' water rights that were legitimately requested from the Department, yet not acted upon due to historical staffing limitations. This project will allow us to process and adjudicate new applications quicker and more efficiently.

The backlog in issuing land use authorizations will require scanning of physical casefile documents into an electronic format to make land use records accessible to the Contract Initiation & Revenue Recover (CIRR) section. This will allow the regions’ adjudicators to focus on completing

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authorizations in a more-timely manner. Scanning is a critical need for retention of the administrative record, retaining old land records that suffer from age, are fragile, or are in an obsolete media (carbon copy authorization). Audio and VHS tapes need to be converted to a stable media, and confidential client information needs to be handled appropriately. Naming conventions and file indexing in a consistent manner is important for usability and public records requests.