

# Pollution Control

# Projects Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2024	2026	2028
Statewide Drinking Water - Contamination Mitigation	1	GO	\$ 145,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 0
		GF	\$ 25,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction Demolition Debris Landfill Closure	2	GO	\$ 75,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 75,000
Capital Assistance Program	3	GO	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500
Continuous Nitrate Sensor Network	4	GO	\$ 2,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Removal of Contaminated Stormwater Pond Sediments	5	GO	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Climate Ready Local and Tribal Infrastructure	6	GO	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Addressing Legacy Contamination at St. Paul Levee	7	GO	\$ 7,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Office Consolidation	8	GO	\$ 75	\$ 675	\$ 0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			<b>\$ 309,575</b>	<b>\$ 331,175</b>	<b>\$ 95,500</b>
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			<b>\$ 284,575</b>	<b>\$ 331,175</b>	<b>\$ 95,500</b>
<b>General Fund Cash (GF) Total</b>			<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

**Statewide Drinking Water - Contamination Mitigation**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$170,000

**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$170 million to design and construct drinking water system improvements for communities with drinking water supplies impacted by man-made contaminants (such as PFAS and/or 1,4-dioxane). \$25 million of the total is requested in General Funds for connecting private drinking water systems (i.e. private homes), capping private wells, and associated fees. This money will be used to provide safe drinking water to Minnesotans living in these communities.

**Project Description**

The proposal is for \$170 million to provide assistance to communities that are unable to provide safe drinking water to their residents due to man-made contaminants (e.g. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS] and/or 1,4-dioxane) from unknown sources. A variety of projects will be utilized depending on the nature of the impacts to the drinking water systems. Examples include: building a drinking water treatment system for impacted wells, drilling new drinking water wells in areas that are not contaminated, or hooking up affected areas currently served by private wells to a public drinking water system. The funding will help with the design and construction of the necessary improvements to provide safe drinking water.

In some cases, the improvements will involve non-bondable expenses. In cases where neighborhoods are serviced by private wells, those neighborhoods will be connected to a public drinking water system and the private wells will be capped. Those expenses are non-bondable due to private ownership. Improvements to drinking water systems servicing private manufactured home parks may not be bondable either. For these reasons, general obligation bonds are requested for this initiative along with a one-time general fund contribution to pay for potential expenses that cannot be paid for using bonds under state law.

Long-term operations and maintenance (O&M) costs are not considered in this proposal. O&M costs will be required to be funded by the cities if no party responsible for the contamination can be identified. Funds obtained through this proposal will be allocated to the MPCA who will act as the fiscal agent. Funds will be distributed under the State's authority in MN Statute 115B (MERLA) to communities identified by the MPCA over a five-year period based on the project readiness of each community.

**Project Rationale**

The objective with this proposal is to provide financial resources to multiple communities in Minnesota that are unable to provide safe drinking water to their residents due to man-made contaminants (e.g. PFAS and/or 1,4-dioxane) from unknown sources.

Although PFAS chemicals are not currently regulated under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) released draft maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in March 2023 which will likely become law by the end of 2023. The draft MCLs are more stringent than the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) current health-based values for similar PFAS. MDH is also reviewing its current health-based values and anticipates the revisions will likely result in more stringent values to protect human health based on the recent science. Once this occurs, many communities impacted by PFAS will be out of compliance with the anticipated SDWA requirements and will be required to implement treatment within three years.

PFAS have been detected in community public water supply systems across the state at levels that exceed MDH's current health-based values or will exceed the proposed federal drinking water standards (MCLs). The Minnesota communities (outside of the East Metro area) that, individually, have an average of four quarters of sampling that exceed these values include: Alexandria, Austin Mobile Home Park, Cloquet, Hastings, Pease, Roosevelt Court, Sauk Rapids, Stillwater, Swanville, and Waite Park. As more communities have the required four quarters of sampling results, the list is expected to grow. The sources of PFAS contamination in the communities listed above are under investigation by the MPCA; however, at present time, responsible parties and/or source areas of the PFAS have not been identified.

In recent years MPCA has started sampling for and finding 1,4-dioxane at contaminated sites. As a result, we found private wells that exceed MDH's current health-based values for 1,4-dioxane similar to where we have found PFAS concentrations. Since most currently available in-home treatment systems for private wells are not effective to remove 1,4-dioxane to safe levels, new drinking water sources are needed for these impacted areas.

