



# Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

## Division of Environmental Quality

A REPORT TO OUR  
CITIZENS FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 2019

*Treasure our Earth,  
Protect our Resources*



### Our Mission

To serve the public through wise management of CNMI natural resources, supporting healthy communities, a sustainable environment and a vibrant economy.

### Our Vision

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), within the Office of the Governor, plans, develops, and implements environmental management and protection statutes, regulations and programs, including outreach and education, for all environmental media in the CNMI.

### Our Goals

**Protect** the public health and environment through primary enforcement responsibilities, and recruiting and retaining qualified staff.

## DEQ Organizational Chart



### Toxic Waste Management

- BECQ continue to monitor the status of the Marpi Landfill with regards to the removal of the unsorted mixed waste on top of cell 1, ash situated at old As Gonno runway, and for noncompliant of individual/s that continue to place municipal solid waste on the curbside and open dump sites.

### Safe Drinking Water Program

- Completed 15 sanitary surveys of water systems within the CNMI
- Updated the backlog (since 2015) of water system lab data for 49 of the 72 active water systems in the CNMI.

### Site Assessment and Remediation Program

- Former Tanapag Fuel Farm Removal Action – Soil Bioremediation (May-June 2019): In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, BECQ-DEQ staff accompanied U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Michael Deselits (USACE Archaeologist) and Thomas Maruyama (USACE Field Representative), to provide oversight on the Tanapag Fuel Farm Soil Bioremediation process. In addition, to provide comments on the process and ensure that the contractor(s) is following the Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAP). During this time, ERRG conducted the Soil Bioremediation and then took confirmation samples. The soil bioremediation was also done at the Sadog Tasi tank farm (total of 4 tank sites). At present time, we are still waiting for the results following the bioremediation.

### Clean Air Program

- **As Gonno / Kagman Green Waste Sites:** BECQ personnel were detailed to assist with the Debris Monitoring at both the As Gonno and Kagman sites. The As Gonno Green Waste site is managed by the MOS (Office of the Mayor of Saipan) personnel, together with BECQ. Whereas, the Kagman site is managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW) and BECQ. Debris monitoring training was done to brief staff on how to record data and estimate waste loads.

### Storage Tanks

Verified compliance with release detection, leak prevention and financial responsibility requirements and owner/operator awareness of the functions of the Underground Storage Tank (UST) system.

- Four (4) UST site inspections were performed.
- Preliminary work was completed on the database.

### Pesticides Program

BECQ submitted first draft of the Pesticide Enforcement – Quality Assurance Program Plan to EPA Quality Assurance Branch on July 29, 2019. BECQ created a CNMI Pesticide Database for misbranded/cancelled products to be shared as public information, most especially wholesalers, distributors, markets, certified applicators.

- Certified twenty-one (21) pesticide applicators
- Permitted twenty-four (24) structural pesticide treatment permits and one (1) fumigation permit.

### Waste Water Program

- BECQ staff worked jointly with FEMA on the proposed home renovation and home rebuilt project.
- Two (2) Percolation Tests were proctored and two (2) Tester Certifications were issued.

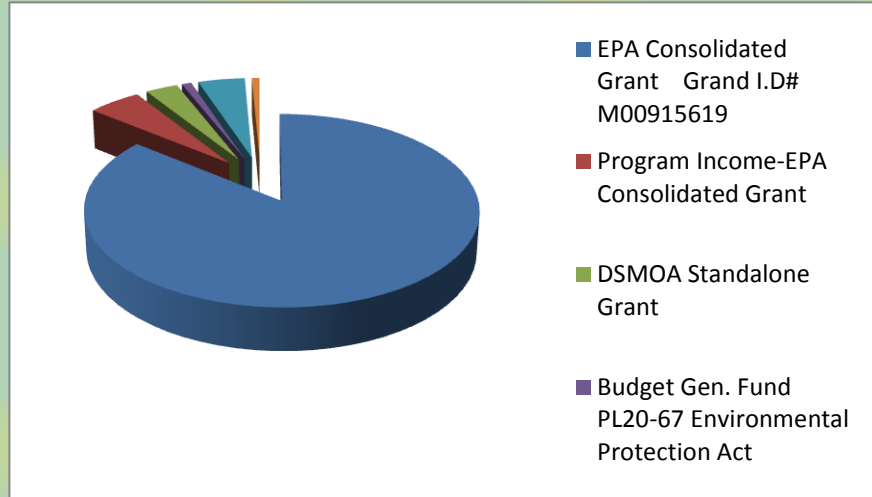
### Marine Water Monitoring Activities

- In compliance with Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 and the 2016 BEACH Grant requirements, marine water monitoring samples were collected on a regular basis at the most visited beach sites surrounding the CNMI's most frequented beaches. Samples were submitted to the DEQ Laboratory for testing orthophosphate, total nitrogen, nitrate + nitrite as N, Nitrite as N, and *Enterococci*. Staff also measured physical parameters, salinity, conductivity, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, temperature, and turbidity at sampling sites.

