

## Highlights of the Agriculture, Natural, and Economic Resources (AgNER) Budget

The Conference Budget for AgNER in FY 2021-22 includes net appropriations of \$754.8 million, which is \$134.0 million above the base budget, a 21.58% increase. FY 2022-23 includes net appropriations of \$734.5 million, which is \$113.6 million above the base budget, an 18.30% increase. In addition to net General Fund appropriations, the Conference Budget allocates \$2.1 billion from the State Fiscal Relief Fund to AgNER programs. The highlights of the AgNER adjustments are as follows:

### Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS)

#### Committee Report Items

- (Page D9, Items 6-14) Provides \$128.8 million from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund for various programs to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including **funding for food banks, and meat, swine, and dairy producers.**
- (D12, Items 32-33) Provides the Forest Service with additional **emergency response equipment**, an airplane tanker, and a helicopter. (\$9 million nonrecurring).
- (Page D13, Item 37) Provides \$670,000 recurring and \$8 million nonrecurring each year for **Farmland Preservation.**
- (Page D13, Item 38) Fully funds the operating requirements for the new Steve Troxler **Agricultural Sciences Center.** (\$2.4 million recurring).
- (Page D13, Item 39) Provides \$951,000 recurring and \$2.5 million nonrecurring each year for the **Tobacco Trust Fund.**

### Department of Commerce (Commerce)

#### Committee Report Items

- (Page D26, Items 64-68; Page D34, Items 76-81; Page D45, Items 125-128) Provides \$187.7 million from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund for various programs to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including funding for **Rural Downtown Transformation Grants, workforce assistance, and travel, tourism, and business marketing.**
- (Page D35, Items 82-83) Provides funds to the **NC Biotechnology Center** for job training, and grants and loans, including early-stage loans for NC agricultural technology companies. (\$1 million recurring; \$2.5 million nonrecurring in the first year and \$1 million nonrecurring in the second year).
- (Page D35, Item 84) Provides additional funds to the **High Point Furniture Market.** (\$500,000 recurring; \$50,000 nonrecurring each year)
- (Page D46, Item 134) Provides funds for **a new e-sports industry grant fund to encourage e-sports events in the State.** (\$5 million recurring).

#### Special Provisions

- (Section 11.8) **Increases the annual cap for the One NC fund and sets aside funds for tier three counties** with total employment below 115,000.

## Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

### Committee Report Items

- (Page D57, Items 147-150) Provides \$1.7 billion from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund for **water, sewer, and stormwater grants**.
- (Page D59, Items 160-162) Provides additional funds to **enhance support of the Marine Patrol**. (\$631,000 recurring; \$292,000 nonrecurring in the first year)
- (Page D60, Item 173; Page D61, Item 179) Provides seven new positions and operating costs to address **emerging compounds**, like PFAS. (\$686,000 recurring).
- (Page D62, Items 184 and 186) Provides eight new positions and operating costs to **address dam safety and landslide mapping**. (\$824,000 recurring).

### Special Provisions

- (Section 12.10) **Creates a Dam Safety Emergency Fund** to provide the Department with resources to repair or remove dams in danger of failing.
- (Section 12.14) **Creates a new stormwater grant program** to provide funding to local governments for projects that will improve or create infrastructure for controlling stormwater quantity or quality.

## Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)

### Committee Report Items

- (Page D91-D92, Items 237-256) Provides \$40 million from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund for **water and sewer projects at the State Parks**. An additional \$56.2 million is provided for various programs, including support for attractions, like the **Zoo and Aquariums**, with significant receipt losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (Page D94, Item 264) Provides recurring funding for **historic sites maintenance** (\$1 million recurring).
- (Page D100, Item 309) Fully funds the operating requirements for **State Parks** that have been recently expanded or improved (\$2.1 million recurring and \$877,000 nonrecurring in the first year, increased to \$3.5 million recurring in the second year).
- (Page D100, Items 311 and 315, Page D108, Item 322, and Page D109, Item 325) Provides additional funding for **Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and NC Land and Water Fund grants**. (\$45.5 million nonrecurring each year for PARTF grants, and \$48.5 million nonrecurring in the first year and \$51.5 million nonrecurring in the second year for NCLWF grants).