The funding will go to communities that do not have any existing flexibility within their public water systems to attain compliance and provide safe drinking water to their residents and will require system upgrades. It is expected communities will need to design and construct treatment systems which are estimated to cost between \$2M - 30M per community.

### **Project Timeline**

Funds obtained through this proposal will be allocated to the MPCA who will act as the fiscal agent. Funds will be distributed to communities identified by the MPCA over a five-year period based on the project readiness of each community.

### **Other Considerations**

These city water projects will impact up to 1,000s of homes Minnesota, including those with children and families. The mitigation of these contaminated public water systems with city water infrastructure will provide protection against the health effects of these pollutants to the Minnesotans. Some of these communities are within areas of environmental justice.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

As noted in the purpose section, the projected costs outlined through this proposal do not include long-term operations and maintenance costs (O & M) associated with drinking water systems. These costs can include change-outs and disposal of the activated filtration media, well pump maintenance, and replacement costs, for example. PFAS and 1,4-dioxane O & M costs are variable and subject to market drivers; however, for estimation purposes, the City of Bemidji estimated the 50 year O & M cost for their PFAS treatment system to be \$12M total.

The MPCA anticipates implementing this bonding project will require 4 new FTEs in the Remediation and Operations divisions to provide administrative, technical, and contractual support to ensure successful implementation.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

The MN Legislature appropriated \$25M in FY24 from the General Fund to provide grants to cities to begin the design of the contamination mitigation projects.

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(\$ in thousands)

**Construction Demolition Debris Landfill Closure**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$75,000

**Priority Ranking:** 2

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$75 million to advance statewide construction and demolition (C & D) infrastructure and improve solid waste management systems through grants to local units of government. Grants and local cost share would be used for the design, closure and the construction of a final enhanced cover system on unlined C & D landfills, the construction of transfer stations and mixed-use facilities to replace closing unlined C & D landfills and divert waste and materials from entering landfills.

**Project Description**

The proposal is for grants to communities to properly design, close and construct a final cover system on unlined C&D landfills to reduce or prevent the releases of contaminants to groundwater and surface waters. In addition, the proposal includes grants for transfer stations and mixed-use facilities to replace unlined C&D landfills, where necessary to provide convenient local access to the public particularly in rural and underserved communities. The MPCA has been pursuing multiple efforts to prevent and reduce risks to groundwater from unlined construction and demolition landfills.

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water for 3 in 4 Minnesotans. Unlined landfilling has resulted in contamination of private drinking water wells. A number of local governments have expressed interest in funding to assist their local projects. At this time there are approximately 40 open unlined C&D landfills owned and operated by local units of government throughout Minnesota.

The proposal also seeks to keep C&D and other waste and materials out of landfills through grants to build alternatives for long-term management of C&D materials by incorporating options for increased waste diversion, beneficial use of materials, reuse and recycling processes. Infrastructure is needed to design and construct integrated systems for beneficial use, reuse and recycling as local units of government close their unlined C&D landfills. Reuse and recycling projects can include concrete, brick, porcelain, and asphalt shingles for roadway projects, wood for Biochar, mulch or compost feedstock, scrap metal collection, public reuse sheds/buildings, and other new or emerging technologies such as gypsum board recycling.

The state has an opportunity to advance C&D materials management by incentivizing regional systems where many small landfills are replaced with a local collection option. This transfer station model is similar to Mixed Municipal Solid Waste management systems and does not exist for C&D waste.

Several local governments throughout Minnesota have expressed interest in funding to assist their local projects including a 9-county coalition project to properly manage C&D materials and waste, as well as improvements to increase recycling, reuse, organics, and management of special wastes for

long-term solid waste management.

## Project Rationale

The Minnesota Waste Management Act (M.S. 115A) was enacted to promote an integrated solid waste management system in a manner appropriate to the characteristics of the waste stream. At the time, it was believed that C&D landfill design requirements would be protective of the state's land, air, water, and other natural resources and enhance human health. A review of 2022 Annual Groundwater reports submitted by unlined C&D landfills indicated that 90% of the facilities that have groundwater monitoring exceed a permit threshold for at least one contaminant of concern.

Unlined landfills lack a protective barrier below the waste, thereby allowing for the movement of pollution to native soils, groundwater or surface water. Landfill covers are a significant tool in minimizing groundwater contamination and leachate generation. Enhanced landfill covers have an increased ability to reject precipitation at a rate greater than the currently required two-foot soil cover for C&D landfills. As a result, enhanced covers at landfill closure provide the final opportunity to install a protective barrier over the waste to limit the movement of contamination into native soils, groundwater and surface waters.

