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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Cisneros	DATE TYPED:	2/8/02	HB	
SHORT TITLE: La Semilla Wastewater Training Center			SB	383	

ANALYST: Valenzuela

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$530.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in The General Appropriation Act_____

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 383 appropriates \$530.0 from the general fund to Department of Environment for the purpose of operating the La Semilla Wastewater Training Center.

Significant Issues

The La Semilla Wastewater Training Center is currently in the planning phase of the Mesa del Sol project. It is not clear if the facility would be constructed before the end of FY03.

The purpose of the La Semilla facility is to educate and train on-site liquid waste system designers and installers, contractors, public officials and the public regarding the design, installation and maintenance of on-site liquid waste systems.

Senate Bill 383 -- Page 2

Groundwater contamination from liquid waste, primarily from poorly installed or malfunctioning septic systems, is a serious problem in New Mexico. The Legislature, two years ago, passed legislation allowing the Department of Environment to promulgate liquid waste treatment rules to address the problem. The Environmental Improvement Board passed these rules in November 2001.

A significant part of the problem is that consumers and even contractors are not adequately informed on the proper operation or installation of these systems. In fact, during the debate before the EIB, some contractors testified that in New Mexico, there is no certification requirement placed on contractors specific to septic systems.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$530.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY03 shall revert to the general fund.

MFV/njw