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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Wilson DATE TYPED: 01/24/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Implement Regional Water Plans SB 81
 ANALYST: Dotson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 500.0	See Narrative		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act HB113, 114 and SB 80.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Engineer/Interstate Steam Commission.

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

SB 81 appropriates \$500,00 from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission. The funds are to provide a maximum of 75% of the costs for implementing of the completed regional water plans approved by the Interstate Stream Commission.

Significant Issues

According to the State Engineer, New Mexico's growth and desert climate require active management of water resources. Regional water plans are needed to implement programs and alternatives to actively manage the regions's water resources.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to the State Engineer, active water resource management needs state funding assistance. Many regional water plan alternative include establishing programs to collect data for appropriate management of the state's water resources and the long term stability of water resources in a region. Funding is needed for well monitoring programs, stream flow measurement activities, water shed management, and planning and construction works. Funds to implement completed water plans will be an additional incentive for regions to complete their plans.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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The appropriation of \$500,000 is a recurring expense to the general fund in FY02, FY03 and FY04. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY04 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the State Engineer, no new FTE is required.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

HB 114 is a companion bill. HB 113 and SB 80 appropriate \$1.5 million from the general fund to the Interstate Stream Commission to complete the regional water planning process.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the State Engineer if this bill is not enacted, completed regional water plans will not be implemented and regions with uncompleted plans will not have the incentive of funding for their plans.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Are the matching funds required for the implementation in place? If not, what obstacles need to be overcome to secure these funds.

PD/ar