Minnesota requires solid waste management facilities to report the amount of materials handled and disposed of at the facility to the MPCA in their solid waste annual report. Table 1 summarizes the reported statewide quantities of C&D materials disposed in 2019 by region of origin.

Table 1. C&D waste disposed in Minnesota by region of origin

Greater Minnesota: 499,699 tons of C&D disposed is 32.6% of total C&D disposed

Metro: 1,034,427 tons of C&D disposed is 67.4% of total C&D disposed

Total: 1,534,127 tons of C&D disposed

The composition of C&D materials being disposed in Minnesota is roughly one third from Greater Minnesota and two-thirds from the Metro.

In 2019, 1.5 million tons of C&D waste and materials were landfilled. The project would provide grants for a portion of the cost for installing enhanced covers at permitted unlined landfills looking to close their C&D landfills, it will also advance the long-term management of reducing C&D waste and materials that have been historically landfilled.

Beneficial use, reuse and recycling of waste keeps materials out of landfills and reduces the amount of raw materials used. Deconstruction of or salvaging buildings instead of simply demolishing them results in reclaimed high-value materials such as doors and windows, lighting fixtures, cabinets, framing lumber, hardwood floors, and other finishing materials. There is a growing market for these items. Many materials such as concrete, wood, and brick can be recycled. Aggregate is 15% of the waste stream and includes concrete, asphalt, and brick materials. After processing, it can be used in roadways, foundations, and parking structures. When these items find a second life, it decreases the need for landfill space, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other types of pollution when creating replacements for those items being landfilled. Reducing our waste including C&D materials yields

several economic measurable benefits:

- The recycling, reuse, repair, and rental sector represents a sizable portion of Minnesota's economy
- 55,000 Minnesota jobs support the reuse, repair, and rental sector generating \$5.8 billion annually
- 60,000 Minnesota jobs support the recycling sector generating \$15.7 billion annually

### **Project Timeline**

FY2024 \$75 million

FY2026 \$100 million

FY2028 \$75 million

### **Other Considerations**

MPCA will select grantees for enhanced cover grants based on permit application completeness, robustness of cover design as shown through the Hydrologic Evaluation of Landfill Performance (HELP) model evaluation, the quality of plans and specifications submitted, site specific evaluation based on risk to human health and the environment and compliance status.

These grants are intended to mitigate releases at publicly owned landfills only. Approximately 46 unlined C&D landfills are owned by private parties. It should also be noted that releases to groundwater requiring mitigation will still be the responsibility of the owner/operator to address.

The MPCA has initiated a rule making to amend the current rules governing C&D landfills to ensure the environment and human health are protected.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

The Legislature authorizes a direct appropriation for the administrative costs and grants for the projects. This request does affect our annual operating budget.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

None

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**Capital Assistance Program**

**AT A GLANCE**

<b>2024 Request Amount:</b>	\$20,500
<b>Priority Ranking:</b>	3
<b>Project Summary:</b>	This request is for \$20.5 million for capital assistance grants to local governments. The grants would be used for the construction, expansion, and/or upgrade of solid waste facilities.

**Project Description**

The MPCA's strategic plan and long-term goal includes managing solid waste to conserve materials, resources, and energy. The Capital Assistance Program provides funds to communities to preserve existing solid waste infrastructure, expand, and/or upgrade solid waste facilities, such as transfer stations, household hazardous waste facilities (HHW), materials recovery facilities (MRF), recycling and compost facilities to accomplish this goal. These projects include the following communities: Blue Earth County, Cass County, Chisago County, Dakota/Scott Counties, Le Sueur County, and Polk Regional (and their partners in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnommen, and Norman).

**Project Rationale**

Putting waste in landfills is the least desirable disposal method for Minnesota solid waste. By diverting usable material like recyclables from landfills, we slow the creation of landfills that we must manage. The collected recyclable materials support Minnesota industries in creating new products and jobs. In addition, energy and steam produced from waste at resource-recovery facilities -- instead of landfills -- is used by local communities.

Landfills, on the other hand, must be monitored and managed in perpetuity, even after they stop receiving new waste. Closed landfills produce contaminated fluids (leachate) and methane gas that must be contained and disposed of properly.

