

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: How many vacant engineer positions are currently within DPWES?

Response: As of March 24, 2008, there were 23 vacant engineer positions in the General Fund in the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES). These vacancies include those within Capital Facilities (1 Engineer IV and 11 Engineer III positions), Stormwater Management (3 Engineer III positions), and Land Development Services (1 Engineer IV and 7 Engineer III positions).

It should be noted that there are also 2 vacant Engineer III positions within the Wastewater Management Program in Fund 401, Sewer Operation and Maintenance.

Most of the vacant positions within DPWES are in various phases of being filled. For several of the positions, interviews have been held and offers are pending or will be made soon. Others have been advertised several times due to the difficulty in finding suitable candidates in the competitive market for engineers. There have been some positive signs with the change in the construction industry; better candidates are applying in some cases and DPWES has been able to fill the needed positions. As has been noted previously, DPWES has had to rely upon consultant services to compensate for the shortage of engineers within-house and DPWES is trying to phase this practice out since it is costly. There has been a downturn in workload within Land Development Services (LDS) and DPWES has deliberately held some positions vacant and transferred some positions within the department to account for the reduced workload. As the economy picks up in the future, these positions will be needed to meet the workload within LDS.