

PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In PA

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Winner 2009 [PAEE Business Partner](#) Of The Year Award

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Corbett Signs FY 2013-14 Budget, Without Raising Taxes, Without Other Priorities

About 90 minutes before midnight on June 30, Gov. Tom Corbett signed the 2013-14 budget-- [House Bill 1437](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware), Corbett's third on-time budget. Corbett said the budget helps our children receive the best education possible, helps those who need it most, and helps employers grow jobs - without raising taxes for working families.

Surrounded by Republican members of the House, but not the Senate, Corbett signed the \$28.375 billion budget Sunday evening June 30 in the Governor's Reception Room.

The Governor, however, went 0 for 3 in the legislative priorities he wanted to be adopted along with the budget-- pension reform, liquor privatization and additional transportation funding. (See related article).

The Senate and House also completed work on three of the four bills that implement parts of the budget agreement-- the Education, Welfare and Tax Code bills. The Fiscal Code bill was again amended by the Senate and must now return to the House for a concurrence vote. (See related article.)

The Senate and House have both adjourned until September 23, but the House has scheduled a non-voting session day for July 8 and the Senate can be recalled if need be.

[Click Here](#) for an "enhanced" FY 2013-14 budget fact sheet from the Governor's office. [Click Here](#) to view a Senate Republican spreadsheet comparing FY 2012-13 and new FY 2013-14 appropriations.

[Click Here](#) for the agency-by-agency budget spreadsheet which compares current year funding, the Governor's request and the agreed-to budget numbers. [Click Here](#) for House Democratic FY 2013-14 budget spreadsheet. [Click Here](#) for House Republicans budget spreadsheet.

Some highlights include--

DEP

Conservation Districts- restored \$2.5 million (\$350,000 less than last year, but this is in addition to

about \$5 million in Act 13 drilling impact fees going to conservation districts)
Sewage Facilities Planning Grants- restored \$200,000 (zeroed out last year)
Natural Gas Drilling Research - new \$150,000 (in Fiscal Code bill)
Overall- \$2.8 million increase

DCNR

Heritage Parks - restored \$2.2 million (zeroed out last few years)
Overall - \$22.7 million cut (General Fund monies were cut, but Oil and Gas Fund revenues were used to support the DCNR budget. More than \$106 million of DCNR's roughly \$300 million budget will come from oil and gas royalties and lease payments in FY 2013-14)

Agriculture

Resource Enhancement and Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit - retained \$10 million
Agricultural Land Preservation- \$35 million
Conservation Districts- \$869,000 (\$150,000 less than last year, same note as above)
Overall- \$5.7 million cut (\$3.4 million cut in General Govt. Operations)

Environmental Hearing Board- \$2.1 million (\$181,000 more than last year)

Commonwealth Financing Authority- \$7.5 million less than last year