The Solid Waste Capital Assistance Program (CAP) provides grants to local governments to develop and implement an integrated solid waste management system. Integrated solid waste management systems include infrastructure that are essential public assets. The value of the system is how it enables preferred waste management practices consistent with the Minnesota Waste Management Act (M.S. 115A).

**Project Timeline**

FY2024 \$20.5 million

**Other Considerations**

The Capital Assistance Program (CAP), under M.S. 115A.49 - 115A.54, is the MPCA's main program to assist local governments in financing the infrastructure necessary for an effective integrated solid waste system. CAP also assists local governments in achieving environmental goals, provides orderly



and deliberate development and financial security of publicly owned infrastructure, leverages local funds, and is a catalyst for regional cooperation.

Local governments are responsible for meeting rigorous CAP application requirements, assuring operating and maintenance costs for the life of the project (20 years minimum), and principal and interest payments from the issuance of bonds.

All kinds of priority projects are identified in FY24: infrastructure for recycling, HHW, and waste processing to recover materials from the waste stream.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

The Legislature authorizes a direct appropriation for the administrative costs and grants for the projects. This request does affect our annual operating budget.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

1980 - 2020 = \$110.39 million

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**Continuous Nitrate Sensor Network**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$2,000

**Priority Ranking:** 4

**Project Summary:** \$2 million to develop a continuous nitrate monitoring network to allow local water managers to effectively target best management practices where nitrate reduction is most needed. The sensors will monitor approximately 20 - 25 locations within the Mississippi, Red River, Des Moines, and Missouri River basins with historical elevated loads or increasing nitrate.

**Project Description**

This project will install 20-25 nitrate sensors to develop a continuous monitoring network. Sites will be prioritized based on where elevated loads of nitrate have been measured historically. These sites will be located in the Mississippi, Red River, Des Moines, and Missouri River Basins. The project will include installation of electricity and hardware necessary to install the equipment on bridge decks. Data collected from these sensors will replace monthly samples previously collected at the locations. Continuous data collection is important because it more closely tracks pollutant transport and allows water managers to understand where high levels of nitrate are originating. The data resulting from this network will inform local water management plans.

**Project Rationale**

Minnesota is seeing increasing nitrate in our surface and groundwater from land management activities. High levels of nitrate are increasingly common in the southern half of the state. In some areas of the state, both private and community drinking waters systems are being impacted. High levels of nitrate are also toxic to aquatic life. More information on nitrate levels is needed to understand where high nitrate is originating and to locate restoration actions to address the problem. Installing in-stream nitrate sensors will allow the collection of continuous real-time water quality data that are not currently available. These data are far more complete than data from intermittent in-field sampling events. The data resulting from this network will allow for more robust modeling, data sharing, and more precisely locating investments to effectively reduce nitrate loading to surface water. Over time, these data would also allow us to track progress in reducing nutrient pollution to Minnesota's rivers.

**Project Timeline**

Sites will be selected fall 2024, and the network will be installed the end of 2025. Sampling of the network will be ongoing. Installation will be weather and flow dependent; equipment cannot be installed during flooding conditions.

## **Other Considerations**

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Existing operating budgets will be minimally impacted as installation will be accomplished by a third party.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

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**Removal of Contaminated Stormwater Pond Sediments**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$30,000

**Priority Ranking:** 5

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$30M to provide grants to local governmental units to manage contaminated stormwater sediment. In order for ponds to function properly and prevent pollutants from flowing into lakes and rivers, they must be periodically cleaned out. Stormwater pond sediments contaminated with hazardous substances must be landfilled, which is prohibitively expensive. This bond funding will match local funds to allow communities to dredge and properly dispose of contaminated sediments.

**Project Description**

This project will provide financial support to communities across Minnesota for removal of contaminated sediment from stormwater ponds. Stormwater runoff conveys sediment, chemicals and other material to surface waters such as rivers, lakes, and streams and degrades water quality. More than 250 public entities (e.g., cities, towns, universities) around the state have permitted stormwater ponds that serve to capture this contaminated water and prevent it from making its way into lakes and streams. To work effectively, the sediment that accumulates in these ponds needs to be periodically removed. Sediment that is contaminated with hazardous substances needs to be landfilled. The hauling and disposal costs are very expensive. This makes it very difficult for communities to properly maintain these ponds. This funding will provide critical support to communities and ensure protection of state waters, and will be used for all aspects of the project including lab analysis, engineering fees, permitting, transport, and disposal.

