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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Campos DATE TYPED 2/14/04 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Bonito Lake as water Source for Pecos Compact SB SM 19

ANALYST \_\_\_\_\_

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
	NFI		See Narrative	General Fund	Recurring

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response Received From  
Office of the State Engineer

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 19 states:

- New Mexico has under-delivered water to Texas in the past.
- The Rio Bonito is a tributary of the Pecos River and Bonito Lake, located at the headwaters of the Rio Bonito, impounds water that is then conveyed westerly into the Tularosa basin.
- The Tularosa basin is not hydrologically connected to the Pecos River system.
- The out-of-basin conveyance of water from a river tributary to the Pecos River affects the flows into the Pecos River.
- Planning documents developed by water users in the Tularosa basin indicate their intention to ultimately end their reliance on diversions from Bonito Lake.

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- The current drought has demonstrated that, for the Ruidoso area, continued reliance on existing surface and ground water supplies may be problematic.
- Ruidoso requires additional water supplies in order to provide a sustainable water supply for its existing population.
- Bonito Lake could aid the state in meeting its delivery obligations to Texas under the Pecos River Compact and, at the same time, provide a much-needed water supply for the Ruidoso area.

These premises, the Memorial resolves:

- The Interstate Stream Commission be requested to investigate the potential to use water from Bonito Lake to aide the state in meeting its delivery obligations under the Pecos River Compact while simultaneously providing a water supply to Ruidoso.
- The Interstate Stream Commission be requested to investigate the potential of alternate sources of supply for water users in the Tularosa basin, including analysis of using brackish waters and water from the Salt basin in southern Otero County.
- The Interstate Stream Commission be requested to investigate the issuance state general obligation bonds to provide funds for alternate water supplies for the Ruidoso and Alamogordo areas.
- The Interstate Stream Commission make a report of its findings to the appropriate interim water committee.

### Significant Issues

- A date by which the report is due should be included.

## FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This memorial does not contain an appropriation. It will, however, result in administrative costs in staff time. These costs should be readily absorbable into existing resources.

**SJM/dm:lg**