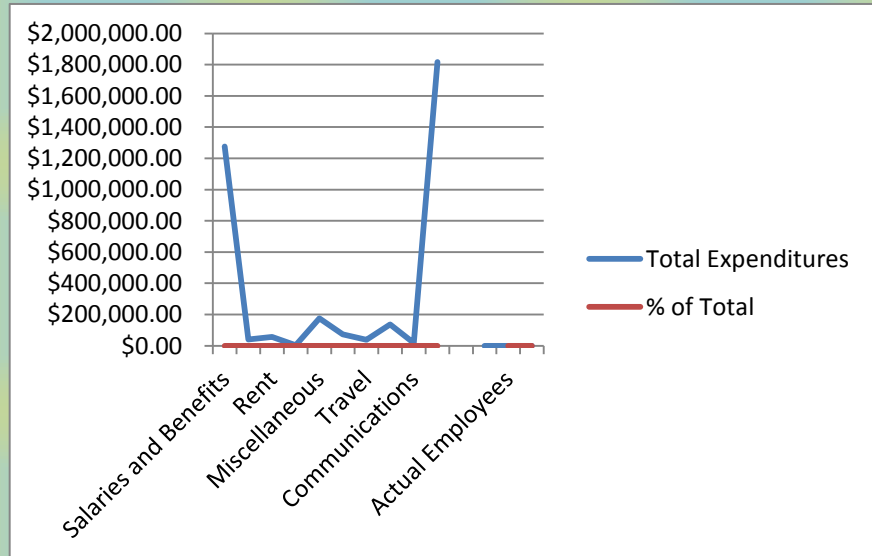
### Laboratory

- The BECQ Environmental Surveillance Laboratory successfully passed the triennial on site audit conducted by two (2) U.S. EPA auditors for Microbiology and Inorganic Chemistry. The Non-Public Water System (NPWS) mostly food establishment water samples analysis were increased due to the recommendations from the Safe Drinking Water (SDW) staff to take 2 sets of samples for coliform microbial contaminants. The two sets of water samples are the **unclean** (the first water sample taken from the kitchen faucet/tap without disturbing or manipulating and with tap aerator) and the **clean** (second water sample taken after kitchen faucet/tap including thread had been disinfected and cleaned).

FUNDS	FY 2019 Budget Level	% of Total
EPA Consolidated Grant Grant I.D# M00915619	\$1,956,971.00	86%
Program Income-EPA Consolidated Grant	114,503.51	5%
DSMOA Standalone Grant	69,500.00	3%
Budget Gen. Fund PL20-67 Environmental Protection Act	20,536.00	1%
Budget Gen. Fund PL20-67 Environmental Quality	100,029.00	4%
Budget Gen. Fund PL20-67 Tinian-Environmental Quality	16,802.00	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,278,341.51</b>	<b>100%</b>



Category	Total Expenditures	% of Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,275,541.00	70%
Contractual Services	39,540.00	2%
Rent	56,809.00	3%
Equipment	2,593.00	0%
Miscellaneous	176,174.00	10%
Supplies	73,318.00	4%
Travel	38,267.00	2%
Indirect Costs	137,071.00	8%
Communications	18,035.00	1%
Total	\$1,817,348.00	100%
<b>Staffing Levels</b>		
<b>FY 2019</b>		
Actual Employees	36	82%
Budgeted Positions	44	100%



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) provides federal dollars to assist the Commonwealth in ensuring that well-trained staff are retained to continue the successful planning, development, and implementation of the work and objective of the U.S. EPA Consolidated Grant for the protection of the public health and environment.

Due to austerity measures in FY2019, DEQ has been unable to make expenditures at the same level as budgeted. Personnel expenditures have been lower than normal due to reduced salaries and challenges with filling of vacant positions. The U.S. EPA Consolidated Grant has a five year budget period, so the grant balance will be carried over to FY2020. DEQ anticipates being able to fill vacant positions and expend funds as budgeted once austerity measures have been lifted.

