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Only the most recent FIR version (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) is available on the Legislative Website. The Adobe PDF version includes all attachments, whereas the HTML version does not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC's office in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR:	Lyons DATE TYPED: 01/22/02	НВ	
SHORT TITLE:	Review Eastern Plains Ground Water Management	SB	SJM 7
	ANAL	YST:	Chabot

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained				Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
		NFI			

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Department of Agriculture
Department of Environment (NMED)
Office of the State Engineer (OSE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Joint Memorial

This joint memorial requests The Legislative Council to direct the appropriate committee to review ground water management issues on the eastern plains, and that NMED and OSE cooperate with the appropriate committee by submitting testimony and relevant documentation on the supply and quality of ground water in the eastern plains.

Significant Issues

The source of ground water in the eastern plains of New Mexico is the Ogallala aquifer which is being depleted of water. This depletion has both water quantity and quality implications for New Mexico. A March 1999 OSE report states that "concentrated pumping in Curry and Roosevelt counties in New Mexico as well as Bailey county in Texas will de-water large portions...of the basin as early as the year 2010."

NMED reports of 116 ground water quality protection permits for facilities in eastern New Mexico, 31 had measurable ground water contamination. This number is expected to increase as poorer quality water is drawn from the aquifer. OSE indicates that the federal government is studying the Ogallala aquifer and the state may be able use information obtained from their study. OSE also in-

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dicates that availability of water in Eastern New Mexico is influenced by well diversion in Texas over which we have little control. Texas water law allows pumping without regard to beneficial use as is required in New Mexico. The Department of Agriculture is concerned that if another water source is not developed for eastern New Mexico, agriculture production in the region will suffer.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The joint memorial has no direct fiscal implications; however, recommendations coming from the study may result in the need for additional state expenditures in the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

State agencies participating in the review will need to allocate needed personal and other resources to do a thorough review.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The memorial does not state when a final report is to be provided to the Legislature by the appointed interim committee.

GAC/ar/njw