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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Roberts DATE TYPED: 02/14/01 HB 521
 SHORT TITLE: Lea County Ground Water Assessments SB _____
 ANALYST: Dotson

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	\$ 71.0			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 114 and SB 81

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

New Mexico Environment Department and the Office of the State Engineer

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 521 appropriates \$71.0 from the general fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in FY 2002 to support the Lea County Water Users' Association in the development of ground water models, well monitoring, assessment of deep aquifers, audits of municipal water use and analysis of the potential for ground water storage and recovery options

Significant Issues

The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the United States Geological Service (USGS) have developed models for the Lea County basin. The OSE and the USGS have an ongoing program within Lea County for monitoring of water levels within the basin. The OSE has records of water uses within Lea County

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$71.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2002 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

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According to the State Engineer, the OSE and USGS have developed models and have most of the information required by this bill. The development of new models or other information should be done in coordination with the OSE and the USGS. New models should be done in coordination with those agencies.

CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP

According to the State Engineer, HB 114 and SB 81 provide funding for implementation of regional water plans. Lea County has one of two completed plans and its plan includes the implementation activities identified in this bill.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Office of the State Engineer suggests appropriating the money from the general fund through the Office of the State Engineer to the Lea County Water Users' Association.

PD/ar