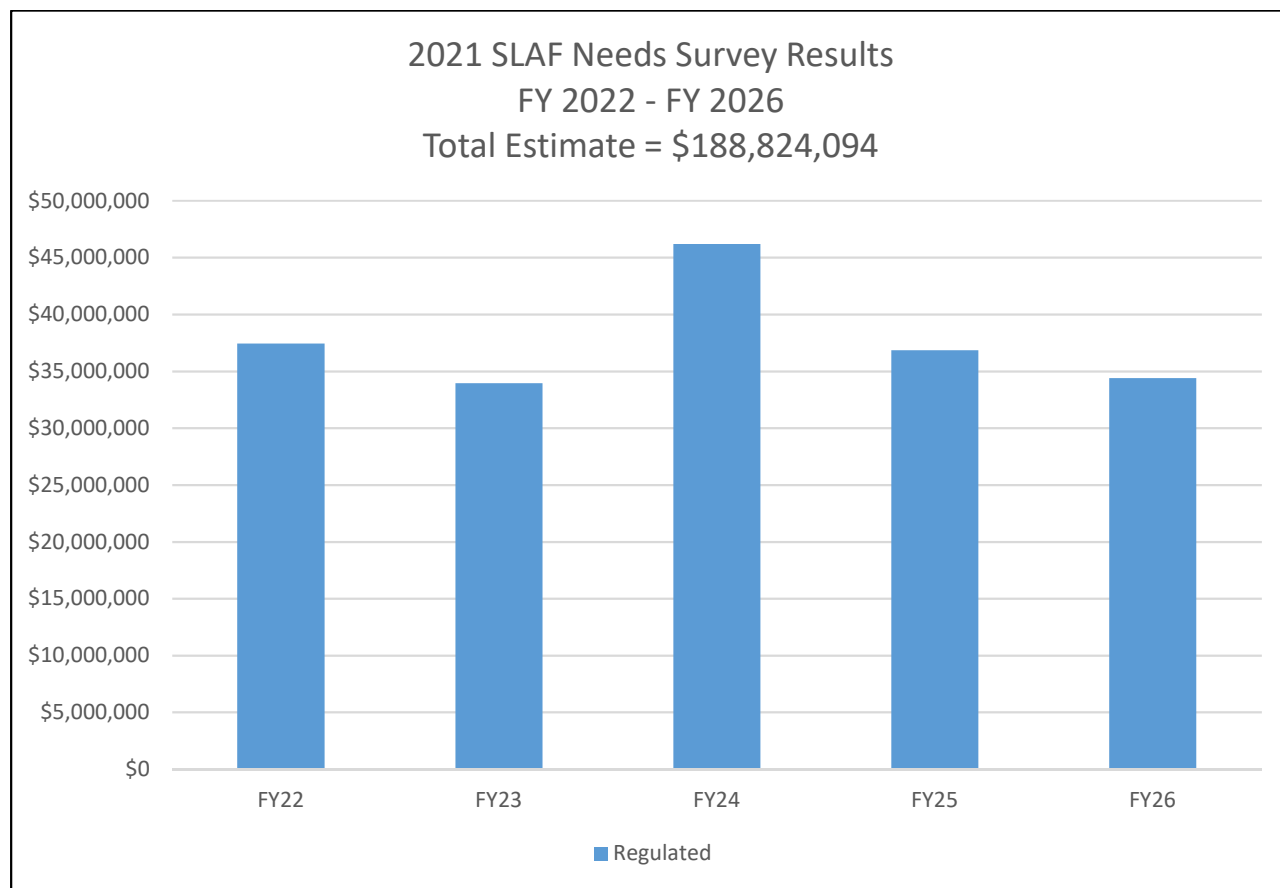Annual Funding Needs for Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) Matching Grants to Implement Stormwater Best Management Practices

The purpose of the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) is to provide matching grants to local governments for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices. In accordance with § 62.1-44.15:29.2 of the *Code of Virginia* the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in consultation with stakeholders, including representatives of the Virginia Municipal Stormwater Association, local governments, and conservation organizations, is required to annually determine an estimate of the amount of stormwater local assistance matching grants expected to be requested by local governments for projects that are related to planning, designing, and implementing stormwater best management practices that are eligible for funding from the SLAF. For fiscal years (FY) 2022 to 2026, it is estimated that $189 million could be requested from the SLAF program. Because the SLAF is a matching grant program, this total represents up to 50% of the total funds expended on stormwater best management practices, with the other portion being made up by financial contributions from localities.

The methodology for estimating the amount of stormwater local assistance matching grants expected to be requested by local governments was established by DEQ in consultation with stormwater stakeholders, including the Virginia Municipal Stormwater Association (VAMSA), Virginia Municipal League (VML), Virginia Association of Counties (VACO), Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF), Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and the James River Association (JRA). An electronic survey was created in consultation with these stakeholders and distributed to localities. The survey requested: 1) general, 2) programmatic, and 3) project specific

information from localities. General information included the locality name and contact information. Programmatic information was requested on future SLAF funding needs over a five year time horizon (FY 2022 to FY 2026). This timeframe was selected because it generally aligns with the time horizons of typical local Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit TMDL Action Plans. Project specific information supporting the FY 2022 SLAF funding need was requested based on the assumption that planning or design information would be available for projects that are likely to be the subject of an FY 2022 SLAF grant application.

A total of 27 responses to the survey were received with varying levels of completeness. Duplicate responses and responses containing no numerical data or all zeros were removed from the data. A total of 19 localities identified a programmatic funding need over the five year time horizon. Responses from 15 of those localities identified project specific funding needs for FY 2022. Of the survey respondents that identified a programmatic need, all are regulated as MS4s.

The total amount of SLAF funding needed through FY 2026 to fully fund all needs identified in the survey is $188,824,094. The following is a breakdown of funding need by fiscal year:

FY 2022 – $37,445,257
FY 2023 – $33,945,245
FY 2024 – $46,193,667
FY 2025 – $36,842,425
FY 2026 – $34,397,500

Applicant	2021 SLAF Needs Survey Results					Total Need
	FY 2022	2023-2024 Biennium		2025-2026 Biennium		
	FY22*	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	
Regulated	$37,445,257	$33,945,245	$46,193,667	$36,842,425	$34,397,500	$188,824,094
Unregulated	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
FY Totals	$37,445,257	$33,945,245	$46,193,667	$36,842,425	$34,397,500	$188,824,094
TOTALS	$37,445,257	$80,138,912		$71,239,925		$188,824,094
*Need amount for FY22 was taken from FY22 programmatic data.						

For the FY 2022 funding need, four localities either did not provide project specific data or provided programmatic and project specific data that were inconsistent. The total funding need of regulated localities for FY 2022, when calculated based on the FY 2022 input in the project specific section, is $37,296,147. Using programmatic data, the total FY 2022 need is $37,445,257. Because the programmatic data for regulated localities represents the most complete data set, this figure was used to determine the anticipated total need for FY 2022 of $37,445,257.

In order to improve upon the data collection methods, DEQ, with stakeholder participation, intends to re-evaluate the methodology utilized to determine the estimate of SLAF grant requests prior to conducting the needs assessment next year. Based on feedback received during stakeholder engagement conducted this year, the survey format will remain consistent in order to allow for multi-year comparisons.