**Project Rationale**

Statewide there are more than 31,000 publicly owned stormwater ponds. A recent survey suggests that, on average, 35% contain contaminated sediment that needs to be landfilled. Stakeholders consistently rank this as one of the highest priority stormwater issues desperately needing attention. The Agency has previously awarded grants to cities for pond cleanout projects. Project cost varied widely, as there is no standard pond size. Project costs from the grants the MPCA has previously awarded ranged from \$110,000 to \$1,550,000, with the average project costing \$157,000.

If 35% of the 31,000 publicly owned stormwater ponds contain contaminated sediment, and if each project would cost \$157,000 on average, the total cost to properly manage these contaminated stormwater sediments could roughly amount to \$1,700,000,000. While this is a very raw estimate, it creates context for how serious a financial problem this is for communities and how failing to address this problem can load more pollutants to our lakes and streams.

**Project Timeline**

A call for grant applications would be sent out by the end of 2024. Grants would be executed by May 2025. Due to the large scale and complexity of some projects, we estimate needing up to two years for completion.

**Other Considerations****Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This project will not impact operating budgets, which are separately appropriated.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

Funds were appropriated in FY10 and FY11 for similar work under 2009 Session Law Ch. 172 Art. 2 Sec. 4. Total appropriation was \$500,000, of which \$345,000 was used for creation of a model ordinance and pond cleanout grants.

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**Climate Ready Local and Tribal Infrastructure**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$5,000

**Priority Ranking:** 6

**Project Summary:** \$5M to provide grants to local governments and Tribal governments to install infrastructure elements and updates to build climate resiliency and reduce greenhouse gases. These funds would allow elements that address issues such as flood protection, hardening to severe storms, efficient cooling systems, distributed energy and storage capabilities, and provide heat refuges in buildings such as city halls, community centers, libraries, fire houses, and police stations.

**Project Description**

The bonding funds requested would allow local governments and Tribal governments to access funding to put their climate plans into action within their publicly owned buildings. Access to adequate resources to implement climate action plan elements has been identified by local governments and Tribal governments in past surveys. The funds would enable local governments and Tribal governments to make concrete contributions to achieving the emissions reduction goal and climate resiliency goals in Minnesota's Climate Action Framework.

These funds would support the addition or inclusion of building elements that can improve flood protection, harden the buildings to severe storms, install efficient and low-emissions heating and cooling systems, install geothermal or air-source heat pumps to eliminate fossil fuel use for space heating and water heating, install electrical system upgrades to enable electrification of the building, install district heating infrastructure to reduce fossil fuel use for space heating and water heating, install infrastructure elements that will allow government owned buildings to serve as heat relief center or a storm relief center, and install energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades which require capital investments.

These bonding funds would serve as a supplement to the recently passed Resilient Communities Grant funding, which is focused on implementation of climate resiliency upgrades at government owned water infrastructure. These bonding funds would allow climate updates and upgrades at all types of buildings, such as city halls, libraries, community centers, fire houses, police stations, and public works buildings that are owned by local governments or Tribal governments.

**Project Rationale**

This project will provide financial support to local governments and Tribal governments across Minnesota to add or install infrastructure elements and updates to build climate resiliency and

reduce greenhouse gases within publicly owned buildings. Over the past two biennium, the MPCA has provided funding for local governments and Tribal governments to create plans on how they will prepare Minnesota's changing climate. The MPCA received funds in 2023 to fund climate action planning by local governments and Tribal governments, which includes opportunities to reduce GHG emissions. Additionally, many local governments and Tribal governments independently developed climate action plans to reduce emissions and prepare for the changing climate.

### **Project Timeline**

A call for grant applications would be sent out by the end of 2024. Grants would be executed by May 2025. Due to the large scale and complexity of some projects, we estimate needing up to three years for completion.

### **Other Considerations**

#### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This project will not impact operating budgets, which are separately appropriated.

#### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

These bonding funds would serve as a supplement to the \$100 million appropriated in 2023 for Resilient Communities Grants, which are focused on implementation of climate resiliency upgrades at government owned water infrastructure. These bonding funds would allow climate updates and upgrades at all types of buildings, such as city halls, libraries, community centers, fire houses, police stations, and public works buildings that are owned by local governments or Tribal governments.

