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F I S C A L I M P A C T R E P O R T

SPONSOR Gonzales ORIGINAL DATE 2/02/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Preservation of Blue Lake Return Records SB 216
ANALYST Edwards

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$350.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 216 appropriates \$350 thousand from the general fund to the Indian Affairs Department (IAD) to begin collecting and preserving records and documents that are related to the return of Blue Lake to the Pueblo of Taos fifty years ago. The funding will also be used to develop educational programs and materials, production of a film documentary, and marketing activities for events that commemorate the anniversary.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$350 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund. While SB216 is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund, some services provided by the funding will likely be a recurring expense.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

IAD explains that “on December 15, 1970, former President Richard M. Nixon signed into effect Public Law 91-550, approved in a bipartisan manner by the United States Congress. In speaking of the Bill’s significance, President Nixon stated, ‘This is a bill that represents justice, because in

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1906 an injustice was done in which land involved in this bill, 48,000 acres, was taken from the Indians involved, the Taos Pueblo Indians. The Congress of the United States now returns that land to whom it belongs ... I can't think of anything more appropriate or any action that could make me more proud as President of the United States.' That signing restored Taos Pueblo lands and led to the unhindered continuation of the Pueblo's millenniums-old traditional culture. It also set a precedent for self-determination for all American Indian people, tribes and nations."

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to Senate Memorial 30 which recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the restoration of Blue Lake to the Pueblo of Taos.

TE/sb