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**Addressing Legacy Contamination at St. Paul Levee**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$7,000

**Priority Ranking:** 7

**Project Summary:** This proposal is for \$7 million to fund the clean up of contaminated soils at the St. Paul Levee site located in St. Paul. Contaminated soils within the levee pose a continued environmental threat to the nearby Mississippi River. There is not a viable responsible party to complete the clean up and the MPCA is therefore authorized to conduct the cleanup.

**Project Description**

The project is to finalize the remediation design and construction costs to excavate, stabilize, and treat contaminated soils from legacy releases at this site. The majority of the 6.5 acre site, with the most heavily impacted soils located immediately next to the river in a wooded area with sloped terrain, will need to be excavated to remove the contamination. This project will allow the MPCA and City of St. Paul to redevelop this blighted property to a new beneficial use that could serve the public for years to come.

**Project Rationale**

The St. Paul Levee Site is a 6.5 acre green space consisting of two parcels owned by the City of St. Paul. Prior to 1990, the two parcels were used as an auto salvage yard. The City of St. Paul acquired the St. Paul levee parcels following tax-forfeiture proceedings. MPCA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been unable to identify a viable responsible party under State or Federal Superfund to fund clean up actions. Shallow soils less than 2 feet below grade and soils at depths greater than 4 feet below grade are heavily contaminated from metals (e.g. lead, arsenic, etc), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and polycyclic biphenols (PCBs). For example, concentrations of lead and Benzo(a)pyrene in soil at depths of 4 feet are roughly nine times the allowable concentration established by the MPCA and the EPA. The City of St. Paul, EPA, and MPCA have secured the perimeter of the site in order to prevent accidental human exposure to the contaminated soils, therefore, there is not an immediate human health risk at the Site. The contaminated soils do create a continued environmental risk to the nearby Mississippi River resulting from the leaching of contaminants to the surface water during flooding and heavy rainfall events. In 2021, MPCA completed a feasibility study to identify remediation alternatives that could provide permanent risk reduction at St. Paul Levee.

**Project Timeline**

Funds obtained through this proposal will be allocated to the MPCA who will act as the fiscal agent and project lead. Funds will be used by the MPCA Superfund Program to design, bid, and construct the necessary cleanup activities. If funds are received, these activities would begin in FY25 and



expected completion would be through FY28 (estimated timeline).

### **Other Considerations**

This site is located in a disadvantaged environmental justice community within the City of St. Paul. The City of St. Paul has expressed interest in repurposing the St. Paul Levee Site for public use however the cost to complete the necessary clean up is cost prohibitive.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This Capital bonding request does not impact the MPCA's operating budget. The Legislature authorizes a direct appropriation from the Remediation Fund for administrative costs for the Superfund Program. And this project would not require additional staffing to be hired to implement this project.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

The Remediation Fund has been used to fund various activities at this site including but not limited to: extent and magnitude investigation, fencing of the site to prevent accidental human contact with contaminants, and feasibility studies.

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**Office Consolidation**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2024 Request Amount:** \$75

**Priority Ranking:** 8

**Project Summary:** The MPCA, in response to a changing workforce plan, is considering a shared workspace with other state agencies in the Brainerd area. Such a move would require the agency to replace the current Facilities Operation Center (FOC), which supports emergency response and monitoring vehicles, storage of pertinent supplies, and function support offices/lab work.

**Project Description**

This project would result in the construction of a facility operations center for use by the Brainerd MPCA staff for equipment and vehicles related to emergency response actions and monitoring activities. The facility would replace an existing facility currently leased but as the need to downsize the office, the MPCA anticipates a need to move and thus, the need for a new facilities operation center to accommodate staff working in these areas.

**Project Rationale**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency currently uses only one-fifth of the office space available in the building we lease for our Brainerd regional office, so co-habiting with another agency would represent significant cost savings. However, the agency has unique needs regarding equipment storage and vehicle storage used for emergency management and monitoring. These pieces of equipment and vehicles must be stored in climate controlled facilities and have easy access for the need of the day, week or moment. Monitoring and response actions can occur at all hours of the day and any month of the year so the facility must be insulated, climate controlled and with secure storage to contain the necessary equipment safely. Additionally, simple laboratory needs are required pre and post monitoring events so furniture and air controls are important.

**Project Timeline**

Predesign in calendar year 2024, with anticipated construction in 2025.

**Other Considerations**

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

Ownership will reduce overall cost of operating budgets as it stabilizes costs rather than expected lease costs continuing to rise.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

None for this activity.

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